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A STUDY OF INDIAN COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

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ABSTRACT

India is a civilizational idea that dates back thousands of years and is home to one-sixth of the world's population. Languages (with Indo-Aryan and Dravidian origins), religions, and ethnicities all play a role in creating distinct groups within one same integrated civilizational region. It is estimated that about 30% of the population is living in poverty, and economic inequality is also very concerning. India's greatest strength, however, is in the gradual but firming realization that, despite outward distinctions of caste, geography, language, religion, etc., we are all Indians and belong to a single country. Therefore, the success of the 'Indian NSC' in formulating and administering national security strategy is at the heart of our investigation. The goal of the research is to determine "whether national security in India is being considered on an ad hoc basis - (popular perception)".

KEYWORDS: Indian Council, World Affairs, civilizational idea, economic inequality

INTRODUCTION

The global strategic environment has undergone dramatic changes, and as a result, we can all agree that the world is moving toward a "new-system." Its "composition" and "structure," if there is any dispute, is the sole point of contention. The post-World War II Yalta system has collapsed, much as the 'world orders' established after the Napoleonic wars, the Franco-Prussian wars, and the First World War by Bismarck and the Versailles. However, the end of 'bipolarity' was not brought about by the USSR's military loss, but rather by the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself. Therefore, it is crucial to make educated guesses about the emergent order's shape.

There have been other proposed hypotheses in this vein. Is it unipolar, bipolar, multipolar, pentapolar, or nonpolar? Alternatively, the new system may be modeled after a "one world government" or revert to a cold war era. It is assumed in all these theories that the new system/order will be different from the old one since the 'Yalta system' is the only one to have failed peacefully.

During the cold war, political ideology seemed to divide the globe into three camps: communist, capitalism, and non-alignment. Market economies, transitional states, and less developed states were the categories used to classify these regions by the early 1990s. The first set of states included the ones that were wealthy, industrialized, and rapidly progressing.

The second category included of countries (among them India) that were steadily improving upon previously established minimum standards of development, independence, and wealth. Those countries whose political, economic, military, and environmental standards were slipping

behind the rest of the world made comprised the third category. The globe is increasingly seen as split into economic and political blocs, spheres of influence, and cultural and civilizational domains, all of which have security implications.

There seems to be the emergence of regional groups or blocs based on commerce and political cooperation. Organizations like the European Union, SAARC, ASEAN, NAFTA, OPEC, CIS, and OIC are examples. If these groups can strengthen while still being willing to engage in commercial and political cooperation with nations and groups outside of their area, they will have favorable implications for the developing international order. If they are closed to international commerce and cooperation, and see them as a zero-sum game, the consequence will be negative in terms of tension and conflict. It seems that bilateral ties between these three groupings of countries will continue to strengthen.

Certain regions have strategic and historical significance for a number of world countries. If the world's major powers acted in the global community's best interests, the countries in these regions would establish cordial ties with their counterparts. It might run into trouble if national security strategies give weight to 'geo-strategic considerations' among nations. There is not an obvious trend.

Cultural and religious fault lines that have existed for centuries seem to have maintained their political significance. Historical grudges, political conflicts, socioeconomic disparities, and geostrategic considerations all contribute to war, but these two tend to intensify and add emotional depth to it. Even inside a civilisation or a culture, some of the greatest politico-cultural gaps persist. Because nations of varying cultural and historical backgrounds are grouped together in distinct economic and political blocs, not because of religion or culture but because of their enlightened national interests, this civilizational division may not be useful in understanding the emergence of the new order.

Some of the following tendencies, based on the information revolution and the spread of liberal principles, will shape the new international order in addition to the above-mentioned grouping of 198 nation-states.

- Nuclear and small-arms proliferation.
- The justification for the use of force must be questioned, therefore attention must be paid to the "Defense vs. Development" issue.
- The importance of IT to modern states' capabilities.
- NGO's are becoming more important.
- Globalization has led to the emergence of transnational dangers.
- The promotion of democracy as a universal value.
- Fragmentation poses a threat to independent nations.
- Economic considerations are given more weight than security concerns

The evolving character of international warfare is a defining aspect of modern times (the last decades of the 20th century and the early years of the 21st century). It is no longer the collision of nations and ideologies that defines conflict, but rather the clash of individuals inside preexisting

states, which has supplanted the 'war and peace' perspective that prevailed throughout the cold war era. This seems to be a paradigm change in international relations, since the system that previously governed them was predicated on disputes between states rather than inside them. There are three possible varieties of conflict that might arise under this framework. The first would be religious fanaticism fueling identity-based conflicts centered on claims of autonomy. The second would be disagreements about government, which often arise in countries that are in transition. Resource competition is the third kind of conflict. In a broader sense, this would include the whole gamut of ecological crises, from ozone depletion to the management of water supplies and fossil fuel extraction.

THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC SETTING

The continued development of information technology has enabled the free flow of commodities, people, money, and ideas on a scale never seen before. In reality, all human endeavors are becoming global, or crossing national boundaries. This development may exacerbate global security concerns. The potential for transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups to threaten national security is a major cause for concern. Another risk that might become a severe concern for national security management is the smuggling of key-metals like plutonium, enriched uranium if these organizations expand the complexity of their operations and can neutralize hurdles in acquiring and transporting them. The spread of health and environmental issues across international borders is another

potential transnational concern. Increases in international communication and migration have contributed to the worldwide spread of diseases like AIDS. Without adequate management, environmental issues in one country might quickly spread to others. The extinction of species, the degradation of the ozone layer, and other effects of global warming impact every country. Migration that causes disruption is another potential danger. While immigration to industrialized civilizations has almost reached its maximum level, mass migration due to socioeconomic and military situations has the potential to disrupt ethnic balance in other regions of the globe.

India has to provide for her own security needs in terms of its political-economic and military connections with other nation states, both large and small, and her military capacity, regardless of the form of the evolving international security order.

Future of Indian Security

India is a civilizational idea that dates back thousands of years and is home to one-sixth of the world's population. Languages (with Indo-Aryan and Dravidian origins), religions, and ethnicities all play a role in creating distinct groups within one same integrated civilizational region. It is estimated that about 30% of the population is living in poverty, and economic inequality is also very concerning. India's greatest strength, however, is in the gradual but firming realization that, despite outward distinctions of caste, geography, language, religion, etc., we are all Indians and belong to a single country. The recent events of Kargil (1999) shown that the "We are all Indians" attitude unites us in times of crisis. Despite its progress toward

a more just and equitable society, India continues to confront concerns that threaten its federal, pluralistic, varied, and secular nature. These dangers are taking advantage of every chink in Indian society and every fissure in Indian politics. Therefore, India is still a rather unsafe country.Why do you think that way? That might be because (a) it has not yet consolidated its strategic thinking, (b) its defense organization has not evolved in the previous half-century, or (c) it is still in the midst of handling the revolution in military affairs (RMA).

A long-term vision and plan for India's national security must account for all of these factors: (a) social cohesiveness; (b) a progressive institutional network; (c) the reduction of internal and foreign dangers; and (d) environmentally sustainable economic development. Economic modernisation and social justice are theoretically impossible for any state to pursue if its primary focus is on maintaining internal and foreign security. Likewise, if she does not have strong defenses against outside influence, she will not be able to play a significant role outside her own environment. When a country must rely on other countries for its main security, it can never hope to become a major role on the international stage. A country like India, with its limited resources and weak defenses, would be little more than a minor regional power.

India's influence does not seem to spread beyond the Indian subcontinent in the early 21st century. If it wants to join the P-5 club of powerful nations, it will need to develop its own economy and military. Since gaining independence, she has prioritized national sovereignty and autonomy as essential tenets of her development strategy, meaning that she has benefited neither from the rivalry of big powers nor influenced the international strategic environment. This leaves her without the necessary military force, robust economy, or alluring political philosophy. Despite having the fourth biggest military in the world, India spends very little on defense. It spends about a quarter as much on defense as Japan and almost as much as China. Italy, Brazil, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia all spent more on defense than India did in 1999.2

India requires a strong defense posture that can meet the requirements of the RMA process if it wants to pursue a successful economic and security strategy. Therefore, it has to prepare for its security needs in the long run and consider measures to build a stronger, more efficient military. To avoid making the same mistake again, she must take into account the lesson of the 1962 Sino-Indian confrontation while planning for future security. Only when a country is powerful and has the means to protect its peace can it hope to have peace that lasts. Peace can exist only if society is prepared for conflict, Kautilya said in his Arthasastra. In order to maintain its territorial integrity, internal peace, and sovereignty in the face of five wars since 1947 and ongoing insurgencies assisted from outside, India must identify the most cost-effective ways of doing so.

National Security Policy

A policy's development is, at its core, an exercise in balancing means and aims. "that part of government policy having as its objective the creation of national and international political conditions favorable to the protection and extension of vital

national values against existing and potential adversaries," write Frank Trager and Frank Simone to describe national security policy. Values, internal conditions, and international contexts are the three main factors studied when assessing a country's security strategy. A national security strategy may be evaluated and shaped with the use of a conceptual framework that organizes the connection among variables.

The values and views of the decision maker have an impact on the policies that are created. Policymakers may support an initiative because it will favor their preferred political party or will have a positive effect on the constituents of the organization they work for. One's ideology and personal goals, such as advancing one's status and influence, may have a major impact on one's decisions. At the end of the day, it's crucial to consider how policymakers themselves understand the national interest and the risks it faces.

National security strategy formulation and implementation must take into account the interplay of three spheres: the diplomatic, economic, and military. The management of states' diplomatic ties is important to diplomacy. Allocation of societal resources and international monetary ties are important concerns of economic policy. The military aspect includes all plans and regulations that have to do with the military and the use of force.

CONCLUSION

The Indian Council on World Affairs has played a vital role in shaping India's foreign policy by providing rigorous research, analysis, and policy recommendations. Its evolution over the years reflects its commitment to remaining relevant in an ever-changing global context. As India's stature on the world stage grows, ICWA's contributions are likely to become even more critical in guiding the country's diplomatic engagements and global positioning. The Indian Council on World Affairs (ICWA) is an autonomous institution established in 1943 under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. It was conceived with the objective of promoting research and analysis on international affairs and providing policy recommendations to the Indian government. Over the decades, ICWA has evolved to become a significant actor in the realm of foreign policy formulation, contributing to India's understanding of global issues and its positioning on the world stage.

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