

Meaning, Principles, Approaches and objectives of India's Foreign Policy

Illustrative discussion on the major principles of India's Foreign Policy-

(1) Policy of Non-Alignment-

Since its inception of as a concept, Non-alignment has been core and defining principle of India foreign policy in post- independence era. It could be viewed as a creative response of newly created countries such as India, Egypt and Indonesia. The main scenario of Cold War had been important during this period in international relations. Many leaders opted this policy to escape the war like situation between two military groups and protect their country's hard-earned Independence from colonial masters. It was also to ensure autonomy of independent foreign policy.

The first PM of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, a key architect of the policy of non-alignment and prime mover of India 's foreign policy, explains the implications of the policy in memorable words: —Non-alignment means attempt by a nation to keep itself aloof from military blocs. It means trying to view the things, as far as possible, not from military point of view though that has to come in sometimes, but we must have independent view point and must have friendly relations with all countries. It arguably served the national interests of the country well during some of the toughest times in the international politics. After the end of Cold War and disappearance of bipolar nature of international scenario, Non-alignment policy is matter of discussion that whether it has same relevance or not?

(2) Doctrine of Panchsheel-

Literally, panchsheel means a set of five principles of peaceful coexistence. It was enacted in the treaty that India signed with China to set the trajectory of relations between the two countries. The five elements of the doctrine of panchsheel are as followed-

Respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-aggression towards each other; non-interference in the internal affairs of each other; mutually beneficial relations bases on equality; and peaceful co-existence.

India professes these principles to the guiding foundation the foreign policy of many countries, at the large scale. It is supposed to maintain long lasting peace in the neighborhood of different countries.

(3) Anti-colonialism, Anti-imperialism and Anti-apartheid-

Its profound foreign policy of India to stand against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid practiced and perpetrated by Western powers over peoples and societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This opposition against these crimes, against humanity was came out from long and torturous experiences under British rule. Under the British rule, a prosperous country suffered from a lot of destruction, from agriculture to drain of wealth, including, crafts and infrastructure and so. Administrative set as a lesson brought poverty and complexity in the political and social India.

Racial discrimination and colour-based heinous practices had also alive among the people as exemplified by father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi who surfed from the colonial and racial mindset of foreigners.

Broadly, the principles of anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism and anti-apartheid were noticeably taken as the guiding lights through which India would conduct her relations with the rest of the world.

Though these principles have no more remained as much meaningful as they used to be in the past, their relevance would probably remain intact as long as those tendencies continue to persist as foreign policy options for any country. Hence, it came in the formulation of independent India's foreign policy.

(4) Faith in the Ideal of World Peace-

It has been the stable trust of India that war and violence cannot provide and final solution to the problem in the world. Therefore, India has always been arguing for peaceful settlement of international disputes in such a way that they do not lead to any violent struggle. As a natural outcome to such a perspective of international politics, India has taken its faith in the ideal of world peace as guiding principle of its foreign policy. After the end of Cold War, many situations arose in times of American war in Iraq and Syrian conflict when the probability of a large-scale war became quite imminent but India have followed its commitment for World peace. There can be various example from modern internation pollical scenario.....