

Major Approaches of Indian Foreign Policy –

Foreign policy of India has been debatable among scholars. It goes to study international relations in theoretical perspectives. International relations theory has fundamental things to study political approach and policy of the states. IR theory has been categorized in various ideological category and perspectives.

As we know that IR is study of action and interaction of states in relation to one another. The study of foreign policy naturally emerged as the core study of international relations everywhere.

Approaches to the study of foreign policy takes different turns. According to Professor Black and Thompson, historical, legalistic and descriptive method has dominated over a period of time.

(1) Traditional /Historical Approach-

There is traditional approach based on the diplomatic history of the country. Black and Thompson made an effort to reconstruct it. They say, to the systematic study of powers to enlighten the present by a reference to the past. Traditional approach is dominated by historical ethos based on past knowledge of events and serve somehow theoretical bases but not sufficient method of any foreign policy. Examples...

(2) Legalistic Approach-

The legalistic approach makes analysis of legal background of international relations. It mainly focuses on the present background, political legal and social condition, constitutional provision, laws, treaties and regulations as well as the overall framework of international laws. It also looks at the internal problems of the government, external relations.

(3) Descriptive Approach-

Descriptive Approach as general approach describes foreign policy of major powers in details. The approach takes study of institutions and background of current events in relations to other countries. Mostly it has been influenced by biasness of national interest, or personal interest of the country represented, that's why it is relevant but there is lack of fair outcomes. Although attempts to reform this approach has been led by recent study.

(4) Ideological and analytical Approach-

The ideological approach has much relevance than any other that is why it is considered analytical approach of foreign policy. It expresses prevailing political, social and religious belief of society. It also classifies foreign policy of the state as democratic or totalitarian, socialist or libertarian, peace-loving or aggressive and so on. It is very useful to study foreign policy in these terms. Although in international relations ideology does not make always correct criteria of action of the states. There has been conflict between ideological and material interest of the states...

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