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Research Papers

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## MARCH OF INDIA'S ForeignPOLICY FROM IDEALISM TO REALISM

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### Abstract

*In Nehru era our foreign policy was based on the principles of good faith and mutual trust. During Mr. Lal Bhadur Shastri's tenure our relations with Pakistan and USA were based on practical and realistic approach. India's victory in 1965 war with Pakistan without the foreign help had exalted the image of Mr. Shastri as a successful practical diplomat. This victory had washed out the defeat of 1962 war with China. Now India had emerged as a powerful nation in South Asia. Mr. Shastri had given a blow to the US diplomacy and developed confidence in the military morale along with Indian citizens. Giving blow to the Pakistan's misunderstanding that India is militarily a weak nation.*

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### **Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Tenure - Indo-US relations -**

After assumption of power in 1966 Mrs. Gandhi made serious bid to improve relations with United States. However, during her visit to US she could visualise the intention of US to India. US wanted that India should not help North Vietnam. Mrs. Gandhi boldly replied that US President should not take India for granted. However, the relations got strained due to difference in opinion in various international issues.

She was more impressed by the Soviet Union's anti-colonial propaganda and support for freedom struggle in Asian countries. The outcome of these cordial relations with Soviet Union resulted in the Indo-Soviet-Treaty of 1971. This treaty had created great misunderstanding between US and India and India and Pakistan.

On Bangladesh issue, she had faced Pakistan's aggression on both the borders. India succeeded in the war and emerged as a powerful

state in South Asia with the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state. Even during President Regan's tenure, Indo-US relations remained strained on the issue of Afgan and US decision on sale of arms to Pakistan and the refusal of supplying nuclear fuel to India.

US was annoyed with India's stand on different issues like not signing NPT and India's demand for removal of US bases in Indian ocean.

### Indo-Pak relations -

Indo-Pak relations remained hostile mainly on Bangladesh issue and supply of arms by Pakistan to Sikh extremist in India.

### Janata Party Tenure -

This government had taken steps to improve relations with US. President Jimmy Carter to pay a visit to India to give a new look to pay a visit to India to give a new look to improvise the relations. However, he did not succeed. On the contrary differences developed on the issue of NTP.

Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai paid a visit to US. He succeeded in getting the agreement signed in respect of supplying uranium to India. But regarding NPT, the two leaders fell apart.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's period -

In his tenure Mr. Rajiv Gandhi undertook a visit to US to repair relations. The United States also responded and agreed to transfer high power technology and offered advance military technology and weaponry to India.

However differences continued on the issue of induction of sophisticated arms to Pakistan, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan etc.

Relations with Pakistan :-

Both these countries agreed to merge the draft of 'No War Pact' and the 'Treaty of Friendship and peaceful Relations'. Both agreed to solve 'Siachin Glacier' issue through dialogue.

However relations reached to breaking point in early 1987 due to the installation of large military manoeuvre on common border issue followed by battalion size attack on four mountain passes. Relations became more strained when Pakistan raised the 'Kashmir issue' on various International Conferences in violation to Simla Agreement.

Development of Relations in National Front Government -

This government laid great emphasis on the development of healthy relations with Pakistan, however, much break through could not be made due to military activities continued on the LOC by Pakistan

Pakistan had also trained militant to infiltrate in Kashmir and disturbed the law and order situation in the region. Thus there was no specific development in Indo-Pak or Indo-US relations in this period.

**Mr. Narsimha Rao's Tenure :-**

The world situation had undergone complete change due to the breaking of ideological barriers, the end of Cold War and the disintegration of Soviet Union in his tenure.

He tried to forge close relations with US and attracted substantial US investment in the country. His government tried to give a new orientation to the foreign relations in the light of harsh economic realities.

But the US continued to bring pressure to sign NPT. Due to the unipolar position of US, she had planned to play a dominant role in international arena specially in the economic field. India had expressed unhappiness over growing US

control over UN and demanded democratization of the UN and Security Council.

However, the economic liberty and open market policy adopted by India also helped in the development of cordial relations with US. In the same period India had signed GATT and Drunkell Agreement.

United Front Government and India's Policy :-

One of the notable features of this government was the introduction of 'Gujral Doctrine' to eliminate outsider's intervention in the region. Under this doctrine India refused the mediation of US and Britain in Kashmir dispute. Thus this government had tried to keep India aloof from foreign intervention.

March of Foreign Policy under BJP led Government -

This government gave a new orientation to the foreign policy specially in relation with US and Pakistan.

On India's nuclear tests the US imposed sanctions, the Bus-diplomacy introduced by India to have peaceful relations with Pakistan, the imposition of Kargil war and the defeat of Pakistan and the change of Government in Pakistan etc. Had changed the US approach towards India. The terrorist activities and their brutality and the crossing of LOC, all these issues were successfully faced by the new government.

**DRASTIC CHANGE IN INDIA'S POLICY**

Mr. Nawaz Sharif's democratic government in Pakistan expressed desire to improve relations with India in 1997. India also responded promptly. Both agreed to prevent hostile propoganda against each other.

But this cordial atmosphere did not continue for long. Relations amongst the two got spoiled due to the launching of Ghauri Missile by Pakistan with an indirect threat to India.

India also launched Agni and Prithvi missiles. Both the states further conducted nuclear tests in May 1998. Pakistan provoked cross border terrorism and started Proxy War against India in Jammu and Kashmir.

CTBT – Issue :-

India's strong objection to CTBT was that US had ignored India's security concern. According to India signing of CTBT would be a surrender to the pressure of nuclear hegemony of US and other big powers. India refused to sign the CTBT because she wanted to safeguard the nuclear option.

The US was hurt when India refused to sign the treaty on the contrary, India and Pakistan

had conducted nuclear tests in 1998.

**Nuclear Tests by India and Pakistan :-**

The BJP led government in India in May 1998 successfully conducted the nuclear tests at Pokharan in Rajasthan. Pakistan also conducted nuclear tests at Chagai in the last week of May 1998.

For Pakistan nuclear bomb was a matter of pride. But on the other hand for India, she had declared that these tests are not against any State, nor is designed to attack on any state. The basic objective of the 'test' was India people to understand the security strength of India.

**Sanctions imposed :-**

The big powers imposed several sanctions on India and Pakistan. However, some American diplomats and experts were critical of the sanctions impositions.

The USSR, UK, France etc. had expressed that they did not agree with the US strategy of imposing sanctions.

However, the Indian leaders were determined to minimise its impact on economy. To them Indian economy would be crippled because US has adopted a 'open door' policy and India is trade oriented and not aid oriented like that of Pakistan. The US trade company expressed that the trade sanctions may backfire as these companies would be out of competition.

**Bus-Diplomacy :-**

In the beginning of the year 1999, steps were taken to improve relations with Pakistan. Mr. Vajpayee had proposed to have friendly relations and proposed bus-diplomacy to minimise the tensed relations.

Both the Prime-Ministers signed 'Lahore-Declaration' in which both committed to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons. However, there was no specific guideline to resolve 'Kashmir issue'.

But in few months Pakistan betrayed the Simla Agreement and the 'Lahore Declaration'.

**Kargil War :-**

The unfolding tragic drama in Kargil was staged by the blatant violation of LOC by the intruders and Pakistani soldiers.

In this strategy, Pakistan had been caught on wrong footing. Even its close ally US accused Pakistan for violation of LOC.

Pakistan stated that the infiltrators were Kashmiri insurgents and not the regular army men of Pakistan.

Indian military succeeded in vacating all posts occupied by Pakistani military and ousted the intruders.

Pakistan tried to make the 'Kashmir issue' and international one, but failed in the attempt.

**Return of General :-**

On Kargil event the world public opinion went against Pakistan. US brought pressure on Pakistan to withdraw from Kashmir and respect the LOC. Mr. Sharif promised accordingly. But the public opinion turned against him in Pakistan. In few days General Musharraf captured power from Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Musharraf promised US President to restore democracy in Pakistan at the earliest.

**Mr. Vajpayee's visit to US :-**

Mr. Vajpayee visited US in Sept. 1999. Both the leaders opened a new phase in Indo-US relations. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Vajpayee both promised to build a strong and matured Partnership between the two democratic countries. During this visit a constructive change observed for the first time in US Policy towards India. US for the first time uphold India's stand on Kashmir and opposed terrorist activities of Pakistan. The US leaders stated that in near future, India would emerge as a super power parallel to China. This is the new power equation strategy of US in Asia.

**Mr. Clinton's Visit – A spectacular change in the Policy :-**

President Clinton visited India in March 2000. His visit symbolizes a spectacular change in Indo-US relations after Kargil War. During his visit he realised the growing terrorist activities of Pakistan-Afghan axis. Since Pakistan was involved in all terrorist activities US reacted against Pakistan. Mr. Clinton commented, US along with India can shape a global political order. He further committed that 'our policy makers so far watching New Delhi through the prism of Islamabad, and hence we were the ultimate loser'.

After 52 years both these countries have now discovered that both stand to gain a lot by working together in different fields.