

India and Japan: Their Role in Maintaining Peace and Security

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ABSTRACT : *Now the world is facing many problems like terrorism, poverty, and economical crises, In this globalised and unipolar world many new powers are emerging like India Japan and China, In this changing world India and Japan can play important role in maintaining peace and security in the world particularly and Asia in general.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The outstanding trend in the multilateral world today is the uncertainty evidenced in the political and economic aspects of that international order which has supported the interdependent relationship among nations. Today's world is facing a number of major problems, such as threat to Asia's security. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Asia's security is largely affected by crisis relating Afghanistan, Iraq, North Korea and Pakistan. International terrorism and unending problem of Middle East are also affecting the entire world. Economically, increasing problems of developing countries due to globalization process, like unemployment, poverty, trade investment and information technology are major issues.¹ Now the world has witnessed drastic changes. A variety of new factors have come to govern nation states. The concept of security is defined increasingly in non-military terms. Economic factors like resources, technology, trade investment have assumed new dimensions of importance. It is therefore search for what role India and Japan can play in maintaining peace and security and how to manage the two countries all the issues nationally and internationally in the globalization era.

INDIA'S ROLE : To play a major role at world and sub-continental level there are some factors that are of a permanent nature. One of the factors that influences policy makers in a permanent manner is the geopolitical situation of the country which provides the geographical and political setting of the country. The geographical situations of a country show the strength of a concerned country and tells us about the positions of the neighbours, their interest and historical background. It is to analyze India's role concerning with its geographic and economic position in Asia and World. Jawaharlal Nehru who was the First Prime Minister of India and the greatest political leader has elaborately written about geographic situation of India in his book *Discovery of India*. He wrote that India is at the gateway to south-east Asia as well as the Middle East. India, the seventh largest country in the world, is well marked off from the rest of Asia by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer.

The great Himalayas and other lofty mountains – Muztagh Ata, Aghil Kunlun mountains to the north of Kashmir and South eastern portion of Zaskar mountains to east of Himachal Pradesh – form India's northern boundary, except in the Nepal region, she is adjoined in the north by China, Nepal and Bhutan. A series of mountain ranges in the east separate India from Burma. India bounded by Bangladesh in the east, in the north Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Gulf of Mannar and the Palk straits separate India from Sri Lanka. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea are parts of the territory of India. Indira points (earlier called Pygmalion point) in great Nicobar in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the southern most territory of India. Besides its physical boundaries, India has rich mineral resources, good weather conditions, a vast area of forest occupy an area of 75.1 million hectares, 22.8 percent of the total area of the country agricultural land and vast population.

Jawaharlal Nehru himself said, "even if you have to consider any question affecting the middle east, India inevitably came into the picture, if you have to consider any question concerning south-east Asia you cannot do so without India, so also with the far – east. While the middle east may not be directly connected with south east Asia, both are connected with India even if you have to consider regional organization in India, you have to keep in touch"². Nehru has been considered as the architect of India's foreign policy after independence. Nehru evolved a policy of non-alignment in world. The non-alignment policy based on long-term benefits, very much fulfilled the goal of India.

At that time the only solution for smaller and developing countries is to stand on a stage which is equal distance from both sides, like many other Asian countries India also became victims of western imperialism far more than three hundred years. By this imperialism India lost its prosperous status for British not because of its people were weak but because of industrial revolution which took place in the west in the sixteenth century. The scientific and technological changes left Asia far behind, the industrial revolution led the western countries to control many parts of Asia and Africa. In the sixteenth century India was a very prosperous country when compared to western countries. But one thing is that the industrial revolution had not happened in India. India later fall under control of British until 1947. After independence in 1947 India played a vital role in resurgent Asia. Jawaharlal Nehru organized a conference of Asian Nations to consider the situation in Asia. While talking of Asia, Jawaharlal Nehru in the constituent Assembly in 1949, remembered that India, not because of any ambition of hers, but because of history and balance of so many other factors inevitably have to play a very important role in Asia. And not only that, India becomes a kind of meeting ground of various trends and forces and a meeting ground between what may be roughly called the east and the west³.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy which was anti-imperialist policy was supported by India and many Asian and African countries. All these nations started their independent foreign policies based on Gandhin principles to protest against colonialism for their independence. After the end of the Second World War many colonial countries including India came out from the shadow of the imperialism but colonialism began to continue in a new shape in many parts of the world. Nehru said that, "Colonialism was digging in some areas, putting on new clothes"⁴ "speech at a Banquet in Syria". Military blocs were also a manifestation of colonialism in a new grab. Military blocs apart, the non-aligned movement struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, socialism and for peaceful co-existence and the right of small countries to determine and shape their own future defined the parameters of India's foreign policy⁵. India by following the policy of non-alignment as it came to signify a refusal to be mere "political and economic appendages of senseless of military political and economic power"⁶.

For first ten years period after independence India's role in international affairs has increased to little extent. During initial period India gave importance to solve its internal problems like poverty, unemployment and mobilization of resources. Although, India with little support of developing countries played influential role at world level. But India had given much attention to what happens in south Asia than what happens in the distant parts of the world. For various historical reasons, India and Pakistan became rival countries and relations between the two countries not as much good as other south Asian countries. The Kashmir problem and Pakistan's alignment with the western bloc made India's diplomatic position remained limited for many years. Sino-Indian relations also were not cordial because of the border dispute. But India's relations with other neighbouring countries are cordial and she maintained friendly relations with them. Some of the friendly neighbours are Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The religious bonds have played a major role in fostering close ties between India and these countries.

The Kashmir problem which is a major problem in Asia between India and Pakistan remained unsolved, despite many attempts from both sides. For this India and Pakistan fought three wars. In 1949 after the end of the First India-Pakistan war, a cease fire line was drawn bringing about a defacto division of Kashmir. Since then neither of the two countries have made concessions in their respective position. Pakistan developed anti-India movement in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and civil disturbances of a militant nature have spread through the state involving the general public. India accused Pakistan of providing material support, including arms and training for terrorists, and of inciting riots.⁷ On the other hand, Pakistan demanded for the right of self-determination of the Kashmir people. So far, neither side has shown signs of compromise. Many times India and Pakistan deployed military forces along line of control and exchanged firing. However, both countries' leaders wanted to avoid war. Many times both countries' leaders met and discussed the matter for peaceful settlement but the tensions remain to continue. In this situation Japan maintained a position that India and Pakistan should restore peace in Kashmir through dialogue and political accommodation and hopes that the problem be settled peacefully through negotiations in the spirit of the Simla agreement. Japan always favoured to improve India-Pakistan relations.

II. CONCLUSION

India and Japan are inter-dependent for their development. For maintaining peace and order in South East Asia their political role is very much significant. They may be interested in the exchange of knowledge, culture, sports, technology, arts, music and literature.

The conclusion and certain observations are given hereunder:

- [1] The subject of Indo-Japanese post war relation is of great importance to the students of political science and the politicians of both the countries. In that respect the historical background of both the countries needed to be taken into account. Therefore the historical background has been given importance and same has been included in the second chapter.
- [2] For the purpose of knowing the political relations between the two countries, it is necessary to know the social, economic and cultural conditions, which helped in developing mutual relations. Therefore, the social, economic and cultural conditions existing in both the countries were taken into account and described in the third chapter. It has been also tried to see the inter-linking socio-economic factors and their relation to the political relationship. Political relationship is always based on fulfillment of vested interest of each other. The socio-economic and cultural factors give a strong support to the political co-existence and mutual relations. It is necessary to take into account has to how social and economical factors should be fully utilized and explored in serving mutual interests.
- [3] Every country may resort to gain something which is useful for empowerment of that country. Every country aims to achieve political power so as to fulfill its vested interests. With that purpose they plan to develop political relationship with others. Therefore they form international organizations; utilize that platform for the satisfaction of political benefits and solving the problems. Thus, political relationship serves some political objectives. The political leaders, ministers, delegates ambassadors and many others serving as diplomat of that country involve in the development and maintenance of cordial relations for the betterment of both the countries. In this respect Indo-Japanese contemporary political relations in the interest of mutual benefits were taken into account and given space in the fourth chapter.
- [4] We are put in a global family. Hence we have to maintain cordial relations and help in maintaining cordial relations in the world at large. Therefore it is necessary to take into account and evaluate the work done and the role played in international politics by active members of the international organizations like UNO. Therefore their individual role and collective role in Asia and international politics has been taken into account.
- [5] The hypotheses which were given in the introduction are proved to be true It is observed that there is wider scope to develop the mutual relations in the present and future in the interest of mankind. The need of the hour is that both countries should acquainted themselves in the field of art, culture and language. India is a country which is peace loving and greatly believes in humanism. Its basic philosophic doctrine is to render help and happiness for the entire world.

For proper understanding each others history, culture and technological development the Indians should be acquainted with Japanese language and the Japanese should be acquainted with Indian languages. Both of them can use English as a common medium for understanding each other. The media from both the countries have to take into account the minor and major developments in both the countries and in the Asian countries and have to highlight them. This may be efficacious to both the countries to understand each other and bridge the gap in social relations.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union Japan became a stronger and major role player in Asia. Thus, the post cold war situation had encouraged Japan to play a new role in the UNO'S sponsored peace keeping activities in Asia. Japan with its growing economic power can maintain Peace in Asia. India and Japan have remained very important friends, sharing common interests. Both are democratic countries and both have committed to the international stability and they are expected to play an increasingly important role in the world of 21st century in terms of Asian security problems and global issues. Thus, India and Japan will be able to make a common effort for peace, stability and prosperity of the World.

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