

NEHRU CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

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INTRODUCTION:

Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister of independent India laid the foundations of modern India. Apart from his careful handling of India's tumultuous domestic situation in the years immediately after the Independence, Nehru's major contribution lies in the field of foreign policies. In fact, Nehru determined India's international profile to a great degree in the post-independence years, in his capacity as the foreign minister of India. Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy has been made subject to much controversy and debate, like his economic policies. However, taken in the context of India's newly found status as a democratic republic, Nehru's foreign affairs policies seem to be extremely apt.

KEY WORLD : Foreign Policy, Panchsheel, Non-alignment, Peaceful Settlement.

OBJECTIVE :

- 1.To analyze the impact of Nehru's Foreign Policy.
- 2.To Study the impact of Nehru's basic Principal on Indian foreign policy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This paper is basically descriptive and analytical in the nature. The data is secondary according to need of study

THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF NEHRU'S FOREIGN POLICY:

Nehru succeeded in forging a domestic consensus on the definition of Indian national interests and foreign policy objectives. Some of these objectives are building a unified and integrated nation based on the secular and democratic principles defending Indian territory and protecting its security interests guaranteeing India's foreign policy independence internationally through non-alignment and promoting national economic development. These objective& were the product of the prevailing international environment as well as the domestic conditions of the country

Founding Principles of India's foreign policy and its objectives are closely interlinked with each other. These principles have stood the test of time and are ingrained in the international law and India's foreign policy practice. Some of these principles are discussed below.

1. PANCHSHEEL AND NEHRU:

Indian Policy makers understood the linkage between peace and development and survival of mankind. In view of the destruction caused by two world wars, they realized that for the progress of a nation a durable world peace was needed. Without global peace, social and economic development is likely to be pushed to the background. Thus, the founder of India's foreign policy, Nehru gave utmost importance to world peace in his policy planning. For him, India desired peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly the big powers and the neighboring nations. While signing a peace agreement with China; he advocated adherence to five guiding principles known as Panchsheel. Panchsheel was signed on 28 April, 1954 and since then it has become a guiding principle of India's bilateral relations with countries also. Panchsheel includes the following five principles of foreign policy.

Panchsheel, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, which stated, in its preamble, that the two Governments "have resolved to enter into the present Agreement based on the following principles: -

- i. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty,
- ii. Mutual non-aggression,
- iii. Mutual non-interference,
- iv. Equality and mutual benefit, and
- v. Peaceful co-existence.”¹

2. POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND NEHRU:

Non-alignment is the most important feature of India's foreign policy. India's first Prime Minister, builder of modern India, and initiator of the policy of non-alignment which has since found universal acceptance. Non-alignment was not a negative policy of being neutral in great power disputes or staying equidistant from the two super powers. The emerging Cold War between the USA and the Soviet Union which intensified in the 1950s, the period which also saw the emergence of new Asian and African nations, free from the colonial yoke, provided the ground for the adoption of the policy of non-alignment which was specially suited to the requirements of the newly independent Asian and African country.

Jawaharlal Nehru the policy of non-alignment was an indigenous product, emanating from India's long struggle for freedom. So were probably the compulsions of the leaders of the Asian, African and Latin American countries who were able to assert their national identities mainly by adopting the policy of non-alignment.²

Non-alignment should not be confused with neutrality or non-involvement in international affairs or isolationism. It was a positive and dynamic concept. It postulates taking an independent stand on international issues according to the merits of each case but at the same time not committing to coming under the influence of any military bloc. Thus, keeping away from the military alliances and super power blocs was a necessary condition for the independence of foreign policy. India's policy of non-alignment got many supporters in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America as it provided them opportunity for protecting their foreign policy independence amidst the cold war pressures and tensions. India played a lead role in popularizing and consolidating the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). India, under the leadership of Nehru, convened the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in 1947 to forge the idea of Asian solidarity. Another Asian Relations Conference was convened by India in 1949 on the question of independence of Indonesia as India stood firm -against the colonial rule in other countries. A larger Conference, known as Bandung Conference of 29 countries of Asia and Africa was convened in Bandung (Indonesia) in 1955 to forge the Afro-Asian unit. The conference laid down ten fundamental principles of international relations, which included five principles of Panchsheel. The leaders pledged to work together for colonial liberation, peace, and cultural, economic and political cooperation among developing countries. The Bandung Conference was precursor to the NAM, which held its first Summit in 1961 at Belgrade. Since then, the Non-Aligned Movement has not looked back. So far its 15 Summits have been held, the last one held at Sharm El Sheikh in 2009. It provides all its members, regardless of their size and development, an opportunity to participate in global decision-making process. The Seventh NAM Summit was hosted by India at New Delhi in 1983. In this Summit, India took up the cause of development, disarmament and the Palestine issue.

3. POLICY OF RESISTING COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, RACISM AND NEHRU:

India has been victim of colonialism and racism and was as such opposed to these evils in any form. India considers colonialism and imperialism as the threat to international peace and security India was the first to bring the issue of Apartheid in the UN in 1946. India raised her voice for the independence of Indonesia and organized Asian Relations Conference for this purpose. Due to India's consistent efforts through NAM and other international forums, 14 African countries were liberated from the yoke of colonialism in 1964. India made sincere efforts to end the scourge of apartheid in South Africa. At India's initiative, NAM set up the Africa Fund (Action for Resisting Imperialism, Colonialism and Apartheid) in 1986 to help the frontline states, which were victims of aggression of South Africa for supporting the cause of fight against Apartheid. India made generous contribution to this fund. The end of racialism in South Africa in 1990 was a great success for Indian policy.

4. PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND NEHRU:

One of the core elements of India's foreign policy is its unflinching faith in the political solution and peaceful settlement of international disputes. This principle has been included in the Constitution of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as in the Charter of the UN. India has played leading role in the resolution of Korean conflict and supported negotiated settlement of Palestine issue, Kashmir problem, border problems with neighboring countries and other such disputes and problems. At present, India is in favour of resolution of peaceful settlement of Iranian nuclear issue, problem of democratic upsurge in Middle East and so on. India is always against foreign military intervention for resolving international problems. This principle continues to be the cornerstone of India's policy.

5. SUPPORT TO UN, INTERNATIONAL LAW AND A JUST AND EQUAL WORLD ORDER AND NEHRU:

India has deep respect for the international law and/or the principles of sovereign equality of nations and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations as espoused by the UN. India has supported the cause of disarmament pursued by the UN. In 1988, India proposed a very ambitious programme of nuclear disarmament before the UN. Though, this proposal was not accepted by the other members of the UN, India stands committed to the cause of universal disarmament even today. India has played a key role in preserving world peace by helping in the decolonization process, and through active participation in UN peacekeeping activities. In order to make the composition of the Security Council more realistic and democratic, India has proposed and supported the reform of Security Council and other UN agencies. India is one of the claimants of permanent membership of the Security Council.

CONCLUSION:

Jawaharlal Nehru was the architecture of modern India after its independence in 1947. Apart from handling the domestic situation, Nehru's major contribution lies in the area of external relations as he kept foreign affairs under his strict control over seventeen years and made all the major foreign policy decisions himself merely getting consultation from his advisers and aides. Nehru was a man of great vision. He promotes peace throughout the world. Therefore according to Nehru, what was essential was the adopt right means to solve the problems only peaceful means could ensure the survival and security of the people and nations. Nehru considered commonwealth stronger than alliances or treaties. It represented a form of international co-operation, which suited India best, being intimate, informal, beneficial but not binding.

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