

Nepalese and Indian Foreign Policy and International Relations

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Abstract

The relationship between and among the foreign political units of the world waite since the establishment of modern state system (1648 Westphalia treaty). With the development of science and technology (sophisticated arms, means of transportation and communication) international relation has been highly complex. Likewise, modernism also has dragged international relation towards vagueness. Intemational relations is a phenomena emerged with the creation of nation states. The development of nation states itself was a logical corollary to the growth of capitalism. Capitalism created larger territories which was basically due to expanding markets. Capitalism not only to the emergence of Nation-state but to colonialism as well. Therefore, international relations, till the end of world war II, was not between sovereign equal nations but most often between colonial power which were European and their colonies. To study international relations, colonization and decolonization theory,idealist school, realist school, liberalist school and geopolitical theory etc. are commonly used. While talking about foreign policy of Nepal and India, we find similarities i.e. NAM, panchasheela, respect to international law/organization etc, but Indian foreign policy practice towards Nepal is quite different than its theories.

Key words : Panchasheela, Non-aligned movement, interdependence & geo-politics.

International relation

Since the beginning of nation state, the concept of international relations have been important in world political scenario. But the modern state system and international relations is started since 1648 A.D. with the treaty of Westphalia. Before this, religions had guided international relations but later on, Westphalia instituted the legal concept of sovereignty (Khad, 2009).

Our world is too large and complex. So, international relations is a fascinating topic because it concerns peoples and cultures throughout the world, strictly defined, the field of international relations concerns the relationship among the world's national governments, But these political relations cannot be understood in isolation. They are closely connected with other actors (Such as the UN, multinational company and individuals), with other social relationships (including economics, culture and domestic politics); and with geographical and historical influences (Goldstein, 1996).

Likewise, westphalia the rise of the independent nation-state and the contemporary international system was finally established through decolonization during the cold war. Here, international relations represents the study of foreign affairs.

The word 'international' according to the Oxford English Dictionary was first used by the British philosopher Jeremy Bentham in 1780, speaking about the international jurisprudence, Bentham said the word "international", must be acknowledged, is a new one, though it is hoped sufficiently analogous and intangible (Melkote and Rao, 1993).

International relations refers to the relations existing between sovereign nations., they are inter-group relations and must be thus distinguished from relations that exist between man who are member of the same primary group, nation-state, with which they are opt (sic) to identify themselves and to which they owe their first and foremost allegiance (Ibid).

International relations the question as to whether it is confined exclusively to relations among 'nations' The term 'relations' is a much broader term and included diplomatic relations, economic relations (trade and commerce), culture and political relations and soon. What constitutes politics is less easy to indentify as practically all interactions between nations impinge on the authority of the state (Melkote and Rao, 1993).

The international relation is interaction among groups/states in the international ranges from conflict to co-operation. All states have some kind of relations with one-another. No state in the modern times can avoid the involvement in the international affairs, and this involvement must be systematically based on certain principles. In between understanding that is mutual co-operation, panchasheela as well as non-aligned movement, NAM (Chandra, 1994). The foreign policy of India and Nepal is also based on these factors.

Methodology

This study is based on secondary sources of information. That's why, researcher spent long time for related document study and collection. Therefore library method were used for collecting data, fact and needy information are used. Books, articles/net articles and journal articles of various prominent authors have been used honestly.

Findings and Discussions

Findings and discussions are as given in themes

Approaches to the Study of International Relations

An approach may be defined as a way of looking and explaining a particular phenomenon. Likewise approaches to the study of international relations may be broadly typed in to two main categories i.e. traditional and scientific or normative and empirical or value-laden or value neutral. International relations as a phenomena emerged with the creation of Nation States. The development of Nation-states itself was a logical corollary to the growth of capitalism. Capitalism created larger territories which was basically due to expanding markets. Capitalism not only to the emergence of Nation States but to colonialism as well. Therefore international relations, till the end of world war II, was not between sovereign equal nations but most often between colonial powers which were European and their colonies.

The idealist school to international politics was developed in the inter war period. Reinhold Niebuhr and E.H. Carr were the main thinkers who had stressed on idealist school of international politics. Gandhi, Henri de Saint-Simon, Bertrand Russell and Woodrow Wilson and others also contributed lots here, the idealists refuse to accept 'power' as the determinant of relations between nations. For them politics is the art of a good government rather than the art of the possible. International relations should necessarily involve principles of justice, obedience to legitimate law or rules which are derived from universal moral principles and respect for fellow humans, both domestically and internationally. There should be a complete abandonment of forces that encourage the encouragement of learning and the co-existence of societies and nations, peacefully under the leadership of adequately enlightened rules (Melkote and Rao, 1993).

Whereas realist approach regarding international relation believe that politics is actually a struggle for power. The problem however is that a psychological relationship in which one actor is able to control the behavior of another. National interest is the core of international relation and politics. Hans Morgenthau, E.H. Carr, Arnold Wolfers, Reinhold Niebuhr and George Kennan etc. are the main prominent realists thinker who have contributed in this field of international relations.

Hans J. Morgenthau argues that political relationships are governed by objective rules deeply rooted in human nature (Ibid). It means relations between Nepal and India also have gone through various ups and downs under different ruler's. For instance, Gujral Doctrine in Nepal-India relation have liberal impact, where as Nehru's doctrine had followed rigid foreign policy towards Nepal and other neighboring Countries. The other approaches regarding the study of international relations such as system approach. (it characterizes relationships in a global international system and interaction between the units of the system. The greater the level of interdependence the greater the amount of interaction. As the level of interdependence and the amount of interaction grow, the complexity of the system increases oligopolar (the classical balance of power model.) losses bipolar model (cold war model). The unit NETO or Nuclear proliferation model, collective security model (UN), Marxist approach (Colonization creates relation) philosophical/ethical approach (here the study of movement, international government, and man as a political being in mixed with the pursuit of certain goals, morals, truths or high principles), psychological approach/Jungian approach, behavioral approach, economic approach, statistics approach/quantitative approach and sociological approach etc.

Theories of International Relations

Theory is an assumption. It is a system of assumptions, accepted principles and rules of procedure based on limited information or knowledge. It is desired to analyze and predict. Here, hypothesis is the first step in creating a theory, Some popular theories in items of international relations are : geo-political, national interest, integration, communication, bargaining, decision-making, problem solving, system, dependence and interdependence (Khad, 2009).

Realism is the principle/theory that advocates that states are sovereign and thus autonomous of each other, on inherent structure or society can emerge or even exist to

order relations between them. They are bound only by forcible Coercion or their own consent. In such an anarchic system, state power is the key-indeed the only variable of interest because only through power states can defend themselves and hope to survive. Realism can understand power in a variety of ways-i.e. military, economically, diplomatically by ultimately emphasizes the destruction of coercion material capacity as the determinant of international politics. This vision of the world nests on four assumptions. First, Realists claim that survival is the principal goal of every state. Foreign invasion and occupation are thus the most pressing threats that any state faces. Second, Realists hold states to be national actors. This means given the goal of survival, states will act as best they can in order to maximize their likelihood of continuing to exist. Third, Realists assume that all states possess some military capacity, and on static knows what its neighbors intend precisely. The world in other words is dangerous and uncertain. Fourth in such a world, it is the great power-the state with most economic clout and especially, military might that are decisive. In this view, international relations is essentially a story of Great power politics (www.princeton.edu retrieved on 25th Feb., 2014, 3:45 a.m.).

If we take an example, Geopolitical theory of international relations is more relevant for the study of Nepal Indian relations because some of the intellectuals of Nepal makes comment that Nepal is India locked more than land-locked. The geographical location of the state, physical layout of the state, extent of territory, size of population, National character and the policy of government etc. comes on this theory. That has been easily proved by unafraid economic embargo imposed against Nepal on Nov., 2015. German geographer Homull has defined "geopolitics is concerned with spatial requirement of state while political geography examines only its space conditions".

D.D Mckeen, Geopolitics is the science that deals about relationship between space and politics which attempts to put geographical knowledge at the service of political leader. Nepal is a buffer state lying between two larger and rival states, China and India (Khand, 2009). Other theories like Game theory, National Interest theory, Integration theory, Decision making theory, Bargaining theory, System theory etc are the popular theories to study international relation. They may be used as per the relevancy while studying international relations.

Foreign Policy

The policy adopted by a nation state to maintain relations with other nation states can be called foreign policy. But they are varying from one state to another Likewise, understanding relationships between states has always been essential for the exercise of their foreign policy (www.dialnet.uninja). Foreign policy is the study of actions, interactions and reaction between state and states, organizations and organizations and states and organizations (Dahal, 2002). George Modelski defines foreign policy is the systematic activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the environment (Pokheral, 2068 B.S).

C.C Rodee (et.al) also defines foreign policy involves the formulation and implementation of a group of principles which shape the behavior patterns of a state while negotiating with other states to protect further its own interests. Thus, foreign policy is a

set of norms and values adopted and applied by the nation states to establish, extend and protect national interest in international political scenario. Here, both Nepal and India and their foreign policy has been analyzed stressing to relations of both.

Nepalese Foreign Policy

The Modern Nepal's foreign policy is started since the unification of P.N. Shah, through his Diving Comedy, he had expressed the foreign policy as Nepal is a yam between two big stones. That's why, Nepal should maintain its foreign/neighborhood relations with plenty of clarity. During his time, BEICG (British East India Company Government) was keen on extending relations with Nepal for trade as well as the hidden interest was to stop Nepalese expansion policy (Pokharel, 2068 B.S.).

Rana rule existed in Nepal till 2007 with its India policy as appeasement to BEICG and Isolation Nepal from rest of the world (Timilsina, 2002). But right after establishment of democracy, Nepalese foreign policy extended towards achieving international recognition of Nepal. The Delhi Accord held on 1st Falgun, 2007 B.S. made direct influence of India in Nepalese foreign policy and relations. Likewise, Royal coup da'ta" (Poush 1st, 2017 B.S.), restoration of democracy in 2046, 12 points agreement held on 7th Mangsir, 2062 (At Siligudi of India) etc. have direct and indirect impact of India and further formulation of Nepalese foreign policy, no matter Nepalese foreign policy is some how based on Co-operation, Mutual co-existence, Panchasheela, NAM, Regionalism, Globalization etc. But some of the intellectuals criticize that Nepal do not have concrete India policy and some says Nepal adopts Equidistance and Equi-proximity policy regarding Nepal and India-China relations.

S.D. Muni has listed the constant and strategic variable as two fundamental elements influencing relations between the two countries. He calls history, geography and culture as the "constant" and the social, political and economic elements as 'strategic" variables. Ability to balance these elements, he argues, can result the most harmonious relations between the two countries. He sees less of a problem in the constant elements than those from the strategic ones (www.nepalnews.com).

To some extent, these arguments sound tenable. Nevertheless, they fail to capture the contemporary realities and the changes of profound magnitude our relations have undergone in the last two decades beginning the 1990's to be specific. Even as we emphasize the similarity of history and geography, we often fail to focus on the range of inherent differences that our relations are informed of. The sheer territorial and populating size of India is an element of awe for Nepal. The land of economic development, social awakening, educational progress and the maturity of democratic institutions there are other fears-escalating factors. Nepal is locked by India on three sides. Here, political, economic and trade relations are always skewed towards India. In terms of culture as well, Nepalese TV channels are easily broadcasting Indian T.V. serials as well as political changes of Nepal also depending on India that is seen more clear since arms revolution to till 2006 and on wards. So, Nepal-India relations should be understood on the basis of Nepalese foreign policy and vice-versa.

Foreign policy of India

In foreign policy there are no permanent friends or enemies, there are only permanent interest, history, politics, economies, social and cultural relationships including security etc. (www.nef.org.up retrieved 25th Jan., 2013, 9.30 pm). Nepal lies in Indian sub-continent, India a largest country of south Asian Region, has a kind of hegemony that clearly sees in Nehru Doctrine. His ideas on independent foreign policy, non-align, and the third world solidarity with various critics Indian leaders could not denounce Nehru formally, (www.carnegieendowment.org/files/Mohan.pdf Retrieved on 27th Feb., 2014 7.05 am).

Due to the influence of socialist USSR through 1960's constitutional amendment, India was declared socialist republic but in 1989 was the collapse of USSR, the veritable symbol of socialism and the edifices of India's socialism began to crumble. Adopting to the new challenges of globalization now become the principal national objective. The change in the national economies strategy in 1991 inevitably produced abundant new options on the foreign policy front (Ibid).

Indian foreign policy is about the shift from being a leader of the 'third world' to the recognition to the potential that India could emerge as a great power in its own right. Likewise, India has big tension on increasing foot prints of China in Nepal. Some analysis have analyzed that India's foreign policy was as per time during the time of prime minister Nehru but later on there is inconsistency in it. After 11th May and 13th May 1998 Nuclear test have shown the paradigm shift of Indian foreign policy. As per that change, Nepal-India relation also being influenced.

Neo-realism theory of international relations has its pet concept to the security dilemma. Neo-constructivism is linked to collective identity any new-liberalism is seen as bang tied to the potential for absolute gains. Here, India's foreign policy is better explained by domestic variables than by international ones (www.via.ie/ri/files/4e/4e7cf297.pdf Retrieved on 25th Feb, 2014 7.10 pm).

Likewise, India is a natural hegemony and where external actors have a history of madding in regions affairs, the contention that domestic factors have had a deeper role to play in forming the limits of Indian foreign policy is explored, rather than converging on to the assertion of national self-interest. As Nepal believe in NAM, Panchasheela, Regionalism, Globalization, Respect to UN charter and International Law, India also follows its foreign relations based on such principles. On this regard, Nepal-India relations is also guided.

An independent and foreign nation maintains its international relations on the basis of its national interest. Such interests also covers categories of needs and demands that vary from time to time hazed on the social, cultural, religious background, political predispositions, economic outlook, world views and interests and interests of changing political relationships. To quote Henry Kissinger, "personality and policy could never be fully divorced" (Ibid). Such interests and views of the changing elite reflected in national policies and priorities constitute the dynamic aspects of national interests. At this time of historic transitions when not only Nepali national politics is changing but the entire international order is in a state of flux.

Historically, foreign policy has been a vital tool of Nepali state craft and test of statesmanship. The nature of politics which is witnessing fundamental changes in the entire spectrum of issues/interests, institutions and actors in a crucial times (21st century) and location (in Asia between India and China) makes Nepal's foreign policy formulation and conduct of diplomacy particularly challenging now.

Conclusion

Foreign policy in the study of various, reactions and interactions between states and states, organizations and states, organizations and organizations as well as states and organizations. While talking about Nepalese foreign policy, we find non-alignment and third world solidarity but with the advancement of India, its foreign policy including neighborhood policy has dramatically been changed. Though NAM, Parahasheela, Regionalism, Globalization, Respect to UN charter and International law etc. are the common grounds for Nepalese and Indian foreign policy but the activities of India towards its implementations is quiet diverted. If we look Nepal-India relations since the 12 points agreement till the beginning of 2016 A.D. including unofficial economic embargo imposed by India shows big fluctuation of Indian foreign policy and its implementations. But it is better for both nations to make better tie with foreign policy principles and its actual practice. And the relation between the historically important neighbors Nepal-India should be derived by various theories and approaches regarding international relations. Because that can drive relation between another thing is Nepal should not to play Indian and Chinese and against each other as well as the security issue made major element for obstacking Nepal-India relation, Nepal should do her best to assure both neighboring nations.

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