

# International and Regional Security Issue: Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and National Security of Nepal

**Hemanta Budhathoki**

Advocate, M. Phil-PhD Scholar, International Relations and Diplomacy, TU

Email: adv.hemanta2019@gmail.com

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.3126/ppj.v3i2.66125>

## Abstract

*International security is a comprehensive concept. There is a change in the dynamics of international security in the international arena. In the present context, the world has been shifting from unipolar to multipolar. The rise of China and the latest Russian attack on Ukraine have changed previous paradigms and parameters of international and regional security. After the proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, the United States and its alliance proposed the Indo-Pacific strategy (IPS) to counter the BRI. This article aims to give answer how and why IPS is crucial for international security, South Asian regional security and national security of Nepal. The objectives of this article are to analyze the security challenges created by IPS in international arena, to assess the security threat created by IPS in South Asian region, and to explore how Nepal can resolve and minimize a threat created by IPS and protect and promote its national security regarding IPS. In the context of South Asia, India is also involved in IPS. India is the dominant power in South Asia, so the active involvement of India in IPS also creates a threat to the regional security of South Asia. Nepal has to be conscious of the security aspect while cooperating with China, India, and other countries. Nepal is sensitive in terms of geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economic aspects. The immediate neighbors' China and India have been emerging as new great powers of the world. On the other hand, other great powers in the world also have prioritized Nepal strategically. So, Nepal has to continue its non-alignment trend and focus on its economic development and prosperity.*

**Key Words:** International Security, Regional Security, Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), South Asia, South East Asia, National Security of Nepal, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

## Introduction

International and regional security dynamics has been changing according to changing time and space. The international and regional aspects of security also change according to change in international relations. The economic rise of Asia is bright and it establishes the possibility of the rise of Asia as an economic hub. With the declining economy of the United States of America (USA) the unprecedented economic rise of China, India, and Southeast Asia, and the Gulf, there are possibilities to bring change in the paradigm of globalization but western developed countries might intervene against the rise of Asia (Sangroula, 2018, p.100).

John Paylis opines that most of authors have consensus that security is a competitive/contestant concept which indicate threat to individual and groups from freedom but there is the different status of the individual, national and international security (Baylis, 2019, pp.193-206).

There are different opinions about national and international security there are different opinions found about the global importance of security (Baylis, 2019, pp.193-206).

Human security is the people-centric which focus physical threat, those threats have denoted not only forms of war and violent conflicts but the famines or critical poverty, environmental degradation, and physical threat to the individual created by state and other non-state actors (Pease, 2015, p.113).

According to chapter 1 article 1, the main aim of UNO is to maintain peace and security. There is the collective responsibility of member states of UNO to establish peace and security. So, to resolve international disputes the provision of international laws should be obeyed.

According to UN Charter Part V and Article 24, the UN Security Council has to stop war and respond to it. The members of the security council provide primary responsibility to the UN to proceed effective role to maintain peace and security the security council has worked on behalf of them (Pease, 2015, p.113-114)

International security and regional security of the world has been becoming complex day by day. The chapter 1 article 1 of the United Nations Organization (UNO) mentioned that the one of the major purposes of the purpose of the United Nations is to maintain Peace and security. To maintain peace and security the member state of UN have collective responsibility and they have to obey provisions of international law to settle interstate disputes. (Charter of the United Nations, Article 1 (1).

According to UN Charter Part V and Article 24, the UN Security Council has to stop war and respond to it. The members of the Security Council provide primary responsibility to the UN to proceed effective role to maintain peace and security the Security Council has worked on behalf of them (Pease, 2015, p. 115).

The permanent members of Security Council are responsible towards international and regional peace, and security it has become debatable question now. The role of permanent members of United Nations has not that much satisfactory regarding world and regional security. Indo-pacific strategy is one of the major issues which has emerged due to unfair and unhealthy power struggle, self -centric characteristics of leadership of world super power countries of the world. The Indo-pacific strategy has emerged in the light of power struggle between existing superpower United States of America and rising great power China and their close allies.

The United States of America become as an unchallenged super power after disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991. In 2006 AD China became fourth economic power to overcome United Kingdom. Since 2000 AD the economic contribution of China doubled than that of

India, Brazil and Russia (Frandon, 2007, pp.12-13). After rapid economic growth within three decades China faced the economic crisis of 2008 properly than that of most of the Western countries and become second economy by overcoming Japan in 2010 (Zhao, 2013). At present China is second largest economy of world and dynamic economy. The China experienced economic transformation within three decades. On the other hand, China is top business mercantile state its exports and import in every corner of the world. So, China has been challenge to USA for global effect and international organizations (Joseph, 2014, p. 4).

The military alliance of socialist states Warsha Pact collapsed but the military alliance of capitalist block North Atlantic Treaty organization got continuity. After end of the Cold War, Iraq Iran War, Israel-Palestine War in Yugoslavia, Russia -Chechen War, etc. had continued. After the attack on American Defense Ministry, Pentagon, by Al Qaeda rivalry group, the conception and definition of security changed drastically. After that event USA started to attack in Afghanistan. After September 11, i.e., attack of AL Qaeda in New York Bush administration immediately announced “war on terrorism” with the support of NATO force and other states without taking any permission of UN Security Council. The allies intervene in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Many events of violations of humanitarian laws and human rights are published in this war. But the UN could not take any step against these issues. It legitimized the “war on terror” by passed the UN Security Council 1377. UN and the US led allies force killed Osama Bin Laden. But the terrorist activities spread all over the world. After that event, the USA and its ally’s countries including member countries of NATO give continuation to their attack in Iraq and Syria in the name of searching biological weapons of mass destruction.

In 2013 Chinese president Xi Jinping declared Belt and Road (BRI). The BRI has been expanding China’s connection with other countries. So United States and America and its allies proposed the Indo-pacific Strategy. Official draft of Indo-pacific was prepared during period of Barak Obama. The former president of USA Donald Trump announced Indo-pacific dream in 2017. The U.S. strategic framework for the Indo pacific was disseminated in 2018. This document consists of lists of preventing China form establishing new illiberal spheres of influences as Washington’s top national security challenge, in the Indo Pacific region. The present president of USA Joe Biden has stayed on course with his predecessor’s approach towards Indo-Pacific through the document entitled 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy. Within this document has mentioned that due to mounting challenges from China America have to focus in Indo-Pacific regions. So, from official documents of Indo-Pacific strategy, Indo-pacific strategy is open strategy which propounded to attempt to obstruct China’s rise in global arena. John Lee opines that the supporter of the Indo-Pacific strategy also attempts to justify its relevance of the Indo-Pacific strategy. Johan Lee opines that the Indo-pacific strategy and Quad form the gist of American regional policy; these are mostly related with to East Asia and depend upon the policy of China. The Philippines and Singapore have a close relationship with America. So, the Indo-pacific relations are related to the protection of South East Asian American neighbors from Chinese threat (Lee, 2020, p. 3). This statement clearly mention that Indo-Pacific strategy is mainly targeted to obstruct rise of

China. In this paper, researcher has explained Indo-Pacific strategy and its threat to international and regional security and possible solutions of these threats.

China has been increasing its defense budget annually. China established military base camp in Cambodia and Djibouti recently.

### **Statement of Problem**

The power dynamics of international relations has been changing day per day. Security is a primary concern of every individual sovereign state. There has been shifting in security dimensions according change in world affairs. Before 1990 the traditional approaches of the security were much prioritized. Due to advancing in science and technology and emerging new challenges of the international scenario the issues of nontraditional security also started to prioritize by different states.

Indo-pacific strategy is one of the new international and regional security issues. Since 2004 AD, America and its strategic allies' like Japan, India, and Australia formed the Indo-pacific concept. Analysts and policy makers describe the Indo-pacific region as the super zone because the Indian Ocean meets with the Pacific Ocean. Besides that, the Indo-pacific region has more prioritized because the USA, Japan, and Australia perform regular and closed interactions about this region and they have also interdependency over this area. These interactions have led to Quadrilateral Security Dialogue but the dialogues and IPS concept become weak after resigned of former Japanese late Prime Minister Sinzo Abe (Quad) and it's returned of Australia from Quad. But United States of America has been preceding the IPS by concluding agreements regarding the State Partnership Program (SPP) and other programs. On the other hand, there is still debate that whether the Project of America Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is affiliated with the IPS or not. Dozens of countries Signed and passed MCC including Mongolia and Nepal. Nepal passed MCC with an explanatory declaration but the controversial document of SPP has leaked out in Nepal. Nepal is an immediate neighbor of rising power China. If the IPS has designed against China, an immediate neighbor of Nepal there might create security threat in Nepal. The activities of the US in the name of IPS affect the security of China as well (Ye, 2020, pp.205-237).

### **Research Questions**

Whether the IPS has challenging international security, how has the IPS crucial for South Asian Regional security and how and why the Indo-pacific strategy been creating a threat to the National Security of Nepal and how Nepal can resolve and minimize the national security threats created by IPS, are major concerns of this article.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this research article are to analyze the challenge created by the Indo-Pacific strategy (IPS) in international arena, to assess the threat created by IPS in regional level and to explore how can the Nepal resolve and minimize the international and regional security threat created by IPS and protect and promote its national security regarding IPS.

## **Indo-Pacific Strategy and International Security**

The international security highly influences by the international relations, international politics, international system, world order and international economic system. After first and Second World War the issue of international peace and security have been become important. So, the United Nations Charter included in international Peace and security in priority. There is also provision to protect and promote collective security in UN Charter. In the Charter of the United Nations there is a provision for maintaining peace and security in the world. There is provision of promotion and protection of collective security the collective security is cornerstone for the establishment of peace and security of aggressor states /rivalry states. It is based on the doctrine of the indivisible world where there is a collective commitment to take action against the state which creates the threat to world peace. Collective security also leads to the prevention of war (Chhabra, 2017, p. 269).

According to professor, George Schwarenberger Collective security is a system among states while one state involves in prohibited works then another state is responsible for the attempt to stop these prohibited works. And it aims to punish the non-Member states of UN which attack other non-member states of UN (Chhabra, 2017, p. 269).

The Charter of United Nations article 39-51 mentions about collective security. The major provisions regarding collective security are prohibition against force, collective guarantees, collective deterrence, automatism of reference anonymity of aggressor and victim assignability of guilt. But the world is not yet ready for a system of collective security, i. e.; the prerequisites for a fully workable system of collective security are not yet present in the world (Basu, 2013, pp. 305-310). There are obstacles regarding the provision of collective security system of United Nations. The main responsible parties for not implementing provisions of collective security are permanent members of security councils. The United States of America is mostly responsible and other permanent members are also responsible accordingly. After economic rise of China, United States of America has been focusing on to keep its position of super power in status quo. As the consequence of that self-centric concept of United States of America and its alliance the NATO has not collapsed yet. United States of America also establishing new security related military alliances to obstruct the China's rise. The Indo-Pacific Strategy is one of the major outcomes of America's self-centric policy regarding security.

One of the major permanent members of Security Council United States has been imposing conflict in various parts of World. Some of analysts mention that, with the aim of creating military conflict in Indo-pacific regions especially in East Asian, South East Asian and South Asian region the USA planned, designed and enforce Indo-Pacific strategy. There are different perceptions regarding peaceful rise of China and the reactions of United States of America and its alliances. The United States of America and its alliances put forward Indo-Pacific strategy, Quadrilateral Security dialogue AUKUS. Yuvaraj Sangroula opines that the Quadrilateral Dialogue Alliance established by America, Australia, Japan and, India is an offence control strategy against China (Sangroula, 2018, p.44). Strategically the aim of China encirclement by the USA and its ally's success obstructs in presence of China in the

Indian Ocean region to block China to enter in Indian Ocean regions (Sangroula, 2018, p.44).

Xiyaodi Ye opines that there is a dramatic change in Asian geopolitics. The term “Asia Pacific” has changed into “Indo-Pacific”. The concept of Indo-Pacific was developed two decades. According to some analysts of international relations the concept of the Indo-Pacific has emerged with the aim of linkage of South East Asian states with the major partnership of the Pacific Rim economically, institutionally and in terms of security (Ye, 2020, pp.205-237).

The supporters of the Indo-Pacific strategy advocate America’s policy of Indo-Pacific and stand in support of America. They support the ultranationalist concept of former American President Donald Trump i.e., “make America great again”. The Biden administration of USA gives emphasis to enhance the multilateral viewpoint and the alliances of the USA. For illustration President Biden claimed that the territory of the South China Sea claimed by China and Senkaku Island has been covered by the America-Japan security treaty. The joint statement of the US and Japan issued in March 2021 that the capacity of security restriction power should be increased together (Ihsan, 2021, pp.88-98).

Anthony Blinken, the secretary of State of the United States, has issued a written statement about the America-Philippines treaty regarding the South China Sea. These events have sent a clear message to Beijing about US engagement in Indo-Pacific regions. Additionally, the USA has established a trilateral defense agreement with the United Kingdom and Australia. Before that treaty, Canberra breaks the treaty to buy French vessels and signed in the agreement regarding but the vessels with the USA (Ihsan, 2021, pp.88-98).

In addition, the AUKUS will protect cyber security, exchange information about quantum technology, and assist in the promotion of maritime security. By using this model, the USA may present in Asia and Australia and it may create tension with China. This defense treaty creates a hard balance for China. China criticized AUKUS and mentioned that it makes peace and security weak (Ihsan, 2021, pp.88-98).

The Biden's IPS has seeks to limit the ambitions of China to take leadership in the Indo-Pacific region. In illustration, in the South China Sea, the American naval force wants to strengthen military cooperation with military allies and a network of assistant allies, and activities of the USA in the South China Sea are oriented toward\ competing with China (Ihsan, 2021, pp.88-98).

### **Indo-Pacific strategy and Regional Security in South Asia**

South Asia has been standing in the historic mode because of China, India, and Pakistan share their border and USA has been entering Asia in the name of the Indo-Pacific strategy (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27). Rajesh Kumar opines that; the involvement of China with South Asia will continue the broad framework of India. India has been willing to remain conscious while establishing a relationship with which country recognized as an enemy of China (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27).

India's new found confidence in various sphere of its military, economy and other areas is such that today no major international issues can be concluded without the participation of India. Pending WTO reforms, finalizing of climate change on the part of India, which has potential foe warranting special attention of China in its relation independence in its relations with India (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27). Rajesh Kumar opines that; the involvement of China with South Asia will continue the broad framework of India. India has been willing to remain conscious while establishing a relationship with which country recognized as an enemy of China (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27).

China has been standing about global affairs within the UN and with other global powers of the world. China has been continuing to hand in weapons and cooperation. In recent years Pakistan has been dependent to strengthen its power. Pakistan also has been willing to behave softly with India. Open of trade through Attari-Wagaha from April unified post is a very positive phenomenon. China-India and Pakistan have to speak a language of peace and cooperation so they want long-term interest from it. The starting of China-India and India-Pakistan bilateral dialogue and China-Pakistan strategic cooperation, and China-India cooperation will be continued in the future as well (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27). India has to understand the closeness of China and Pakistan realistically. Rajesh Kumar adds that the other South Asian countries also maintain a relationship with China and India for their benefit (Kumar, 2012, pp. 3-27).

But there is not much cordial relationship between India with her immediate neighbors i.e., Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The immediate neighbors of India have been facing intervention and border encroachment from India. It also has been creating a security threat in South Asia. On the other hand, India is also has been involved in USA led alliance Indo-pacific strategy, Quad, etc. India has signed in strategic partnership with the USA. It also has been creating a security threat in South Asian region. The presence of NATO and US Military forces in Afghanistan and near China had become security tension. Recently American Military force go back and the Taliban again control over the regime of Afghanistan. The Taiwan visits of the American speaker of House Nancy Pelosi on August 2, 2022, create additional tension in Far East Asia and the world. China has taken it seriously and kept its forces on the alert. China shares a border with India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan in South Asia so; this event also has affected the security of South Asia and the world.

Lee-Brown opines that the Indian government led by Narendra Modi proceeds with the process to involve in the Indo-pacific strategy especially in bilateral issues beneficiary to India. Prime Minister Modi also expresses on the behalf of the Indo-Pacific strategy and strategic alliance with the America, Australia, and Japan. (Lee-Brown, 2021, p.196).

In the title of "Japan India vision 2025" paper the Indo-Pacific has mentioned and in the joint statement of Japan and India mentioned that Prime Minister Modi appreciated the engagement of Japan in Indo-pacific. This joint statement has explained about the strategic and economic domain, set of common values etc (Lee-Brown, 2021, p. 197).

## Indo-pacific Strategy and National Security of Nepal

Nepal is located between two giant states China and India. Nepal is south Asian country. Nepal's present foreign policy has based on charter of United Nations, non-alignment, principles of Panchasheel ( peaceful co-existence; mutual respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence; Non –aggression; Non –interference in each other's' internal affairs and Equality, and mutual benefit), international law and the norms of world peace, taking in to, consideration of the overall interest of the nation, while remaining active in safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and national interest<sup>1</sup>.

The northern border of Nepal connected with the Tibet autonomous region of China. Nepal and China share 1415 kilometers border and Nepal's border with India measures 1753 Km (Jha, 2013). The geo-political location is very crucial from a national security perspective. Mainly, being immediate neighbors of two rising powers China and India Nepal have to balance relations with China and India from a national security perspective. The Tibetan refugee issue is the most crucial issue for the Nepal-China relationship. But Nepal always remains on the behalf of one China. According to the analyst of international security and international relations the Indo-Pacific strategy is targeted toward Nepal's immediate neighbor China. On the other hand, Nepal's other immediate neighbor India is one of the active members of Indo-Pacific strategy and Quad. India has its national interest to involve in IPS. But Nepal has to become sensitive while deciding about an issue related to the national security and national interest.

Nepal has been becoming an important country as per the geo-strategic location. During Nepal visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Chinese president Xi Jinping mentioned the Nepal as a "land-linked" country and after passing the MCC from The Nepalese parliament one of the American Official mentioned that Nepal is "a Land Power" so the geo-political, geo-strategic and geo-economic value of Nepal has been increasing day per day. Nihar, Nayak opines that Nepal is a central geopolitical actor which includes not only comprehensive involvement of China and India but also attracts Europe and America (Nayak, 2014).

According to some of analysts, Nepal is an immediate neighbor of China so the America and the western powers have been attempting to obstruct the rise of China by using Nepalese land. After the end of peace process in Nepal, the American and other European powers have been starting their engagement in Nepal through research funding and other issues. As a consequence of increasing the US engagement in Nepal, the MCC project has proceed between Nepal and America. Whether the MCC is part of the IPS or not is still debatable. The MCC agreement between the USA and Nepal has proceeded on 30 July 2017 to construct mega electric transmission lines and to maintain a 300-kilometer road. The USA will provide Rs. 50 million US \$ to Nepal and Nepal also has to invest Rs. 13 million US\$. Former American Ambassador to Nepal Randy Berry opines that, Nepal requested to

---

<sup>1</sup> Government of Nepal Ministry of Law, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs, Law Books Management Committee, 2015.

precede the MCC project. It has focused on the transmission lines. He further says Nepal is dependent with India. If Nepal want to sell electricity to Bangladesh Nepal has to get permission from India so, there is necessary to conclude Nepal-India agreement regarding transborder the transmission lines with India (Berry, 2019).

According to another former Ambassador of USA to Nepal Alina B. Teplease the investment of American MCC project has been increasing annually (Teplease, 2017). The Nepalese public opinion has been divided in to two parts regarding the MCC. Some Politicians, activist, and academicians argued that the MCC project is like the grand of America so, it has to accept. In another hand, other some of politicians, activists, and academicians argued that the MCC is part of the IPS and it is against the national sovereignty of Nepal, it is better to reject the MCC. But the government of Nepal passed the MCC from parliament with explanatory declarations. The critiques of the MCC mentioned that the dozens of the MCC project agreements are against Nepalese sovereignty and territorial integrity and integrity. Especially, according to critics, Section 1.2, 1.3, Article 11 2.1, Article 2,9 etc. are against Nepal's national security (Sangroula, 2010).

Nepal has been involved in the non-alignment movement Since Bandung Conference in 1955. Nepal has been advocating on as per as the non-alignment position in most of the issues in the United Nations and other international and regional forums. But after 1990's era the some of the practices of Nepal's foreign policy and diplomacy have created doubt about non-alignment legacy of Nepal. Nepal's involvement in the MCC raised the important question about Nepal's involvement in the non-alignment movement. The question of involvement in the MCC becomes debatable from the initial phase. Nepal passed the MCC project from parliament with the explanatory declaration on 27 February 2022. It still creates debate in Nepalese academia.

### **Analyses**

The Indo-Pacific alliance, the US-Vietnam strategic partnership, presence of offensive maritime forces of the America and Australia in the South China Sea, increasing of Defense Budget of the America, the Indo-France nuclear agreement Anglo-Japanese cooperation to produce stealth fingers military shows possibilities of entering the Euro-American forces in Asia through their alliances. It will affect in the establishment of inclusive globalization proposed by China and it might create a situation of starting a new Cold War (Sangroula, 2018, p.101).

According to some analysts IPS is power regeneration and power redistribution of the USA and its allies. Firstly, the rise of China and India at once may enhance new regional security dynamics, Secondly, the maritime lines of communication which connect vibrant Asian economy with Indian Ocean become important day by day and thirdly, the increasing inter-Asian and interrelationship may create spill over in the Indo-pacific regions (Ye, 2020, pp.205-237).

The End of the Cold War and the terrorist attack in USA in September 11, 2001, have changed the security study drastically. These events have contributed to change of basic

assumptions of security. Especially, before these events, there was conflict in academic theories regarding the dominance of general security, power conflict, and state-nation conflict were important during the Cold War period issues and there was also great power dominance. The academicians and policymakers have tried to explain and predicted all sorts of conflicts through the lens of conflict in the international system.

The new concept of security has evolved to address not only the military reality but also political, economic, and social realities. Within the military aspect, the questions which have been raised from nuclear strategy resistance, transportation of weapons of mass destruction, and future forms of wars also remain in the status quo.

### **Discussion or Conclusion**

The study of security has been transformed by two major events the end of the Cold war and the terrorist attack on the United States in 2001. These events have forced a major rethink about the basic assumptions underlying security studies. In particular and international relations, in general security, power conflict, and the nation state during the cold war the academic theorizing about international conflict had been dominated by bipolarity and the degree of great power conflicts. Academics and policy makers alike sought to be explained and predict all forms of conflict within the international system through the lens of the bipolar superpower conflict between the United States and Soviet Union.

With the demise of the cold war new concepts of security that addressed not only the military and realities of the contemporary world but also the political, economic and social realities were developed. On the military side questions raised by traditional inter- state rivalry -nuclear strategy, deterrence, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the future nature of war continued to prevail.

The essence of Indo-pacific strategy is to strengthen economic and defense cooperation and to resist the power of China and the increasing effect on China. The IPS generate from the collective interest of the United States of America, Japan, Australia, and India. It means its concept is not free from doubt. This strategy is targeted against a possible China-entered system by America and its allies' countries (Ye, 2020, 205-237).

The alliance of United States of America has remained in existence since after the establishment of United Nations i.e., 1945. The alliance for such block also formed NATO, CEATO during cold war. But after disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, the United States led capitalist block become most powerful in the unipolar world. But due to economic ups and downs, this block also becoming weak than the decade of 1990s. On the other hand, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have established BRICS and New Development bank. One of the major founding member of BRICS, the Russian Federation declared war against Ukraine from 24 February, 2022. According to analysts, the main cause of Russian attack to Ukraine was increasing relationship of Ukraine towards United States and its block i. e. NATO, possibility of taking membership of NATO by Ukraine, to end supply of petroleum products and natural gases from Ukraine to member countries of NATO and European Union etc. Due to Russia-Ukraine war thousands of military and non-

military persons has lost their lives, millions of peoples has displaced from Russia and Ukraine. In addition, the pipelines of oils and natural gases which supply oil and natural gases towards NATO member countries has destroyed. As the consequence of obstruction of supply of oil and gases from Ukraine to European NATO member countries there has been created fuel crisis and economic crisis in some of European countries. The Russia has been expanding its import of petroleum product after Russia-Ukraine War. So, some of NATO member European countries has been facing serious economic crisis after Russia-Ukraine War. As the result, the United States block and NATO has been becoming weak. So, there is no existence of unilateral world in present context. So, the Indo-Pacific strategy is the strategy of United States block to protect and continue own sphere of influences in the world.

Nepal-America relation is also based on historical, diplomatic, economic, and security issues. The federal parliament of Nepal ratified the American millennium challenge corporation (MCC) project on February 27, 2022, with descriptive declarations. Whether MCC is parts of the Indo-Pacific strategy (IPS) or not has become suspicious after publishing of debatable document of the State Partnership Program (SPP) of America. The government of Nepal under the process of sending letters issue of not involving in the SPP and the IPS of the America. Many scholars of international relations and diplomacy have mentioned that the IPS is launched by India to counter the BRI project launched by China in 2013. The Government of Nepal always has been standing on the behalf of one China Policy. But some analysts of foreign policy mentioned that Nepalese foreign policy has been changing in recent years. Some analysts point out that Nepalese foreign policy always stands on the behalf of the non-alignment policy but some analysts criticized that Nepal has been encroaching on norms of non-alignment values. So, the balance foreign policy toward China, India, and the United States of America has to become a challenge for Nepal at the present time. But in the name of balancing a relationship with major powers of world, it might be counterproductive to involve in any existing military alliance for Nepal. So, sovereignty, integrity, independence, national interest, and national security have to be prioritized by Nepal.

### References

- Basu, Rukmi (2013) *The United Nations Structure and Functions of an International Organization*. Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
- Baylis, J. (2019). International and global security. In John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Berry, R. W. (2019, October 3). Proven Partnership: US and Nepal. *My Republica National Daily*, p. 6.
- Chhabra, K. K. (2017). *History of Modern World: The study of International Relations*. Surjeet Publications.
- Farndon, J. (2007). *China Rises: How China's Astonishing Growth Will Change the World*. London. England: Virgin Books.

- [https://southasianvoices.org/the-pitfalls-of-great-power-competition-in-the-indo-pacific/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwgO2XBhCaARIsANrW2X3OcwC26OTagpEIp1KdRu\\_4uutHQgy00DJIEZDdkJTsxuqn-m5Ert8aAjrLEALw\\_wcB](https://southasianvoices.org/the-pitfalls-of-great-power-competition-in-the-indo-pacific/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwgO2XBhCaARIsANrW2X3OcwC26OTagpEIp1KdRu_4uutHQgy00DJIEZDdkJTsxuqn-m5Ert8aAjrLEALw_wcB).
- Jha, H. B. (2012). Nepal's Border Relations with India and China. *Eurasia Border Review* <BRIT XII>. pp. 63-75.
- Joseph, W.A. (2014). Studying Chinese Politics. In Willum A. Joseph (Ed.). *Politics in China*.
- Kumar, R. (2012). *China and South Asian Security Environment in 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. South Asian Affairs Centre for SAARC Studies.
- Lee, J. (2020). *The Free and Open Indo-Pacific Beyond 2020: Similarities and Differences between the Trump Administration and a Democratic White House*. ISEAS Publishing. 6.
- Lee-Brown, T. T. (2021). *The Rise and Strategic Significance of the Indo-Pacific*. An unpublished Ph.D. thesis. University of Western Australia.
- Nayak, N. R. (2014). *Strategic Himalayas Republican Nepal and External Power*. New Delhi: Institute of Defense Studies & Analysis (IDSA).
- Pease, K. S. (2015). *International Organizations*. Pearson.
- Sangroula, Y. (2018). *South Asia China-Geoeconomics*. Bhaktapur: Lex & Juris Publications.
- Teplez, A. B. (2017, November 24). Making Water Work. *The Kathmandu Post*. National Daily. p. 6.
- Tshan, R. (2021). Joe Biden's Foreign Policy: What to Expect from the United States in the Indo Pacific. *Journal Ilmiath Hubungan Internasional*. 18(1).
- Ye, X (2020). Explaining China's Hedging to the United States' Indo-Pacific Strategy. *The China Review*, 20.3.
- Zhao, S. (2013, Spring). *Chinese foreign policy as a rising power to find its rightful place*. New York, United states of America: Oxford University Press. Perceptions, 1,101-128).