



The Russia–Ukraine Conflict: Nepal’s Foreign Policy in New Dimension of World Power

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Abstract

How can Nepal engage with big powers? To do so, what kind of foreign policy should Nepal adopt? These questions are the main concerns of the study. In the present world scenario, foreign policy requires building a rapport with other countries. Any country would need distinctive foreign policies to ensure national security, territorial integrity, and the protection of people’s sovereignty. This study aims at exploring Nepal’s foreign policy in light of the ongoing Russia–Ukraine conflict. It follows an interpretative research design. It uses an inductive, qualitative method of study, collecting secondary data in the form of expert interviews, content-specific thematic analysis to construct a specific set of themes about the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The paper unfolds how foreign policy safeguards the territorial integrity of a country and protects the interest of its citizens, both within and outside the country. It has exemplified Ukraine’s situation as a reminder to small powers so that they tread a fine line in balancing between the preservation of sovereignty and signifying strategic empathy towards the interests of major powers.

Keywords: conflict, foreign policy, new dimension, sovereignty, national security

Introduction

As a landlocked country, Nepal has to primarily depend on its neighbors for its overall development and protection of national interest. From fulfilling its developmental needs, such as infrastructure enhancement, the country is required to rely on international diplomatic processes and formulate a strong foreign policy on issues of geo-physical and strategic placement (Khanal & Paudel, 2021, p. 68). While retracing the history of Nepal, the country has involved in establishing international relations among the states through different dynasties. During the Shah dynasty, the Rana and the Panchyat regimes, the heads of the country set up apt international relations to the foreign countries by assisting them in various circumstances (Levi, 1952, p. 187). Regarding international relations, Knutsen (1999, p.346) states a social construction rather than existing independently of human meaning and action which suggests

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difference across context than a single objective reality. In this regard, Padelford and Lincoln (1962, p. 63) argue that one state relies on another with several aspects such as geo-strategic location, political culture, national interests and dimension of power factors in the sphere of international relations. Besides this, they have identified four basic aims to help in the betterment of country’s international affairs, such as national security, economic enhancement; safeguarding national power relation to other states and international prestige. That means a country without any international diplomatic relations may not reach the peak of peace, prosperity and success. For that purpose, the foreign policy of the state often plays a pivotal role.

Foreign policy is the output of the state in a global scenario. Ghosh (2020, p. 122) considers ‘policy’ as a set of actions intended to realize the goals of a state and ‘foreign’ signifies territorially sovereign units which prevalent beyond the legal boundaries of a specific state. As a whole, he further argues that foreign policy is as a set of guidelines to alternatives being prepared about people, places and things beyond the boundaries of the state concerned. In the same way, Rodee et al. (1975, p. 245) discuss the foreign policy as the formulation and implementation of a group of principles that engrave the behavior of the state while contracting with other states to safeguard it. However, a state as a unit of international system cannot remain separate from the other, there should be international processes that are best displayed by the policies manufactured by the states towards other states which are generally considered the foreign policy of the state (Hudson, 2008, p. 25). In fact, the foreign policy prepares the system of activities developed by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for associating their own activities to the international atmosphere (Modelski, 1962, p. 45).

In the past, Nepal’s foreign policy had been shaped by its topographic structure and remunerative backwardness. Due to its spectacular strategic location, the policy makers in Nepal had always been pre-occupied with the maintainance of independence and preservation of country’s security. That means, the history of country’s policy towards other countries since its establishing has been interplay of alert and ambitious approaches. In this regard, Khanal and Paudel (2021, p. 71) mention that balanced, non-aligned, isolationist, pro-British, independent and equidistance are among the paramount approaches towards the foreign policy followed by Nepal in various phases and at different periods of time. They argue that a country’s foreign policy until 1950 has generally appeared as a tactic for existence. As a small under-developed country, Nepal has maintained its interdependence and dignity whilst situated between two powerfully gigantic neighboring nations. In this matter, since independence from Britain, India in 1947 and China in 1949, Nepal has made a policy of equidistance which replaced the earlier traditional policy of isolationism (Potter, 1980, p. 418). In the same way, Nepal has taken part in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and has protested foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the sovereign states while upholding the cause of the dominated and exploited nations of the world (Atique, 1983, p. 98).

After the promulgation of the new Constitution in 2015, Nepal has seen a shift in international diplomatic relations and policy. A controversy during the promulgation of the Constitution led to an Indian embargo for the fourth time leading into a widespread economic and humanitarian crisis. The then Government attempted to raise voice against India’s unofficial

blockade, considering Nepal's national interest. The fourth Indian embargo on Nepal intrigued the then Khadga Prasad Oli–led Government of Nepal to sign an agreement with China on Trade and Transit, a marked departure in the country's foreign relations. In 2016, the then Premier Khadga Prasad Oli and the Chinese President Xi Jinping signed the trade and transit treaty in Beijing (Joint Statement, Nepal-China, 2016 as cited in Khanal (2019, p. 98). Eventually, Nepal secured transit rights through China following the Beijing agreement between the Premier KP Oli and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. This agreement had decentralized Nepal's trade and transit with China. Nepal should not depend upon only with India in transporting goods even from the third countries. Nepal has internalized the need to balance its national interests vis-a-vis the powerful neighbors. While analyzing the historical execution of the tactic and strategy, there has been a diversification of its foreign policy which Nepal had adopted in different regimes, such as policy of isolation during Rana, special relationship policy after the overthrowing of the Ranas, the proposal of Zone of peace: a non-alignment policy by King Birendra, a democracy-centric Foreign Policy after the restoration of multiparty democracy, shift in democracy in republic country and the policy of balancing after its inauguration as a Federal Republic country (Khanal, 2019, p. 101).

In the present context, Nepal's policy with other countries depends on its conditions and circumstances. It is evident that big and powerful nations dominate small countries. Recently, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought a different perception towards oppression over a small nation from a big one. The commencement of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought arguments in the Nepali politics and Nepal's abroad strategy in a new dimension of the world power. At this point, this research paper aims at exploring and analyzing the dynamics of Nepal's foreign policy in the backdrop of the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict. Similarly, it evaluates implications of the foreign policy of Nepal in accordance with those interpretations and extrapolations of conflicts in different parts of the world. This study is structured into five parts. The initial part identifies the foreign policy of Nepal in the consideration of Russia-Ukraine conflict. Likewise, the second part briefly explains the Russia-Ukraine conflict through the connection of World system theory. Then, the third part reviews the existing literature analysis and describes the methodology of the study. In the same way, the next part enumerates the interpretations of Nepali politics and Nepal's foreign policy during the Russia-Ukraine conflict through presenting different themes of those interpretations. Finally, the fifth part assesses implications of Nepal's abroad policy based on respective interpretations and themes.

The Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Nepal's Policy associating with World System Theory

The Russian military operation occurred on 24 February 2022 leading to the deaths of tens thousands of people on both sides. This has been considered Europe's largest crisis since the World War-II, which brought a sort of threat over the tiny nations (Leon et al., 2022, p. 2). Russia and Ukraine have had a violent conflict that brings a strange break in peace atmosphere in the universe. It is asserted that Russia has invaded Ukraine via air, land and sea, Vladimir Putin, the Russian President declared a special military operation against Ukraine on 24 February, 2022. Different countries of the world were divided regarding the operation. The Russia-Ukraine conflict demonstrates the impacts of the residue of Cold War politics on the international geopolitics at the present time (Chotiner, 2022, p. 97). Ukraine is one of the

biggest territories which was isolated from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991, and Ukraine has been keen in becoming a part of Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which shows a positive response towards the involvement with the alliance (Mankoff, 2022, p. 134). Due to this, Russia has a great internal political thrifits, Russian influence from Ukraine enhanced opportunities partner for the deeper cooperation in NATO led mission and activities ,in response Russia encircled Ukraine from three different sides in April 2021 with one lakhs soldiers which Russia claimed as a special military exercise (Richter, 2022, p. 56). After that the relations between these countries along with NATO became very worse ,as a result Russia attacked Ukraine on 24th February 2022 (Mankoff, 2022, p. 142).This invasion has brought a great damaged and destruction of property and lives of Ukrainian people. Similarly, it breaks extremely human rights and humanitarian laws, which has impacted the scenario of international world order, and people of the world show sympathy towards Ukrainian people (Metre et al., 2015, p. 2).

While analyzing the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Poudel (2022 , p. 38) narrates that Ukraine’s condition exhibits a realization to tiny powers, so that they have to move an appropriate line between preserving their authoritative power and signifying strategic empathy towards the desires and aspirations of supreme powers. Although Ukraine is a developed country, it looks very powerless. Nevertheless, it displays its military capability of large powerful nation over less powerful countries. From such crisis, Nepal as a small developing country has to implement an apt foreign policy to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the present day world scenario, foreign policy builds a rapport with the other countries for a new dimension of the world power. To assist a country’s national security, military diplomacy, economic enhancement and national demands foreign policies generally are designed (Dahal, 2018, p. 52). It is inferred that country’s international policy is to use diplomacy, meeting and making agreements so that it can eradicate international obstacles (Pradhan, 2007, p. 48). It safeguards the territorial reconciliation of the state and protects the interest of its people both within and outside the country (Dahal, 2019, p. 86).

Nepal as a developing nation can be linked with the World system theory’s developed by sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein. This theory is an approach to world economic system in which some countries benefits while others are badly exploited (Ghosh, 2020, p. 151). This theory is set up on a three-level hierarchy that consists of core, peripheral and semi-peripheral areas, the particular countries control and suppress the peripheral nations for laborers and productive materials. Likewise, the peripheral nations have relied on particular nations for capital and progress and the semi-peripheral countries share common characteristics of both core and peripheral nations (Adams et al., 2014, p. 118). The main concept of this theory is that the dependency situation of the developing countries is a direct consequence of the economic exploitation by the developed (i.e. core) countries (Conway & Heynen, 2014, p. 135). Through the world system theory, it is said that Nepal is a peripheral country which is highly dependent on core countries like India, China and other developed nations. In such circumstances, Nepal has to craft a foreign policy in accordance of its dependency on other countries of the world. Therefore, the study attempts to explore quesstions such as: How does Nepal craft its foreign policy in light of the new dimension of world power? What lessons can Nepal learn from the ongoing conflict?

Literature Review

Reviewing the studies based on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Nepal's foreign policy on the new dimension of world powers, few scholars have published on this matter. In this regard, Umar and Polar et al. (2022, p. 102) explore the effects of topographic hazards occurred by the Russian-Ukrainian clash in the financial market. They indicate the impacts of conflicts in the marketing sectors. In the same way, Harris (2020, p. 604) writes that the Russia-Ukraine crisis of 2014 was caused by a politicization of the ethno-linguistic divide and historical narratives in the interplay between Russia's determination to control Ukraine's political future. However, Shah and Majeed et al. (2022, p. 145) refers to the implications of the conflict on south Asia and particularly Pakistan. Further, it explores that Putin's war on Ukraine is largely political when it comes to Russia. Keeping an eye from the Nepalese regard, Bhatta (2022, p. 22) has conducted a study on the Ukraine war with food security implications in Nepal. It attempted to explore the impacts of Russia –Ukraine conflicts regarding the security of commodity. Bhattarai and Pulami (2022, pp. 147-179) have mapped Nepal's foreign policy and behavior towards great power politics. It explores the impacts of Russia-Ukraine crisis on a developing country like Nepal with regard to national protection and international relations. After analyzing the studies based on the issue, the present study focuses on Russia-Ukraine conflict and Nepal's other country policy and tactics strategy in the new dimension of world powers. Considering this fact, the study prioritizes Nepal's international policy in the context of the present day world geo-politics. This kind of study has not carried out before in the Nepalese context, specifically focusing on the Nepal's foreign policy under the exploration of the Russia-Ukraine conflict while emphasizing on the international relations and in the dimension of power in the present world.

Methodology

The present study follows interpretative research design. It uses a qualitative method of the study. It explores popular interpretations of Russia-Ukraine conflicts and its impacts in the country like Nepal that rumors at media portal. That means the information is gathered from the social sites internet and television where the influential personalities and experts illustrate their interpretations through audio-visual programs and social media. This study adopts an inductive approach that goes over the existing theoretical framework because it collects secondary data in the form of experts and leaders interviews, views and thoughts through electronic and printed Medias that conduct thematic analysis to construct specific set of themes about Russia-Ukraine clash with its impact over Nepal. To get authentic and reliable information, a number of experts from different domains of politics, economics, law, governances and diplomatic relations are chosen. The experts and personalities who are considered for this study are as follow: Hiranya Lal Shrestha (Former Nepali Ambassador to Russia) Ap1 HD AP Center (2022a time 4-12 minutes), Dr, Dinesh Bhattarai (Former Foreign Secretary,), Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal (Former Prime Minister of Nepal), Bharat Dahal (Political Analyst), Santosh Khadka (Presenter of Edusoft Academy), Yubaraj Sangroula (Former Attorney General of Nepal), Narayan Khadka (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs), Dron Lamichhane (Analyst and affiliated with the Institute of Foreign Affairs) ,Shanker Man Singh (Former General Manager of the Nepal Stock Exchange) and Santosh Sharma Poudel (Foreign Policy Analyst from The Diplomat (2022, February 28, p. 2).

Analysis of Nepal’s foreign policy in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict

The Russia-Ukraine conflict offers proper guidelines for the reformulation of Nepal’s foreign policy. They raise critical concerns relating to the sovereignty of small powers from a geopolitical stand point, human rights, peaceful co-existence of small nations and the UN Charter, and significant economic risks. The theme of a small country’s sovereignty captures the interpretations by various experts that depict small country’s authority and independency. In the same way, another theme of geopolitical stands covers the dimensions of world power over a small country. The next theme talks about human rights, peaceful co-existence of small nations and Charter of United Nations. It attempts to identify how small countries like Nepal have to adopt peaceful co-existence giving emphasis on human rights and UN Charter. Eventually, the last theme predicts significant economic risks that have occurred in the small developing country due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Sovereignty of small powers

The organ of the state that reveals a matter of right or legitimacy not only a power but also the supreme authority within a territory with sovereignty of the country (Philpott, 2011, p. 568). In the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Santosh Sharma Poudel, foreign policy analyst from *The Diplomat* (2022, February 28, p.1) argues that the conflict has a direct impact in Nepal, and the Russian attack over Ukraine has clearly brought questions about the independency of tiny powers, where power of the states has been at the main point of the post-Westphalia command of the world and the Charter of United Nations (*The Diplomat*, 2022, p.1). He further discusses that the Russian attempts reveal the inhumanity of the attack when it obstructs the favor of a specific power. In this regard, Former Ambassador of Russia, Hiranya Lal Shrestha from AP1 HD AP Center (2022a, time 4-12 minutes), talks that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought a kind of domination of big powerful nation over a small country, which implicates to the sovereignty of small powers under threat (AP1 HD, 2022a time 10-20 minutes,). However, Dinesh Bhattarai, Former Foreign Secretary, delivers that Nepal has to be associated with two gigantic nations in the north and south though it is an independent country itself (AP1 HD, 2022b, time 5-15 minutes). In the same way, Bharat Dahal, Political Analyst, speaks that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has created different crisis towards the sovereignty of small power nations in the international sphere in such circumstances Nepal has to be aware that it should establish a good connection to the high voltage country (*Hulak Sanchar*, 2022c, time 5-15 minutes). He further argues that Ukraine has disobeyed his own neighbor country and favors NATO and America, so Nepal has to comprehend it and move as per the co-ordination of its neighbor countries. Former prime Minister Jhal Nath Khanal talks about the respective issue that small powerful nation Nepal has to be quiet and does not have to make quick decision because in the present world monetary autonomy politics of powerful country always disturb the small power country (Pradhan, Youtube, 2022, time 10-25 minutes).

Furthermore, Santosh Khadka, Presenter of Edusoft Academy says that Russia-Ukraine conflict has raised genuine questions on authority of tiny powers, in such circumstance small states have emphasized international legal sovereignty which displays formal recognition by other sovereign states (Edusoft Academy, 2022, p.1). In this matter, Yubaraj Sangroula, Former Attorney General, strongly argues that small countries of the world have to be cautious

maintaining cordial relations with their neighbor countries, Further, he asserts that while Ukraine discards the relations with Russia and desires to build a good rapport with NATO and America, ultimately Russia detests it, so that Nepal should therefore, adopt the foreign policy, non alignment that supports sovereignty of the nation globally (*Hulak Sanchar*, Youtube, 2022d, time 5-20 minutes). In the same way, Narayan Khadka, Former Foreign Minister, issues a statement that the country objects any move of power against tiny powers' country on some circumstance and accepts that in peaceful solution of disagreement and disputes through diplomacy and dialogue (*The Kathmandu Post*, 2022, p.1). He further speaks that Nepal follows Pancheseel, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the countries and equality are the key elements of non-alignment policy and the Government has stuck to that policy, sovereignty of all nations, big or small, is equal.

The abovementioned interpretations of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Nepal's foreign policy under the thematic analysis of authority of tiny powers, it is speculated that Ukraine's fate displays as a recall to tiny power nations like Nepal which they should move a catchy route in conserving their powers depicting strategic empathy towards the favors of paramount powers in the world.

Geopolitical stand point

It is asserted that geopolitical as a component of the sub-discipline of man-made geography and explains the idea of a geographic perspective (Flint, 2021, p. 18). From this perspective, it is inferred that geopolitics provides the link between geography and strategy. It is a subway of political topography that takes the tactic value of natural resources for the upliftment of national economic and diplomatic military power, and ambitions .(O'Sullivan, 2014, p. 77). In this matter, Foreign Policy expert, Chandra Dev Bhatta says that the war may pose more and more problems for Nepal, from a geopolitical standpoint, just like Ukraine, Nepal too is in a sensitive situation and the situation has certainly forced different tiny countries including less powerful nations to consider their abroad policies (*The Annapurna Express*, 2022, p.1). Narayan Khadka, foreign minister speaks that Nepal is a yam between two enormous countries: India and China, from that conflict Nepal has to understand about establishing a good relations with major powers and its neighboring countries (*The Kathmandu Post*, 2022, p.1). However, Former Prime Minister, Jhala Nath Khanal suggests that the authority of Nepal clarifies its status with neighboring countries to ignore disputes in the way Ukraine ignores Russia and moves towards the NATO and American strategy, as a result Russia invaded Ukraine, so the regularity target of the country's abroad policy, it suggests, must preserve sovereignty powers of Nepal and protect the matter of peace and prosperity (Pradhan: Youtube, 2022,time 10-25 minutes).

Further , Santosh Sharma Poudel, a foreign policy analyst writes that Nepal's place among India and China amplifies its sensitivity, which is specially stressful for Nepal is the response of both India and China to Russian invasion, it manner that the geostrategic significance of a small strength is no assure that it will be treated well by way of main powers, ironically, the kingdom's geostrategic importance led to its undoing (*The Diplomat*, 2022, p.1). He further writes that strategic importance brings with its interest of essential powers. In the event that they cannot be managed, smaller powers chance being the playground. Similarly, foreign relations analyst

Dron Lamichhane reiterates that Nepal shares its borders with two Asian giants, such as China and India just like Ukraine does with NATO nations. In that line of argument, Nepal can be visible comparable activities near its borders, in such circumstance Nepal has to move in an awesome balanced among those nations (*MyRepublica*, 2022,p. 2).

Henceforth, regarding this issue, the interpretations of the experts emphasize that Nepal should maintain balanced relations with both Indian and China and should be conscious while developing relations with countries which are hostile to these two counties. As Ukraine does not go in favor of its neighboring country Russia and moves towards NATO and American preference, Russia commences invasion by seeing the misbehave activities of small power Ukraine.

Human rights, Peaceful Co-existence, and the UN Charter

Recent conflict between Russia and Ukraine resurfaces concerns that major powers should take care of small powers with regard to its human rights, peaceful co-existence and the UN Charter. At one point, the Former Foreign minister Khadka responds to media: "Nepal has not taken side of either of the countries, such as Russia or Ukraine" (*The Kathmandu Post*, 2022, p.2). He further adds that Nepal always stands for human rights, peaceful co-existence of small nations and the UN Charter. In that analogy, Nepal's voting in the General Conference of the UN against Russia should not necessarily be treated as a deviation from the non-alignment policy that Nepal has been following from many years. Sangroula argues that the conflict has brought a kind of turmoil and havoc for humans against particular rights of the people. Further, he adds that such a deviation from the long-established foreign policy tends to breach peaceful co-existence of small states. Moreover, Nepal should establish cordial relations with its neighboring countries through sincere consideration of human rights policy and UN Charter guidelines (*Hulak Sanchar*, Youtube channel, 2022d ,time 7-20 minutes). He further states that such kind of conflict really harms the calm existentiality of the less powerful countries. Considering this strategic importance, Nepal always should march through the co-ordination of its friendly and neighboring nations. In this regard, the foreign policy analyst writes from the statement of the Government of Nepal that Nepal views the human rights and the system of authoritative and topography reconciliation as engraved in the United Nations Charter should be completely respected from entire member states (*The Diplomat*, 2022, p. 1). He further argues that Nepal should believe tranquil fraternity of clash through diplomatic talks and, the disagreement and conflict should encompass through provisions of the Charter of United Nations.

Considering the Russia–Ukraine, Nepal must adopt a policy of fraternity to maintain peace and accelerate prosperity in the country. Such a neutral relations with neighbors indicate to positive cordial relations without indulging itself with other countries' internal domestic affair.

Significant Economic Risks

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought a serious economic impact on the small power nations. In this connection, Shanker Man Sing, former General Manager of Nepal Stock Exchange, argues that Nepal and Ukraine have good trade relations through international bonds of FNCCI

which report shows that in the last year fiscal year, Ukraine was the sixth-largest seller of goods to Nepal (*People's Review*, 2022, p. 2). He further states that the general impact of the Ukraine hazards is seen in Nepal's economy and immediate effects of the clash between two countries will be on gold, petroleum products and edible oil. At the same time, the goods imported from Russia include aircraft and equipments. Further, Nepal can export tea and handicrafts, including pashmina shawl to Russia. In return, Russia has been assisting Nepal to move towards economic self-reliance since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Nepal (*People's Review*, 2022, p. 3). Another expert, CD Bhatta asserts that Russia-Ukraine conflict has made in the state's economic and geopolitics impacts because countries of the world are facing a adverse effect on inflation (*The Annapurna Express*, 2022, p. 1). He further argues that the country of small powers is having a trouble in different domains of political topography and international policy (*The Annapurna Express*, 2022, p. 2). In the same way, Dron Lamichhane, an analyst and affiliated with the Institute of Foreign Affairs speaks that this conflict has created an economic crisis in the present day world, especially the country like Nepal has to face economic inflation and impacts on petroleum products and equipments (*My Republica*, 2022, p. 2). He further argues that Nepal has to care it very diligently and focus on its neighboring counties for the sake of assistance.

Henceforth, from the interpretation of the experts, it can be inferred that the balance of power should be Nepal's first foreign policy priority. That means Nepal should maintain balanced relations with both China and India and should be conscious while establishing relations with countries. Furthermore, political parties of all hues should realize this reality and form a common comprehending to maintain proportionate with the neighbors through the good practice of successful diplomacy.

Implications of Nepal's International Policy on the New Dimension of World Power

While addressing Nepal's foreign policy, it was formally commenced during the regime of King Prithivi Narayan Shah through various hurdles but the foundation of it is still remained in the similar platform (Adhikari, 2018, p. 58). The geopolitical surroundings of Nepal have pulled out the attention of the world at a time during the world power balance is transferring to Asia. After prithivi Narayan Shah, the mobilization of foreign policy was based on the aspirations and desires of the rulers but not the desire and favor of the state, and people (Dabhade & Pant, 2004, p. 163). In the Rana Regime, Ranas had been sincerely supporting the British India for gradually ruling the country without any kinds of obstacles (Whelpton, 2005, p. 61). King Mahendra bravely arranged and diversified the country's good bonds towards northern part but negotiated with India to stay in power and arms deal (Baral, 2018, pp. 25-45). In the same way, King Birendra set up the novice concept of non-aligned foreign policy and implemented in an expected manner (Karki, 2013, p. 408). In the democratic period, it was seen political parties are highly interested to formulate and conduct foreign policy but the southern hurdles in the domestic affairs of the country and strategy of moving northern neighbor has been seen, but due to the country's political instability, mutual dispute and political party's strategy, the country significantly focused on monetary development and prosperity (Khanal, 2019, pp. 97-102). After the republican federal democratic country, Nepal has utilized a balanced abroad policy especially its neighboring countries China and India. Besides this, neighborhood terms and the norms have been manufactured and the kinships of mutual benefits have been scientifically

implemented which emphasizes abroad policy in the enhancement of internal and domestic policy (Mainali, 2022, pp. 183-206). I elucidate the implications of Nepal's international policy in a new dimension of the world power in the present Russia-Ukraine conflict in the following section.

Security Implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Since the ending of War-II, the world seems in a good balance in its different sectors except the domination of big nation over a small one. The present clash between Russia-Ukraine has raised the issue on security. There appears to be unprecedented in terms of pace, width and global coordination (Sasley, 2011, p. 458). It also heightens the sense of danger that comes with cross-border operational and economical vulnerability. Regarding to this matter, different strategies can be adopted. In response to the Russian invasion, the west implemented a wide ranging set of economic sanction including the space and technology sectors (Khanal, 2019, p.101). The conflict has brought a kind of alertness to the small nations about their security and military operations. Despite depending over the big nations, lower economic nations should have to develop and prepare self-reliance in own nations products and resources Umar et al. (2022, p. 102). With the military benefits and impacts of commercial and private space systems appearing increasingly apparent, private space systems will more frequently become the target of military attacks. In the same way, the conflict has made an enhancement of odd strategies against space systems with the aim of diminishing the other exploration, navigation and discovering efficiency (*The Diplomat*, 2022,p. 2). From this point, it can be comprehended that security of nation should be mobilized as per brave and courageous for tacking any kind of conflicts and disputes.

Nepal's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy towards the Great Powers

Here, 'great power' denotes the powerful state in the global politics. On this regard, Knutsen (1999, pp. 338-361) describes a great power as a nation or state with enormous monetary capabilities ,military might, competence and political stability. In the same way, 'small power' signifies a country with developing or under-developed status that has political instability and aside in small territory(Wight, 2002, p. 30) .In the premises of Nepal, it is a small power nations that seems a yam between two gigantic nations China and India with great powers. In this sense, Former prime Minister, Jhal Nath Khanal argues that in this new dimension of world power, Nepal has to keep balance to great power nations and proceed ahead in the interest of them (Sushant Pradhan: You tube Channel, 2022 time 10-25 minutes). Another analyst and former ambassador HL Shrestha states that Ukraine, a small power state moves against the big power Russia toward NATO and America's preference, so Nepal addresses this issue seriously and keep shift and balance in foreign policy in the high power nations (API HD, 2022a, time 10-25 minutes).However, Nepal is situated between two gigantic nations with big power, here the country has to keep forward the relations with the interest not its own because small states' foreign policy behaviors are not proceeded not only by expectations and aspirations but also by the sense of threat, great powers are familiarized with the methods and equipments of manipulating them (Sasley, 2011, p. 457). From these interpretations, it is engraved that Nepal must set up its rapport building co-ordination among the neighboring counties that are higher in measure of power.

Nepal's Foreign Policy in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

The clash between two countries demonstrates the impacts of cold war politic on international geopolitics in the present day (Chotiner, B.A., 2022, p. 97). It shows the consequence of conventional conflict between Russia and NATO, and on the Eastern Europe since War of Cold. Regarding this issue, S S Poudel, foreign policy analyst states that for the country like Nepal such sort of dispute and clash has direct impact and the attack of Russia has clearly brought some query about the authority of tiny powers, where the power of the people has been at the centre of the post-Westphalia order of the world and the Charter of United Nations and in this context, Nepal must address a balanced type of abroad policy to the powerful nations though small powers are highly dominated (*The Diplomat*, 2022, p. 2). In the same way, Former prime Minister, Jhal Nath Khanal suggests that authority of the country clarifies its position with the neighboring countries to neglect wrong considerations like Ukraine ignores Russia and moves towards the NATO and American strategy, as a result Russia invaded Ukraine, so the simultaneous target of Nepal's abroad policy, it suggests, must be to preserve authoritative power of the country (Pradhan, Youtube, 2022, time 12-28 minutes). It shows that the country has to comprehend from the conflict of Russia-Ukraine that how neighboring countries stand in war due to moving towards disinterest from NATO and American's policy t show favor to Ukraine. Another expert Yubraj Sangraula, Former Attorney General discusses that the conflict has brought a kind of break out and destruction for human being that is against the people's rights and it goes towards breaching peaceful co-existence of small states and following the Charter of United Nations regulations (*Hulak Sanchar*; Youtube, 2022d, time 8-20 minutes). He further argues, from this condition what Nepal has to understand that it has to establish rapport building link to its neighboring countries through obedient consideration of human rights policy and UN Charter guidelines, which bring the consequence of good combination in its neighboring countries through an extension of the domestic policy to the foreign policy. From these interpretations, it can be deduced that Nepal has to learn a good lesson from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Frequent changes in the foreign policy with changes in the government have adversely affected Nepal's diplomatic relations with other countries, specially immediate neighbors.

Conclusion

This study makes a critical appraisal of interpretations of foreign policy of Nepal in response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Ukraine crisis has alerted Nepal to revamp its Nepal's foreign policy. Nepal must build better rapport with major powers towards peace. It does not mean that smaller countries like Nepal and Ukraine have to rely on major powerful nations. Since its unification period, the foreign policy of Nepal had particularly been determined with its unique strategic location, geographical structure and economic backwardness. Today, the need of the hour is that foreign policy priorities must be more convincing, consistent and trustworthy. Nepal should not model its foreign policy in haste but should consider great power positions and responsibilities while maintaining balanced relations with neighboring countries. Besides this precaution, Nepal should reframe its foreign policy considering the global power politics.

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Appendix

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 10. Santosh Khadka (Presenter of Edusoft Academy) *People's Review* (2022 March 2) Ukraine-Russia: Impact on Nepal
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