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Humanitarian Intervention in Syria: A Critical Analysis

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan *

Mr. Anantagopal Sing **

Humanitarian Intervention and Responsibility to protect hitherto considered ethical and moral in academic and intellectual circles because of its contentious practices has been at the forefront of international relations discourse in recent years. Having failed to come up with a consensus set of rules, parameters and principles to justify intervention, the Just War logic of Humanitarian Intervention falls flat on the face of the sovereign rights of the states. In this milieu, this article critically examines the rationale of humanitarian intervention in Syria and evaluates the concept of just war to claim that it is outdated and its application in the name of humanitarian intervention needs to be assessed. This study adopts the theory of social constructivism to decode the liberal perspective of Humanitarian Intervention as a just war or socially constructed to manipulate world public opinion and address the inherent national interests of involved countries or diplomatic failure of the United Nations Organization.

Keywords: Humanitarian Intervention, Responsibility to Protect, Syria, United Nations, Just War and Social Constructivism.

Introduction : The ongoing Syrian crisis is undoubtedly one of the greatest human disasters of world history, which according to the UN report has pushed Syria back to 40 years (2013). It has not only destroyed human capital, health and infrastructure but displaced millions of people, and pushed them to live in abject poverty. This crisis which started with pro-democracy demonstrations in the country's southern city of Daraa, demanding the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad was instigated by outside forces that led to the indiscriminate use of military force which consequently resulted in the Syrian war between the Assad regime and different military

* Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

** Lecturer in Political Science in the Department of Political Science, Barbil College, Barbil, Keonjhar, Odisha.

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Changing Geopolitics in the Middle East

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Changing Geopolitics in the Middle East

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India-Israel Relations: Nurturing a Strategic Partnership

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan, Dr. Ram Babu and Rahul Tiwari

Introduction:

Over the years, the bilateral relations between India and Israel have undergone a significant transformation. What was once characterized by hostility has now shifted towards a more pragmatic approach (Sharma, 2015). This shift in approach has proven to be beneficial for India, especially in the context of the Cold War and the rise of Islamic militancy (Falk, 2009).

India and Israel have expanded their relationship beyond mere diplomatic ties. They now collaborate in areas such as defense, science, and information technology, and have witnessed a substantial increase in bilateral trade (Phophalia, 2019). However, it is important to note that India has managed to maintain its traditional connections with the Arab and Islamic countries of the Middle East (Kumaraswamy, 2004).

Looking ahead, the future of the India-Israel relationship seems promising and comprehensive. It is expected to encompass

various sectors and benefit from India's strategic friendship with the United States (Kumaraswamy, 2004; Sharma, 2015). This broadening of the relationship holds great potential for both nations.

Historical Background:

The announcement came on September 17, 1950, when India recognised Israel. The Jewish Agency opened an immigration office in Bombay shortly afterward. Later on, this was changed into a Consulate and then a Trade Office. In 1992, following the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, embassies were opened. Since our bilateral involvement was upgraded in 1992, defence and agriculture have been the two fundamental cornerstones of our

The bilateral relationship between India and Israel has evolved significantly over the years, transforming from a low-profile association to a strategic partnership. This article aims to explore the multifaceted nature of the India-Israel bilateral relationship and shed light on the key factors that have shaped and continue to influence their ties. With a focus on diplomatic, economic, defence, and cultural dimensions, this article provides a comprehensive overview of the bilateral relations between the two nations that has nurtured strategic partnership between them.

relationship. Relationships have grown quickly in the last few years in a variety of fields, and the cooperation's long-term goal is to become a powerful high-tech alliance appropriate for two

Prof. R. K. Pradhan

Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Dr. Ram Babu

Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Rahul Tiwari

Ph.D Research Scholar in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

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Silk Road vs Spice Route: India's Evolving Strategies in the Middle East

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta

Introduction

The Middle East with its geostrategic location and outsized abundance of oil is turning into a juggernaut that

has ensued wider involvement of greater powers in the region. India too has joined the race, and is at the pinnacle of its diplomatic engagement in the Middle East.

India's ties with UAE, Iran, Israel, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia, among others have actually shown significant improvement under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime.

Beginning with PM Modi's first visit to UAE in 2015, to being awarded the highest civilian award, i.e., the "Order of Zayed", India has today become a major player

in the region, with real focus on business, migration and security. This shift also aims to boost foreign investments in India, which in the

long term can help India to challenge Chinese monopoly in infrastructure building and technological innovations in the region. Additionally, India's multilateral initiatives in the region are ever expanding with its widened commitments to the I2U2 initiative and the League of Arab States. The India – Middle East – Europe Economic

In contrary to the historic policy of India towards the Middle East largely rooted in a policy called Non-Alignment, rapprochement with Pakistan and ensuring stable supply of oil has increasingly collided with the new reality New Delhi has been confronting only to make adjustment in India's evolving strategies towards the greater region of Middle East in recent years. In the wake of Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Palestine conflict and Iran-Saudi competition, India's masterstroke initiative of a two-front economic corridor (IMEC) that would integrate Europe, The Middle East - and India together with an intent to bolster economic operations, and trade relations intended to have larger implications on India's strategic relations with the wider Middle East region has received unprecedented goodwill from the countries of the region. Although, the Middle Eastern countries don't consider India to be a replacement of the USA or China in the region yet India's paramount position in America's "the Pivot of Asia" policy and increasing Chinese assertiveness and the wolf warrior diplomacy certainly gives room for New Delhi for policy maneuver in the region.

Corridor is a booster in this regard. This article thus makes an attempt to analyze India's rising

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan

Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta

Associate Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

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Art of Diplomatic Negotiation: The Role of Military-Economic Strategies in the New World Order

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan, Nirmal Bag and Manmai Panda

Introduction:

Diplomacy is the study of the social and political

constitution of states, aiming to uphold, assert, and foster peaceful relations between nations. It involves the exchange of concepts, knowledge, and artwork between nations and their people. Building ties with different social groupings is crucial in the multi-actor, worldwide world. Two effective instruments in diplomacy are military diplomacy and economic diplomacy (Smith, 2020). Economic

diplomacy focuses on building alliances and

promoting economic growth through

commerce, while military diplomacy uses defense capabilities to preserve peace and stability. Both diplomatic modalities can either work together or work against each other, resulting in tensions and disputes (Jones, 2018). Diplomacy plays a critical role in promoting international cooperation among nations through channels for collaboration, communication, negotiation, and dispute resolution (Kissinger, 1979;

Smith & Brown, 2018). It also fosters respect

Every nation uses a different set of tactics in the complex chess game of international relations to protect its interests and establish its power. As the art and science of balancing obligations, rights, and interests in order to uphold, assert, and foster peaceful relations between nations, diplomacy is described as the study of the social and political constitution of states. Diplomacy and negotiation play a strategic economic role in supporting a nation in actualising its broadly conceived goals and aspirations. As Hans J. Morgenthau emphasizes that all politics are a struggle for power, every state immediate objective is to accumulate power. In this context, power is defined as an actor having influence over another actor, compelled to do something it would not otherwise do. Irrespective of the interdependence between states, global rules, policies, and institutions, international relations necessitate effective negotiation methodologies and formidable diplomatic practices. With this background, this article explores power relationships within military-economic strategy to understand the operation of state interests in the contemporary international relations.

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan

Professor of Political Science, Head of the Department of Political Science, Dean, School of Social Science at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Nirmal Bag

Ph.D. Research Scholar in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Mrs. Manmai Panda

Jr. Lecturer in Political Science, Khalikote Junior College, Berhampur, Ganjam, Odisha

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EDITORIAL

Peace in the neighbourhood is precondition for peace within India. Peace could be made possible when there is prosperity in the neighbourhood. Peace and prosperity together would ensure that there is enough of liberty and freedom for the citizens in the neighbourhood. Prevalence of three things: Peace, Prosperity and Liberty; are necessary for a state to be near perfect state. India's neighbourhood lacks not only peace but also prosperity.

On July 15th, 2024, Nepal appointed its 14th Prime Minister in the last 16 years. Political instability has proved to be the only constant for Nepal in the aftermath of democracy. Intermittent alliances, counter-alliances, reversals, betrayals, and hunger for power alone, among the political leaders of the tiny Himalayan nation-states are writ large.

Bangladesh has been reeling under massive protests mainly by students to oppose the reintroduction of the quota for all government jobs. Even though the decision was made by the courts, it led to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, and her subsequent asylum in India on August 5, 2024.

Divide within Pakistan's political clouts has been deepening over the last 76 years. On July 15, 2024 Information Minister of Pakistan Attaullah Tarar announced in a press conference that his government is considering banning the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by former Prime Minister Imran Khan (2018-2022). One of very few examples in the world where Country's former head stands imprisoned; though he is being acquitted by the court in one case after the other. It makes it obvious that he has been craftily and wrongly implicated.

Lesser said about Afghanistan is better, where democracy is gagged and suffocated by the onslaught of Taliban-II takeover on August 15, 2021. Sri Lanka witnessed the worst days of its existence in July 2022; when demonstrators marched to Colombo that led to the resignation of the then President Mahinda Rajapaksa for mismanagement of country's economic crisis.

Democracies must move from 'populism' to 'people' in their processes of governance. Democracies in the neighbourhood are in doldrums. The present issue of World Focus is being presented to readers with endeavors to explore the widely prevalent political instability in India's proximity and its implications for India. Indeed it makes it imperative to re-engineer democracy.

New Delhi
September 2024

G. Kishore Babu
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4 World Focus



Pakistan between Mosque, Military and the Balochistan: An interrogation of Identity and Ideology

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Somnath Pal

Introduction:

Since the partition of British India, South Asia has been characterized by contrasting intimidation perceptions between India and Pakistan. Pakistan's political landscape is characterized by the "mosque and military" syndrome, which refers to the intricate interplay between its military establishment and religious institutions. Pakistan's creation in 1947 was driven by the Two-Nation Theory, which posited Hindus and Muslims as distinct nations. Pakistan emerged as a

Balochistan, a strategic region in the world, has a long history of resistance against various occupiers, including the Portuguese, British, and Iran and Pakistan. The current struggle for Balochistan's freedom is a continuation of past resistances against Iranian and Pakistani rule, which have committed severe human rights violations, loot of resources, drug trafficking, child abuse, corruption, and nepotism. Despite facing injustice since 1896 and 1948, the international community has neglected the prolonged division of Balochistan. Pakistan in particular has destabilized the region through terrorism and proxy wars resulting into unprecedented rise of militant attacks and insurgencies in Pakistan from Pakistan Taliban. However, this sorry state of affairs in Pakistan has a broader perspective that adds to the Baloch dilemma. To understand this, this paper makes an attempt to examine the central role of the military in Pakistani politics, including its influence over foreign policy, domestic affairs, and the country's democratic institutions including its approach towards India.

homeland for Muslims, founded on the principle of Islamic identity. Although, Islam served as a unifying force and a source of legitimacy for the new nation, but its domination over the social and political life apart from the religious aspect undermined the political authority and legal sovereignty giving way for the Mosque. Similarly, Pakistan's political history since independence has been characterized by periods of military rule, political instability, and conflicts with India. The primary objective

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan

Professor of Political Science, Head of the Department of Political Science, Dean of the School of Social Science, Director, of the Office of International Affairs and Chair Professor, UGC-Mahima Guru Chair at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Somnath Pal

Research Associate of ICSSR Project in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

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Octopus Doctrine and the Conflict in Middle East

Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta, Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Shashwat Shukla

We are implementing the Octopus Doctrine. We no longer play with the tentacles, with Iran's proxies: we've created a new equation by going for the head.

Naftali Bennett,
Former Prime Minister
of Israel

Introduction

In the context of the Middle East, Israel has adopted a strategy that goes by an unconventional name in the realm of international relations. The 'Octopus Doctrine', the concept that was first coined by the former Prime Minister of Israel, Naftali Bennett in 2018, is currently seen as the means to the solution of the Israeli

contemporary problems. The doctrine likens the threats to an octopus, where the main body represents a central command, i.e. Iran, and the

tentacles represent various supporting elements or affiliated groups that help sustain or extend the main threat. The tentacles here are represented by diverse groups, viz. Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, the pro-regime militias of Damascus, and the mobilization forces in Iraq, who together refer themselves as the 'Axis of Resistance' and have developed a strong resistance around Israel by way of the NATO styled 'collective security' measures (TOI World Desk, 2024).

Thus, as per the Octopus Doctrine, Israel sees fighting the individual 'tentacles' as insufficient, as it never hurts the 'head'. Israel has thus intensified its attacks on Iran and has conducted ground and cyber operations in the country primarily with the motive of limiting its

Nonetheless, Israel's application of the Octopus Doctrine has undermined Iran's strategic position and reduced its capacity to challenge Israeli security to a greater extent. However, the ongoing combination of these factors creates a complex web of instability that is difficult to untangle, making the Middle East one of the most challenging regions in terms of conflict resolution and peace-building. One may thus conclude that the Octopus doctrine represents a new and evolving frontier in international relations, particularly in the Middle East. As nations and non-state actors employ increasingly sophisticated and interconnected strategies to extend their influence, understanding the dynamics of these approaches becomes crucial for analysing regional geopolitics.

Dr. A. K. Gupta

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, and has done his PhD from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Prof. R. K. Pradhan

Dean, School of Social Science and Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

Shashwat Shukla

Intern at Eurasian Foundation, New Delhi and a Freelance Writer.

Indology in International Relations: A Theoretical Interrogation

Ramakrushna Pradhan¹ and Ruma Das²

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Abstract

This article presents a nuanced exploration of the intricate relationship between Indology and International Relations, unveiling the profound impact of Indian history, culture, and philosophy on global diplomacy and foreign policy. It meticulously traces the historical genesis of Indology, and elucidates its multidisciplinary essence, and underscores its contemporary significance. The article emphasises how Indology serves as a potent driver of India's soft power, exemplified by the global popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Indic culture. While addressing challenges such as cultural appropriation and Eurocentrism, the article offers pragmatic strategies to mitigate these issues. In an era characterised by heightened global interconnectivity, this examination underscores the pivotal role of Indology in fostering cross-cultural understanding and catalysing international cooperation.

Keywords: Indology, International Relations, Soft Power, Orientalism, Inclusive Approach, Colonialism

1.0 Introduction

Although the 21st century international order is moved by the forces of globalisation, yet the ideas and images of countries driven by their cultural ethos, historical roots and diplomatic patterns play crucial role in shaping international relations. The case of India in this milieu is not an exception. An ancient civilisation enmeshed with rich cultural heritage, historical settings, antique philosophies, India represents mosaic of civilisational heritages, hence a learning place for scholars, travellers, merchants, monks, warriors and diplomats (see Gordon

¹ Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. Email: rkpradhanjnu@gmail.com

² Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. Email: rumadas533@gmail.com.

Corresponding author's email: rkpradhanjnu@gmail.com

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Geopolitics to Techno-Politics: Redefining power variables in International Relations in the Digital Age

*Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan, **Mr. Satyesh Bhatt and ***Mr. Shashwat Shukla

*Dean of School of Social Science and Professor and Head of the Dept. of Political Science
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

**Public Relations Officer at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

***Intern at Eurasian Foundation, New Delhi and freelance writer.

ABSTRACT

The contemporary world is experiencing a substantial overhaul of the established order of international relations. The power to influence global affairs is no longer defined by historical standards such as military superiority or by the Gross Domestic Product, but by the capabilities of high-end technologies. The on-going century can precisely be regarded as the age of Techno-polarity where the pursuit of technological dominance has become a strategic resource, wielding geopolitical power. As the lines between tech and geopolitics blur, the emerging powers like India would aspire to capture the future of emerging techno-polar world order that hinges on technological statecraft. This research article delves into the concept of techno-polarity, exploring how technological advancements are affecting variables of the global power equation. It explores the high-stakes interdependence of technology, power, and diplomacy in a world where the next technological advancement may shift the balance of power.

KEYWORDS: Geopolitics, power, techno-politics, digitalization and International Relations.

INTRODUCTION

Techno-polarity is the reconfiguration of global power where the control, development, and strategic deployment of advanced technologies shape the hierarchy of nations. It is defined by a nation's ability to innovate, regulate, and leverage digital and technological systems as critical assets in determining a state's power, international standing, and capacity to shape global governance.

The Bipolarity, during the Cold War period, was characterized by existence of power poles, the United States and the Soviet Union. These two blocs competed ideologically, militarily, and economically in shaping international relations, with expanding respective alliances, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact. In contrast, techno-

polarity does not feature a binary division of power but is characterized by a multipolar competition centred on technological dominance. Unlike the clear ideological

Prof. R. K. Pradhan, Dean of School of Social Science and Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science. Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
E-mail: rkpradhanjnu@gmail.com.
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7328-3935>.

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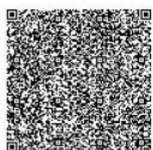
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