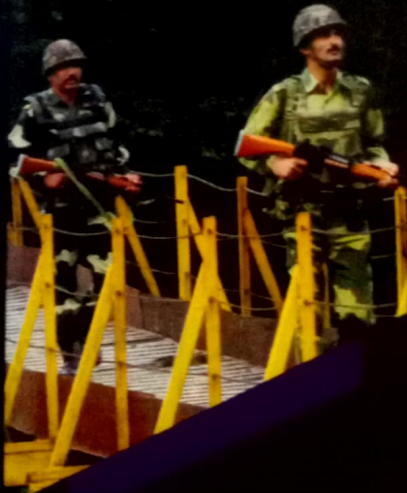


INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

**Security and
Economic issues**



Edited by
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Indian Foreign Policy

Security and Economic Issues

Edited by

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CHINA'S INTERVENTION IN CHANGING RELATION OF INDIA & NEPAL

Prof. Devidas Vijay Bhosale*

"In international politics, no one is a permanent friend or foe only we must look after our own interests"

-Winston Churchill

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this paper is to analyze the changing relation of India and Nepal in the last five years China's role into it. The changing power equation in Nepal over the past five years and China's role in it needs to be studied from India's point of view. It is necessary because China seeks to increase its dominance by subjugating India's neighbors. India have always tried to maintain close ties with Nepal and its geopolitical location, In this paper researcher has analyzed changes in India-Nepal relation after the Madhesi movement and Chinese influence on it. China's growing interference needs to be curtailed. Without it, the base of Indian foreign policy & peaceful coexistence cannot exist. India's relations with its neighbors are cordial since independence but it appears to be hampered by China's aggression. This other side of the dispute between India and Nepal needs to be studied. India and Nepal have close ties of friendship and cooperation as neighbors, in which there is a deep connection between the public and contacts of kinship and culture. An open border between India and Nepali is a symbol of reliability of both countries. From the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal (1950) Nepali citizens have taken unprecedented advantage of the facilities and opportunities in India like Indian citizens. India and Nepal

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have several bilateral institutional dialogue mechanisms, including the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission, which is headed by the Foreign Minister of India and the Foreign Minister of Nepal. When earthquake struck Nepal on an April 25, 2015, the Government of India sent a special aircraft including the National Disaster Response Team and relief materials to Nepal. Nepal is a landlocked country, they depend on India for sea freight. After the implementation of the new constitution of Nepal an agitation of Madhesi people took place during the tenure of Prime Minister KP Oli. Madhesi people blocked the roads of Nepal and India. The Madhesi agitation happened in September 2015 which had an adverse effect on India-Nepal relation. During the agitation, there was a huge shortage of food and medicine in Nepal. During this period, statements were made by the Nepali government and media that the blockade was imposed by India. After this, action was taken to reduce Nepal's dependence on India. Meanwhile, China and Nepal relation is getting stronger and closer. Nepal basically shares borders only with India and China. Naturally, China was the second option to reduce its dependence on India. Oli visited China a few months after the incident. During the visit, China intended to reduce India's monopoly power in Nepal. The first agreement was the Trade and Transit Agreement, which introduced the supply of goods to Nepal through China. In the second agreement, it was decided to reduce the import of petroleum products from India and take it from China.

Objective of the Study

1. Study India-Nepal Relation after the Madhesi crisis in September 2015.
2. Study Chinese influence in India Nepal Relations.

Research Methodology: The present study is based on secondary data. Therefore, the required data is been collected from various sources such as, relevant research papers, newspaper articles and websites.

Current scenario and Issues with Nepal: In the present scenario Nepal is one of the neighbors creating tensions. The border between India and Nepal is about eighteen hundred kilometers. In 1816, the Treaty of Sugwali was signed between India and Nepal. Kalapani was the area of dispute in this agreement. Kalapani covers an area of 372 square meters and is bordered by China, Nepal and India. The Mahakali River originates in Kalapani. According to the Sugavali Agreement, the Mahakali River is the boundary. Nepal recently has released a political map showing Lipulekha, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal's territory. Nepal has claimed 395 square kilometers of India in its new map. Lipinyadhuri, Lipulekh, Kalapani, Gunji, Nabhi and Kuti villages are also claimed. Not only that, Nepal's Prime Minister Oli is bringing legislation in Parliament in this regard. Nepal's opposition had asked for a few days to consider the

approval of the new map. Since then, opposition has decided to support the map amendment bill. The borders of India, Nepal and China come together in the Lipulekh area. The development of the road between Dharchula and Lipulekha in Uttarakhand was inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh of India. This route saves time and is important for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims. India built roads in this area and Nepal has object in to that. However, India has clarified that the construction is done in its own territory. The area has been patrolled by India through the Indo-Tibetan Border Force since the Sino-Indian War of 1962. Because both India and Nepal have a claim on this area talks have been going on in this regard and two countries have decided to find a way through discussions at the Foreign Secretary level. Despite this, Nepal has done the turbulence. There is discussion that Nepal's action is being carried out with the support of China. But due to the role of Nepal India-Nepal relations is strained. China is building a railway line to Kathmandu which will go further to Lumbini. China's railway line to Lumbini via Nepal is an obstacle to India's strategic interests. Because of this railway, China can move fast through Nepal to the Indian borders.

Chinese Role in India and Nepal Relation: China has started making huge financial investments in Nepal in the last five years. China's share is 80% of Nepal's foreign direct investment. In the last few years, China's influence in Nepal has increased tremendously. Through this, China wants to connect Tibet and Kathmandu by rail. This railway will be built by the Chinese army and this train can go to Lumbini. As Lumbini is located on the India-Nepal border, China will have access to the Indian border. Through Nepal, China wants to overcome India. Against this background, Xi Jinping's said in recent speech to the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police, "We are ready for war" This can't be ignored. Since the spread of the Corona, India has taken an anti-China stance in all possible global organizations. Although Prime Minister Modi's recent speech did not explicitly mention China, yet it challenges to end the dependence on China. At present, the law has been amended to prevent Chinese capitalists buying from Indian companies, taking advantage of the current situation. In short, post-corona India is redefining its place in the world against the backdrop of China's unreliable credibility and China wants to get India involved in many conflicts. Nepal's movements are the culmination of that. It is possible that Pakistan can cause some new harm soon. Recently, the World Health Organization has decided that China should provide all information about the corona. Rising international pressure on China and the Corona crisis have put China's economy in deep trouble. It is worth looking at the new strategies used by Xi to deal with the growing criticism at the international level. Part of this is a change in

military strategy at the internal level, while another is aggression in policy with our neighbors. The third is the response at the economic and trade level where possible and the last is changing diplomacy. China's growing aggression towards India is part of this strategy. The strategy is to intensify the actions that are being taken to infiltrate India in different areas on our border but also try to ensure that it does not turn into a war. China is behind Nepal's sudden border dispute with India. It is Nepal's role to use intense nationalism to resolve Nepal's internal political problems and to do so in an anti-India stance, and it has always been supported by China. China's policy to help Pakistan by building a dam on the Indus River in the Gilgit-Baltistan region has also come out of aggression. Considering all issues above, it is more important to formulate a policy on China than on Nepal's aggressive stance. In the future, China could cause India's relations with its neighbors to deteriorate. Therefore, it is necessary to identify China's strategy to stop China and devise a counter-strategy against it. China is trying to surround India, by its ambitious projects like CPEC, OBOR and the project to encircle India by sea named String of Pearls. Apart from this, China is trapping India by providing financial assistance to its neighbors; this policy is called China's loan diplomacy or debt-trap diplomacy. This has led to huge financial investments from China in countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Considering all the issues, India needs to take cautious steps in this regard.

CONCLUSION

China's strained trade tie with the United States has hit the Chinese economy hard. Then the corona originated in China and spread all over the world, so the whole world went against China. If we look at China's action against India from China's strategic point of view, we gain new meaning. Similarly, Chinese have resorted to aggression in their political, economic and military policies. Part of this is the border issues that Nepal has raised against India and Chinese military operations in Ladakh and Sikkim. China is behind Nepal's sudden border dispute with India. It is Nepal's role to use intense nationalism to resolve Nepal's internal political problems and to do so in an anti-India stance, and it has always been supported by China. China's military evils should not be ignored, and the answer should be given in the same way. But at the same time, we need to understand China's strategy. China is running hidden agenda against India. China tries to overcome India by providing financial assistance to India's neighbors. In short, China wants to portray India as a country that has border disputes with their neighbors and bullies small countries. This should emphasize strengthening relations with neighboring countries. At the same time, China's hidden agenda with India's neighbors must be thwarted. In the border conflict, there is a debate on what role India

should play in the case of China. Decisions about international relations need to be considered in many ways. India-China relations will have to be decided by considering next ten to twenty years. Pain of 1962 war is in the minds of Indians, but the present reality should be taken into consideration while making further plans.

SUGGESTIONS

There are some important things to keep in mind to encounter China's challenges. We need to understand China's strategy. In short, China wants to portray India as a country that has border disputes with all its neighbors and bullies to small countries. This should emphasize strengthening relations with neighboring countries. At the same time, China's hidden agenda with India's neighbors must be thwarted.

1. There should be a strong defense system on the border and no Chinese aggression should be tolerated.
2. To deal with the situation with China, two paths need to be adopted, one of which is to create diplomatic channels and second is to apply pressure.
3. Relations with Japan-Korea-Vietnam-Indonesia-Russia should be strengthened.
4. At present, the US is ready to come closer to India and help, take advantage of it but don't rely on them our own strength is important.
5. India should focus on strengthening relations with its neighbors.

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