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## EVOLUTION OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY – FROM JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU TO NARENDRA MODI

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Where freedom is menaced or justice threatened OR Where aggression  
Takes place, we cannot be and shall not be neutral.

**Jawahar Lal Nehru**

### ABSTRACT

India was indeed blessed with such great leadership in her starting period of independence that it saves itself from becoming the piece of cake for neo imperialism and neo colonialism, when everyone expect that India will not remain a single country, India’s initial leaders took her out from every problem. With the passage of time, by blend of idealist and realist policies, India became the leading country in Asia continent. Today India is on the way of becoming the most powerful in economic and military terms in the list of developing countries. From Jawahar Lal Nehru to Narendra modi, through tools such as NAM and neighborhood policies Indian foreign policy emerge as most important way to promote India’s interest on the stage of international community.

### INTRODUCTION

#### INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWED BY JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU

When India got independence in 1947, it faces many domestic and international challenges. On domestic front the pain of partition was still new and there was a big problem in front of national leadership about how to consolidate a disintegrated India. India at that time was divided into small kingdoms in which there is no place for democracy and they are ruled by a monarch.

At such time PM Jawahar Lal Nehru took the leadership into his hands and carries forward his vision to make India a great country. in this paper we will not discuss the internal problems of a newly born country, as the topic of this paper is related to external challenges which India face in the form of foreign relations with the world because in that period of time there was cold war going on between America which represent capitalist world and USSR which represent communist world view. Foreign relations portfolio was retained by PM Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Jawahar Lal Nehru shape India foreign policy but Nehru didn’t discover it. Indian foreign policy has its roots in its historical literary works like Chanakya Arthashastra, Ramayana and Mahabharata.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF COLD WAR

1. Ideological fight between capitalism and communism
2. Assertive intervention into internal matters of weak and vulnerable countries by superpowers.
3. Arms race between USA and USSR.
4. Security alliance example NATO, SEATO, CENTO represent USA, WARSAW PACT represents USSR.
5. There is un-stability in world because of power politics.
6. World became bipolar as divided between USA and USSR on the theme of ideological differences.

During national movement of independence, Indian leadership feel that colonial policies prevail in the Asian and African countries make them very poor, make their peoples life worse, vulnerable to other big problems, so Indian leadership always advocate for their independence also. In that period of time there is reawakening in Asian and African countries. A lot of Asian and African countries got independence in that particular period of time. This leads to the establishment of independent world view in the mind of leaders of Asian and African countries about making their own destiny. The leadership of these countries didn’t want to become the part of power alliance, so they meet and chartered out their own way in the form of non-alignment.

Nehru had to make a choice whether to make India economically independent or militarily independent because there was lack of resources. Nehru knows that an economically independent country can flourish on global level, so he choose to industrialized India and try to make indie independent from its very basic problems.



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### BIRTH OF NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT

NAM was the brain child of Nehru (INDIA), Nasser (Egypt) and JB Tito (Yugoslavia). In 1947 there is a meeting of Asian relations conference in New Delhi, there is first time a danger of future was discussed in the name of neo colonialism and neo imperialism. In 1955 Bandung conference take the countries of Asian and African together, this process culminated in the birth of NAM in Belgrade in 1961.

### MAIN PILLARS OF NEHRU’S FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT

1. These countries have faith in united nation
2. Want to resolves all international disputes peacefully.
3. Interact with all nations but never became a part of alliance.
4. Maintain their freedom and doesn’t come into pressure from any camp.
5. Want to re distribute the global resources for economic development.

Members of NAM strive for the common cause of third world countries; want to restructure international world order by demanding nee international economic order. The NIEO which these countries demanding will enhancing the bargaining power of global south.

### THREE CORE VALUES FOR WHICH NAM STRIVE.

1. RATIONALITY
2. TOLERANCE
3. CO EXISTENCE

### INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWED BY INDIRA GANDHI

In 1970 Lusaka NAM summit, for the first time Indira Gandhi speak about the way India carry forward their relations with the rest of the world. She emphasized the point that India wished to be friends with all nations but on the basis of equality. Her most important contribution towards foreign policy was to make India brand equal to super powers. Indira Gandhi initiated peaceful nuclear explosion 1974, which clearly shows her intentions to make India a military power.

### MAIN PILLARS OF INDIRA GANDHI WAY’S OF HANDLING FOREIGN RELATIONS.

1. She was very realist, when dealing with odd situation.
2. Sharpness and alertness in her attitude
3. She wants equality in international order.
4. Nuclear weapon explosion in 1974.
5. Deal with Pakistan in aggression led dialogue.
6. Focus on military power enhancement on India.

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWED BY RAJIV GANDHI

When come the question of Rajiv Gandhi foreign strategy we can say he has the mixture of thoughts of both idealisms inherited from Pt. Nehru and realism come from Indira Gandhi who was his mother. His visit to China in 1989, meet with Deng Xiaoping, in which he stressed the point that the border issues should be separate from economic integration. His way of thinking shows us that he followed the strategy of enlightened self-interest. During his tenure as PM, he used NAM to promote his interest in international sphere of politics.

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY FOLLOWED BY P.V. NARSHIMHA RAO

BY 1990, USSR disintegrated; India lost the very fertile ground of patronage of powerful USSR. India gets worried of future defense supplies. At this time, Boris Yeltsin visited India in 1993, make 1971 India Russia friendship treaty revised with 14 new clauses to enhance the cooperation. Rao also visited 5 central Asian countries which are newly formed from disintegrated USSR. But during RAO India relations with Pakistan remained tensed.

In 1992, Babri Masjid demolition and subsequent 1993 Mumbai blasts make India’s relations with Pakistan very deteriorated, from this time, Pakistan started giving vocal threats of nuclear bomb, in case India engaged with Pakistan in a conflict.



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### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICIES FOLLOWED BY I.K. GUJRAL.

IN 1997 I.K Gujral became PM. Basic foreign policy idea of Gujral doctrine was that.

1. India is a powerful and dominant nation in the region, but will not interfere in internal matters of the other countries.
2. Core of doctrine was to give others countries more than what India might take from that nation.
3. According to Gujral doctrine when India pursues a new kind of relationship with the neighbors, leads to constructive responses from them.
4. His policy was going to so much extent that even he instructed RAW to call off all covert operations in Pakistan and dismantle all human agents.

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIA FOREIGN POLICIES FOLLOWED BY ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the PM when India carried out nuclear test. The codename for the test was shakti. After the test, India declares itself a nuclear weapon state. In a letter to US president Clinton, Vajpayee asserted that India continually faces threats from china and Pakistan, reason that compel India to conduct nuclear test. In 2000, US president Clinton visits India and become the 4<sup>th</sup> president to visit India. Visit of bill Clinton prove economically very beneficial for India as US signed 3 billion dollars deals in many sectors like broadband connectivity and energy dimensions. Clinton administration replaced with bush administration. After 9/11 attacks India went ahead and ready to enter in alliance with America to work together in its global war on terrorism. Atal Bihari Vajpayee want to improve relations with Pakistan, he even starts a bus service from Delhi to Lahore, he himself travel to Lahore by this bus to meet Nawaz Sharif.

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY BY MANMOHAN SINGH

As a PM, Manmohan Singh worked towards improving relations with China, as both Asian giants, decided to enhance bilateral trade, decided to reopen NATHU LA PASS in 2006. Manmohan Singh and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin met at India-Russia annual PM summit in 2004. In this summit, India gives its assurance to Russia that India will respect its intellectual property rights of all defense materials, ensure Russia that they will never copied or given to other state or non-state actors. It is during Manmohn Singh leadership, that India-US civilian nuclear cooperation deal got signed in 2005. He even starts sectoral dialogue partnership with ASEAN countries and concluded it with a FTA signed. India also improves relations with Japan, Africa in various sectors. When dealing with west Asia, it started on the theme of oil diplomacy. India enhances people-to-people ties with African continent.

### CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY BY NARENDRA MODI

In 2014, Narendra Modi became the PM of India. In 2019, BJP again win lok sabha elections, Modi again became PM, his foreign diplomacy is different from others PM because he personally emphasis on building strong personal relations with heads of other countries. He strongly believes in this way of interactions. His learning from RSS give birth the sense of getting involve with peoples from all walks of life into him. PM before MODI strongly emphasized on government-to-government interactions, but Modi believe more in leaders to people’s interactions, this type of diplomacy is called retail diplomacy. This diplomacy involves the leaders with foreign students, monks, scholars from every sphere of knowledge, leads to very strong interpersonal relationship on foreign land. When he visits temples on foreign land, this shows his cultural diplomacy. Narendra Modi strongly focus on 4D models involves – demography, demand, democracy, Diaspora. During foreign visit, he also addresses Indian diaspora, make them aware about government policies in India in various sphere. Intention behind this exercise is to convince Indian diaspora that their contribution in India’s development is very important and they can emerge as biggest stakeholders in the problems faced by India in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Narendra Modi also emphasis on soft power diplomacy, by making UN to declare 21<sup>st</sup> June as International Day of Yoga in general assembly is a great example of soft power diplomacy. By new neighborhood first policy, modi want to improve relations with neighbors through economic means. He also used religion to promote global harmony and make sure that India leads it through the globe. During his second tenure, for the first time, Narendra Modi explicitly stated that USA and Russia are both our partners. India asserted that indo-pacific should be free from any influence; he particularly points towards china’s enhanced influence in indo pacific and South China sea.

**The core point of Indian foreign policy that india currently follow: they include.**

1. There should be pluralism in international arena.
2. Formed a foreign policy that purely based on values, culture, religion.
3. Focus on helping each other’s in difficult times.



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## SUMMING UP

From the evening of independence till today India's foreign policy changed very much. From Nehru idealism to Indira realism and Modi retail diplomacy, India foreign policy changed with time and circumstances. This is so much vast topic that cannot sum up in 5-10 pages, foreign policy is something that evolve very moment. One should have an eagle eye on every incident and every moment to develop a strong knowledge of foreign policy developments.

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