

Post-colonial dynamics: Analysing the Legacy of Colonialism in India's Relationship with the Global North

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1. Abstract

India's international relationship with Western nations, tracing its trajectory from the colonial era to its current global standing, and its narrative unfolds through the lenses of identity evolution, economic metamorphosis, and diplomatic recalibration. India's identity construction during and post-colonial periods reveals the nuanced nature of social identities, challenging stereotypes and uncovering unexpected roots throughout the decade. The economic landscape shaped by colonial structures, marked by agrarian challenges and industrial decline, sets the stage for post-independence economic policies and shifts. India's robust and diversified economy, reducing dependency on former colonial powers and collaboration with like-minded nations in the Gulf and ASEAN, India can amplify its voice on the international stage, challenge the dominance of the global north, and collectively address issues related to economic justice and sovereignty, thereby reshaping the dynamics shaped by colonial legacies. The study scrutinizes India's engagement with the global north in the present scenario, the research delves into contemporary challenges and the impact of changing world orders.

2. Introduction

In the dynamics of international relations, India's position from the colonial era to its current standing on the global stage is a fascinating tale of identity evolution, economic metamorphosis, and diplomatic recalibration. The shaping of India's identity during and post-colonial periods serves as a backdrop to its ongoing struggle with modern identity dilemmas, where collective identity is sought for political, economic, and cultural reasons, often giving rise to oppositions and contrasts. The economic landscape in colonial India, marked by agrarian challenges, land settlement disparities, and industrial decline, laid the foundation for a post-independence era defined by economic planning and policy shifts towards modern tactics of institutions like NITI Aayog. The subsequent political, economic, and diplomatic transformations, particularly post-1991, propelled India into a global player, where controlled economic reforms paved the way for impressive growth rates, and political decisions, such as nuclear testing, showcased India's commitment to safeguarding its national interests.

As India engaged with the global north, its diplomatic relations with the United States and the United Kingdom took center stage with France, Germany, and other European nations. The US-India strategic partnership, encompassing political cooperation, economic ties, and international collaboration, exemplifies India's growing influence. India grapples with a changing world order, asymmetries with the China-Russia growing partnership, and regional complexities. This research paper delves into the multifaceted layers of India's international journey, dissecting historical narratives, assessing current challenges, and providing insights into the country's dynamic role in the global arena. As India navigates these challenges, it stands at the crossroads of

history, balancing its rich cultural heritage with the demands of a rapidly evolving international landscape.

3. Explore how colonialism influenced Indian culture, identity, and society.

Identity construction is an ongoing process linked to modern identity dilemmas based on what after colonialism India looks like. People seek a collective identity for political, economic, cultural, or defensive reasons, often creating oppositions and contrasts as we saw poverty, malnutrition, disease, cultural upheaval, economic exploitation, political disadvantage, and systematic programs aimed at creating a sense of social and racial inferiority. However, social identities are only sometimes what they seem. Some seemingly reactionary movements may aim for what they see as progressive European ideals. The idea of 'high' culture often has earthy origins, and not all identities are equally imaginary. The assertion of Dravidian identity in South India coexists with a sense of marginality and inferiority in society and Individually they might grapple with contradictory identities throughout their lives, while others may opportunistically reject one persona for another. Cultural and religious revivalism can lead to extreme para-identities. Many cultures allow for the coexistence of multiple senses of 'self.' Tradition is often used to legitimize innovations in identity. The study of history can both empower and threaten those seeking to reshape community perceptions for political or economic purposes. This volume aims to challenge conventional orthodoxy in history and encourage a more tolerant and irreverent approach to differences, promoting diverse and alternative forms of existence.¹

4. India's economic journey after post-colonialism

India's economic journey post-colonialism has been marked by significant policy initiatives, particularly through the implementation of Five-Year Plans and shifts in the perceived prime moving force of the economy. The overarching goals of the Five-Year Plans included achieving economic growth, modernization, self-reliance, and equity. Under the influence of democratic socialism and inspired by Soviet planning, the private and public sectors ensured social gains over mere economic profits. The Five-Year Plans sought steady increases in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), modernization through technological advancements, and self-reliance to reduce dependence on foreign nations. Equity was emphasized to ensure that economic prosperity reached all sections of society, addressing basic needs and reducing wealth inequality.²

Spanning from 1950 to 1990, witnessed significant developments in economic planning and policy. Such as The Economic Programme Committee (EPC), formed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), recommended the establishment of a permanent Planning Commission in

¹ Crispin Bates, Beyond Representation: Colonial and 'Post-Colonial' Constructions of Indian Identity

² <https://pwnlyias.com/upsc-notes/indian-economy-before-and-after-independence/>

India. In 1950, the Planning Commission was set up, and it became the central agency responsible for formulating and implementing economic plans.³

Economic and social planning aimed to establish a welfare state. Sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, employment generation, and self-employment were key objectives. Modernizing the traditional economy, particularly in the agriculture sector, was a priority to get back the potential to revive self-reliant India like ancient Indian trade influence. The planning process aimed at promoting economic equality and self-reliance. Planning relied on financial resources from central and state budgets, public sector enterprises, the domestic private sector, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and Gross Budgetary Support to enhance five-year plans. Since India was declared a planned and mixed economy post-independence, the government played an active role in resource allocation. Centralization of authority in economic matters in the Union government was driven by the need to address regional disparities, poverty, and market failures.

I. Analyse how colonial economic structures influenced India's post-independence economic policies

The economic settings in colonial India were marked by several key characteristics and challenges, and since then there have been complex dynamics in economic affairs. Here is a summary of the key points:

Agrarian Economy: The Indian economy during the colonial era was primarily agrarian/farming, with about 85% or more of the population living in rural areas and depending on agriculture for their livelihood. Nevertheless, agricultural productivity was low as well as Indian agriculture suffered from low levels of technology, inadequate irrigation facilities, and negligible use of fertilizers, further hindering productivity, and on the other hand overpopulation and lack of modernization became the main factors of a not equal supply of agricultural products in every nook and corner of the country in the colonial era.

Land Settlement: Land revenues and profits from agriculture went to zamindars, leaving little incentive for them to invest in agriculture or improve productivity, as the time when zamindars had a direct connection with British officers and had to pay incentives to them as well. This system disadvantaged the actual cultivators, one of the core reasons the major portion of the population holds very little private land for harvesting resulting in low production with high demand in a large population.

Industrial Decline/Foreign Trade: India, known for its handicraft industries, witnessed a rapid decline due to British policies aimed at deindustrialization, as after no promotion and certain British tax imposition on locally made products slowly decreased these handicraft industries. India was primarily an exporter of raw materials to Britain and an importer of finished consumer goods.

³ <https://pwnlyias.com/upsc-notes/indian-economy-before-and-after-independence/>

Britain maintained a monopoly on India's foreign trade after signing the charter with Elizabeth 1, leading to a scarcity of essential commodities in the domestic market.

Infrastructure Development: Infrastructure development, such as railways, roads, and telegraph services, was primarily aimed at serving colonial interests rather than providing basic facilities to the people for their easement of doing business, and over that British general imposed extra money for those common people if they had to use those newly developed infrastructures. such railways facilitated long-distance travel and the transportation of raw materials but had adverse effects on village economies and self-sufficiency.

5. Political Dimensions in diplomatic relations with former colonial powers and the USA

British (UK) and European nations:

The UK government's policy on collaboration with India is focused on strengthening its relationship with India across various aspects, including trade, investment, defense, security, climate change, clean energy, and global health. This policy is outlined in the 'Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development, and Foreign Policy' published in March 2021, which sets the strategic framework for the UK's national security and international policy objectives up to 2025.⁴

Key elements of the UK's collaboration with India include

Trade and Investment: The UK envisions re-energized trade and investment with India, rooted in science and technology, benefiting both countries for economies and supporting 'leveling up' in the UK and India. Both countries are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) intending to double UK-India trade by 2030 but due to some issues emerging between the nations such as Despite constant shifts in British political dynamics and sporadic activities of radical Sikhs in the United Kingdom, New Delhi's ties with London continue to witness an upward trajectory.⁵

Defense and Security: The UK and India aim to enhance defense cooperation, The British delegation was in India to better understand the current situation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the Indian Ocean region, to build a more secure environment, as demonstrated by the bilateral exercise Konkan-23 in March 2023. This reflects both nation's commitment to enhancing maritime security and upholding a rules-based order in the region.⁶

⁴2030

In Focus

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⁵ <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/still-no-light-at-the-end-of-the-india-uk-fta-tunnel-2773151>

⁶ Last Updated 22 July 2023, 15:08 IST,

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/uk-defence-committee-visits-mumbai-to-understand-geopolitical-situation-in-indo-pacific-indian-ocean-regions-1239571.html>

Connecting Countries and People: The UK and India are working to strengthen connections in education, research, innovation, capacity building, employment, and culture. Initiatives like the “India & UK Together” program aim to worldly promote cultural ties. The British Council, the UK’s international organization focusing on better educational opportunities and cultural exchange, and recently, Microsoft India have formalized a significant collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a transformative 3 years partnership program titled ‘English Skills for Youth’. The focus on socio-economically marginalized communities who are unable to arrange proper facilities after having skills, and for them underscores a commitment to addressing educational disparities and economic inequities. Recognizing the potential barriers faced by young people in these communities, the program seeks to break down linguistic barriers by providing language skills that are integral for personal and professional growth.⁷

Regional, Global, and Multilateral Cooperation: The UK and India cooperate on regional and global challenges, such as the situation in Ukraine, and this primarily aims to uphold the principles of the UN Charter and international law primarily applicable to maintain peace and order in the region. India’s G20 presidency in 2022 provides a glimpse of opportunity for collaboration on global issues especially with major influential nations in the global north such UK, USA, Germany, France, Japan, etc., along with Middle Eastern nations’ role as gateway between global north and south.

The UK has highlighted the importance of the UK and India relationship due to the shared history since colonialism and the cultural connections between the two countries. The 2030 roadmap for India’s future relations, sets the framework for a comprehensive strategic partnership between the UK and India as an interconnectivity and influential partnership of global north and south leadership by covering various areas of collaboration.

USA:

The USA is one of the most developed and powerful nations in the global north as the U.S.-India strategic partnership focuses on various aspects, including political cooperation, economic relations, international collaboration, and India’s evolving foreign policy after 2014.

Political Cooperation: The U.S. & India strategic partnership is built upon shared values and mutual interest, including a commitment to democracy and the rules-based international system for binding in nature. The partnership is characterized by high-level engagements between leaders and their policy, such as President Biden and Prime Minister Modi, who have reaffirmed their commitment to a resilient, that promotes peace, prosperity, and democratic values. Additionally,

⁷ British Council and Microsoft partner to improve employment prospects of 400,000 young Indians
May 29, 2023 | Microsoft Stories

India became a closely interested partner of the USA in controlling the influential power of China in the global south.

Economic Relations: Economic ties between the U.S. and India have been growing steadily. In 2021, bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record \$157 billion but not only goods and services, but also the nation contributed to transferring technology, especially the defence sector and R&D sector. The United States is India's largest trading partner and export market. Many U.S. companies view India as a critical market and have expanded their operations there for best mind of personnel, while Indian companies seek to increase their presence in the USA for Indian students in the U.S. contribute significantly to the American economy, and Indian investment in the U.S. supports a substantial number of American jobs and The US, the world's largest economy, was the biggest source of remittances to India, with a 23.4 percent share in total remittance flows, followed by the UAE at 18 per cent.⁸

International Cooperation: India and the United States collaborate closely with various multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, G-20, ASEAN, IMF, World Bank, and WTO. In the G20 summit in continuing to share the view that global governance must be more inclusive and representative, President Biden reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and, in this context, welcomed once again India's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent seat in "2028-29". The Quad, formed by the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia, works to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. India also partners with the U.S. on initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity and the International Solar Alliance. India's involvement in various international organizations and partnerships reflects its growing influence on the global stage.⁹

Evolution of India's Foreign Policy: The text discusses the evolution of India's foreign policy in the late 20th century and early 21st century. Key points include:

- I. India's recognition of the importance of becoming a declared nuclear weapon power in the late 1990s led to a historic nuclear deal with the U.S. in 2005 and in upcoming years is probable that India and US may jointly work on various nuclear technologies.
- II. India's pursuit of simultaneous expansion of relations with major powers, including the USA, while maintaining ties with Russia, China, Europe, and Japan.
- III. Efforts to find political reconciliation with neighboring countries, such as Pakistan and China, address territorial disputes and seek normalization of relations.
- IV. India's transformation in its South Asian policy, emphasizes regional economic integration and multilateral approaches.
- V. Reconnecting with extended neighboring regions in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Middle East, focusing on economic relations and energy diplomacy.

⁸ <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-india/>

⁹ India's New Foreign Policy Strategy By C. Raja Mohan Strategic Affairs Editor The Indian Express, New Delhi,

- VI. A new approach towards key Islamic countries, emphasizing economic and commercial cooperation, energy security, and counterterrorism efforts.
- VII. This evolution in India's foreign policy represents a shift from traditional non-alignment and focuses on strategic partnerships, economic integration, and a proactive role in regional and global affairs.

6. Contemporary Challenges in Front of India:

India's foreign policy challenges the incoming government to navigate a rapidly changing global landscape. The article's central theme is the need for India to adapt to an evolving world order, marked by the shifting dynamics between major powers, especially the United States and China.

Key Points:

Western dominance is diminishing, but no single power is ready to inherit its global leadership mantle. The result is a period of disruption and altered state relations, driven by the increasingly confrontational dynamics between the US and China.

India's China Challenge: The asymmetry in economic and military capabilities between India and China is widening, posing a significant challenge. India's strategy with China involves cooperating on convergent interests while confronting Beijing when necessary. India is currently benefiting from China's tactical accommodation due to US pressures, but the long-term challenge is to narrow the power gap with its northern neighbor.

Regional and Bilateral Challenges: India faces complex challenges in its neighborhood, including Pakistan's use of cross-border terrorism as a state policy. The article recognizes that isolation efforts against Pakistan have had limited success due to its strong relationship with China and US interests in Afghanistan.

I. Discuss the impact of globalization and technological advancements on these dynamics.

Globalization and technological advancements have been instrumental in reshaping India's relationship with Western countries in the post-colonial era, after 1991 India exponentially promoted globalization to connect its local market with international trade practices for advancement in technologies. The rapid integration of nations through increased foreign trade and investment, fueled by technological innovations, has turned the world into a global town. In India, the integration of technology has not only revolutionized communication but has also transformed the job landscape, creating multifaceted roles that demand diverse skills. India's emergence as a global player in the technology and outsourcing sectors is a testament to its adaptability to the changing global dynamics because trading is the core subject that backs a nation financially. The growth of air travel has facilitated easier global movement of people and goods, contributing to the rise of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) that operate across borders, diffusing best practices

and fostering local-global interaction. Despite bureaucratic challenges and infrastructure gaps like the standard of implementation.¹⁰

The impact of globalization on India is nuanced, touching upon social and cultural values. While there is an internationalization of food habits, dress styles, and lifestyles, India has successfully retained its unique cultural identity.

Globalisation paves the way for a redistribution of economic power at the world level leading to domination by economically powerful nations over the poor nations. It has also let loose the forces of “uncivil society” and accelerated the transnational flows of terrorism, human and drug trafficking, organized crime, piracy, and pandemic diseases (For instance, COVID-19). The growth of these transnational networks threatens state institutions and civil society in many countries¹¹.

The issues of identity in the face of evolving global dynamics. Consumerism has permeated Indian society, marked by the displacement of traditional attire by Western fashions, especially in urban areas. Media, including movies and serials, plays a pivotal role in shaping behavior, dress codes, and language. The changing need to consume more reflects the influence of global trends on Indian consumer behavior as a result it directly shows the alarming state of decline in handicraft products, because a cultural influence always ties a strong knot between local people with self-improvement thoughts for betterment of nations economy.¹²

7. India’s position in multilateral

India’s tactical involvement in international organizations has played a multifaceted role in shaping its international standing. As a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 7 (G7), India established itself as a leading advocate for the concerns of developing countries within the United Nations (UN) system. This positioning allowed India to champion a more equitable international economic and political order, emphasizing the importance of addressing the aspirations of nations in the global South.

In the years between 1962 and 1976, India was going through several challenges that hindered its active participation in UN reforms. The conflicts with China and Pakistan, coupled with economic stagnation, and political instability, compelled India to adopt a low profile at the UN. During this period, India primarily focused only on matters vital to its national interest, as without being an economic giant it’s nowhere possible to question other international affairs by India which

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<https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/india-s-infrastructure-push#:~:text=Inadquate%20Planning%20and%20Implementation%3A%20Poor,impact%20of%20the%20infrastructure%20push.>

¹¹ <https://pwnlyias.com/upsc-notes/impact-of-globalization-on-indian-society/>

¹² <https://www.civildaily.com/impact-of-globalisation-on-india/>

completely changed in recent 9 years 2014-2023 where India's influence is mainly with western nations more than China's debt propaganda.

Despite the above challenges faced by India in the past, India consistently stressed the importance of the United Nations as a robust international organization reflecting contemporary global realities, that can be solved through this stage amicably with the rest of global order. India actively collaborated with like-minded countries to advocate for a meaningful restructuring and expansion of the UN Security Council (UNSC). The argument has been made that the current composition of the UNSC, reflecting the geopolitical architecture of the Second World War, does not adequately represent the current global landscape. India's pursuit of permanent membership in the UNSC is grounded in its substantial contributions to UN activities, especially in maintaining international peace and security. India's extensive participation in 43 peacekeeping missions, deploying over 160,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel, underscores its commitment to global security. In 2014, India emerged as the third-largest troop contributor, demonstrating its active role in UN peacekeeping efforts.¹³

Simultaneously, India's engagement with organizations in the global South, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BRICS, SAARC, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), has positioned the country as a key player in regional and global affairs. These memberships have facilitated economic growth, diplomatic ties, and regional stability. For instance, BIMSTEC has enhanced regional connectivity and cultural exchange, while BRICS has provided India with a platform to collaborate on issues ranging from economic development to climate change. Balancing its commitments to both North and South organizations, India continues to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics, advocating for a more inclusive and representative global order that aligns with contemporary realities.¹⁴

I. India's Interest in NATO's expansion Indo Pacific

The evolving geopolitical landscape, marked by NATO's recognition of China as a "systemic threat" and a strategic re-focus on Asia, presents an opportunity for India-EU ties to benefit from NATO's expansion. While India's traditionally non-aligned stance and aversion to bloc politics remain evident, the common threat perception of a hegemonic China has brought the US and Europe closer to India. The recently released NATO Strategic Concept emphasizes closer cooperation with Asia, positioning India as a gateway to the Indo-Pacific for Europe.

¹³ <https://www.indianbarassociation.org/indias-role-in-united-nations-reforms/>

¹⁴ by sakshi saroha, <https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/list-of-international-organisations-in-which-india-is-a-member-1586441817-1>

Despite India's absence as a NATO Asia-Pacific partner, the shared concerns about China's assertive behavior create a potential avenue for collaboration. India's participation in the Quad reflects a nuanced engagement in geopolitical bloc politics, challenging its historical non-alignment principles. The idea of a formal NATO-like alliance remains unacceptable to India under normal circumstances, but extreme scenarios, such as a China-India war or Beijing's invasion of Taiwan, could prompt a reevaluation of India's strategic autonomy. As India strengthens ties with the European world, effective engagement with NATO may become a plausible option, driven by the imperative to counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific.¹⁵

Despite historical hesitations and a longstanding policy of avoiding military alliances, India's geopolitical landscape is undergoing significant shifts, compelling a reassessment of its strategic partnerships. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration in 2016 about the end of historical hesitations in India-US ties underscores a changing reality. The rise of China and its assertive foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region has necessitated a strong India-US partnership, evident in initiatives like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). The recent proposal by the US Senate's India Caucus Co-Chairs to grant India 'NATO plus five' defense status reflects an evolving strategic imperative. While India has traditionally resisted military alliances, the changing global balance of power may push it toward a closer engagement with NATO. The recognition of India's importance in countering Chinese aggression and ensuring global security suggests that geopolitical realities could override historical reservations. As structural shifts in international relations unfold, India may find itself compelled to reevaluate its stance on military alliances, including the possibility of a closer engagement with NATO in response to the evolving challenges in the region.¹⁶

II. How India can minimize challenges arising with Global North like UK-Canada-USA

The major issues facing India in its international positioning with European nations and the USA after the war in Ukraine revolve around its historical ties with Russia and the challenges of diversifying its sources for commodities and high-tech defense systems. India's relationship with Russia has been a longstanding one, and any attempt to distance itself from Russia without incurring the wrath of the Kremlin poses a complex challenge. The first issue arises in finding alternative sources for commodities traditionally imported from Russia, considering the inflationary pressures brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, which may impact India's economic revival efforts ahead of the 2024 general election.

¹⁵ Jagannath P. Panda, August 2022, <https://isdpeu/publication/europes-pivot-to-india-examining-indias-nato-calculus-amid-chinas-fall-from-grace/>

¹⁶ HARSH V. PANT, <https://www.orfonline.org/research/geopolitical-realities-may-yet-push-india-closer-to-nato/>

A second challenge lies in the search for alternative providers of high-tech defense systems. India, dependent on Russia for such systems, faces the dilemma of not wanting to see Russia transfer comparable defense systems to China, potentially altering the balance of power in the region. However, national legislation and policies of alternative providers make this transition challenging. The fear is that Russia could leverage arms sales to India's adversaries, such as Pakistan, potentially jeopardizing India's security and creating geopolitical complications.

The third issue pertains to India's international standing, particularly about China, should Russia withdraw its political support in regional or multilateral forums. While India's immediate concerns may be its border disputes with China rather than issues like Kashmir, any isolation in international forums could have consequences for India's security. Striking a delicate balance in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine is crucial for India, as an excessive or precipitous reaction could have adverse implications for its security.

To address these issues and reduce tensions with European nations and the USA, India needs to navigate a careful path. European policymakers should understand that India's current position on the Ukraine crisis is not a deviation from its long-term trend of reducing dependence on Russia. India's posture is a product of its political management of relations with Russia and its position in the Indo-Pacific region. European nations should avoid pushing India into isolation and consider India's role in the broader Indo-Pacific context. Recognizing India's balancing act between Russia and the West and allowing space for its extrication from Russian dependencies will be essential. The EU should prioritize its relationship with India in the larger geopolitical landscape and, for the moment, set aside any disappointment over India's position on the Ukraine crisis. By respecting India's strategic decisions, the EU and the USA can foster an amicable environment for India to maintain its freedom for its own choice and effectiveness as a partner in the Indo-Pacific.¹⁷

To address any potential challenges in India-US relations, both countries must continue fostering regular dialogues at various levels, including diplomatic, economic, and strategic, it will be essential to ensure that both nations are on the same page regarding their priorities and expectations in major cases where defense ties, security threat for both the nations are involved. Additionally, a collaborative approach to regional and global issues, such as dealing with the aftermath of conflicts or crises, can further solidify the partnership.¹⁸

¹⁷ Frédéric Grare

Associate Senior Policy Fellow,

<https://ecfr.eu/publication/a-question-of-balance-india-and-europe-after-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/>

¹⁸ GAUTAM CHIKERMANE, <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/a-brief-history-of-india-us-relations/>

Sensitivity to Indian perceptions of double standards is highlighted as valuable. The Western governments should consider their historical actions, particularly during the US-led War on Terror, acknowledging past complicity in actions like torture, extrajudicial killing, and arbitrary detention. Recognizing these legacies could contribute to building trust and understanding between India and the West.¹⁹

8. Recommendations

- I. It is suggested that in navigating the complex post-colonial dynamics of India's relationship with the global north, India should vigorously advocate for global economic reforms that address the persistent economic interconnections stemming from colonial-era wealth theft. By actively participating in international forums and coalitions, India can push for fair trade policies, debt restructuring mechanisms, and greater economic autonomy for example India's approaches with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to consolidate its position as a global South leader. Recognizing the centrality of ASEAN in regional affairs is paramount. By actively participating in and promoting ASEAN-led regional architectures²⁰, India can showcase its commitment to cooperative and inclusive frameworks. This includes challenging the narrative that economic dependencies are immutable and promoting policies that foster better self-sufficiency and equitable global economic relations.

- II. India's perspective towards the global narrative underscores the significant influence wielded by its expansive diaspora, positioned prominently in various leadership roles across the globe. This diaspora, a testament to India's soft power and cultural outreach, serves as a crucial link between the nation and the international community. India's ability to gather Gulf nations and ASEAN countries around the table for discussions on shared interests and greater trading alliances is emblematic of its leadership role in the international arena. By promoting dialogue and cooperation among nations in these strategically significant regions, India plays a pivotal role in shaping economic and geopolitical dynamics. India's position as a mediator between the global North and South is solidified by diplomatic finesse displayed by engaging with Western nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France, and others further enhancing its global standing and contrary to no other country even china don't stand beside to play as navigator of the global south. by

¹⁹ The West gets a reality check on India, 16 October 2023, Editorial Board, ANU, <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/10/16/the-west-gets-a-reality-check-on-india/>

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<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/Display/Article/3371487/indo-pacific-strategies-what-do-they-entail-for-india/>

its inclusive approach to international relations. Acting as a bridge between these two spheres, India can facilitate dialogue, understanding, and collaboration.

- III. India's strategy for countering China's influence should extend beyond unilateral efforts, to build coalitions with major powers aligned with the need to reshape global power dynamics, acknowledging that post-colonial states collectively hold significant influence. Strengthening relations with Europe, Africa, and Latin America is imperative for India to diversify its global engagement, reducing dependency on historical ties and fostering a multipolar world, which we witnessed in the recent India G20 summit where newly added member name African Union and its directly adding 2 trillion combine GDP of Africa and its easy engagement with developed nations and India can play a dynamic mediator as well as a bridge of partnership, which reduce the risk like hunger and wars.
- IV. Maintaining and expanding engagement with Russia is crucial, given its historical ties and significance as a source of high-technology weapons along with being the biggest oil exporter for India. In managing India-US relations, resisting protectionist tendencies is advised, acknowledging the benefits derived from global trade and investment.
- V. In an interview with Samir Saran India's external affairs minister Dr. S Jaishankar gave a spotlight on certain areas of the global south "Power like India that too one which has civilizational aspect and Interest which defines in a very utilitarian and transactional manner" A comprehensive overview of the major foreign policy challenges facing India. It highlights the evolving dynamics between the US and China and the need for India to navigate these shifting power structures carefully. Building coalitions with like-minded nations such as the UAE and Saudi to balance China's influence like the curve down the belt and route initiative has become more crucial in the present scenario where war-like situations become common such as presently going on in Israel. This is a prudent strategy given India's limited capacity to single-handedly counter China's evil rise of suppression like Taiwan and later India as to become a global power, where India and the USA can jointly take strategic geographical location-wise nations such as Indonesia, Australia, Gulf nations, ASEAN countries and African nations to show economic as well as true partnership strength and its great example given by India during COVID and India as first nation given hand of friendship provide vaccine's to counter china's dictator regimes idea's.
- VI. The focus on India's neighborhood is crucial, as it directly shows strategic location points and a greater economic zone along national security. It is suggested that India should invest more in economic cooperation with neighboring countries and improve the delivery of its economic assistance programs but at the same time, India should raise issues like anti-India

sentiment or propaganda with nations like Bangladesh and Maldives. This will not only strengthen India's regional influence/cooperation but also help counterbalance China's expanding footprint.²¹

9. Conclusion

The intricate interplay between colonial institutional legacies, decolonization, and post-independence institutional development in India has shaped the nation's trajectory in multifaceted ways. The vulnerabilities of administrative institutions during decolonization, coupled with political interference, posed significant challenges. The survival of a merit-based bureaucracy in certain regions, like Travancore, exemplifies the resilience of specific administrative structures, the nuanced dynamics of India's transition to independence underscore the role of contingency, agency, and socio-structural factors, such as education, in long-term political and economic development. The post-colonial era unfolds as a complex drapes, revealing India's identity evolution, economic metamorphosis, and diplomatic recalibration. From colonial agrarian challenges to post-1991 economic reforms, India's journey reflects a commitment to safeguarding national interests and propelling itself into a prominent global position. This research illuminates the intricate threads woven into India's historical fabric, contributing to a deeper understanding of its political-economic development on the international stage.

²¹ <https://cprindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Policy-Challenges-2019-2024.pdf>

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