



## India's Diaspora and Foreign Policy: The Modi Years

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DR. RAMAKRUSHNA PRADHAN

### Introduction

Diaspora in recent times has emerged as a powerful entity and soft-power tool in the realm of foreign policy and strategic thinking of India. Although since independence, India has looked upon its people but never made sincere attempts to involve them in the domestic political calculation and economic development of the nation. This largely forgotten strategic asset of India though lately but has been effectively channelized by the successive National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Vajpayee initially and Modi currently. In recent years Prime Minister Modi made it a point to articulately use the 25 million people spread across 135 countries in India's internal and external policy formulation process. In this context, this chapter while deliberating upon the evolution of India's Diaspora policy since independence discusses the Diaspora policy

of Modi era and links it with foreign policy formulation process of India as it grows by leaps and bounds under the incumbent government.

### Evolution of India's Diaspora Policy

Even before India's independence, overseas Indians were looked upon with respect and sincere attempts were made to alleviate their sufferings. In 1890, Indian National Congress passed a resolution towards that direction. Among the gamut of issues raised in the resolution the core were to protect the rights and status of the British Indians living abroad on equal footing with other subjects of her majesty and to strive for mutual advancement and removal of disabilities (Chandrasekhar 2003). In sum, although INC has sought for equality of rights and opportunities didn't seek any special treatment for overseas Indians. Despite the existence of strong socio-political bond between India and Indian settlers abroad, it considered them as part of the society in which they lived. It also cautioned Indians abroad to uphold the rights of native citizens and not to interfere in the affairs of the domicile country.

### Diaspora Policy in Post-Independence Era

Even after the independence of India the problem of overseas Indians were not solved as deemed by Congress rather became more complicated (Aggarwal, 2001). The changes that come with India's independence to the overseas Indians are detailed out as below.

Firstly, during the colonial era overseas Indians were British subjects and their problems are handled by the British regime in place. But with independence and Constitution coming into force and implementation of Citizenship laws in India and several other newly liberated country from colonial clutches of Britain, overseas Indians were ceased to be British subjects and were divided into several categories - citizen of the country of their adoption, holder of valid British passport but without local citizenship, and the people of the stateless category. India considered those overseas Indians who had not sought Indian citizenship under Article 8 of the Constitution as PIO, not Indian nationals, whose allegiance was only to the country of their adoption. Every aspect of their problems (except the issue of racial discrimination), therefore, became an internal issue, and the promotion of their interests rested with the concerned national government. Given this fact, India had to view the Overseas Indian's problems altogether in a different context (Sinha, 2003).

# INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH GLOBAL POWERS

While engaging with different global centres of power, it is essential to know the issues India needs to address and the challenges it has to overcome in dealing with such issues. There are a wide range of areas of cooperation ranging from investment in trade and commerce to military strength, research in space, nuclear energy, information and technology, combating terrorism, healthcare, environment and other issues of common concern where collective action is indispensable for attainment of goal of sustainable development and global peace.

This book, containing 16 papers, seeks to explain and investigate the aforesaid issues pertaining to India's engagement with global powers. Different issues and their critical analysis help the reader to understand the dynamics of India's engagement with different nations such as USA, China, and Japan, Look East, neighbourhood and other issues from the larger canvass of geopolitical reality. Therefore, this book is intended to focus on the contemporary research and their findings from a large range of issues delving deep into India's neighbourhood first policy, India's Look East Policy, India's Central Asia Policy, India as an emergent power in global politics, Indo-Pacific and other issues.



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ISBN: 978-93-84081-31-7



₹1400.00



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First published in 2020 by

**SAGE | TEXTS**

**SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd**  
B1/I-1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area  
Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044, India  
www.sagepub.in

**SAGE Publications Inc**  
2455 Teller Road  
Thousand Oaks, California 91320, USA

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London EC1Y 1SP, United Kingdom

**SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd**  
1B Cross Street #10-10/11/12  
China Square Central  
Singapore 048423

Published by Vivek Mehra for SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd. Typeset in 10/12.5 pt Minion Pro by AG Infographics, Delhi.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020933011

ISBN: 978-93-5388-231-0 (PB)

SAGE Team: Amit Kumar, Indrani Dutta, Ankit Verma and Kanika Mathur



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## CHAPTER

### Kauṭilya: A Pragmatic Thinker

Ramakrushna Pradhan

#### CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Introduction
- The Life Sketch
- *Arthasāstra*: Science of Statecraft
- *Dhārma* and *Dandanīti*
- *Saptanga* Theory of State
- Theory of *Mandala*
- Foreign Policy
- Ethics and Politics
- Kauṭilya and Machiavelli
- Conclusion
- Summary
- Points for Discussion

Prajaa Sukhe Sukham Rajyah, Prajanam Cha Hiteh Hitam (In the welfare and happiness of the people lies the king's welfare and happiness).

—Kauṭilya (Chanakya Nīti)

#### Reader's Guide

We all know that an effective and pragmatic leadership is a sine qua non in statecraft. This chapter thus is an attempt to peep inside and ponder the real political persona of Kauṭilya better known as Chanakya. It provides a vivid account of Kauṭilya with an emphasis on his treatise on *arthasāstra*, *dhārma* and *dandanīti*, *saptanga* theory of state, ethics and politics and theory of *mandala*.

# **India's Foreign Policy towards China in Post COVID-19 World Order**

Ramakrushna Pradhan

## **Abstract**

Novel Corona Virus declared by World Health Organization (WHO) as COVID-19 as a pandemic affecting more than 215 countries worldwide is an infectious disease caused by a new virus appeared in Wuhan in China first. The disease claimed to have originated from the largest wet market of seafood in Chinese Wuhan province locates only a few kilometres away from the world-famous Wuhan Lab. As per the advisory of WHO, the disease spreads primarily from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, which are expelled on the surface when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or speaks. In the absence of any vaccine, the only preventive medication announced by the WHO is social distancing and self-quarantine. While all countries have adopted tough measures to handle the pandemic, the causality it has inflicted worldwide is unprecedented as millions and millions of people are infected with the virus while several lakhs have succumbed to death. In the past two weeks, more than 46 per cent of the new cases were reported in Europe and 39 per cent in the United States. While the U.S and Europe have been the epic centers of the virus, countries such as Russia and India have also experienced a resurgence of a number of cases and therefore have evolved different response strategies to handle the crisis including the extension of the lockdowns. Besides, the loss of human life, the virus has serious economic

Published by

**Palmview Publishing**

2A, Tower D, Belgravia Central Park Resorts  
Sector 48, Gurgaon – 122018, Haryana  
Email: info@palmviewpublishing.com  
Website: www.palmviewpublishing.com

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First Edition, October 2020

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Cover design created by Dr. Gargi Nag

ISBN: 978-81-943513-3-7

For sale in the Indian Subcontinent only

Printed at Thomson Press (India) Ltd.  
New Delhi



# Is India a Major Power

Dr. Ramakrushna Pradhan<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

A recurring theme of Indian political and intellectual argument in the twentieth century was the desire to forge for India a place on the global stage. Intellectuals like Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru all consciously refused parochial perspectives: while acknowledging India's weakness when judged by the conventional indices of power, they nonetheless sought to address a global audience, and were determined that India acquires international autonomy and responsibilities. After independence in 1947, Nehru - through the pursuit of what he termed 'intelligent self-interest' - managed to transform this almost ludicrously optimistic ambition into a relatively effective policy of state: in

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Academic Publication  
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1st Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Delhi-110094  
E-mail: [academicpublicationsdelhi@gmail.com](mailto:academicpublicationsdelhi@gmail.com)  
Tel.: 9811966475, 9811966603

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First Edition Published, 2018

ISBN : 978-93-83931-90-3

Printed at : Nagri Printers, Delhi

**PUBLISHED IN INDIA**

Published by Academic Publication, Delhi-110094







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