

**RESEARCH PAPER****The Swift Changes in the US-India Relations and Manifestation in the Indo-Pacific Region****¹Rooha Javed*, ²Dr Aisha Javed**

1. Visiting Lecturer, Department of Economics, Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan
2. IPFP Fellow, Department of International Relations Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan

***Corresponding Author:** roohajj@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

The study examines the relationship between the US and India, which has altered in different phases, and explores mutual interests. This strategic relationship is developing to compete and counterbalance China's expansion globally. The demise of the Cold War and mutual goals have potentially stabilized their strategic partnerships in the 21st century. The qualitative and descriptive methodology is used by reviewing content analysis of the literature to correlate the narratives of their foreign policies. Their strategic common interests have expanded to the Indo-Pacific; however, their policies are slightly different, which may cause a halt in the future in maintaining trust; India plays the role of a balancing state while the US maintains its hegemonic status globally by designing the economic corridor. The development of the relations between the US and India can also prevent the economic relations between India and China, which may directly impact on economies of the rising powers.

KEYWORDS: China, Cold War, Indo-Pacific, Nuclear Program, US-India**Introduction**

The world order runs under the hegemonic state's choices of devising the strategy of producing norms to be adopted by the middle powers and following them. Under the hegemonic rule, the policies of making and adjusting the strategic and security policies remain a constant feature. The US coincided with India significantly in sharing mutual concerns; firstly, developing economic ties due to India's growing economy attracted the US to make it a Partner. Secondly, both are delved into democratic values. Thirdly, both are facing regional security challenges that are rising from China. Moreover, they are highly inclined to make trade effective, open, and accessible for all while maintaining and expanding maximum choices when collaborating with multiple countries.

The complexity of US-India relations underscores significant events highlighting the major shifts in strategic alliances in states' foreign policy. These shifts include defensive cooperation, economic transformation, and the civil nuclear agreement. The period of the Cold War was decisive in transforming the relations between these two contending states. (Muzaffar, & Khan, 2016). By the end of the War, both states emerged as vital strategic partners in many terms, sharing common interests and featuring democracy. This article explores the changes and dimensions in US-India relations, which reveal developing interests and common factors that have worked as a cause of change in the 21st century. The analysis further explains the impact of international, regional, and shared interests that have cultivated the continuity of their relations, majorly to balance the influence of China in the Asia Pacific to the Indo-Pacific. India and the US focused on developing political relations after the upheavals emerged, hindering the development of smooth cooperative ties between them. The US's role in India's economic

narrative is significant, as it influenced India's shift from socialist development due to its failure to bring desirable economic betterment.

The objectivity of the United States in making cordial relations with India is to counter China's Influence across the regions, including South Asia and the Indo-Pacific, where the US and India converge on the same line. China is being seen as a revisionist state, which has prompted the US to counter it by making a strategic partnership with India (Muzaffar, & Khan, 2021). The 21st century has described the variations in the relationship of the trilateral state; under the Presidency of George W. Bush, he declared the US-China as a strong competitor while the US-India are allied by differing dynamics. He encouraged the defensive structure of India and other allied states to counter the influence of China's expansion of technology, economic advancements, and military strategies. Respectively, there are ideological differences among this trilateral relation, particularly democracy versus authoritarian ideology, global order, economic systems, military, and technology advancements (Yaseen, et. al, 2023) US and India share common interests, firstly adhering to the rules of democratic norms and justice to human rights, multilateralism, and open Indo-Pacific region for all. Their strategic cooperation threatens China's policy objectives in maintaining more significant excess to the desirable regions.

Literature Review

The authors, Malone and Mukherjee, explain that the US and India developed relations during the Cold War in different phases with some hindrances from both sides. However, they represented a common factor, "Democracy", which created bilateral correspondence towards each other. By the end of the Cold War, both states shared a common economic interest that actually provided a full intention of developing relations towards each other.

The author, Rong Chen, focused on the US intentions to move towards the Asia-Pacific to expand its foreign policy interests. This initiative was intended to develop Sino-US relations by exploring further possibilities to become a part of the region where the US can significantly explore more options to comprehend. Under the Presidential period of Barack Obama, this approach was adopted by seeking to expand the region's strategic, security, and economic sectors.

The two authors, Weixing Hu and Weizhan Meng, explain the US exploration of strategic power from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. The US foreign policy in the 21st Century has manifested by the evolution of China's maximization through economic corridors. Therefore, the US also initiated a multilateral approach by devising an Indo-Pacific economic framework through diplomatic means toward democratic states in which India plays a key role.

The authors of an article entitled, *The Evolution of India's Neighborhood Foreign Policy*, examined the preferences of Indian foreign policy inflicted towards neighbors to secure its position by balancing its national interest. This was the period of the Cold War, which significantly comprehended the evolution of Indian foreign policy perspectives under different ministries.

Vijay Gokhale explained the coercive relations between China and India that intensified their geographical border clashes; afterwards, to resolve the conflict, The US played a crucial role, which later became a reason for diplomatic relations between the US and India.

The relationship strength between the US and India is well explained by an author, Gul, who highlighted key features of the evolution of the strategic, economic, and defensive

relations development. This article highlights the civil nuclear deal between allies (US and India) that mentions the efficacy of defensive relations that further cooperated towards Indo-Pacific strategic importance to drive the regions under the US influence.

Jan Hornet explains the strategic partnership between the US and India, where they mutually engage in the Indo-Pacific. The Trump administration plays a significant role in developing strong narratives of exploring more strategic options to benefit both sides. Under such a strategic partnership, this article well explains how India perceives the US influence in developing its national interests.

In the book chapter, *Looking West, Acting East...*, the author sheds light on the mutual understanding and development of four major democratic countries, which paved the way for the Indo-Pacific region and ocean exploration with the major strategic goal to counterbalance China's expansion.

Material and Methods

The paper examines the content analysis of the relevant data, which includes primary and secondary data. In the primary data, official reports, commentaries, documents, and interviews of policymakers are thoroughly examined to review the foreign policy choices of states. While the secondary data includes books and their varied chapters that include particular information, research papers, newspapers, and magazines are used to devise a piece of collective information to do research. The descriptive and qualitative methodology is used to write about the changing patterns of the relationship between the US and India, which clearly identifies their depth of encouraging political, economic, strategic, and defensive goals and their common national interests.

Changing Relations During the Cold War

Since the Cold War, China has significantly formed bilateral cooperative relations between India and the US. The US and India share a common interest in countering the influence of China in Asia, respectively, which features three significant periods from 1949 to 1979 in developing ties between the US and India (Madan, 2020). After the independence of India, US President Truman moved towards India due to its non-communist status and geographical significance in developing ties to maximize influence in Asia, not militarily but economically (MERRILL, 1987). However, after the expansion of China's communism, the US downplayed India economically by not making direct cordial relations with it.

It significantly worked as a trading partner in the initial phase of relations between India and the US. However, India could not achieve attention from the US to make direct foreign policy towards India. Consequently, it intended for India to remain pragmatic towards national security to maintain relations in the subcontinent and bordering states, including the Soviet Union. For the first time, Nehru's Secretary of External Affairs, Bajpai, formally requested the US to provide economic and military assistance in 1948. However, the US ignored the Indian request due to the close relations with Pakistan. (MERRILL, 1987, p. 208). Soon after the independence of China in 1949, the Indo-China relations gave a space of concern to the US, illustrating the gradual influence of communism (Gokhale, 2022). To halt the spread of communism, the US turned up its foreign policy toward India to provide economic assistance. At the same time, India took a step forward to align itself with the US, but covertly, to grow economically as a newly independent state.

On October 13, 1949, for the first time, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made a visit to the US, which ended with the policy of adoption of non-alignment towards

any particular ideological-based bloc, capitalism, and communism (CFR, 2024). However, during the official visit, Nehru proclaimed diplomatic initiatives towards China when it was about to hold an agrarian revolution (Bergmann, 1982); resultantly, this approach negatively impacted the continuity of relations between India and the US. Later, relations became more hostile when the US cooperated with Pakistan while developing two military forums, namely SEATO and CENTO (MAZHAR, 2011).

In 1962, the Indo-China conflict raised concerns, and foreign policy shifted toward India during the Presidency of John F. Kennedy of the US. China's aggression against India increased, which changed the dimension of the relationship between India and the US by asking for military assistance to the US from India. In the meantime, India received military assistance through the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft to prevent Chinese expansion of communism and war in India (Athale, 2012). During this phase, the US recognized India as a strategically vital state to balance its power in Asia. From 1951 to 1963, India obtained approximately 8 billion dollars in economic grants from the US due to their shared standard features, particularly democratic norms (JHA, 1976).

The third wave of relationship deterioration erupted when India-Pakistan fought a war in 1971 on the cause of liberalization, which resulted in the state "Bangladesh." During this time, the Soviet Union directly developed cordial relations with India by signing a mutual "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation" (Das, 2021) that directly assisted India against Pakistan. Consequently, this cooperation soured relations between India and the US. Then, in the years that followed, in 1974, an India-led nuclear weapons test at Pokhran also forewarned the US against India's ability to conduct the nuclear program in South Asia (David et al., 2009). However, India maintained the same view of adopting this program for civilian peaceful purposes.

Categorically, India changed its narrative of supporting the Soviet Union when it started its foreign policy shifts towards Afghanistan. Furthermore, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi leaned towards diplomacy to fill the gap of soured relations with the West and the neighboring states, particularly China. Following this pattern of cordial relations, the US also gained support from India during the military operation in the Gulf in 1990 (Halliday, 1994). Until the end of the Cold War, several new directions of the relationship emerged, such as the development of diplomatic means in foreign policy among the US, China, and India.

Post-Cold War Relations

The strategic relations of Indo-US retained momentum after the demise of the Soviet Union, after India's policy of changing economic structure while modifying it with the West. Despite having a policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, India left the Cold War conventional strategy to make cordial relations with the West. In common, both countries are the largest democracies in the world, and they remained estranged during the Cold War. However, after the end of the Cold War, they cordially shifted their foreign policy, which enunciated the clear objective of realising themselves as a natural ally to balance the strategy of power in the Asia Pacific due to the rising economic status of India in the region. (Vijayalakshmi, 2015).

Defensive Relations

After the event of 9/11, India and the US collaboratively engaged on the matter of counterterrorism. Therefore, they engaged in multiple defensive relations along with strategic cohesion. The major shift in US foreign policy was initiated when US President Bill Clinton made a historic visit to India in March 2000 after the long gap that had happened in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter (S. et al., 2007). His foreign policy was mainly intended for nonnuclear proliferation for the developing states. Therefore, the US

imposed sanctions on India and Pakistan for acquiring nuclear programs. However, the Kargil War in 1991, between India and Pakistan, successively aligned India and the US, prominently sidelining Pakistan from the US (S. Paul Kapur, 2007, p. 650). Even on a visit in 2003 to the US by an Indian PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee called the US a Natural ally of India. By sharing the strategic terms, both allies initiated their cordial relations by producing maximum cooperation in Indo-US relations by signing “Next Step in Strategic Partnership” in 2004 (Kaushiki, 2020) and the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal, which came into existence during the presidency of George Bush in 2005 (Kamath, 2006). This nuclear deal illustrated by the US towards India enhanced the commitment to forging relations with its ally and made significant approaches to cooperation in various avenues.

In sharing common concerns, India and the US came closer. At the same time, security threats emanated from Pakistan and Afghanistan and strategic influence on the trading seas, namely the South China and Indian Ocean from China. Moreover, their strategic cooperation includes interdependence related to the Indo-Pacific region's security, economics, technology, climate issues, and maritime interests. Even so, the US advanced its provision of facilities of defensive measures to India to maximize its adhere its alliance. Thus, to counter the threats coming from Asia, particularly from China and Iran, President Obama made progress in hopping with India by maintaining its defensive structure by providing Ballistic Missile Defense (BMDs) for its security in South Asia (Shah, et. al., 2020; Gul, 2021).

The twenty-first century saw major bilateral mutual partnerships, with the United States seeing India as a significant actor in Asia who can surpass China's objectives in the Indo-Pacific and Asian regions. Under Barack Obama's administration, he collaborated on the development of relations to maintain peace by giving India with defensive military support to defend its border from terrorist threats. There are numerous causes for the US and India's defense relationship; however, they have made the most of their armaments and technical advances. The US views India as a suitable state because of its rising power and regional stability. Later, in 2012, US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta described this defensive cooperation as a "pivot to Asia" under Obama's administration (Chen, 2013).

Following this strategy, to balance future objectives, including the US economy and military objectives, it intends to counter the military advancements and economic interdependence developed by China in the Asia-Pacific region that contains the maximum national interest of the US. Since 2000, the importance of the Asia-Pacific region has played a significant role in maximizing US foreign policy objectives, particularly the expansion of economic trade (Mark E. Manyin, 2012).

During the Modi government, India expanded its interest toward the policy of “neighbourhood first,” (Bharti, 2023, p. 226) which included making significant relations with the major powers, the US and China. Under consideration, Obama's second tenure also prioritized India as a significant player in stabilizing American foreign policy objectives of “Rebalancing of Asia.” (Vijayalakshmi, 2015, p. 135). Furthermore, the US has also shared a bid for India at the United Nations Security Council, which simultaneously progressed bilateral dialogues with each passing year (Wetering, 2016). Hilary Clinton followed the strategic partnership with India and called it a defining partnership. Hence, the US formulated India after Clinton's presidency, which successive administrations, including Bush, Obama, and Trump, followed.

US-India and Indo-Pacific Interests

After considering the foreign policy objectives related to the “Asia-Pacific” in the US policy, it has promulgated and devised a new outlook with the Indian Ocean, simultaneously terming it the “Indo-Pacific,” which culminated strategic ties and

consideration of making cordial relations towards India. US and India allied on the converging interest by developing a 2+2 dialogue highlighting their manifestation of developing global security and strategic concerns in the Indo-Pacific region. This comprehensive alliance features multiple sectors covered as a growing strategic partnership with an extension of the nuclear energy partnership (Sharma, 2020). During the agreement, both states signed a mutual agreement, the “Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement” (BECA) (Roy, 2020), through which they shared the development of military and trading partnership to enhance further capabilities of halting the influence of China’s authoritative position by BRI and to advance security strategies on the Indo-Pacific.

The US invention of finding India as a vital player in pursuing the US strategic interest by assisting it through economic and military assistance also seeks to produce maximum objectives regarding the human development agenda through mutual consensus. This relationship development has united both states to develop a mutual transition on the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean that will collaborate on stability, security maximisation, and prosperity. The rise of China in the 21st century has designated India as a beneficial partner for the US’s strategic advancements. Besides, the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean, which significantly merges seven seas, has also prompted the US to move towards India in consolidating foreign policies to have a maximum approach to the Asia Pacific (Nisar, 2019).

During Donald Trump's presidency, foreign policy regarding the Indo-Pacific was reevaluated in three basic terms: making India a strong state in defensive and economic aspects, promoting the Indian Ocean free from hindrance in commerce, and developing the Indo-Pacific open and accessible for trade. Both states emerged as a correlative partner in advancing their maritime security by developing technological advancements related to aircraft and jet engines. Respectively, from 2014 to 2015, both states progressively aligned their foreign policies per their national interests, such as the US foreign policy of “rebalances to Asia,” and India aligned its approach towards the “Act East policy.”

Concurrently, these foreign policy shifts changed the relationship behaviour of states from the Asian regions and showed interest in the Indo-Pacific strategy. Consequently, their foreign policies regarding Asian states illustrated joint exercises to follow the path of consultations, dialogues, promoting diplomacy, and adhering to rules of the international law described in the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (Mukherjee, 2019). In advancing the US relationship towards India has also continued under the Presidency of Joe Biden, who is likely to follow Obama's policies of rebalancing Asia and filling the gaps between US-India relations. Alternatively, the distinct approaches of India and the United States toward the Indo-Pacific will be transferred to his government. While Indian priorities towards the Western Indian Ocean have been undermined by the US in reevaluating India’s interest, it has created a noticeable gap.

Another prominent factor in building relations with India in the IPS is controlling the maritime routes in the Indian Ocean to establish trading routes that will fulfill the strategic and economic purposes of the US and allied states, particularly Australia and Japan. Moreover, India is considered a vital regional security provider due to its growing economic power. Even so, India has increased its relationship development towards its neighbours, which is meaningful in connectivity to the Indian Ocean due to the transformation in the routes and energy securities. To consider this, India has also transformed its foreign policy to develop bilateral and multilateral relations by following its narrative of Look East policy, where it can develop relations towards ASEAN, including rising economies such as Australia, China, and Japan. In addition, this agreement will improve India's position from the Gulf to the Strait of Malacca after it develops naval ties in multiple directions (Upadhyay, 2014, p. 4). The transformation

from the non-alignment to the strategic autonomy has shifted Indian foreign policy interests stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific region.

The US and India share different policies regarding their mutual interests and relations with China. The theory of realism defines the approach of the US, particularly during the Trump administration, which advocated the principle of containing China by making alliances. According to the realist Han J. Morgenthau, the International power structure is the power struggle, which is the ultimate aim of a state (Morgenthau, 1948). India seeks to balance its position in the IPS by not directly contending with China. However, the relations between the US and India follow Neo-Realism, where they find themselves under the shadow of anarchical structure that deals with the survival of a state. Moreover, in the IPS, India is profoundly accepting the position of the US as a hegemonic power to deal with China's influence. In incentivizing India, the US has adopted an induced balancing (Hornat, 2023) that will directly assist India in providing assistance to play a balancer role against China and in the IPS. The position of the US clearly defines the role of a hegemonic stability theory under which a state (India) coincides.

Strategic Importance of the Indo-Pacific

The strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific for the US is to stabilize its hegemonic power, prevail over the liberal political order, and retain an open economic pass to maintain and maximize trade. Through this strategic partnership, the US wants to utilize diplomatic efforts mainly focused on protecting the Sea Line of Communication (SLOC) and the security concerns of maritime boundaries (Upadhyay, 2014). The development of the IPS leads to the cooperation of the US with allies to train them for the new opportunities produced by these strategic measures. Another factor in advancing the Indo-Pacific region is maintaining an alliance with traditional allies such as Australia and Japan while maintaining defense production with India. Moreover, by strengthening economic relations, the US has intensified its approach to integrating defense with an economy, which culminates in relations with the agricultural-rich, technologically advanced, educational, and food security measures, including South East Asia and South Asia (Upadhyay, 2014, p. 3). Another major initiative, "Trans-Pacific Partnership" (English, 2012) is also designed to bring like-minded states to develop economic relations via trade to maximize the US market. Another major significance will be fostered for the US in managing diplomatic practices with Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands (report, 2022).

Integration of the Indo-Pacific and Asia Pacific will lead to the growth of energy transitions in geopolitics, such as gas and oil commodities. The region's nautical significance promoted the US's interest in maximizing its naval exercises in the ocean. The concurrent expansion of strategic relations resulted in the buildup of four democratic states' collaboration, which further showed interest in developing a mutual agreement named Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) in 2004 (Malhotra, 2023). To counter the influence of BRI, in November 2017, the US revived the alliance QUAD to improve further the efficacy of the IPS (Colombage, 2019). This agreement further initiated mutual dialogues on strategic terms to expand democratic values and elucidate their vision of the importance of trading via oceans.

India perceives the Indo-Pacific as a navigational initiative to diversify its maritime access in the ocean. To attain respective benefits, India approached this strategy to mark up its naval security apart from land security. Furthermore, it is highly amicable to develop diplomatic ways to maximize its economic routes in the region and the Indo-Pacific oceans. The geographical location comprising a three-dimensional coastline of almost 7500 km has provided a significant place as a maritime-rich state in the IPS framework to align with allies (U.B. Singh, 2021). Indian PM Modi has also

mentioned the importance of this strategy for India during the Shangri-La Dialogue and stated it as a vision to expand security, maritime, trade, and diplomatic dimensions. Through QUAD, India has formally developed relations with allied partners to extend its presence in the Indo-Pacific region further, which improves Indian foreign policy and national interests in further extending its relations in the Act-East Policy.

China's Concerns

The formation of the US-based economic corridor in the Indo-Pacific region has progressed China's concerns towards it. It seeks this initiative as a policy of containment led by the US against China. However, it has already shared concerns about the Asia Pacific strategy designed by the US. China is not on the verge of accepting multipolarity and multilateralism, which is building regional architecture to maximize US expansion and limit China. Previously, even China refused to accept the strategy of the US policy towards Asia Pacific that extended the US position in Asia; now, the Indo-Pacific strategy is openly adjusting states to share mutual interests with the US, which also includes India. Because China and India are fighting for regional hegemonic power and stability, both states seek to jostle their influence in the seaward's maritime theatre (Muzaffar, et. al., 2017)

China's primary interests align with the Indo-Pacific region. China wants to balance global power by overthrowing the traditional basis of power stability led by the US. Moreover, it wants to stabilize its domestic politics, which would lead to successive regime stability in the region. Hence, China directly threatens the US while possessing maximum development in the military and economic sectors through interdependence among states. Secondly, it seeks to maximize energy securities connected to the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, mainly constructing the route for oil trading for China.

The implementation of the IPS directly impacts China's BRI's economic integration. It also significantly affects China's political, economic, or military relations with the partnering states and collaborating regions in the IPS. Moreover, the US is more likely to extend its presence in the South China Sea through the strategic behaviour of the IPS. China views the IPS as presenting strategic expansion concerns. The United States seeks to thwart China's gain of absolute power in the Indo-Pacific area, as this could result in China attaining significant leverage in maritime affairs and regional economic progress.

To counter the IPS's challenges, China should strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations with Indo-Pacific nations through diplomacy. Attending regional events and activities that encourage dialogue and cooperation could undercut the perception of the IPS as a containment tool against China. Also, it might improve South China Sea military transparency to allay fears about its military intentions. Joint exercises and sharing naval operations intelligence with nearby countries may help develop trust and minimize tensions. Moreover, the relationship between the US and China lies on the zero-sum principle, where they perceive their foreign policy objectives to be defined in relative gains.

Divergence of Interests

The relationship development of the US towards India indicates its (US) proximity to make India abide by the strategic and political norms of the US in formulating India's foreign policy. In devising the Indo-US relationship, there is a role compatibility between them, in which a state's foreign policy is designed so that another follows it. Then, this compatibility bounds the state's expectations towards each other. India sees itself as a regional power and continues to maximize national interests, including military security, economic surplus, and political sectors.

Despite being strong partners with mutual interests, the US and India envision that their foreign policies should remain independent without any disruption or influence from either side. Following this, India is a crucial partner of the US; however, India must maintain its independence in foreign policy without aligning it with the US in achieving its national interests. Surprisingly, there is a divergence in the cohesion of foreign policy formulation; for instance, the US sees India primarily as following the structure of the desirable condition led by the US foreign policy towards China. The Bush administration has considered India due to the rising economic condition and military advancement that would significantly hedge Chinese influence. However, by considering independent stances on the formulation of foreign policy, India will remain adherent to see its national interest as a primary objective to follow towards any state, even towards China (Perkovich, 2005). Despite the conflict, India and China are trading partners in respective health vitals and economic sectors. This difference between the US and India towards China may split their interests in following the same foreign policy pattern.

To become a part of the Indo-Pacific strategy and align with the US's concerns established from India's domestic factor. Another possibility of divergence of relations may occur due to India's stumbling economy. Gaining the position of extended defense relations from the US strategy of the Indo-Pacific has halted India from China's economic and trade connections. The internal formation of alternative trading routes in the Indo-Pacific economic framework would exacerbate India's economic relations with China. The vision of both states in operating their foreign policies towards the Indo-Pacific region corresponds to different approaches. For the US, it is predominantly related to halting China's military, maritime, and economic expansion and interdependence. On the other hand, India perceives it majorly to posture a position by not confronting China.

The US desires to create a liberal international system based on rules to counter influence China and Russia, while India perceives this strategy as being adopted by every state, whoever wants to join it, independently. Moreover, the US concerns are directly influenced by China's threat to its (US) national interests and security. However, India compels the notion of sidelining China by creating an environment of solely competition. Furthermore, India is developing its foreign policy on multilateralism to maintain cooperation that directly improves the inclusion of its national interests gains. This multi-alignment postures the position of India to adhere to its policy of strategic autonomy without loitering into any conflict and tilting toward any particular power.

Conclusion

The warming relations between the US and India can be improved more effectively by encouraging India to its position in the Indo-Pacific and making multilateral alliances related to air and military security with the US. Despite abandoning the notion of non-alignment and replacing it with strategic autonomy, the Indian narrative of exceeding its national interests remains. However, warm relations between the US and India give them options in diversified conditions to mitigate their differences by acknowledging their mutual interests, which began with the nuclear program and moved toward the Indo-Pacific region. By following the pattern of the Indo-Pacific strategy, all allied partners can further improve on state issues related to non-traditional security concerns, particularly for India and the US. The US and India stand on mutual interests; therefore, the US needs to assist India and provide significant information related to China's strategies and must consult each other's interests over the maritime boundaries.

The US and India share a common perspective on the IPS; therefore, to mitigate China's expansion towards India's interests has given acceptance to the US as a supreme leader by playing itself as a balancer in leading the IPS. Their relationship can be halted if they presume their foreign policies to be in opposite interests. Both states perceive

foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region as related to their mutual interests while explicitly seeking different visions simultaneously. In evaluating their mutual interests sit well in the future, it is not evident under their clash of viewing China as a common threat to contain. The particular focus of the US is to contain China, while India does not see China as a major reason for making cordial relations towards the IPS strategy.

Recommendations

The above-mentioned study shows several indications with respect to the bilateral, even multilateral, states are highly encouraged to achieve foreign policy choices, priorities, and national interests. In the bilateral cooperative relations between the US and India, they are playing vital roles in securing their national interests, however, they are equally important for each other to prevent any aggression. There are some recommendations for partnering states in the Indo-Pacific region after analyzing their structure of foreign policy-making, such as:

- The US and India need to address the strategic importance of the region with full cooperation without influencing any aggressive measures.
- India has put forth its position as a strong democratic partner under the influence of the US in the IPS due to its power stability. Therefore, they must work under the same conditions without influencing the foreign policies of either side.
- To stabilize the geostrategic position and global free trade phenomenon to be implemented, all partnering states must address the common issue by devising diplomatic means rather than adopting any oppressive means.
- India must be informed and get all the information from the US to revive any mutual strategic cooperation and understanding; in any case, China hinders their relations.
- All non-traditional issues should be addressed equally by enacting diplomatic measures to mitigate issues through the platform of the IPS.
- Also, making cordial relations with China can be beneficial for all because strong economic states can mutually discuss issues.

References

- Athale, C. A. (2012, December 04). The Untold Story: How Kennedy came to India's aid in 1962. *Rediff.com*
- BECA: The deal that will make Indian missiles deadlier has finally been signed. (2020, October 28). *The Economic Times*
- Bergmann, T. (1982). The interaction of agrarian movements and political changes in India. *Law and Politics in Africa, Asia and Latin America*, 15,(4), 35-454.
- Bharti, S. K. (2023). Eution of 'India's Neighbourhood First Policy' Since Independence. *Society*, 60, 224-232.
- CFR. (2024, July 15). *1947 – 2023: U.S.-India Relations*. Retrieved from *Council on Foreign Relations*: Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-india-relations>
- Chen, R. (2013). A Critical Analysis of the U.S. "Pivot" toward the Asia-Pacific: How Realistic is Neo-realism? *Connections*, 12(3), 39-62.
- Meng, Weixing Hu and Weizhan (2020). Indo-Pacific Strategy and China's Response . *Institutes for China-America Studies*, 20(3), 143-176.
- Das, R. N. (2021, September 26). *Eution of Indo-US Relations: From Estranged Democracies to Estranged Democracies*. Vivekananda International Foundation.
- David M. Malone, R. M. (2009). India-US Relations: The Shock of the New. *International Journal*, 64(4), 642-656
- English, P. (2012). *An Opportunity for American Leadership in the Asia-Pacific Economy*. The Ripon Forum,
- Gokhale, V. (2022). A Historical Evaluation of China's India Policy:Lessons for India-China Relations. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, N/A. 1-50.
- Gul, D. R. (2021). Neo-Dynamics of Indo-US Strategic Partnership: Challenges for Pakistan. *NDU Journal*, 35, 12-24.
- Halliday, F. (1994). The Gulf War 1990-1991 and the Study of International Relations. *Review of International Studies*, 20(2), 109-130
- Hornat, J. (2023). Hegemonic stability in the Indo-Pacific: US-India relations and induced balancing. *International Relations*,37(2), 324-327.
- JHA, D. C. (1976). U. S. POLICY TOWARDS INDIA. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, LXXIV, 1, 41-70.
- Kamath, P. (2006). Civilian Nuclear Deal: Turning Point in Indo-US Relations. *India Quarterly*, 62(3), 23-56.
- Kaushiki, N. (2020, December 3). Indo-US Strategic Partnership: The Genesis and its Trajectory Eution, *Diplomatist*.
- Madan, T. (2020). *Fateful Triangle: How China Shaped U.S.-India Relations During the Cold War*. Gurgaon, India: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

- Malhotra, A. (2023 , June 01). *Balancing act, diverging interests: The shades of grey in India-US ties and a quandary for Quad*. Scroll.in.
- Mark E. Manyin, S. D. (2012). Pivot to the Pacific? The Obama Administration's "Rebalancing" Toward Asia . *CRS Report for Congress* (pp. 1-29). New York: Congressional Research Service.
- MAZHAR, M. J. (2011). SECURITY GAME: SEATO and CENTO as Instrument of Economic and Military Assistance to Encircle Pakistan. *Pakistan Economic and Social Review*, 49(1), 109-132.
- MERRILL, D. (1987). Indo-American Relations, 1947-50: A Missed Opportunity in Asia. *Diplomatic History*, 11(3), 203-226.
- Morgenthau, H. J. (1948). *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Mukherjee, R. (2019). *LOOKING WEST, ACTING EAST. Southeast Asian Affairs*, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Cambridge University Press.
- Muzaffar, M. & Khan, I (2016). China-Russia Relations after the Cold War *Orient Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 1 (II), 151-169
- Muzaffar, M. & Khan, I. (2021). China's Foreign Policy and Strategic Stability towards South Asia: An Analysis, *South Asian Studies*, 36 (2), 339-350
- Muzaffar, M., Yaseen, Z., & Rahim, N. (2017). Changing Dynamics of Global Politics: Transition from Unipolar to Multipolar World. *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal*, I (I), 49-61
- Nisar, R. D. (2019). India-US Relations Through the Lens of The Cold War: The Time of the Estranged Relations . *RUDN Journal of Public Administration*, 6(4), 286-295.
- Perkovich, G. (2005). Faulty Promises: The US-India Nuclear Deal. *Carnegie Policy Outlook*, Carnegie Endowment, Commentary
- Report, T. W. (2022). *Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States*. Washington D.C: The White House.
- Roy, S. (2020, November 3). Explained: BECA, and the importance of 3 foundational pacts of India-US defence cooperation, *The Indian Express*
- Kapur S. Paul and Ganguly S. (2007). The Transformation of U.S.-India Relations: An Explanation for the Rapprochement and Prospects for the Future. *Asian Survey*, 47(4), 642-656.
- Shah, S. T. A., Muzaffar, M., & Karamat, S. (2020). Asia-Pacific under Obama's Rebalance Strategy: Regional Responses, *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 1 (1), 30-41
- Sharma, B. D. (2020, November 06). *The Third India-US 2+2 Dialogue: Defence, China, and Indo-Pacific Security*. Australian Outlook.
- Singh. U.B. (2021). India and the Indo-Pacific. In L. B. Hai, *Maritime Issues and Regional Order in the Indo-Pacific* (pp. 211-231). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Upadhyay, S. (2014). *The Indo-Pacific & the Indo-US Relations: Geopolitics of Cooperation*. Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
- Vijayalakshmi, K. (2015). India and USA: A New Moment in Strategic Partnership. *Indian Foreign Affairs Journal*,10(2), 133-139.
- Wetering, C. v. (2016). *Changing US Foreign Policy toward India: US-India Relations since the Cold War*. New York: The Palgrave MacMillan
- Yaseen, Z., Muzaffar, M., & Shahbaz, K. (2023). Defensive Strategies of Central Asian Republics: From Bipolarity to Multipolarity, *Asian journal of International Peace and Security*, 7(1), 143-156.