

*Full Length Research*

# INDIA'S NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY: ITS PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

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India's non alignment as an instrument of foreign policy evolved through continuous interaction with domestic circumstances and the external environment, this evolution was marked by staying power, a capacity to encounter volatile configurations of power and flexibility to incorporate changes demanded by circumstances. In this paper, we will discuss the India's policy of "non-aligned movement." This is an important organization, particularly in the history of international relations, and especially as it pertains to the Cold War period. Understanding the Non-Alignment Movement, and its purposes and principles on key international relations issues will be useful for those looking to know more about how a large country bloc has attempted to work together on issues such as nuclear disarmament, the politics of Global South states, as all as for those who want to know more about international organizations, or the history of international relations as it pertains to the Cold War. The present study is an attempt to know the non-alignment policy, its purpose and principles.

**Keywords:** Non-alignment, Purpose, Principles.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was created and founded during the collapse of the colonial system and the independence struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions of the world and at the height of the Cold War. During the early days of the Movement, its actions were a key factor in the decolonization process, which led later to the attainment of freedom and independence by many countries and peoples and to the founding of tens of New Sovereign States. Throughout its history, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has played a fundamental role in the preservation of world peace and security.

While some meetings with a third-world perspective were held before 1955, historians consider that the Bandung Asian-African Conference is the most

immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement. This Conference was held in Bandung on April 18-24, 1955 and gathered 29 Heads of States belonging to the first post-colonial generation of leaders from the two continents with the aim of identifying and assessing world issues at the time and pursuing out joint policies in international relations.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Khanna (2009)** The policy of non-alignment was announced by Jawaharlal Nehru, soon after taking over as interim Prime Minister, developed into the concept of non-alignment. It is said to be directly related to the Cold

War which has commenced as soon as the Second World War ended. The policy of non-alignment was to keep away from bloc. Politics, maintain friendship with both and military alliance with one, and evolve an independent foreign policy.

**Arora (2016)** The World War II and the world thereafter created an altogether different international order, immediately after the war in 1945, there emerged a period neither of world peace nor of world war. It was a period of cold war where the world appeared to be divided into two rival camps ideologically opposed to each other, it was a period of intense hostility, competitive rivalries, mutual suspicion and arms race amidst this the non-aligned movement emerged which was supported by the recently independence won nations of Asia and Africa and simultaneously backed by a host of Latin American Countries, a movement whose role was to diffuse the cold war situation. Non alignment movement is not merely a foreign policy for countries like India; it is a movement as well.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study about the history of non- alignment policy of India.
- To highlight the various purposes and principles of the movement.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of the study, both published and unpublished secondary data as well as primary data has been utilized. Secondary data have been collected from various books, research papers and articles. In addition to this study, data have been collected from various journals also. The research is also based on the referred sources- published, unpublished and electronic.

## India's policy of Non-Alignment

India under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru was the first country to have adopted the policy of non-alignment. India's policy is positive or dynamic neutralism in which a country acts independently and decides its policy on each issue on its merit. Non alignment is based on positive reasoning and it is not a negative, middle of the road reluctance to distinguish between right and wrong. It does not mean that a country just retires into a shell. Nehru had declared in the US Congress in 1948, "Where freedom is menaced, or justice is threatened or where aggression takes place, we cannot be and shall not be neutral.....our policy is not neutralist but one of active

Endeavour to preserve and if possible, establish peace on firm foundations".

India wanted to prevent the third world war, Nehru said "If and when disaster comes it will affect the world as a whole.....our first effort should be to prevent that disaster from happening." Reiterating India's resolve to keep away from power blocs, he said in 1949, "If by any chance we align ourselves definitely with one power group, we may perhaps from one point of view do some good, but I have not the shadow of doubt that from a larger point of view, not only of India but of world peace, it will do harm. Because then we lose that tremendous vantage ground that we have of using such influence as we possess.....in the cause of world peace. India's foreign policy has always had certain priorities, viz., economic development of the country, maintenance of independence of action in foreign affairs, safeguarding country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and world peace. India has firmly believed that these objectives can be achieved only by keeping away from power blocs, and exercising freedom of taking foreign policy decisions.

India's policy of non-alignment was against the *status quo* situation in international relations that meant opposition of colonialism, imperialism, racial discrimination and now of neo-colonialism, India wants a world free from these evils. Secondly, non-alignment rejects the concept of superiority of Super Powers; it advocates sovereign equality of all states.

## PURPOSES

- ✓ To promote and reinforce multilateralism and in this regard, strengthen the central role that the United Nations must play.
- ✓ To serve as a forum of political coordination of the developing countries and to promote and defend their common interests in the system of international relations.
- ✓ To promote unity, solidarity and cooperation between developing countries based on shared values and priorities agreed upon by consensus.
- ✓ To defend international peace and security and settle all international disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the principles and the purposes of the UN Charter and International Law.
- ✓ To encourage relations of friendship and cooperation between all nations based on the principles of International Law, particularly those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
- ✓ To promote and encourage sustainable development through international cooperation and to that end, jointly coordinate the implementation of political strategies which strengthen and ensure the full participation of all

countries, rich and poor in the international economic relations under equal conditions and opportunities but with differentiated responsibilities.

- ✓ To encourage the respect, enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, on the basis of the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, avoiding politicization of human rights issues, thus ensuring that all human rights of individuals and peoples, including the right to development, are promoted and protected in a balanced manner.
- ✓ To promote the strengthening and democratization of the UN, giving the General Assembly the role granted to it in accordance with the functions and powers outlined in the Charter and to promote the comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council so that it may fulfill the role granted to it by the Charter, in a transparent and equitable manner, as the body primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
- ✓ To continue pursuing universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, as well as a general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control and in this context, to work towards the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time to eliminate nuclear weapons, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.
- ✓ To oppose and condemn the categorization of countries as good or evil based on unilateral and unjustified criteria, and the adoption of a doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including attack by nuclear weapons, which is inconsistent with international law, in particular, the international legally-binding instruments concerning nuclear disarmament and to further condemn and oppose unilateral military actions, or use of force or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Non-Aligned countries.
- ✓ To encourage States to conclude agreements freely arrived at, among the States of the regions concerned, to establish new Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones in regions where these do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD.1) and the principles adopted by the 1999 UN Disarmament Commission, including the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone

in the Middle East. The establishment of Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones is a positive step and important measure towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

- ✓ To promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to facilitate access to nuclear technology, equipment and material for peaceful purposes required by developing countries.
- ✓ To promote concrete initiatives of South-South cooperation and strengthen the role of NAM, in coordination with G.77, in the re-launching of North-South cooperation, ensuring the fulfillment of the right to development of our peoples, through the enhancement of international solidarity.
- ✓ To respond to the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities arising from globalization and interdependence with creativity and a sense of identity in order to ensure its benefits to all countries, particularly those most affected by underdevelopment and poverty, with a view to gradually reducing the abysmal gap between the developed and developing countries.
- ✓ To enhance the role that civil society, including NGO's, can play at the regional and international levels in order to promote the purposes, principles and objectives of the Movement.

## PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.
- ✓ Respect for Sovereignty, Sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.
- ✓ Recognition of the equality of all races, religions, cultures and all nations, both big and small.
- ✓ Promotion of a dialogue among peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions based on the respect of religions, their symbols and values, the promotion and the consolidation of tolerance and freedom of belief.
- ✓ Respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the effective implementation of the right of peoples to peace and development.
- ✓ Respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State.
- ✓ Reaffirmation of the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the

right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination.

- ✓ Non-interference in the internal affairs of States, no State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State.
- ✓ Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments.
- ✓ Rejection of attempts at regime change and Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations.
- ✓ Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law or is in any way incompatible with it, for the purpose of coercing any other State to subordinate its sovereign rights, or to gain any benefit whatsoever.
- ✓ Total rejection of aggression as a dangerous and serious breach of International Law, which entails international responsibility for the aggressor.

## CONCLUSION

Non-Alignment as a movement traces its roots to First Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru, who gave the idea of an organization of newly independent states of Africa and Asia in a radio speech as early as 1946. The Nehruvian idea of Non-Alignment found favour with certain other newly independent states. The policy of non-alignment was to keep away from bloc. Politics, maintain friendship with both and military alliance with one, and evolve an independent foreign policy. The Non-Aligned Movement, faced with the goals yet to be reached and the many new challenges that are arising, is called upon to maintain a prominent and leading role in the current International relations in defense of the interests and priorities of its member states and for achievement of peace and security for mankind.

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