

Political Approaches and the Restructuring of International Order in the Twenty-First Century

Pradip Jankar

Research Scholar

Savitribai Phule Pune University

Mob. 9987459573 Email: pradipjankar1998@gmail.com

Abstract

In International relations, territoriality is the expression of a common sense of identity and goals combined with the creation and implementation of institutions that express a particular identity in a geographic region and shape collective action. The idea of regional dialogue engendered by regional cooperation is at the forefront of the contemporary global political environment. Regional organizations are international organizations in a sense, as they include international membership and geopolitical entities that operationally transcend a single nation-state. They are established to promote cooperation, political and economic integration and dialogue between states or entities within restrictive geographical boundaries. One of the important regional organizations is SAARC. SAARC is an economic and political regional association of South Asian countries established in 1985. It aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development among member states by enhancing inter-regional cooperation. Right now, the world is going through a phase of transition. The international order largely created by the United States after World War II still exists, but at the same time new powers are emerging and old ones are declining, and the rise of influential non-state actors is irrevocably changing the global distribution of power. Despite this unstable situation, the active participation of SAARC in the changing global system is increasing qualitatively and the importance of SAARC in creating strong international relations among the countries located in the region of South Asia is unique. And SAARC is doing it vigorously through mutual dialogue, that's for sure!

Keywords: SAARC, Dialogue, Territoriality, Cooperation, Geopolitical entities

Introduction

In the 21st century, the world order is changing rapidly and different perspectives are emerging. Uncertainty and volatility have increased in world affairs. Therefore, recently the world has seen the rise of authoritarian rulers in many countries. A world order is a preferred

arrangement of power and authority that is concerned with the realization of values such as peace, economic growth, equality, human rights, environmental quality and sustainability. A world order based on the principles of sovereign equality and national self-determination is international and state-led. This means that national governments are responsible for making and implementing international rules and policies. We are currently in the midst of a geopolitical transition. As a result, competition between countries is very intense. Since the late 1980s, globalization has changed the international economic environment for regionalism. Regional political approaches have acquired new dimensions in the changing situation. New forms of cooperation and interaction between regions are expected in the new multilateral world order. Also, there is a need for collective action and shared solutions to overcome the challenges posed by other issues. India is actively engaged as an emerging factor in the changing global order. It would not be wrong to say that India is a country capable of leading the world on challenging fronts.

Objectives

- 1) To study India's relations with other countries.
- 2) Rethinking the commitment to developing mutual relations by way of regional cooperation.
- 3) To review the exchange and dialogue between India and SAARC countries.
- 4) To study the role of India in improving its position in the contemporary world order.
- 5) To study the correlation between regional organizations and foreign policy.

Methodology

- 1) Information about India's regional political approach was obtained through discussion.
- 2) According to the discussion, meaningful information was obtained from the experts through informal chats by asking sub-questions and it has been used in the places where the information was needed.
- 3) Information was collected through meetings and discussions with practitioners in colleges, universities, research centres and embassies.
- 4) Reference texts were used.

Research Questions

- 1) To what extent do traditional theories of international order remain relevant in explaining current global power shifts?
- 2) Is the contemporary international system transitioning from unipolarity to multipolarity, and what political approaches explain this shift?
- 3) What political approaches are most effective for managing global order in an era of uncertainty and fragmentation?
- 4) What role do regional organizations (EU, ASEAN, African Union) play in restructuring global governance?

Regional Political Approach: Role and Status

In world politics, many nations inevitably have relations and conflicts with each other. It is not possible for any nation to live a happy and prosperous life in isolation only by living within its own geographical limits. Every nation determines its position in world politics on the basis of its national power. Also, the regional political approach of each nation is also different. A country like India which follows an egalitarian approach has a friendly attitude towards other regional organizations. Even though there are political relations between India and regional organizations, efforts are being made to establish peace in the world through cooperation and negotiations. The United Nations, established after World War II, is an international organization that strives to bring stability and harmony to international relations through exchange of ideas. It is very important to end the current malaise in global politics. The role of leading regional organizations like SAARC, European Union, ASEAN, African Union is important in this. Because their place in the world system is being clearly highlighted day by day.

Foreign Policy of India

After India's independence in 1947, Nehru is certainly credited with shaping Indian foreign policy. His foreign policy was based on the four principles of peace, development, disarmament and interdependence. He emphasized four things in his foreign policy: non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations, non-imposition of our will on other nations, abolition of colonialism and establishment of social sentiment. India's Cold War era foreign policy in the post-independence era mainly included opposition to neo-colonialism, opposition to racism, opposition to arms race, opposition to nuclear weapons, and opposition

to nuclear testing. At the same time, peaceful coexistence, achieving economic and social development through international cooperation were important principles. It also includes assisting the United Nations in its work. After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, there was a radical change in the implementation of foreign policy. It mainly focused on improving relations in South Asia. At the same time, steps were taken to strengthen friendly relations with neighbouring countries. Also, the Modi government had decided to develop relations with developed countries like USA. Under these policies, efforts were made to give priority to economic development, efforts to attract foreign investment, emphasis on foreign capital and technology, emphasis on health sector, protection of national security and interests.

India-SAARC Bilateral Relations

India considers regional cooperation under SAARC important to promote economic growth, social progress, cultural development and security in South Asia. India has supported various SAARC initiatives focused on connectivity, trade, agriculture, poverty alleviation, energy, tourism. SAARC is a game changer for India's Act East Policy. It connects South Asian economies with Southeast Asia which will boost India's economic integration and prosperity mainly in the services sector.



Image Source: Google

The idea of a regional dialogue engaged through regional cooperation is foregrounded in the contemporary global political milieu. Undoubtedly, rapid globalisation has prompted the world powers and their neighbouring countries to reap the benefits of the collective aspirations and endorse reciprocal transregional and solidarity. Situated at the heart of the Indian Ocean, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is one such proactive transregional organisation, which is constantly negotiating closer regional cooperation in situating its accomplished citizenry globally. Demographically speaking, many of these accomplished individuals are settled in the globalised East and West and have played a phenomenal role in the growth story. Of course, the presence of a tacit populace is too ubiquitous in the developed world. However, their integration into the member countries of South Asia has been little negotiated. SAARC can consider diasporic participation in the subcontinent's policy-making and approaches. They also need a regional platform where the member countries can address their shared vulnerabilities and risks. Therefore, it has become imperative that SAARC brings them together and emerges as a backup body when these migrants are challenged outside their regions. It naturally becomes a current regional onus that this matter is sensitised and in turn advantages of forming a regional-diasporic alliance are comprehended and forged. Historical, geographical, literary, and political research repository on the South-Asian diaspora suggests that they have been most adaptive and harmonious in their settlements in a transoceanic setting.

The Rise of India as a Global Soft Power

India is an enlightened nation with a vibrant soft power heritage. The country is aware of the weightage of its cultural investment and has to put in a little more effort to present its culture attractively to the nooks and crannies of the world. India's concept of soft power is original and inherently natural, consistent with India's rich history and associated with harmonious cultural transmission. Soft power left with it an image of upright hovering spheres and credibility, which inspired developing nations around the world after seeing India's position. Over the centuries India has provided shelter, religious and cultural freedom to Jews, Christians, Muslims and many other religions. India's history and culture is her heritage to the world which shows the evolution of India's history. How India assimilated various religions in harmony and yet never lost its own culture and history. India's ability to add soft power, strengthen ties and bridge the gap created by history and politics has increased. In the 1990s, India advocated peaceful progress and a friendly policy towards its neighbours and soft power to support its legitimacy in South Asia and complement India's foreign policy.

Limitations of Study

It will be impossible to get information by visiting the embassies of each country related to India and regional political approach and discussing with them. So, information was obtained by visiting the nearby embassies in Mumbai. So, it is safe to say that the context generated by this study cannot be applied to the regional political approach, which will be the biggest limitation of this study.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

In the era of globalization, as the world has become closer due to technology, the importance of cultural exchange has also increased. SAARC is an economic and political cooperation organization of 8 countries in South Asia namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The combined economy of the SAARC member states is the third largest in the world after the US and China and 21% of the world's population lives in the SAARC region. The importance of each country in the changing global system is unique. The changing nature of political attitudes and regional organizations is giving a different turn to world politics. The geopolitical position of South Asia is developing rapidly and the Indian Ocean is contributing to it. SAARC has the capacity to respond forcefully to a strong power like China. SAARC can be seen not only as a group of developing countries but as an all-round developing organization. There is no doubt that India, as a superpower in SAARC, is capable of leading not only South Asia but the entire global system.

- 1) Reform and Strengthen Global Governance Institutions
- 2) Promote Inclusive Multilateralism
- 3) Enhance the Role of Regional Organizations
- 4) Encourage Adaptive and Flexible Foreign Policy Strategies
- 5) Integrate Emerging Powers into Decision-Making Processes

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