

# General buried new delhi's cold war-era opposition



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General 1.

PowersShifts: Changing Triangular Dynamics. While Chinese leaders and diplomats still chant the mantra of “peaceful rise,” their body language makes it clear that they expect everyone to get out of their way. Its long-term goals of establishing supremacy in Asia & global order are also contingent on having weaker and pliant states on its periphery<sup>1</sup>. It is as determined to change the monopolistic international order as the United States seeks to preserve it. These goals invariably pit China not only against the United States and Japan, but also against India. 2. Just as the Chinese view the United States as a hegemonic power and accuse Washington of pursuing a policy of containment, Indians accuse Beijing of using every opportunity to contain India while publicly professing support for friendly ties<sup>2</sup>.

Public proclamations of friendly ties have been overshadowed by unresolved territorial disputes, large arms supplies to Pakistan, and patrols by Chinese nuclear submarines in the Bay of Bengal. 3. Apprehensions about expansionist and hegemonic China have buried New Delhi's Cold War-era opposition to US forward presence, now viewed as “invaluable in balancing Chinese power and outreach”<sup>3</sup>. For its part, Washington strategy documents talk of India's positive role as a “net security provider in the Indian Ocean and beyond.

”<sup>4</sup> 4. Non-Alignment or Military Alliance. Although US-India relations have come a long way, there are still residual differences and doubts. India's historic quest for strategic autonomy, its self-identity as a great civilization, and great power ambitions have marked Indo-US relations

as principally distinctive from wherein US is used to having a dominant voice. Unlike Britain, Germany, and Japan of the 1950s, India is a rising, not receding, great power. Entering into a military alliance with US is not only likely to have impact on India's strategic autonomy; it is also likely to have a major impact in the regional power dynamics, including India's relations with its neighbours.

However, with Asia turning into coliseum of power play, Chinese's expansionist moves and increasing power differential between China and India, can India still afford a Non-Alignment 2.0 or is it time for India to adapt pragmatically to realign its foreign policy to enter into a military alliance with US to safeguard its national interests?

Literature Review 5. In Penguin books publication Non Alignment 2.0 by various authors, the scholars have developed an informed debate about various challenges India confronts, both internal & external. The authors of the book have identified India's neighbourhood as key priority in formulating grand strategy for the nation, attaching special emphasis to balancing relation with China and US.

The authors have also developed arguments towards both ends, i. e, either to have or avoid having formal alliances. 6. In Palgrave Pivot publication "The US pivot and Indian Foreign Policy" Harish V Pant & Yogesh Joshi have explained Indo- US interests in each other and evolving Asia's balance of power. The authors also argued in the book that both India & the US require each other in Asia to counter China, while also suggesting few options for Indian foreign policy.

7. In Routledge Publication "US-Indian Strategic Cooperation Into the 21st Century" on the contrary to the above, authors laid more focus on the hurdles and have articulated few conditions for possibility of military alliance between India and the US.

8. In another Routledge Publication, "Engaging India", scholars have highlighted historical bottlenecks, arguing that India has little to gain in endorsing a formal military alliance with

9. C Raja Mohan in India Research Press book "Impossible Allies" has also argued against possibility of a formal military alliance between India and the US.

However, with increasing hegemony of China and rise in its military prowess, the recommendations made by the author, need to be re-analysed.

10. Identification of the Gaps. Following gaps have been identified during the course of literature review: - (a) Possible roles for India in complementing US pivot strategy and likely impact on India. (b) What impact will decision to enter a military alliance with US have on strategic autonomy of India? (c) Impact on regional stability viz a military alliance between India and US. (d) Relevance of military alliance concept in present day scenario. Research Problem 11.

The above mentioned topic has following research problems:- (a) What role India can play in US's 'Pivot' strategy, and what will be its impact on its relations with China? (b) What are India's concerns and opportunities in aligning with US as a strategic military partner and is it likely to have any impact on belligerence of China? (c) What impact will strategic military alliance have on the regional stability of South Asia with special reference to impact on India's relations with China? (d) What are the hurdles to

strategic military alliance between India and the USA? Statement of the Problem 12. The research will analyse the apprehensions and opportunities of Indo-US military alliance and its likely impact on primary Indian interests & regional stability so as to recommend whether India should enter into a strategic military alliance with US to counter the Chinese hegemony. The aforementioned Statement of Problem has been derived from combining 2(b) and 2(c) research problems above. Objectives of the Study 13. The research would be based on descriptive and exploratory design and would take help of empirical data available on stated Indo-US strategic interests and concerns.

The research will analyse the impact of military alliance on India's core interests and predict best course of action for India while deciding whether it should enter into a strategic military alliance with the US. 14. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:- (a) Evaluate the relevance of the military alliances in present day strategic scenario. (b) Analyse concerns and opportunities for India in entering into a strategic military alliance with US to counter the Chinese hegemony and recommend suitable approach it should adopt to successfully pursue its national development goals and international interests. Hypothesis 15. India should reinvigorate its strategic relations with US without committing itself into strategic military alliance directed against China. The type of Hypothesis I have stated is Directional hypothesis.

Research Methodology 16. Methods of Data Collection-

Primary. (a) Questionnaire. (i) Pilot Survey. A pilot questionnaire was sent to a sample comprising ten student officers of

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DSSC, Wellington and two senior armed forces officers.

(ii)

Final Survey. (aa) Questionnaire.

A final questionnaire comprising 14 questions based on Likert's scale was prepared. The questionnaire attached as Appendix C was fielded in 'GoogleForms'. (ab) Sample. A sample was selected of more than 150 officers from all three services undergoing the Course at DSSC, Wellington and senior central and state level administrative officers for noting the responses.

(b) Methods of Data Collection- Secondary. (i) Owing to the distinctiveness of the topic, there is not much literature available. However, the secondary data was collected from library, periodicals, research papers, seminar proceedings and articles written by renowned researchers, military analysts and defence strategic forums. (ii) Information for this dissertation was acquired from both documentary and non-documentary sources. The World Wide Web had been the major source of information and was widely accessed for research papers, documents, reviews, articles and speeches. Data available from eminent research organisations, both governmental and private institutions has been included and cited accordingly. Chapterisation 17. The Dissertation has been restricted to the opportunities and concerns emanating out of potential strategic military alliance between India and the US and its regional implications so as to suggest best possible course of action for India.

It has been covered under the following chapters:- (a) Chapter I: Introduction and Methodology. This chapter would cover a brief introduction

to the topic, literature review, research problem, statement of the problem, objective of the study, hypothesis, research methodology & chapterisation. (b) Chapter II: Shadow of the Dragon-Dynamics of Indo-US Relations in the Current Transition of Power in Asia. This part will trace the rise of belligerent China and analyse its impact on Indo-US relations. This part would also highlight ambivalence of interests of both the countries in balancing Chinese rise and potential opportunities of a strategic Indo-US military alliance.

This part of the dissertation is exploratory in nature. (c) Chapter III: US's 'Pivot' Strategy and Potential Indian Role in the New Power Dynamics. This part will critically analyse the contrasting requirements of both the countries and highlight significant foreign policy and security challenges for India in opting for a strategic military alliance with US.

This chapter also explains the regional impact of India's overture towards US and possible military alliance. This part of the dissertation is exploratory in nature. (d) Chapter IV: Non-Alignment<sup>2</sup>.

0- New Imperatives for Defence Diplomacy. This chapter analyses the relevance of military alliances in the present global order potential of Indo-US military alliance. This chapter will also bring out potential of re-energised defence diplomacy in shaping strategic alliances suggesting that Neo Non-Alignment is potentially best course of action for India. This part of the dissertation is explanatory and deductive in nature. (e) Chapter V: Data Analysis & Inferences. The tools of research, the questionnaire and survey analysis will be applied in this chapter to validate the hypothesis.

(f) Chapter VI: The Way Ahead/ Conclusion. This part will make concrete recommendations charting out future course of action for India. This part of the dissertation is inductive in nature. 1 Mohan Malik , Sage Journals Volume: 179 issue: 1, page(s): 46-57 2 Mohan Malik , Sage Journals Volume: 179 issue: 1, page(s): 46-57. 3 Ibid. 4 Robert Gates; " America's security role in the Asia-Pacific"; The IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: 14th Asia Security Summit; 30 May 2009; available at url: <http://www.iiss.org/en/events/shangri-la-dialogue/archive/shangri-la-dialogue-2009-99ea/first-plenary-session-5080/dr-robert-gates-6609> 5 Mohan Malik , Sage Journals Volume: 179 issue: 1, page(s): 46-57.

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