

Book Reviews

Statecraft and Foreign Policy: India, 1947-2023. By Subrata K. Mitra, Jivanta Scholtli and Markus Pauli. Dublin: DCU Press, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-7393542-2-0

This book offers an in-depth analysis of the dynamics of India's foreign policy since independence in 1947 until 2023. The author provides an assessment of how well India's foreign policy has been implemented, starting from the leadership of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this book, the analysis of Indian foreign policy is divided into three important stages, such as: the first period, the beginning of India's independence in building the foundations of foreign policy when the Western and Eastern bloc powers competed, the second period, after the end of the cold war which made India have to adjust foreign policy and finally in the third period, during the era of globalization where India carried out its foreign policy actively in various regional and global multilateral organizations in protecting its interests.

Statecraft and foreign policy are an inseparable unit. Foreign policy is an important element in statecraft. Even though both have different focuses and aspects, they complement each other in helping countries to protect their interests in the international world. Statecraft is more about the state's efforts to manage state affairs including planning and implementing policies. Meanwhile, foreign policy is an instrument for a country to protect its interests and manage relations with other countries. Statecraft is a

strategic framework used in formulating foreign policy. In this book, the author tries to analyze the influence of statecraft on foreign policy in maintaining India's sovereignty and protecting their interests in the regional and global society.

The first part of the book describes the evolution of India's foreign policy after independence. In this period, India faced several challenges in shaping its foreign policy direction. The challenges in formulating India's foreign policy include establishing the foundations of post-independence foreign policy from England, regional dynamics, and global political conditions which are divided into two poles of world power such as the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc. At the beginning of India's independence, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru attempted to formulate India's foreign policy. In foreign policy formulation, there are internal and external factors that influence foreign policy formulation. Internal factors include the influence of the legacy of British rule which is quite deep and embedded with diverse, overlapping ethnic, linguistic, and religious identities. External factors include regional conditions that are not yet conducive to the conflict between Pakistan and China. Meanwhile, the Cold War constellation also forced India to determine its stance. To maintain India's sovereignty, Nehru implemented the principle of non-alignment not taking sides with the western and eastern blocs. The author also sees that foreign policy in this period was more influenced by the political views of Indian prime ministers from Indira Gandhi to Rajiv Gandhi to Narendra Modi.



In the second part of this book, the author analyzes India's post-cold war foreign policy. The shift from bipolar to multipolar forced India to change its foreign policy. The author analyzes India's foreign policy by looking at the complexities that occurred after the cold war, such as aspects of security, economics, and alliance formation. In the security aspect, India's foreign policy was influenced by the nuclear program that they carried out in 1998. The nuclear development program that India carried out was part of the arms race that took place between India and Pakistan. During this period, India was involved in an armed conflict with Pakistan which is still ongoing today. On the economic and alliance aspects, India's foreign policy is focused on trying to build good relations with various large countries such as the US, Russia, and China. Efforts to build relations with these big countries are part of India's strategy to protect its interests.

In the third part of this book, the author analyzes India's foreign policy by looking at India's active involvement in various multilateral organizations at regional and global levels. This effort is seen as part of India's efforts to demonstrate India's existence in the international arena. India involves itself in various multilateral organizations covering various fields such as international trade organizations, climate change organizations, and regional organizations. India's activeness in various multilateral organizations aims to promote national interests, strengthen global influence, and contribute to world stability and prosperity. Through this participation, India can play a critical role in global policy formulation, building strategic alliances, and addressing complex international challenges.

Lastly, this book provides many views on India's foreign policy from the beginning of independence to the present. This book provides readers with insight into the complex and in-depth dynamics of foreign policy regarding how India faces various challenges in determining its position as a major player in the regional and global spheres. The analysis carried out by the author is also very comprehensive and uses a comparative perspective in its analysis. The analysis carried out is also very broad, covering historical, political, economic, and security aspects.

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