

Abstract

Foreign policy and world peace are essentially grounded in values, ideas and diverse perspectives. Value neutrality is claimed but never found in the domain of foreign policy and world peace. Many factors and elements determine the foreign policy of a nation - history, economy, geographical proximity, geopolitical standpoints, ideological goal settings, normative principles, etc. Hence, these contextual inputs cannot be denied in the study of foreign policy; and we in this study opted to focus on the behavioural dimensions and selected the personality and leadership of Indian premiers as the key determinant of Indian foreign policy and its approach to peace.

Expectedly, in the formal and informal discussions on India's foreign policy and its view to world peace, many academicians, scholars, and commoners have found the roots of international events (namely- World War- I & II, Cold War, ethnic conflicts in Africa and global climate change) in the soil of national and international leadership style. Interestingly, many scholars argue that power and leadership are incompatible as explanatory drivers. In other words, it has seen that a 'good and powerful' premier produced shoddy or weak foreign policy; similarly a 'less powerful' leader often puts together a highly effective foreign policy in terms of diplomatic needs. This dissertation is an attempt to undertake a thorough study and contextually personalised analysis of Indian foreign policy in terms of its normative goal of peace.

This research discusses India's view of world peace and how it has been practiced through the mechanism of foreign policy. The very few nations of Asia can righteously claim to having a 'foreign policy committed to world peace'; and India is a fit case to study how power aspirations coordinate with a discursive normative goal like peace. It is interesting to see that in spite of

poverty and many shortcomings, India has not flinched from its mission of promoting world peace and humanity. The thesis has engaged primarily in the analysis of the nature and contributions of Indian and Western Schools of peace at the very beginning; and then it focused on the contributions of Indian premiers (ideologically and administratively) in the field of Indian foreign policy in relation to the idea of peace.