

INDO-US RELATION BEFORE AND AFTER COLD WAR.



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Abstract

India's relationship with the United States has been the subject of debate and discussion. Despite being the world's largest democracy, India could never enjoy a smooth relationship with the world's oldest democracy-which means that sharing the same value system, will not act as a glue to hold states together in the international politics. Recently both the states, have changed their estranged relationship into a good one, due to various agreements.¹ The historical links between the two democracies can be traced to the year 1492, the year when Christopher Columbus discovered America in the course of his search for a new route to India. But formal and official relations began after India gained Independence². Relations between the United States and India are now all-time-high, with the two countries enjoying unprecedented levels of cooperation in the economic, strategic and diplomatic spheres. Dr Manmohan Singh was of the opinion that, India and the United States' share the common goal of making this one of the principal of relationships of our countries.³

India and United States in Cold War Era.

India and the United States being separated from each by thousands of miles had few opportunities in the past to come close to each other. The British Government also did not

want the two countries to establish direct contact, for it feared that India might get inspiration from the United States for intensifying its political struggle⁴. The two countries though quite different from each other in their geographical setting, race, culture and habits, cherish common ideals. They have both lived under subjection to the common power for a long time. Both have fought vigorously for their independence, though with different methods. After independence, India tried to develop friendly relations with the United States. However, after Second World War, the US policy of containment of communism and India's policy of Non-alignment did not match together and became their major source of difference. The refusal of India to join the military alliance sponsored by the United States and different stands taken by it on various international issues like recognition of the communist regime of China, the Korean crisis, the American-Vietnam war and the Afghan crisis were quite annoying to the American leaders. On the other hand the US support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue in Security Council and grant of military aid to Pakistan on Bangladesh issue to the Indian leaders.⁵ India and the US spent several decades cold war at loggerheads over the issue of nuclear weapons proliferation. In the wake of India's 1974 peaceful nuclear explosion, the United States made South Asia a centre piece of its non-proliferation efforts, in part by crafting legislation such as the 1978 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, the Pressler Amendment and the Symington Amendment designed to thwart India and Pakistan from acquiring nuclear weapons⁶. Indians deeply resented this policy which they viewed as discriminatory and hypocritical. If nuclear deterrence worked for the west, Indians reasoned. Why should it be any less effective in South Asia? In 1998 the then foreign Minister Jaswant Singh famously labeled the US non-proliferation policy "Nuclear Apartheid"⁷. Thus for most of the past six decades, relations between the US and India were frosty. Why then has their relationship changed so radically in recent years. We argue that a confluence of structural, domestic and individual leadership factors has been responsible for this change. At the structural level, the end of the cold war fundamentally altered India's strategic calculus and broadened US foreign options. At the domestic level, India's economic reforms made it an attractive business and trading partner. At the individual level, political leaders broke with past policies in ways that helped to change the trajectory of Indo-US relations.⁸

Recent Trends in Indo-US Relation.

The demise of Soviet Union and the end of the cold war had profound consequences for India's and security policies. The Indians realized that a closer relationship with the United States could help them fill the vacuum left by the Soviet Union's fall and also balanced against rising Chinese power. The US for its part was no longer forced to view Indo-US relations on their own merit thus the massive structural shift that resulted from the end of cold war foreclosed India's old Soviet-centric strategic policies and drove it to consider an approach more amenable to cooperation with the US. The shift also enabled the US to be more receptive to this new orientation.

Domestic level factors also contributed to an Indo-US rapprochement in the post-cold war era. The most important element was the severe financial crisis that gripped India in 1991, after the first Gulf War. The convergence of three distinct forces caused this crisis. First, India had badly depleted its foreign exchange reserves purchasing oil on the global spot market prior

to the outbreak of the war. Second, hostilities forced India to repatriate at short notice, over 100,000 expatriate workers from the Persian Gulf region. Their return closed an important source of foreign exchange, third shortly after the war's end; series of loan payments to multilateral banks came due. The combination of these three factors sent the Indian exchequer into a tailspin.⁹

The Finance Minister of India Manmohan Singh initiated the liberalization of Indian economy in 1991, which attracted towards India the major world economic power including the United States. In 1994 Narsimha Rao visited United States. In March 2000, Bill Clinton came to India and in September 2000, Atal Behari Vajpayee, visited the United States. In January 2001, George.W.Bush succeeded Clinton as the next President of United States who looked for a good relationship with India. From July 1998 to 2000, ten rounds of talks were concluded between both foreign policy leaders Jaswant and Talbott top foreign policy leaders in both countries, to lay the new and intensified grounds of Indo-US relations. President Clinton visited India on March 21-25, 2000, the first US president visit to India after a gap of 22 years. He described his visit as "strengthening a friendship that indeed is critical to the future of the entire Planet." Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Clinton issued a joint statement outlining their vision of the new relationship.¹⁰

On March 2, 2006 in New Delhi George.W.Bush and Manmohan Singh signed a Civil Nuclear Agreement following an initiation during the July 2005 summit in Washington between the two leaders over Civilian Nuclear Cooperation. The successful passage through the United States Congress of the Henry J. Hyde United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act. 2006 a land mark event in bilateral relations to enable the United States to extend full control nuclear cooperation to the India.¹¹

The future relationship between India and United States seems to be very close and cordial. In many ways the character of the 21st century will depend on the success of our cooperation for peace, prosperity and democracy and freedom.¹²

In November 2009, President Obama hosted an inaugural visit with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at White House and they discussed on various issues of development. In May 2010 National Security Strategy noted that, the US and India are building a Strategic Partnership that is underpinned by our shared interests, our shared values as the world's two largest democracies and close connections among our people and working together through our strategic Dialogue and high-level visits we seek a broad-based relationship in which India contributes to global counter-terrorism efforts, non-proliferation and helps to promote poverty reduction, education, health and sustainable agriculture.

In June 2010 the United States and India formally re-engaged the US-India Strategic Dialogue to produce a joint statement in which the two countries pledged to "deepen people-to-people, business-to-business and government to government linkages for the mutual benefits for both the countries and for the global peace. It outlined extensive bilateral initiatives in each of ten areas:

- Advancing global security and countering terrorism.
- Disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Trade and economic relations.

- High Technology.
- Energy security, clean energy and climate change.
- Agriculture.
- Education.
- Health.
- Science and technology.
- Development.¹³

The deputy Secretary of defiance Ashton Carter during his address to the Asia society in New York on August 1st 2012,said India-US relationship is, has reach and influence of both countries. He was also of the opinion that both the countries are also improving the relations in terms of Defense and research negotiations.¹⁴

2012 US Trade in goods with India

Month	Export	Import	Balance
January	1,524.6	3,109.8	-1,585.2
February	1,503.7	3,027.6	-1,523.9
March	1,715.8	3,364.4	-1,648.6
April	1,792.2	3,335.5	-1,543.2
May	1,832.3	3,571.8	-1,739.5
June	1809.0	3,466.6	-1,657.7
Total	10,177.7	19,875.7	-9,698.

Table shows the trade relations between the two countries during this year i.e. in 2012.

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