



Significance and determinants of foreign policy

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Abstract

This research is about the study of Significance and determinants of Foreign Policy. Here firstly, the meaning of the very term Foreign Policy is discussed which means, the policy which a state adopts to work on a global level with various other states. The whole essence of this prelude is that the term foreign policy cannot be studied in isolation from the factors that determine it. There are various objectives which a Foreign Policy has to achieve which can be, Short Range Objectives, Middle Range Objectives, Long Range Objectives, which includes the core objectives and are time bound if they are for a shorter period. Lastly, undoubtedly Foreign Policy has a major importance for a state. Foreign policies are designed to help protect a country's national interests, national security, ideological goals, and economic prosperity. This can occur as a result of peaceful cooperation with other nations, or through exploitation.

Keywords: foreign policy, objectives, state, nations

Introduction

The meaning of the very term Foreign Policy is discussed which means, the policy which a state adopts to work on a global level with various other states. In the words of Prof. F. S. North edge, " Foreign Policy is the use of political influence in order to induce other states to exercise their law-making power in a manner desired by the states concerned: it is an interaction between forces originating outside the country's borders and those working within them". Through its foreign policy it endeavors to persuade others in accordance with one's own ends. It has to take into account, not only its own objectives and interests, aspirations and problems, but also those of other states.

There are various objectives which a Foreign Policy has to achieve which can be, Short Range Objectives, Middle Range Objectives, Long Range Objectives, which includes the core objectives and are time bound if they are for a shorter period. The Foreign Policy of a state is very crucial for its well-being and it has its own significance as it helps in maintain healthy relations with the other states. But also many times some unforeseen constraints could occur which might hinder the growth Constraints may stream from factors imposed by the international system and human agency that is, from the role of individual choice in shaping the international system. This research explores constraints in two fold, namely domestic and international constraints. Which includes geographical location of the state, its peculiarity, natural and human resources, the nature of the political system, quality of leadership, the nature of the interaction among groups in the society.

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Foreign Policy: A Brief Introduction

Foreign policy is one of the wheels with which the process of international politics operates. Foreign policy is not separate from the national policy; instead it is a part of it. It consists of national interests that are to be furthered in relation to other states. Almost all the states determine the course of their foreign policies within the limits of their strengths and the realities of the external environment. The nonpolitical relations also fall in the scope of foreign policy. The term 'foreign policy' has been defined in number of ways. George Modelski defines it as, "The system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment". Foreign policy of a state is concerned with the behavior of a state towards other states. It refers to the ways in which the central governments of sovereign states relate to each other and to the global system in order to achieve various goals or objectives. Through its foreign policy it endeavors to persuade others in accordance with one's own ends. It is primarily in proportion to its national power that its persuasive power is effective in this regard. However, even a powerful state cannot afford to enjoy a solo flight in this regard. It has to take into account, not only its own objectives and interests, aspirations and problems, but also those of other states. This process involves intricate processes of diplomacy short of war. It is also based on the observations regarding the traditional behavior of a given state. Moreover, a state while implementing its foreign policy cannot afford to ignore the rules of International law and canons of international morality. The whole essence of this prelude is that the term foreign policy cannot be studied in isolation from the factors that determine it.

Objectives of Foreign Policy

i) Short range objectives

They are called Core Objectives as well, because these

objectives are attained at all costs. State cannot afford to show any laxity on this count. Among Core Objectives, territorial integrity and political independence enjoys to be the foremost priority of each and every nation-state. Without any physical unity the state would cease to remain a state. So it needs to be and it has to be the foremost objective of a state. The state has to girdle itself to realize these objectives directly, quickly, forcefully and effectively; it has no luxury of time in case of fulfilling these core objectives. It cannot afford the threat to magnify. Moreover, it has to deal with the source of the threat directly i.e. the demand is made on the single state or group of states who might pose a threat to the geographical integrity of India It has no time to delay or postpone the fulfilling of objectives.

ii) Middle Range Objectives

This particular category is comprised of economic uplift of the people, raising their life standard, enhancing prestige and status of the nation, and expansion both territorial, as well as ideological. These objectives are sought to be achieved within a specific time period, implying that after the expiration the term, the objectives even if attained would have lost their real value. Here the targets are more than one or two states. A state has to carry out trade with a number of states and trade blocks. It has to deal with multiple sources while pursuing these objectives.

Foreign policy aims at achieving economic prosperity, as only an economically prosperous nation is to play more assertive role in international politics. That is why, Pakistan is endeavoring to gear up the pace of its economic progress and to attain economic prosperity. It is usually the keen desire of each state to establish, strengthen and widen its economic ties with other states. Status and prestige of a state can be secured only if the state is economically stable and prosperous. In the process, the state has to diversify its trade and economy in order to make it resilient enough to come up to the challenges of the competitive world.

iii) Long Range Objectives

A state while pursuing such type of objectives seeks to gain almost at the expense of all other states. Further they have no time restrictions, as time limit is usually employed in pursuit of core and middle range objectives. After the Communist Revolution of 1917 the Russian communist leaders, Lenin and Stalin reiterated that they would endeavor to expand communist ideology through the every nook and corner of the Globe, as to them the capitalist system was defective and exploitative in its very nature.

It was the Long Range Objective of Communist Russia, because by doing so they did not set any time limit for the realization of these objectives. So, Long Range Objective are not only time consuming, but are also indefinite and vague i.e. nothing can be ascertained regarding the outcome of the pursuit, so they are unpredictable as well. The 'end of history as such', 'the evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government'; these were the sort of statements along with Fukiyama's professed conviction that 'the ideal will govern the material world in the longer run' – that rang the alarm.

Determinants of Foreign Policy

Those factors that influence and determine the foreign policy of a country are its determinants. Some of these factors are static or of unchanging nature whereas others are in a state of flux and their dynamics are continually adjusted to the changing circumstances.

External Determinants

- Power Structure
- International Organizations
- Reaction of other states
- World Public Opinion
- Alliances

Internal determinants

- Historical Influence
- Size and Geography
- Natural Resources
- Economic Development
- Industrial Development
- Military Power
- Population

Constraints Facing Foreign Policy

A country's Foreign Policy is determined by two broad considerations: the domestic and the external environment. Constraints may stem from factors imposed by the international system and human agency that is, from the role of individual choice in shaping the international system.

The foreign policy implementation phase is one in which actors confront their environment and in return the environment confronts actors. Social and political actors pushed a course of action and through these actions states succeed in acquiring their foreign policy objectives. Clashes between actors and their environment also erupted. For having every state's own way in the world system is not always possible. To formulate a dialogue with neighbors, the state is restricted by pressures originating within the country. The political condition of a country, will determine how forcibly a government can play its role, what it cannot do for losing support at home. What it must do for the people of its country. Organized pressure groups acting as lobbies in parliament or congress or as opinion forming agencies and press, radio and television will all have their roles to play. It is necessary to handle all these domestic actors. This issue is closely related to that of the very definition of foreign policy. Yet, as with other large political concepts such as democracy, analysis and definitions are in a constant dialectical relation with each other. This means that no position on the relationship of external relations to foreign policy will convince until the problem has been broken down into its component parts – as it will be in subsequent chapters through the discussions of bureaucratic politics, transnational relations and domestic society.

Conclusion

It is evident that foreign policy is deeply embedded in the political economy of the State. It is discernible from the development paradigm and policies pursued by successive

governments. The period of investigation further underscores the significance of political economy in understanding foreign policy. However, in all laying the foreign policy within the historic specificity of the State, one comes across many critical questions - pertaining to the nature of the State, the development of capitalism to economic policies and development strategies. The global political and economic setting also comes in the way of understanding state's foreign policy. These questions need to be recapitulated for comprehending the political economy of state's foreign policy. Foreign policy of a country is determined by a number of factors. As most of these factors are of changing nature, so with their evolution or transformation, foreign policies of countries also keep on changing. In addition to these factors, certain developments at the international level such as development of thermo-nuclear technology, onset of cold war and military alliances, elimination of colonialism have exercised profound influence on the foreign policies of different countries. The creation of United Nations has also left a mark on the foreign policies of different countries. The end of cold war influenced the states in every region of the world to modify their foreign policies in according with the changing dynamics of the world. In short it can be said that apart from the national determinants of foreign policy, international environment also plays an important role in the formulation and orientation of the foreign policy of a state.

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