CHAPTER-ONE

BACKGROUND
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The historical links between United-States and India can be traced to the year 1492 i.e. The year when the Christopher Columbus discovered America, in the course of his search for the new route to India. Formal relations, how ever did not being untill India achieved its independence on 15th August, 1949. It is from this time that the official relation's between India and United-States can be traced. Prior to this, “American contacts with India has started before the American. revolution through Soldiers and Sea men who have lived both in the American calonies and in India.”

During the last quarter of the Eighteenth Century several American’s ships visited. Indian ports in connection with trades. In 1784, the united states of Philadelphia reached the Pondichery, in the following years. The Hydra and Grant Turks were sent to India.
Legal authorities to Indo-American trade was given to Jay’s treaty of 1794 between England and America. An American was officially appointed to look after the trade-interest to India in 1792. When Benjamin joy of Boston was appointed the first American Consul at Calcutta. The American Business-men who came out to India, being interested only in their trades, could hardly present a true picture of India to America. Later, both the countries had mutual contacts through various agencies such as missionaries, tourists and intellectuals.

With the Establishment of the American Board of Commissionaires for the foreign missions in 1810. The first American missionaries Mr. & Mrs. Judson, Mr. & Mrs. Newell, Mr. & Mrs. Nott, Mr. Rice Saided for India in 1812. They were not permitted by the East India Company to land and settle down in India. But their good luck in 1813 the East India Company war granted a new chapter. The chapter said, the Christian missionaries should be allowed to carryon - their work in India. In 1815, the American Maharatta Mission was established. Missionaries
activities in India and their observations about the people of Indian sub-continents gave first hand information’s about India to America.

The main interest of missionaries to established the schools and distributes the religions - lectures in their various Indian - languages. These missionaries found a good field in India, and Indian people correctively before the American masses. Nor did they tried to understand the problems of India in the proper sprit. This attitude, thus did not help in promoting understanding between the peoples of two countries. On returning home, the missionaries condemned India for lack of education, poverty and superstition.

In the mid nineteenth century, some American writers started appreciating India’s cultural heritage and many American scholars were greatly struck by the Glory of Gita. They made a through study of Hindus scriptures. In the later half of the nineteenth century. These important Indian intellectual to visit the united states were P.C. Majumdar and Swami Viveka Nand.
In July 1893 Swami Viveka Nand reached the United States to participate in the historical parliament of religions in the Chicago. In the session of religious parliament, Swami Viveka Nand influenced the American masses by his extraordinary genius and grasp of Indian Vedantic Philosophy. Besides this he also established the Ramakrishna Mission in the United States. Swami Viveka Nand and left an everlasting image of Indian culture and heritage in the mind of the American peoples, of the Indian political leader Lala Lajpat Rai was the first to visit the United States. In 1905, he went there in order to tell the American peoples about the news of the Indian Independence. Rabindranath Tagore also visited the United States in 1912-13, 1916-17, 1920-21 and again in 1930. During his stay in the United States he left an everlasting image of Indian life, and culture and civilization in that country. After the visit of Lala Lajpat Rai and Rabindranath Tagore, the first American Lady Katherine Mayo visited in India during the winter of 1926-27 although. She had been given a very distorted picture of Indian National movement the Independence in her Book “Mother India”.¹
The role played by the U.S. in helping India’s struggle for freedom is not generally known in this country. Yet it is true that since the early part of this century, the Indian independence movement received the active moral and material support by the American peoples. In 1913, the Indian patriots forms the ‘Hindustan Gadar Party’ at California to again the United States support for the freedom movement in India. They also started a weekly ‘Ghador’ which came out in two editions - Hindi and Punjabi. It is a fact that Indian freedom movement got the moral support of the American peoples. During the world war first (1914-18), the supporters of the Indian struggle for freedom were subjected to ill treatment by the American government. Few American organizations had courage enough to support to the American peoples - to wards. Indian struggle for freedom, the attitude of the American government was very discouraging. Besides this his government did not want to displease the British government. However, the American peoples viewed the matter from an entirely different angles. Some people in America - through sympathetic to the cause of India, had some misgiving
about India. They believed that India is a land of peoples of different races, culture, religion and creeds and were unfit for self government. This belief was all due to the anti-Indian British propaganda in America.

Mahatma Gandhi emphasis on the non-violence and his unique method for fighting British rule through ‘Satyagraha’, attracted attention in America. His typical loin cloth and his simple living and high ideals, drew admiration from the Indian people. The American press also showed a sympathetic attitude towards the Indian freedom movement.

The civil disobedience movement of 1930, got wide publicity in the United States. The Dandi-March of Gandhiji to bream the salt law got front page coverage in all the important newspaper of the United States. The views of Gandhiji about the truth and non-violence and his genius and courage as shown in the freedom struggle were much appreciated the American peoples. The first round table conference ended on 19 Jan. 1931 commenting on the
deliberations of the conference. The New York times reported: "should the followers of Gandhiji accepted the new constitution, they will be greatly strengthened in working for complete self government for the fact that they will be speaking for United India."\(^2\)

The Second round label conference ended on 1 Dec. 1931, without any tangible results. A perusal of the observations of the US news papers and media regarding the Indian political situation, reveals that there was widespread awareness in the important circles in the United States, of the importance and significance of the Indian National movement. The American peoples though they did not actively participated in the Indian causes by the largely sympathized with the movement.

There was nothing remarkable, in the Indo-U.S. Relations from the suspension of the civil disobedience movement in 1934, and till the out break of the second world war in 1939. American public opinion about the Indian Government and politics in the period between the two world war, was generally
sympathetic to the Indian aspirations. During the Second world war the United States government realized the importance of India in the context of the war. This period thus marks the beginning of Indo-U.S. official relations. Earlier the U.S. had received and transmitted most of the political communications relating to India through the British foreign office in London.³

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Dec. 1941, American realized the need for India's co-operation in the war efforts. The importance of the India became intense when the Japanese rapidly moved towards South Asia. The strategic importance of the war as a base of operations against Japan was one of the chief factors. Which forced the United States administration to have interest in the Indian political problem. In the summer of 1941, the U.S. government agreed with India and British for exchange of the diplomatic personnel. Oct. 1941, Thompson H. Wilson was appointed the first commissioner in New Delhi and Sri Girja Shanker Bajpai was appointed the Indian agent General in Washington. He was to set under the
overall supervision of British Embassy. In 1942, Hennery F. Grady came at the head of the Technical mission to make a survey of Indian industrial potentialities and suggest improvement, with a view to increase the production. In due course, the United States supplied large quantity of the American goods to India in pursuance of its reciprocal aid programmed. Present Roosevelt wanted some sort of solutions of the Indian problems. He sent the cable to Churchill on 10 March, 1942. Suggested the formation of government in India. In May 1942, President Roosevelt's representative in India William Pinellas stayed in New Delhi between 1942-43. This mission was to make a survey of the Indian situations and submit his recommendations to the President Roosevelt. Phillips tried to bring the government of India and the Indian political parties into an working relationship.

To solve the Indian problems a conference of the various political leaders was held at Shimla in June 1945. The conference ended in the dead lock. The United states of America (USA) however, played as important part through diplomatic channels in
securing the release of may important Indian leader from Jail and also organizing the conference in Shimla. In the year 1946, India faced an acute food shortage. The American leaders evinced much interest in solving the Indian food crisis on 16 May 1946, the United States and agreement United States sent many and much food shipments to India. The next formal agreement the United States sent many food shipments to India. The next formal agreement concluded was India. United States Air transport Agreement of 14 Nov. 1946, which establish a direct air link between the two countries.

India became free from British rule on 15th August 1947. A new era began in Indo-U.S. Relations with message of President Harry Freeman sent to Lord Louis Mountbatton, Governor General of India, extending his good wishes on the freedom occasion. India’s relations with United states were now placed on the formal footing. The American people started seeing India in an entirely different prospective.
India's political leader gratefully acknowledged President Roosevelt's efforts, in the cause of the Indian freedom. Prime Minister Pandit J.L. Nehru in an address to American audience remarked:

"May I also say that all the sus in India, know very well, although it might not be to know in public, what great interest President Roosevelt had in our country’s freedom and how he exercised his great influence to that end."

As we see that when the India became independent, the American exceptions then was that, dominated as India were by British thinking, it would naturally have same views on the world affairs as the Anglo-American and it would align with 'free world' in the cold-war that had already begun. The supreme problem in American eyes was to stem the tide of Soviet expansionism and whole United States foreign policy was therefore attuned to that the fundamental need. On the other hand the Indian Emphasis had been quite different, and it did not share the fear and hostility towards Soviet Union so generally prevalent in the United States. It appears that
India had assessed International Communism and the kind of threat it posed in Asia in a way that has led to an advocacy of peaceful co-existence with communist countries and an emphasis on rapid social and economic development. It is this policy which has caused great misunderstand between the India and United States.

The fact that India chose to follow an independent foreign policy came to the Americas somewhat as a shock. They simply could not understand how a democratic country which was for long considered as anti-communist would fall to see the threat was posed by what in their view, was a clear attempt to dominate the world and impose its system upon the whole of it. Similarly being forced by the National Interest, when India chose to follow the policy of non-alignment, there was a differences between the Non-Alignment and neutrality is the distinction which the America could not appreciate and in their Eyes it became immoral. It became an anthem to most Americans with the exceptions of John Kennedy and to an extent Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, who had
tried to incommodes India in spite of it. However, it can be noticed as is acceptable that with cold war, it became less of a problem. On analysis. One finds that policy of non-alignment which India followed obviously became of its National Interest was best suited for a country which had to develop with help from both the socks and could not waste its resources for militarization. This was not acceptable to the Americans who thought that those who refereed to join in the morale crusade were totally beyond the pale. Non-alignment obviously had influenced the U.S. stand point on Kashmir, which was openly admitted by the then Vice-President Nixon that the reason for befriending a weak and instable Pakistani was ‘to solid in Indian leaders’ own backyard a counter force to continued neutralism. The Indo-Soviet treaty came as bombs to the Americans. During this evident when Pakistani was engaged into potently genocidal policy. As a former aide to Ambassador Manahan noted subsequently, “The United State... used a favour a group of butchers from West Pakistan at the expense of innocent Bengalis seeking freedom and self determination and also at the expense of our hitherto for cordial relations with the world largest democracy.”
The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan took place, in spite of Pakistan acts of the commissions and omissions, it was forgiven and became an important bastion of American policy in South Asia, being labeled as ‘frontline state’. The American policy makers concluded that Pakistan was crucial for defence of its vital interests in the Middle East, besides these influxes by its security considerations in Asia. There could be little doubt that irrespective of India’s response to the probing for strategic relationships by the United States, the security relationship between it and Pakistan were to develop as an important factor and its possible averse repercussions on Indo-U.S. relationship could not be avoided, except in the case of India endorsing them by itself becoming a subordinate ally of the United States.
REFERENCES


