As a student in the field of International Affairs, while studying foreign policies of different states, I found a profusion of works dealing with the comparative study of foreign policies of various states of a particular period. Also, there are many works on the foreign policy of the same state in various eras. However, I did not come across many works that dealt with the pursuing of the foreign policy without referring to any state in particular.

It is my opinion that certain factors like circumstances, situations, aims, objectives, and aspirations, etc., lead a state to behave in a particular manner vis-à-vis other actors and interact in a certain way to the stimuli it receives from the global environment comprising of all the states and non-state actors, which ought to have a common base for analysis. While going through a vast amount of literature, I perceived that states in similar types of conditions, undergoing similar types of pressures and stresses they encounter from the international arena, respond in a similar or not very dissimilar manner. Another point that comes out clearly with the study of foreign policy of any state over a long period of time is the "similarity of response" of different states.
at different levels of growth. That is different states behave in a somewhat similar manner when they are at a particular level of development or growth. To clarify the point, here is an illustration. If we look at the Soviet Union during 1920-1930, or United States from the date of its independence to the Presidency of Monroe, or China after 1910 but before 1949, or India after 1971, we are looking at states which cannot be called great powers, but at the same time which certainly are strong states i.e. in the current parlance they were at those points regional powers. If we study the foreign policy of these states in these periods exclusively, we find a great deal of similarity in their behaviour and response. It is my contention that states at similar levels of comparative power behave in a somewhat similar way.

Another point that struck me is the "dissimilarity of response. By dissimilarity I mean that the self same state behaves in a different manner when it is at different levels of comparative power vis-a-vis other states. A few examples will make the point clear. If we study Britain after late 1950's, or Soviet Union after 1988, or Spain after the Battle of Trafalgar where Lord Nelson put paid to the naval might of Spain. We are looking at states that were at great power level and are now descending back to regional power level. If we study the foreign policies of these states before and after the transition, we find a change in their aims and aspirations, and the change has fundamental similarities. From this I concluded that states at different levels of comparative power vis-a-vis other actors in the International Arena behave in a somewhat similar manner.

As such I felt that a study ought to be made to analyse what factors effect the behaviour of any state. I have attempted to list the various factors that I felt effect
the behaviour of states and to study how each factor has an impact on the incessant work of formulation and implementation of foreign policy of any state. I have tried to bring out the impact of various factors irrespective of the size or the power base of the states and have attempted to draw conclusions that ought to be valid for all states at all times.

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