The study deals with the comparative study of the roles of India and U.S.A. in the politics of the Indian Ocean.

Indian Ocean has become very significant as it is the key to the seven seas.

Indian Ocean is the third largest Ocean in the world. It comes after the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean. It is surrounded by a number of countries on all sides like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh at its apex, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia on the East-West, includes Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E. and African continent. Southern side has Antarctica. The main constituents of the Ocean are Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, Java Sea, Timor Sea etc.

Geographically it is the link between Eastern and Western parts of the Earth. It connects Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Today it is Internationally significant because 90% of the world trade is carried out from here. Environmentally it is best suited for trade throughout the year. The most outstanding feature of the Indian Ocean is the position of India. India's security lies,
to a large extent, on the Indian Ocean and the freedom at the mercy of whichever country controls this Ocean.

Besides trade and commerce, there is a concentration of oil reserves which is of great interest to half of the western world. Then there is uranium, gold and diamonds deposits. From this hunter land and littorals U.S.A. imports 40 raw materials like Uranium, Lithium, Zirconium etc.

These natural resources have cured the nations always specially the super power there adventures and exploitations have created problems of serious.

Thus the geopolitical, economic and strategic importance of the Indian Ocean has been historically recognized. It has now helped in determining the destinies of the countries of the region.

Initially there was British domination but the innovations strategic weapons technology. The Indian Ocean was incorporated in the grand Oceanic strategy of the western powers led by the U.S.A. Thus the prophecy of geopolitical thinkers Admiral Mahan is true that whoever controls the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia.
The strategic portion of the Ocean has also attracted the western Powers specially U.S., France and Britain to set up military base in the region. The setting up of communication centre is Diego Garcia by the U.S.A. has contributed to the predominant presence of U.S. in the region. The situation has also become volatile for the super power rivalry in 1968 with the enhancement of U.S.S.R. on the Scenario, but its plants to launch anti-submarines are very united. There is a development of nuclear weapon namely poseidon and trident which have given a vantage point to U.S. with this there is also a generation of U.S.S (Undersea auched Missile system) which will further strengthen the U.S. strategic nuclear capability. America has also achieved sophistication in surface vessels these nuclear powered surface vessels well further consolidate the strategic capability of the U.S. In 1971 they entered Bay of Bengal to show of American strength to ward of India in the Indo Pak war.

India is the largest country in the region of the Indian Ocean, its position makes it all the more strategic. India is linked with the Indian Ocean. The defence of Indian Ocean is dependent on the Indian sub-continent. Thus, South-East Asia and Middle East they will depend
for their defence on India. India was always subjugated by the Foreign Powers, thus remained under developed thus could not formulate a distinct Oceanic policy. Seeing the importance of the Indian Ocean, even though there have been repeated please from India to count it into a Zone of Peace, it has become a bed of super power rivalry. The littoral region of the Indian Ocean has become a focus of the new cold war rivalry between these super powers. There is a perpetual conflict in South East Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Iran, Iraq, West Asia, Africa. These super powers want to display maximum strength. Thus the entire concept of Indo-Ocean as a zone of peace has nullified.

The efforts of India in this connection were rewarded even though it largely depended on the interest of individual nations. America, over here wanted to contain communism here also but with passage of time there were different turnings and different dimensions. The American involvement here was increasingly vehement after the fiasco of the armed intervention in Vietnam. America, has, but, shared the desire to bring peace in this area so that there is an avoidance of competitive expansion of military strength but she felt that U.N. declaration of Zone of Peace may affect the fundamental security
interests not only of States compelled to maintain significant security preparedness, but, also of states that rely on the stability created by a politico-military balance. The American policy seems to be closely connected with its age old Oceanic concept which considers that the U.S. has a special right to exercise hegemony on the world's ocean. It also appears that America has a definite desire to control the political developments in the Indian Ocean region and to use them to the own advantage ignoring the desire and the interest of Oceanic region.

America apparently initiated talk with Soviet Union regarding the future of the Ocean event then remained cold to the response. They could just accept that there should be the freezing of naval presence of the external powers in the region at the existing level.

India has her own fears, she thinks that instability in the region due to a number of interactions may lead to such super power confrontation which will include the entire Indian Ocean region. India knows and understands fully well that the presence of U.S. carries battle groups in the Arabian sea, together with U.S. base at Diego Garcia could lead to the Intelligence sharing with Pakistan in the event of an Indo-Pak war more possibility for intervention on the
side of Pak. India is also scared that the Saudi Arabia, China and other third party may transfer U.S. military technology and equipment to Pak and that American military sales to China could affect the India, China military balance specially in the Indian Ocean.

India's policy towards the Indian Ocean is directed by its concern for world peace and its own security. Geographically, the security, commerce and trade, it all depends on the preservation of peace and stability in the region. Seeing the Soviet presence American wants to cooperate in the establishment of peace but it does not agree with 1971 mandate of elimination of Foreign names installation.

Thus, a code of conduct should be created to which all rejoined and extra regional countries would adhere. Both these countries in their respective spheres are planning a significant role. India wants the conversion of the region into a conflict free zone of peace whereas America wants a perpetual domination due to its strategic and its contribution into a field of Trade and Commerce.

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