A B S T R A C T

The thesis entitled "A Comparative Study of NAM Summits: 1961-1986" is both a historical, analytical and critical account of Non-aligned Movement as well. The movement is assumed to be a product of twentieth century political currents and cross-currents. The Socialist Revolution in Soviet Union during first world war and its emergence as a military super power after the end of second world war signified a radical bifurcation of the world into a capitalist bloc consisting of northern America and western Europe and a socialist bloc comprising of Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Non-alignment is the collective foreign policy response of Third World countries after world war II, which aims at staying away from bloc politics and military alliances.

The first chapter is a historical perspective of Non-aligned Movement. It tries to trace the origin and development of the movement against the backdrop of super power confrontation. This chapter takes Bandung Conference of Asian and African nations to be the watershed in the development of NAM. It maintains that the idea of non-alignment was first formulated by Jawaharlal Nehru. Before India was granted formal independence, Nehru foreshadowed the core of the foreign policy of free India as remaining outside the power blocs and military alliances. Besides Nehru, the role of other founding fathers of the movement notably that of Tito,
The Second chapter attempts to compare the highlights of first four NAM Summits. These NAM Summits were concerned with the entire gamut of ideas of political, economic and geostrategic questions of sixties and early seventies. However, we could not have investigated all the details of the resolutions. We concentrated on those issues which exercised the minds of summiteers throughout the four conferences. It is pointed out that the first four consecutive NAM conferences concentrated on political questions without ignoring the due importance of economic imperatives on the international plane. Thus, firstly, the question of peace and disarmament is taken up and the emphasis laid on the importance of a peaceful world. The question of world peace and disarmament runs conspicuously throughout all the deliberations of NAM Summits. Secondly, these conferences stressed the fundamental principle that should govern international relations, viz., the principle of inviolability of territories of nations, big or small. The participants deplored the neo-colonialist trends in international politics.
The participants in these conferences further emphasised that all the nations of the world have the right to self-determination through which they can define their political identity and freely pursue their social and economic development. These conferences specially stressed the resolve of Third World countries to achieve economic emancipation and stabilise political independence at any cost. Thirdly, the first four conferences pointed out that the persistence of an inequitable world economic system inherited from the colonial past poses a great threat to international peace. The participants noted that the responsibility of ameliorating the economic conditions of the Third World countries rests primarily on the peoples and governments of these countries. However, objective conditions of international trade and commerce have also to be equitable if not favourable. Only then can a real breakthrough be made in our struggle for elimination of poverty from Third World. Fourthly, the problem of apartheid in South-Africa constantly figured in the deliberations of NAM Summits. These summits repeatedly emphasised that the policy of racial discrimination anywhere in the world was a grave violation of universal declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. In view of the same the conferences called upon all the countries of the world
to impose sanctions against the racially discriminatory government in South Africa. Fifthly, the issue which consistently and strongly featured in the proceedings of NAM Summits was the restoration of the political, legal, economic and social rights of the millions of Palestinian people. The delegates, forcefully, supported the right of the Palestinian Arabs to have their own homeland. They requested the United Nations and the world opinion to help them in their struggle for the restoration of their political rights.

The third chapter outlines the question of New International Economic Order. The chapter, to begin with, gives a factual analysis of international economic situation. It is pointed out that imperial domination of the Third World countries has led to a vertical division of the world into two economic orders, one a dominant order of developed countries consisting of North American and West European countries and Japan and another a subservient order consisting of majority of Afro-Asian and Latin American countries. Economically and technologically the world is divided into "haves" and "have-nots".
The broad thrust of the struggle for a New International Economic Order is to minimise the sweep and scope of the technological imperialism on the part of developed countries. In view of the same, the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth Summit Conferences of NAM were dominated by deliberations on the question of ironing out blatant imbalances in the world economic system.

The fourth chapter outlines the attitude and the response of super powers towards the rise and development of Non-aligned Movement. In this connection, this chapter brings out the favourable reaction of Soviet Union and unsympathetic attitude of United States of America. Although, the Soviet Union did not agree with the political philosophy of Non-alignment, yet she co-opted with NAM members in view of the commonality of their foreign policy interests and perceptions. As against this, the United States of America took unfriendly attitude towards the development and expansion of Non-aligned movement. In view of the fact that NAM's stand on apartheid, Palestine and the problem of New International Economic Order, was totally opposed to U.S. stand on these issues, there developed an unavoidable
clash of interests and strategies between NAM and U.S. foreign policy postures.

It is hoped that the study of a major international movement will lead to a better understanding of contemporary political, economic and social problems and brings out the necessity of studying international relations from a critical and methodological point of view.

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