MODI'S FOREIGN POLICY
Challenges and Opportunities

N N Jha | Sudhir Singh
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Modi’s “Make in India” Policy: Revisiting the Case of South Korea

Geetha Govindasamy

Modi’s “Act East Policy”

India’s foreign policy in the last decade has not changed much, especially the “Look East Policy” which was started by Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao in the early 1990s. Subsequently, Indian leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Manmohan Singh expanded the same policy attempting to make Southeast Asia and, later, Northeast Asia a priority in Indian foreign policy. Like every other Indian leader, Narendra Modi saw the benefits of having closer relations with noteworthy economies of China, Japan and South Korea. Similarly, Modi’s main aim is also to attract investments and investors to set up industries in India.

He is determined to form “partnerships, technology and funds” with these countries in order to accomplish the flagship Make in India initiative.1 In other words, the initiative aims to draw businesses from around the world to invest and manufacture in India so that the country can develop into a manufacturing powerhouse like China.2 Primarily, India is banking on becoming a manufacturing hub in order to create employment and for sustaining a balance in exports and imports.3 When introducing his vision a year ago, with the slogan of “Sell Anywhere but Make in India,” Modi urged potential investors to set up their manufacturing facilities in India in areas like electrical, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, satellite and submarine.4

Since the Indian government does not have the fiscal capacity to carry out large-scale investments and public–private partnerships (PPP) are still at a nascent
Preface

India came into being after a long struggle against one of the most powerful colonial powers of the contemporary world in 1947. The first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, had two options in the immediate aftermath of independence: first, to enter into an alliance with either of the two existing blocs namely Capitalist block led by the United States and the Communist bloc led by the USSR; second, to maintain neutrality. Mr. Nehru opted for neutrality. The then international scenario had presented an extremely complex situation in the wake of cold war that was in its initial phase. Nehru’s embrace of neutrality led to the emergence of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). This decision has been under consistent attack and has been criticized on various counts about its failure towards not serving the purpose at several fronts. Nehru was abided by the Wilsonian idealism and kept the egalitarian agenda of national interests under the carpet.

Tibet issue was taken up firstly in the United Nations by Pakistan because Nehru was apprehensive if India will raise it at international platforms then China will be angry. In the 1950s Tibet was boiling and needed India’s support but Nehru was optimistic that goodwill and justice will prevail to Chinese leaders and justice will be delivered to Tibetans. This was a Himalayan blunder that converted India as a weak nation for decades to come. Nehru avoided Patel’s Kautilyan advice on Tibet. Few years before 1954 treaty in which Nehru surrendered Tibet to China, Sardar Patel advised Nehru not to believe China. Writing to Nehru on 7th November 1950, Patel warned Nehru that “China is no longer divided. It is united and strong. Recent and bitter history also tells us that communism is no shield against imperialism and that the Communism are as good or as bad imperialists as any other. Chinese ambitions in this respect not only cover the Himalayan slopes on our side but also include parts of Assam.

...Chinese irredentism or imperialism are different from the expansionism or imperialism of the western powers. The former has a cloak of ideology which
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As quoted on the website of the Indian Embassy in Bhutan at http://www.eoithimpu.org (last viewed on 15 November 2014).

Ibid.


The only representatives allowed to attend the crowning ceremony were those of Bangladesh, China, India, Sikkim, the Soviet Union and the United States. The ULFA, Fighting for the independence of Assam; NDFB, fighting for an independent State of Bodoland; and KLO; fighting for an independent State of Kamarupa.

Trade routes of at least twelve of twenty districts in Bhutan have to pass through the Indian territory in Assam.

China is the largest FDI source for Nepal, overtakes India now, The Hindu, 26 January 2014.

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