

India's Relation with South East Asian Nations- 'Look East' Policy and the China Factor

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Abstract: India, in order to cope with the emerging new global order in the Post Cold War days, under the leadership of P. V. Narasimha Rao, heralded a new policy that drastically altered the entire dimension of India's overall foreign policy strategy towards the countries of South East Asia. As we know, that, misperception, misconception, and bungling diplomacy of India, during the Cold War days had badly damaged the cordial relationship which was present between India and South East Asian nation, so this new policy which was proposed in the form of "Look East" policy during the early days of 1990s, had undoubtedly given a new dimension to India's relation with its South East Asian neighbours

Keywords: China Factor

REFERENCES

- [1]. June, 1991 : The congress won the election and the party nominated P.V. Narasimha Rao for the Prime Minister's Post.
- [2]. ASEAN had came into being with the Bangkok declaration of 8th August, 1967, consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.
- [3]. To know about strategic relation that developed between India and Singapore and the joint naval exercise. See – The Hindu March 14, 1996 and, The Times of India, May 13, 1992.
- [4]. For a detailed discussion, see G.V.C. Naidu, "India's Strategic Relations with Southeast Asia, in Bladas Ghosal (ed.) India And Southeast Asia. – Konark Publishers. New Delhi, 1996, PP 28-40.
- [5]. ARF is the platform for a security dialogue in this South East Asian region.
- [6]. C. Raja Mohan, "Lock East Policy : phase two" The Hindu, 9th October, 2003.
- [7]. It was since the year 1997, i.e. when Myanmar (Burma) became a member of ASEAN, that an abrupt change in India's attitude drew our attention. Before that, Our previous Governments were very much critical of the military junta and its brutal crackdown on student led demonstration, and often was found to support anti-government movements, led by national League for Democracy (NLD). But as being the closest neighbor of India. Its membership I ASEAN brought India close to its South East Asian neighbours, so, NDA Government began to shelve its criticisms, A.B. Vajpayee began to show immense interest in improving India's relations with Myanmar.
- [8]. A number of bilateral treaties and agreements for cooperation in trade, science and technology, agriculture, tourism air service, and, visa exemption for diplomats and officials have been signed between India and these nations.
- [9]. Ten member of the Association of South East Asian Nations are – Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei and Myanmar.
- [10]. India has also quietly began to put in place arrangements for regular access to ports in South East Asia and to the Malacca Strait in order to check illicit drug trafficking and to defend terrorist activities in thus region. Business Line – Financial Daily from The Hindu group of publications, Saturday, October 11, 2003.
- [11]. To know more about India's growing influence in South East Asia and how it led India to counter-balance the growing influence of China. See – Ambady Krishnan Damodara. Beyond Autonomy. India's Foreign Policy. Somaiya Pub. Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai & New Delhi, 2000, pp. 266-267.
- [12]. Nathu-la Pass is a Himalayan pass at 14,400 feet on the Sino-India border.

[13]. China has strong intention of librating Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan also.