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Narendra Modi and India's Future Foreign Affairs



Introduction

India is a very important country in the Asia continent, having a long border with China. Both China and India are the influential countries in international economy and has the one third of world's population. Besides India also has border with Pakistan and is one of the competitive players of India Ocean.

These things make its importance clearer with the statement of Joseph Nye saying, not only the Power is moving from west to east but also the philosophy of power is changing. He believes, Power is moving from west to east and specifically from US and Europe to Asia and also the Power is shifting from Hard Power, military invasions to Soft Power such as cultural struggles, giving scholarships to foreign countries' students, economic struggles and etc

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won India's General Elections of 2014 achieving majority of seats in the 16th Lok Sabha, lower house of the Parliament. Questions raises on BJP's new foreign policy for India? What does Narendra Modi, leader of the party say about their foreign policy? Also what kind of foreign policy can be assumed from BJP's 2014 party manifesto? CSRS' Weekly Analysis Board has analyzed this issue; in the second part of analysis BJP's success and its effects on Afghanistan and the region are also analyzed.

BJP's Foreign Affairs:

BJP's foreign affairs are generally based on aggressive Indian nationalism and economic conservatism. In the 1998-2004 term BJP's leader and Indian Prime Minister of the time Atal Bihari Vajpayee took different position from the party's basic philosophy by having historic visit

to Pakistan's Lahore, signing an agreement with Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on soft relations between the two nations. But Pakistani military's Kargil War caused problems in the relations extending until 2004. Cricket and Back Channel Diplomacy helped the two countries maintain comparatively good relations until 2008, but Mumbai's 2008 Attacks which India claims to be carried out by Pakistan and the Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba group using Ajmal Kasab, caused conflict in Indo-Pak relations once again.

BJP, which at that time of attacks was in opposition, benefitted from the attacks during the time and 2014 general election campaigns, Modi signaled during the campaigns that their relations with Pakistan and Pakistan's struggles against terrorism will be based on their real position.

Narendra Modi's Foreign Affairs

Narendra Modi is a new face in India's national politics; he was involved in Gujrat's local politics remaining as the longest-serving Chief Minister of the State. His opponents object that he is inexperienced in India's national politics and has never been in Lok Sabha, lower house of parliament. He has for the first time won Lok Sabha seat by defeating Aam Aadmi Party's leader. Therefore, it seems difficult to discuss Modi's future foreign policies.

On the other hand, Indian political party's has discussed very little about their foreign policies during the election campaigns. Modi gave some details on relations with China, Pakistan and Bangladesh, according to which foreign affairs analysts analyze his presumed foreign policy.

Economic diplomacy will be a certain thing in Modi's foreign policy. During his tenure as Chief Minister for Gujrat, he has visited China and Japan; he visited China's Free Economic Zones and praised Japan's economy.

He will appear in two figures regarding China, one will be the economic aspect and other security. In economy he will strive to increase volume of trade with China and will extend mutual business and economic relations. In matters related to security during the election campaigns he has warned China that India will not tolerate Indian land usurp by China.

He took hard stance on immigration from Bangladesh, criticizing India's policies on Immigration and not preventing them. As new prime minister he will revise immigration policies and develop ways on how to prevent immigration to India.

During the election campaigns he used very bitter and sharp language about Pakistan. But advisors and foreign policy experts in Pakistan considered this his electoral necessity and advised the government not to be afraid of Modi's win. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan also advised government not to be afraid of Modi.

BJP's 2014 Manifesto and Foreign Affairs

BJP's 2014 elections manifesto was written by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Chairman of the Manifesto Preparation Board of the BJP. In the 39th page of manifesto, BJP's future foreign relations are discussed under the subject of (Foreign Relations - Nation First, Universal Brotherhood).

BJP considers political stability, development and peace important for the region's and South Asia's growth and development. Furthermore they criticize Indian National Congress' 10 year-long rule, pointing that they failed to create long-term and cooperative relations with the neighbors. They distanced India from close friends and also their neighbors. According to the manifesto, India should have talked confidently with the world; instead of transparency they faced India with uncertainty.

During the last years (after 2010) BJP objected on India's sloping economic development saying, India lost its weight in foreign affairs.

BJP highlights some soft power in the manifesto, which has a great value in international relations in today's world. As discussed above, BJP is an Indian nationalist party and often relies on Hinduism; therefore they want to give priority to their soft power's spiritual, cultural and philosophical aspects and strengthen India's soft power in the world.

Conclusion

The discussion above make is evident that though Bharatiya Janata Party is an Indian Nationalist party; however they will give priority to economy and Indian national interests in their future foreign policy. They will try to use regional economic blocs in Indian interest.

Their potential regional clash might be with China and Pakistan. In order to achieve economic development they will strengthen business relations generally with both China and Pakistan and specifically with China. However, they will continually strive to balance India's power against China.

What impact would have Narendra Modi's victory in the region?



Preface:

The new leader of world's biggest democracy and the second most populated country in the world (India) was elected through millions of voters. He which is the leader of India's Nationalist party and more serious than those of Congress party, is well known for his positive economic developments in Gujraat district of inida and is known as a clean personality throughout India although he has many accusations regarding the disorders which occurred in Gujraat in 2002.

Narindra Modi was borne in a tea seller's home and then he and his father used to sell tea in the Bombay train station. He is a member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organization. He became the governor of Gujraat district of India in 2001 and now by defeating the most powerful party in India (Congress Party) he not only put an end to the sovereignty of Jawahar Laal Nehru's family but also gave a historic defeat to the Congress party. Congress party now has the least seats (43 seats) in the parliament and is not even able to act as the opposition leader because to become the opposition leader they needed minimum of 53 seats in India's parliament.

The weekly analysis board of Center for Strategic and Regional Studies center has analyzed the impact of Bahartia Junta Party's triumph in India's election on Afghanistan and the Region:

Pakistan:

Bahartia Junta Party has not written something in their charter which would be a reason for Pakistan to worry about it but there is two parts of their charter which is remarkable for Pakistani diplomats. They say in their charter that” we (India) would maintain good relations



with all our neighbors but if needed we would not hesitate to have strong position” and in another part they say” we would raise an international voice against the terrorism”. The second mentioned sentence is directly pointed to Pakistan and is based on experience. India in a reaction to the attacks on their parliament in 2002 prepared themselves for another war with Pakistan and brought their soldiers in the border line with Pakistan but due to international pressures and the inability of the both countries to tolerate another direct conflict, the war did not occur.

Not to forget, all those mentioned above has occurred during the rule of Baharatia Junta Party (1998-2004) and the signs of their previous experience is seen in their new charter as well.

The other thing which is a reason of worry for Pakistan is Narindra Modi’s hard and strong literature against Pakistan in his electoral campaigns and his party’s intention to mark the Jammu and Kashmir as India’s inseparable parts in their constitution. However, Pakistan has chosen a Post-Poll Diplomacy and not only congratulated Modi for his victory, but invited him to visit Pakistan.

Islamic world:

Bahartia junta Party which is a nationalist party of India faces criticism regarding the disorders which occurred in Gujraat district of India, in that time Hindus killed about 2000 Muslims after about 60 Hindus were burned in a train and Muslims were accused for that. Narindra Modi which was Gujraat’s governor at that time is under criticism for his silence in this case and that he did not take any action to prevent those incidents. Although, Modi was stated guiltless by the supreme court of India. He is not only accused regarding the above mentioned case but he is also blamed for his silence in the demonstrations against Muslims in 2009 and that he did not condemned the demonstrations.

Besides that, Bahartia Junta Party is accused for destroying the Baburi mosque in 1992 in India according to the report which was released by the supreme court of India in 2009 which accuses 68 persons regarding the case; amongst them were the leaders of Bahartia Junta party.

Taking in mind all those mentioned, if such incidents occur again in India, the relation of India and the Islamic world may seriously get damaged. Although in such stage of foreign policies which ideologies have been replaced by interests, it looks difficult that countries would undermine their economic and commercial interests because of other Muslims which get oppressed, however it might have less impact on policy makers and broad impact on the public opinion and therefore India would lose its soft power in Islamic world.

Afghanistan:

Afghanistan has historic relations with India, during the cold war both countries had a separate and different position comparing other countries and established a separate block called the Neutral Countries Movement. After the invasion of the Russian Soviet Union, the relations between the two nations went to get spoiled. During the internal war in Afghanistan, India interfered in Afghanistan's affairs and after Taliban's regime and during Karzai's government everything had changed in the relations.

If we look at the Pakistan's guideline for their strategic depth, it would get clear that Pakistan's current strategy is because of Pakistan's policy makers' fear to not get stuck between Afghanistan and India. This strategy has continued till this moment, what changes would this strategy take after Modi's victory, future would answer it.

The result:

Triumph of Narindra Modi in India's election is well important for Pakistan, China and Bangladesh.

It is important for Pakistan, because such a party has gained power that has a history of opposition against Pakistan.

To china it is important, because they have warned time and time again that they are ready to take any kind of position for the security of India.

And also it is important for Bangladesh, because they would prevent the refugees from Bangladesh because the party sees it as a reason for instability in the district of Asaam and other regions.

If Pakistan face much threat from India in the future, it is possible that they might increase their intervention in Afghanistan.

India which needs positive economic developments and currently is facing problems regarding the economic developments, would not be able to tolerate a direct conflict with Pakistan, so the Bahartia Junta party which has aggressive policies towards Pakistan would get engaged in the proxy war in Afghanistan against Pakistan and Afghanistan would become the battlefield of the two countries.