

A Brief Outline in India's Northern Relations

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Abstract: *International relationship has been an age old fundamental aspect because of its multifarious dimensions in which it can affect relations between two particular country and can do damage or bring profit for those particular nations. Thus throughout the ages of human civilization relationship between two communities or even two countries becomes very fundamental for survival as well as vital for the peace and prosperity for both the communities or nations. India is surrounded by land on three sides and water on one side. Thus India's relationship with other neighboring country becomes even more crucial for the development and administrative management. And one of the most controversial a relationships between the Southeast countries is the relationship between India and China along with the India-Bangladesh relationship. Many an obstacle and arguments arose between India and China over the boundary lines and regarding Tibet. However, the relationship between India and China degraded ever since the introduction of the English administration in India. Many a pact and treaties tried to solve the Issues regarding the border area controversy but failed to bring peace and solace between these two particular countries but failed to achieve the desired effect. For that failure, China invaded India in the year 1962 and from then on the relationship between this two neighboring nation had been in multiple odds.*

Keywords: uncertainty, difficulty, disagreement, unsettlement, feud, pact and treaties, argument

1. Introduction

Foreign relationship or even the overseas relationships are important in any age or for any particular development between the nations. Foreign relationship also becomes important since their mutual relationship can bring initial betterment for the two countries. Trades of several things between two countries become important because the geographical difference and ethnic differences allow them to produce different set of assets which may not be found in amplitude in another part or that particular nation. Thus the commercial exchange creates a particular relationship between two nations and along with the commercial benefits and other protective or defensive aspect. That's why relationship becomes fundamental for the neighboring countries, because this not only strengthens their commercial assets but also strengthens their defensive aspect in case of war or any other famines. For communal betterment relations between two neighboring countries becomes even more crucial for development and prosperity of the nations. The peaceful living also depends upon the healthy relationship between two neighboring countries. And if there are any issues between two neighboring countries and a particular disagreement over some particular issue debarbs both the nation to bring tranquility and essential peace. A continuous contradiction over the ages between two particular nations harms the progress and prosperity of both the nations. And the worst sufferers in this sort of instances inflict severe injustice and uncertainty for the living of this people. However, it needed to be mentioned that one such particular relationship in the Southeast part of the country is the relationship between India and China, which has become a fundamental crisis as there is a continuous feud and disagreement between this two particular nations. The existing dilemma and contradictions between both the countries has been going on over a century and still affect the people living in the border areas of this two nation.

This particular article intends to discuss about the peculiarities in the relationship between India and China over the ages. The article would also try to excavate certain

crucial facts regarding the development of the disagreement between these two particular nations. The article would also be important in discussing about the Tibet controversy between India and China, which had been going on for a long duration. The article would also bring forward the treaties and pacts regarding the border area crisis of India and China. The article would also point out several aspects regarding living and the injustices that the people face in the Indo-China border area. This article would be also crucial for the bringing up of the Indo-China relationship from the time of Chinese pilgrims visiting India for the purpose of understanding Buddhist doctrines. Thus, in doing so, this article would also try to highlight a brief history of India's relationship with China before the advent of the British rule in India and after the independence of India from the British rule in the year 1947. The article would be crucial in bringing about a brief commercial trade history and also the reasons for the breakdown of the relationship and the consequent disagreement between these two nations. Thus the article becomes fundamental in bringing about one of the key relationship between India's closest northern neighboring country China.

It had a fact that the existence of India and China and their history of civilization had also been an age old history in the existence of mankind. China being situated in the northern side of India and China had been also the closest northern neighboring countries of India, enjoyed a very crucial relationship in the commercial trade aspect and also in terms of religious matters. The main religion if China had been Buddhist and the birth place of that particular person who spread Buddhist religion across several nations. For that particular reason India and China had been sharing a brotherhood from the very beginning. And the initial phases of the relationship between India and China were a very friendly relationship. India and China shared a feeling of brotherhood and communal tolerance since the introduction of Buddhism and commercial trade between these two countries.

The commercial trade through Silk Road had been one of the most famous roads of transit between the two nations. In

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this aspect and issue regarding the boundary controversy along with maritime policies regarding trade, Jagannath Panda writes that,

"The disputes surrounding the boundary issue, historical hostility on the issue of Tibet, and the Tibetan discourse, and the newly emerging water conflict have dominated the competitive aspect of the relationship between India and China for some time. These competitive elements have extended steadily to different parts of Asia, also touching the maritime sector. In fact, their economic supremacy and authority in various sub-regions of Asia have created a multi-layered and multi-structured power rivalry between the two. While their rise in global politics has propelled the thesis of multipolarism to highest level, their influence and prominence in Asia has certainly confirmed the proposition that Asia is much more multipolar today than at any previous point in time. In fact, Asia's multipolarity is a topic of utmost importance because of the influence and prominence of China. The recent Chinese proposition of a Maritime Silk-road, continued China-ASEAN maritime dialogue proposal on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea which is pushing forward the gradual implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties (DOC), India's involvement and proposition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and the newly formed India-Australia-Indonesia troika under the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) are some references which suggest how Asia's maritime politics have become more multilaterally driven and have created an ambience of multipolarism. In this context, not only is India's and China's maritime policy vital, but their maritime relationship, and mutual perceptions and misperceptions of each other are key to Asia's maritime politics. This is important when both countries are today pursuing a stronger maritime policy. Both are giving enormous attention towards maritime security and energy sustainability."¹

Thus even the maritime Silk-road had been of tremendous importance and from time to time several policies and controversies emerged because of the pacts and policies between the two independent Government of China and India. In the earlier times Indian ivory were sent by the Silk-road to China and Chinese silk were imported to India. The relationship between the two countries on the basis of commerce was very strong and both the countries exchanged a brotherhood to each other. There were no animosities between these two nations. Chinese monks and travelers like Hiuen Tsang visited India multiple times for the purpose of understanding the Buddhist doctrines and the state of existence of the Buddhist religion in its birthplace in India. In the travel records of Hiuen Tsang many a fact regarding the favorable relationship existing between India and China was found and these records reveals that there was a healthy and strong relationship between this two nations at that point of time.

However the advent of British Empire trembled the relationship between India and China. The advent of the English Empire at the turn of eighteenth century changed the

course the relationship in a different angle. Since the introduction of the English Empire they tried to cease the opportunity to trade through the Silk-road and they wanted to earn profits from such interference. And for that reason around the year 1800 A.D. the English rulers started to trade Aphim through the Silk-road. And to maximize their profit they tried to cease the opportunity by the using the relationship with the Chinese rulers. However, at that time the Colonial English masters ruled over India and as a consequence the boundaries between China and India, which had been a long debatable issue, they tried their hand to sort it out. But the intervention of the English rulers only furthered the relationship. And the consequent breakdown of the relationship followed thereafter.

The most controversial aspect of the debate between India and China at that particular point of time was the debate regarding the possession of Tibet as China's own province. The genealogical history of Tibetan people however does not suggest any association with the Chinese people, however, China claimed Tibet as one of their provinces. But the controversy regarding Tibet became more controversial after the Simla conference in 1913-14, when the British Government or rather the Indian Government along with Tibet and China was held to settle down the issue regarding Tibet controversy. Apparently, it was accepted as a crucial fact that, Tibet had their own set of dynasty and own set of rules before it was invaded and captured by a particular community.

The Simla Conference held in the year 1913-14 was important in the context of the relationship between India and China. Proposal was made to settle down the issue and as per the proposal the British Government agreed to give the inner Tibet to China. And China could take control of the complete authority of the inner Tibet and could administer that particular region according to their own choice. However, it needed to be mentioned that one of the chief causes behind the English withdrawing rights from the Tibet or the eastern hilly region, they were unable to maintain peace and order in those regions. The British Government, after taking over possession from India, started to visit these remote hilly regions occasionally. Several administrative officials and English missionaries visited those places for administrative and other purposes.

But in the Simla conference the Chinese Government denied to accept those proposal as they were not satisfied with the given boundaries and provinces. From then on the relationship between these two communities only degraded and the climax of the conflict resulted in the Chinese invasion in India in 1962. The post war relationship between India and China also furthered these two countries even wider than the previously existing relation.

To end on the discussion it could be said that there were positive relationship between India and China in the earlier period and specifically before the advent of the British Empire in the eighteenth century. India and China shared communal brotherhood because of the friendly relationship in commercial trade and for religious matters. Many a Chinese monks and travelers visited India for the purpose of understanding the doctrines and getting to know about the

¹Jagannath Panda, *Maritime Silk-road and India-China Connundrum I*, Indian Foreign Affairs Journal 9 (1), 23, 2014.

ethnic practices of India. The Silk-road was one of the most crucial aspects behind the friendly relationship between China and India but the advent of the British Empire dismantled the relationship between these two countries. The hatred of India and China began over the issues regarding boundaries and reached its climax as an ultimate unfriendly nature of relationship between these two particular countries. The problems and issues regarding these two particular countries continued after the war and even exist today. The trespassing scenario had been an everlasting phenomenon over the scattered and fragmented boundaries. A proper pact and treaty is required for the settlement of the issues regarding boundary contradictions and conflicts between these two nations. And this would reduce the tension and crisis of the people living across that particular border area.

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