

India's Maneuvering in Nepal

Saroj Kumar Timalisina.

Bhaktapur Multiple Campus,

Tribhuvan University

Email: timalisinasaroj8@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The author employed descriptive and analytical research methods to achieve the purpose of examining Indian excessive oversight in Nepal. The author found that India lags behind Nepal in terms of Indian maneuvering. Geo-location, an open border, socio-cultural connection, language proximity, public diplomacy, and India's participation in every political movement have defined Nepal-India relations. Although India does not promote democracy in Nepal, the country's government and administration do. To gain this possibility, Nepal must embrace unilaterally favorable accords such as Tanakpur (Mahakali), Koshi, Gandaki, and others. Since the Maoists and the SPA reached a 12-point agreement prior to the adoption of the current constitution, Indian maneuvering has wrecked Nepal's politics and government

Keywords: Nepal-India Relations, Maneuvering, geo-location, public diplomacy, treaties.

Introduction

The focus of this present study, which ran from 2006 to 2023, was India's disproportionate influence over politics and governance in Nepal. Perhaps because of political unrest or our own inability to settle our own political crisis, India's role as a facilitator in carrying out the twelve-point agreement between the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the insurgent Maoists has led to an unexpected increase in Indian influence in Nepal's political and administrative sectors. Actually, the agreement created quite a commotion soon after Prachanda was named prime minister by the CPN Maoists, who had become the largest party in Constituent Assembly I. Maoist lead-

er Prachanda has also said that the 1950s pact should be deemed null and void due to altered circumstances, as previously stated by sitting Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari (The Kathmandu Post, 2006, May 15).

But later on, it seemed to be only emotional and electoral politics, as seen by Prime Minister Babu Ram Bhattarai's signature of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) on April 4, 2012. A significant segment of Nepali society perceived India's participation in the country's political turmoil as support from India, despite opposition from certain factions and extremist groups who fostered anti-Indian sentiment among the youth. India considered that any political or administrative transformation in Nepal required Indian engagement, and that India was meddling in Nepal. This belief led to the twelve-point agreement struck between the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and opposing Maoists under Indian backing.

The failure of the First Constituent Assembly (2008), changes to shared governance, India's constraints on Nepal's present structure (2015), an unofficial blockade in 2015, a cartographic war between Nepal and India (2020), and other events were all impacted by India. Though it prefers that such changes be carried out by its own administration, India is happy with its efforts to bring about political change, or democracy, in Nepal and claims to be acting in accordance with the wishes of the Nepalese people. How scholars, analysts, politicians, civil society activists, and diplomats view Nepal-India relations with a particular emphasis on India's maneuvering is crucial in this critical geopolitical setting.

Objectives of the Study

The study aims to evaluate Indian intrusion in Nepali relations since 2006.

The research's precise goals are as follows:

- a) To understand about Indian maneuvering practices in Nepal.
- b) Investigate the causes of India's interference in Nepali politics and administration.

Theoretical Review

Situated geographically in the center of Asia, Nepal is bounded to the north by China and to the East, West, and South by India, two formidable technological heavyweights. With nuclear power and a world-class infrastructure, it is home to more than 1.40 billion people. Centuries of social, cultural, historical, and physical linkages have influenced Nepal-Indian relations. Similar to this, India has influenced Nepal's political and administrative activity by being an oppressive neighbor due to its greater geophysical exposure to the south. While tacitly endorsing its preferred administration and government, India publicly declares its support for democratic governance in Nepal. This research on the split India policy yielded the following generalizations based on IR theory:

In line with Acharya (1999), there is a lack of understanding on the relationship between democracy and diplomatic relations in Asia, particularly when compared to other elements that influence the region's power balance, economy, mutual dependency, and regional institutions. Instead than concentrating on the external underpinnings of Asian democracies, researchers have chosen to examine the local context and causes of democratic transitions. The areas of weakness in both kinds of research center on how democracy and foreign policy interact. The equation's first part evaluates the ways and degrees to which regional and foreign factors have impacted Asian democratization prospects. On the other hand, an excessive number of democratic countries have sway over regional foreign affairs; alternatively, India asserts that there are covert forces at play that shape and size Nepal-Indian relations.

According to the author (1999), the US's position on democracy in purportedly ally nations like South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines was, at best, murky during the majority of the Cold War. The overthrow of the Marcos regime in the Philippines, which occurred late in the uprising of the populace, was largely the result of American influence. One could make a similar case for America's role in toppling non-aligned authoritarian governments, such as Suharto's in Indonesia. In general, the US has demonstrated little interest in democratic transitions and has frequently contributed, either directly or indirectly, to the upholding of authoritarian rule (p. 6). However, this is not the case with the relationship between Nepal and India, since India maintains better relations with both governments in Nepal, though it really wants a more favorable one. On the other hand, the foreign policy of South Asia's close neighbors might be more influenced by democratic ideas. As stated by the writer (1999):

At this time, there is no method to quantify the impact of domestic values in Asia's democratic states or the foreign policy behaves of older democracies like Japan and India, but India's stance toward its neighbors is disputed. (p.7)

According to Rasler and William (2005), democratic peace theories attempt to explain the factual truth that two constitutional democracies have not fought each other since 1816—a fact that has been refuted. They use a similar theory, which maintains that interactions between democratic state pairings are by nature more peaceful than those between other regime types—that is, democratic vs. non-democratic or non-democratic versus non-democratic—to support the legitimacy of democratic peace theories. For example, Michael Doyle has attempted to establish a causal relationship between the independent variable, "democratic political structures at the country level," and the dependent variable, "the claimed lack of conflict between democratic states."

In the words of Smith, as expressed by Rasler and William (2005), US support for the military regimes in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil is just as wrong as international relations predicated on the democratization of other countries and neighbors.

Liberal democratic theology has long been at the forefront of scholarly and political discussion, as Lere (2011) points out. Liberal democratic ideology, which gives states precedence over governments, does not compromise on individual liberty and does not alter the rule of law. International market forces are likewise rewarded, despite the fact that they impose significant restrictions on nations on a local and global scale. Several scholars, including Norman Angel, Michael Doyle, Charles Beitz, Francis Fukuyama, David Held, Woodrow Wilson, Stanley Hoffman, Immanuel Kant, and Richard Rosecrance, emphasize the importance of global legal regulation of security and economic matters via international organizations (IOs) and democratic economic interdependence. Regarding this, Hoffmann (2017) observes:

Democracy and global politics are inextricably interwoven due to their multifaceted interactions. At the conceptual level, several schools of thought can be identified. These schools address the traditional divide between liberal and communicative, representational and participative, procedural and deliberative democratic models, as well as the role of nation states as "borders" of places where democracy can or should emerge. These disagreements in international politics are linked to issues of authority and legitimacy.

Global responses, according to Chung (2019), are transnational intergroup relations that represent domestic intergroup politics as democracies. Liberal, socialist, and rationalist democracies can establish cooperative international arrangements that are advantageous to all states within their own democracies because they are democratic and inclusive. Liberal democracy, for instance, can assist in establishing a liberal international order that is cooperative for all liberal democratic nations. Since nationalist democracies' and elite democracies are intolerant of foreigners and are not for everyone, competitive realism is the only way to foster competitive international relations. Democratic government and positive foreign relations can sustain peace and prosperity.

The Arab Spring (2011) has clearly proved that the international community is working to undermine traditional authority around the world (<https://www.mepc.org/international-relations-of-the-Arab-Spring>, accessed on December 4, 2013). Additionally, Kane (2012) observed:

According to these academics, the inadequate acceptance of democratic peace theory poses a severe threat to US foreign policy and, by extension, global stability and peace. More than just a side issue in international relations, democratic peace theory appears to be a key emphasis for articulating and choosing the best course of action for US foreign policy. As the author said, democratic government in the nations with whom one wishes to retain connections can encourage foreign policy and relations of international political agents (nation-states).

Although India's approach in Nepal appears to deviate from the democratic peace theory, this is because India prefers to have governments that serve its interests, whether they are panchayat-style, democratic, authoritarian under King, or communist-style, but not ones that are hostile to India.

Empirical Review

Nepal-India ties are as old as Aryan culture, according to many academic studies (Dharmadasani, 1997). Similarly, Kalim Bahadur and Lama (1995) write that "the relationships between two nations have been religious, cultural, linguistic, and racial threads that have been unique, set as they are by the long history of the subcontinent and woven into a fabric thread." Nepal and India are the most comparable countries in terms of people and traditional relations. The 1950 treaty between India and Nepal gave India ample power to micromanage Nepal; for this reason, Nepalis view this pact as an injustice inflicted by India on the backs of the anxious Ranas. As demonstrated by India's 1952 military mission to Nepal to set up checkpoints on the border between China and Nepal, the agreement included Nepal under Indian security control. The mission and outposts arrived later.

Due to its backing of the 1951 political transition, India cultivates unique ties with Nepal. The author portrayed Nepal as India's midwife when describing the country's relations with India at a certain period.

In the words of Nagarik Daily (2013), India was unhappy with Prime Minister B.P. Koirala's growing popularity, which alarmed the country. As a result, forces other than King Mahendra carried out the January 2, 1960 Royal Coup. The monarch's rise to power was facilitated by India's dissatisfaction of Nepal's recognition of Israel and Marshal Tito's belief that B.P. Koirala was Asia's rising star. In a similar vein, relations with India were suspended for eighteen months following Nepal's 1988 purchase of Chinese weaponry. India played an integral role in the political shifts of the 1990s. With the political turmoil India made an effort to haggle in Nepal.

In a similar vein, India remained silent about King Gyanendra's regal deeds, assuming he would be utilized to further Indian objectives in Nepal. However, upon seeing the complete contrary, India placed demands on the Maoist rebels and the Seven Party Alliance, who of course intended to wreak revenge on King Gyanendra for his policy against India that was supported by China. Singh (2009) states that in this case:

The election of the Constituent Assembly on April 10, 2008, demonstrated New Delhi's role in Nepal's ruin, given that the 12-point accord marked the end of a democratic process in Nepal that was assisted by India. The National Security Advisor to Man Mohan Singh, M.K. Narayan, surprisingly created a certificate of consent implying that India was supporting the campaigns of the CPN (UML) and the Nepali Congress, which turned out to be not only illicit but also ridiculous (p. 233).

India opposes our geopolitical and geo-location lying and always wants the government of Nepal to act unilaterally in its favor. As per the Kathmandu Post (2010, October 1), Prime Minister Prachanda's state visit to China took place prior to his visit to India and created a lot of controversy because, historically, state visits by recently elected or selected Prime Ministers were first made in India and other countries, following changes in Nepali government. Prachanda attributed the predicament to our narrow-minded friends. The Maoists' ties with India have gotten worse, according to The Hindustan Times (2013, April 27).

Following the demise of Prachanda's government, the CPN (UML) leader Madav Kumar Nepal took over as prime minister. His government faced criticism for being pro-Indian (Kathaputali/Puppet); nevertheless, following his passing, Jhal Nath Khanal's government emerged in a neutral position. India held the Khanal government in low regard, and no formal state visit was asked for. Additionally, it is alleged that the basis for the case against this government is the pro-Indian government of UCPN (Maoist) leader Babu Ram Bhattarai, who signed the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and attempted to grant India security control over Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). Many viewed this action as a danger to the security and sovereignty of Nepal. Large countries will inevitably want to exert influence in the area because of Nepal's strategic significance.

India had intended to invest in Nepal's hydropower industry, but it was delayed owing to security concerns, according to an article authored by Nepali hydropower specialist Mr. Ratnasansar Shrestha and published in Gorkhapatra Daily on May 10, 2010. However, where are the Mahakali and DPR treaties being put into effect? We should do all in our power to lessen our dependency on India. We need to look at both national interests and ideologies when analyzing relations between Nepal and India (Gorkhapatra Daily, May 10, 2010).

The subsequent developments that support India's involvement in Nepal include the opinion that Lokman Singh Karki, the CIAA chief, was a good choice for India in the end. Pradhan (2015), the electoral administration headed by Chief Justice Mr. Khil Raj Regmi and formed by agreement between four major parties, was also charged with establishing a pro-Indian grand strategy. A series of state visits to India by senior Nepalese leaders during the Mass Uprising II in 2006 suggests that the nation either has a significant influence on the country's political actors or they find it difficult to hold onto power without India's consent.

A sizeable portion of the Nepali Diasporas holds unfavorable views on Indian involvement in Nepal and many of them are hostile to Indians. One of the reasons is the Indian government's incursion into Nepali territory. Film, television, novels, magazines, the internet, and real life have all portrayed India's unhealthy involvement in Nepali politics and politicians, India's unethical possession of Nepalese territory, the

two countries' divergent water and energy sharing agreements, and India's claim to the birthplace of Buddha. Most notably, however, is the intense xenophobia that many Indians have toward Nepalese people.

In the real world, the entry or invasion of another nation never benefits either one's government or its citizens. How can the brave and valiant people of Nepal, who are not a slave nation and have a long history of fighting and winning, put up with India's condescending attitude? India's issue is that it cannot exist without interfering in its neighbors' domestic issues. From China to the Maldives, Pakistan to Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka to Nepal India's participation in Doklam Tussel 2017 has caused problems for every bordering country. 2019 saw border disputes between India and Pakistan as well as an expedition into Kashmir. Given that India illegally sponsors terrorists and criminals in Balochistan, Pakistan is the most susceptible country to an Indian attack (Global Conflict Tracker, 2023, June 28).

According to Subramaniyam Swami (2019, July 29), the BJP intimidation squad of Prime Minister Narendra Modi created the last obstructions in September 2015, and it is continuously tormenting earthquake victims in Nepal until today. The present Nepali government has made it apparent that it wants Indian forced mediation along the lines of the much-discussed 12-point deal drafted by ambassador Shyam Sharan and his close allies in Kathmandu's political circles, who, under the guise of the Delhi agreement, not only brought Nepali Maoists to the capital but also made it difficult for them to join the political system of the nation.

India bases its foreign policy toward the countries of South Asia on aiding those that benefit it personally (<http://www.firstpost.com>). While ties with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India have not diminished, relations with the other South Asian nations participating in the May 26 event have not fared as well. The most recent thorn in India's side has been Mahindra Raja Pakse's meeting with Modi in New Delhi. The bilateral relationship with Sri Lanka has seen ups and downs as well as brief spells of tranquility. As mentioned before, the former president accused India of meddling in Colombo's internal affairs before the 2015 presidential election, which resulted in his removal from office and the election of Maitripala Sirisena, a less China-friendly candidate, in Sri Lanka. Regarding this, the original post from September 28, 2018, says:

'It demonstrates that India has a definite stake in the political development of South Asian countries, and Nepal is not immune to its established foreign policy.' (<http://www.firstpost.com>).

India desires its solo influence in Nepal and that was reflected on an opinion of General Bipin Rawat that he cautioned nations against accepting Chinese aid in September 2015, stating that geography prevented Nepal and Bhutan from becoming independent of India. China's support, Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat said at a press

briefing, is just provisional. At the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Cooperation, Field Training Military Exercise (BIMSTIC-MILEX 18) conclusion ceremony. However, Nepal declines to take part in the training, citing India's stake in the endeavor. Indian influence in Nepal is demonstrated by India's adamant opposition to the country's constitution. Under the pretext of incensed Terai-based parties, India enforced an unofficial embargo, and it still refuses to acknowledge the September 20, 2015, promulgation of the Nepalese constitution. Rather, it has sent an unofficial seven-point proposal for constitutional change to Nepal (Roy. 2015, September 24).

Research Gap

Rather, it has sent an unofficial seven-point proposal for constitutional change to Nepal. India is worried about Nepal's political independence, and China's deep involvement in Nepal's development sectors has limited India's ability to maneuver in the country. The author of this study found that while all prior research has demonstrated India's presence in Nepal through deft viewpoint manipulation; it is unclear how and to what degree India is active in Nepali politics and governance.

Conceptual Framework

The paper focuses on Indian maneuvering in Nepalese politics and governance. Existing theoretical and imperial literature is used to investigate political and administrative variables, while Key Informants Interview is used to provide additional explanation. Indeed, the main topics of discussion have been the connections between Nepal and India, the Indian influence on Nepalese politics and government, the underlying causes of these difficulties, the remedies to each, and the possibilities for the future.

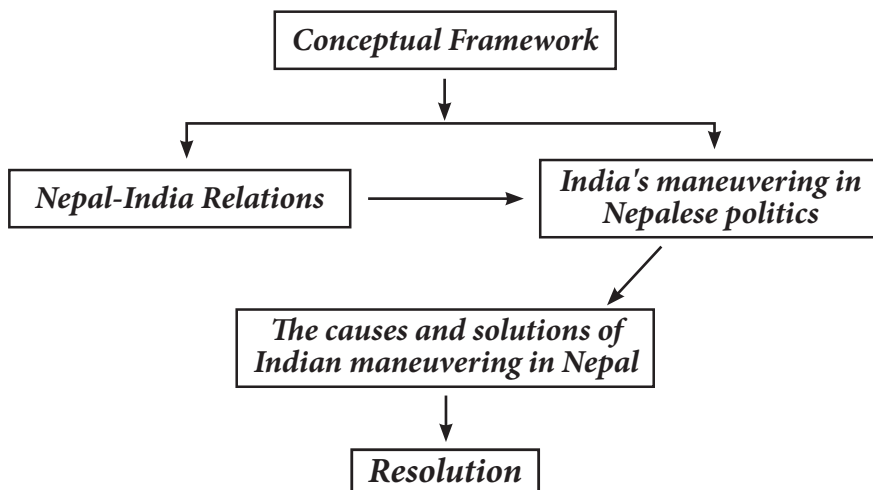


Figure: 1 Conceptual Framework

Methods of the Study

The relationship between Nepal and India as well as Indian oversight in Nepali

politics and government are the main topics of this study. Research that was descriptive, analytical, and empirical gave rise to new discoveries in methodology. Due to the nature of the subject, researching from a historical perspective is necessary while creating a technique. We can comprehend historical occurrences, significant political and administrative developments, and their interpersonal ramifications by using the historical method of research. In addition, the researcher is searching for actual data. For this reason, author would be happy to speak with experts on the connections between Nepal and India. It includes data from multiple literature reviews, as well as information from books, journals, articles, and research papers.

Findings

India Complying with the Second Mass Movement, 2006

India has been keen to incorporate dissident Maoists into the country's political mainstream ever since the 12-point pact. Remarkably, the Maoists in Nepal, who had rejected parliamentary democracy in the past, decided to support it. After the United Communist Party of Nepal (UCPN Maoist) emerged as the most influential political force in CA, Puspa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda," the Maoist leader, was appointed prime minister of Nepal. From September 14 to September 18, 2008, he traveled to India as a state guest. In order to create a "New Nepal," Prachanda pledged to carry out significant economic reforms; nevertheless, much to India's chagrin, the Maoists started forging closer ties with China rather than New Delhi. After 239 years of monarchy, the nation was proclaimed a Federal Republic by the Constitutional Assembly in 2008. In an interview conducted on November 3, 2019, Bijukchhe asserted:

'In order to weaken Nepal's nationalist institutions, such as the monarchy and legitimate communist forces, India used the UCPN Maoists as a Trojan horse. Highly developed was also the Indian understanding of the Royal Palace as the center of Chinese influence in Nepal.'

As noted by Thapa (2012), there were a number of significant changes that occurred in Nepal, including the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended an 11-year violent conflict; the rise of the Maoists to power in 2008; the overthrow of the monarchy; an unexpected end to armed conflict; and the country's designation as a federal democratic republic. These developments have affected Nepal's relations with its two biggest neighbors, China and India.

But when Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal Prachanda tried to seize power with the army's help, India became more and more concerned. Given that Nepal's 1950 peace and friendship treaty with India was essentially a security contract between India and Nepal, it was believed that he would negotiate a deal with China that would contradict that agreement. India is forced to assist the opposition parties and the Nepalese Army in their attempts to maintain the nation's democratic system (Thapa, 2010).

Dahal eventually resigned in May 2009 as a result of this lawsuit. During his September 2008 visit to India, Prime Minister Prachanda spoke of a new beginning for the bilateral relations between the two nations. "I am very happy to be going back to Nepal," he said to reporters. We are dedicated to a new beginning, and I will let Nepalis know that a whole new administration has been established back home." He had meetings with Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh while traveling. He extended an invitation to India to help Nepal draft a new constitution. It was actually his fault since; once again, he compared our obligations to pounded iron grains and particularly included India in the process of creating the Nepali constitution.

In spite of Prachanda's resignation, Madav Kumar Nepal, the leader of the CPN (UML), was named prime minister. On May 25, 2009, the prime minister declared his intention to mend the severely strained relations with India that had existed throughout the Maoist regime's nine-month rule. In an attempt to establish a balance between China and India, Prachanda and his India baiters shook hands. Because of the Maoists, Beijing's influence in Nepal has grown. The peace process was started by Madav Kumar Nepal and concentrated on establishing a constitution and including Maoists. However, Madav Kumar Nepal's government was harshly condemned by the UCPN Maoists as a puppet government (Kathaputali Sarkar).

Political leaders have frequently pledged that India would meddle in Nepalese affairs. According to Puspa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', the chairman of the UCPN Maoist Party, the biggest obstacle to achieving a three-point agenda was "foreign forces," not the Nepali Congress or communist organizations CPN (UML). Prachanda was clearly trying to tell India that the Maoists in Nepal were getting agitated lately, accusing India of meddling in internal matters and trying to put an end to the peace process. Additionally, he said that the ruling parties in Nepal were really the Indian ruling class's puppets. Former Indian ambassador and foreign secretary Lalit Man Singh refuted the claims. "India's role had been very constructive, but it was mostly behind the scenes," he stated. The government's position remains unaltered: avoid being overly invasive. The first president of Nepal, Ram Baran Yadav, visited India formally from January 27 to February 5, 2011, carrying on the lengthy history of high-level contacts between the two nations. Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai made a second trip to India from October 20–23, 2011 as a part of visit diplomacy bilateral visits between Nepal and India is very common.

Because Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai failed to bring CA back on track, it first failed in May 2012. The Madhesi parties comprise the remaining elements of the political balance, which has shifted back to where it should have been all along with the election of Baburam Bhattarai as Nepal's next prime minister. While Baburam Bhattarai has emphasized the significance of creating a national administration with all

the major parties, the new organization does not include the Nepali Congress or the Unified Maoist-Leninists. Nepal now has a fresh chance to realize its potential thanks to Mr. Bhattarai's election (<http://www.revolvy.com>). It suggests that India had great expectations for Baburam Bhattarai's involvement in the service.

As per Prime Minister Bhattarai, Nepal is undergoing extreme political unrest. We fought against monarchy and feudal oppression for almost 60 years, as well as for widespread socio-economic prosperity. We moved with both gentleness and strength at different times. Ultimately, the major political parties decided in 2006 to overthrow the king and install democracy through the CA, with the Maoist UCPN and traditional parliamentary parties among them. We were successful in overthrowing the monarchy and establishing democracy in Nepal. We are now formalizing the successes of the CA, which will lead to federal state reform and a social revolution.

As stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which was signed in November 2006, we have fulfilled our specific obligations regarding army integration and other peace process components. Regarding this, Bhattarai (2019) explained:

Following the embargo, Indian influence in Nepal's domestic politics has diminished, and there are allegations that India's stance toward Nepal has evolved. However, Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a major leader of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and former foreign minister, argues that any decision is premature. India's participation in Nepal's internal affairs has now been limited, but it has to be seen whether India's Nepal policy has altered since the embargo."

India has supported Nepal's democratic achievements for a long time, but it has recently suppressed independent discussion over constitutional amendments that the CA rejected in 2015, leading to an embargo. A transit agreement was inked by Prime Minister K.P. Oli during his March 20–27 visit to China. Nonetheless, it presented formidable obstacles for India. However, Prime Minister Oli visited India frequently in order to exonerate Indian accused.

On June 12, 2016, Maoist leader Prachanda made the unpredictable announcement that he was leaving the KP Oli administration. Because India disapproved of his government's nationalist stance, KP Oli criticized it, strengthening connections between Nepal and India and stoking anti-Indian sentiment in the country. The India policy of Prime Minister KP Oli caused the abrupt cancellation of Mrs. Vidhya Devi Bhandari's planned visit. The cancellation was reportedly caused in part by India's purported attempt to replace Oli with Prachanda, another leader.

Through a deal made by the Maoist Center and the Nepali Congress, Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress (NC) managed election administration while Prachanda led the country as prime minister for the first several months. He took a plane to India once his term as prime minister ended. To ensure the success of their attempts

to establish long-term, mutually beneficial ties, both nations kept up their high-level visits. The CPN Alliance, which lost the general election on November 26, 2017, became the most powerful political party in the nation and held a significant majority in the federal cabinet. China's longtime buddy KP Oli won the prime minister ship. As he traveled around China and India, he emphasized how Nepal had experienced tremendous economic growth thanks to their support and claimed that he is putting a lot of effort into promoting mutually beneficial ties between China, India, and Nepal.

It demonstrates that India is unhappy with how the current constitution is being implemented and is determined to keep its political sway over Nepal. India is displeased with Nepal's aspirations for independence. KP Oli continued by saying that it would be inappropriate to concentrate only on the immediate need and ignore the wider, longer-term relationship. Nobody should lose focus on the bigger picture by obsessing over tiny minutiae.

Members of the Tharu community and political groups with roots in the Madhesh resigned from the CA, arguing that the amended language did not resolve their concerns. With affirmative action, India is willing to help the Nepalese government fulfill the dreams of the plains people, especially the Madhesis and Janajatis. While in Nepal, Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jay Shankar proposed delaying the new constitution for a few days to address concerns expressed by various opposition organizations. In answer to Mr. Jaishankar's question, Oli stated that members of the CA come from all spheres of society and that the constitution was drafted democratically. He went on to describe the risks associated with small gatherings.

During a time of tense ties between Nepal and India, when the self-governing Constituent Assembly adopted the constitution, India imposed an unofficial economic blockade, indicating anti-Indian sentiment in Nepal. Nonetheless, as stipulated by the 1950s Nepal-India peace and amity treaty, Prime Minister Oli and Nepali civilians were faced with the challenging task of maintaining nationality, sovereignty, and independence. By establishing the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to thoroughly examine the 1950 pact, whether for repeal or reform, PM Oli went above and above. The following individuals from both nations participated in EPG:

Table 1

EPG members of both countries

EPG Member Representing Nepal	EPG Member Representing India
The group included Rajan Bhattarai, Nilamber Acharya, Surya Nath Upadhyay, and Bhekh Bahadur Thapa.	The group includes Bhagat Singh Koshyari, BC Upreti, Mahendra P Lama, and Jayant Prasad.

(Source: Giri, 2021, August 21)

Nepal's geographic location is a great asset because it makes travel between the two countries simpler, less costly, and more established. These two neighbors have more cultural and social ties, which have given them a deeper shared past. This could also account for India's fervor for the cat-and-mouse game. It is hoped that Nepal will have the humility to concede defeat. I had probably hoping that the divisive KP Oli administration of today would crumble under the weight of its own contradictions and that India will be able to dictate terms once more (<http://www.firstpost.com>). But Nepal's resounding support for the Oli government thwarted India's strategy.

According to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in the Indian parliament, India is sometimes referred to as a "caring elder brother" because it is the older brother (Bade Bhai). In general, Nepalese foreign policy has been in line with Indian objectives, regardless of the terminology used or the fact that India is the only neighbor of Nepal. India has historically had a more manipulative influence over Nepal than China due to the strong cultural and historical links. On the other hand, this influence has frequently been seen as micromanaging Nepali politics.

On the other hand, this influence has frequently been seen as micromanaging Nepali politics. Behind the scenes, there are notable examples of Indian manipulation, such as the issue involving Nepal Army Chief Rukmangat Katuwal, the nomination of Lok Man Singh Karki as Chief of the CIAA, the rise of Chief Judge and Chairman of the Election Government Khil Raj Regmi. In fact, the Indian Ambassador to Nepal is often called, rather jokingly, the "Governor of Nepal" by those in the political establishment, with whom he has regular interactions. Not all other sovereign states agree with this.

After the Second Mass Movement upended our political system, India started becoming involved in smaller disputes as well. For India, the demise of the CA I signaled a dramatic shift in Nepali politics. As India's power increased, China gave space to Nepali communist party, and Pakistan and other anti-Indian countries. Prime Minister Oli is striving to maintain autonomous and balanced relations with neighboring nations as Nepali politics have taken on a new tone following the passage of the constitution. But Prachanda made it clear to a TV anchor on March 2, 2021, that "it is time for Prime Minister Oli to be replaced with a "new coalition" that includes his NCP faction, the Nepali Congress, and the Janata Samajwadi (JSP) that is "comfortable" for the Indian regime." According to Teligraphnepal.com, this meant that the government led by the communist alliance, Oli, had failed.

On March 1, 2021, Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal, commander of his Delhi-based military wing, responded to Prachanda's "comfortable" idea by telling a sizable gathering in Pokhara that "Prachanda's Maoist war era" was all a deliberate act of helping the Indian establishment at the expense of Nepal. Because of all that Delhi has done for him during his safe "slumber," Prachanda wants to go back there. According to Telegraphnepal.com (March 2, 2021):

In fact, while he was in India, Delhi provided him with state security on the condition that he "devastate and damage Nepal" to the point where a completely destroyed Nepal would no longer rely on India. It is also true that the Indians devised, engineered, and executed the scheme.

Furthermore, the Indian government seems to have actively engaged in the 1990 anti-Panchayat movement, as per the international relations idea of zones of influence. The intention of Indian authorities to effectively launch a popular movement and their attendance at the Nepali Congress conference serve as a noteworthy example. Similarly, because of a perceived personality conflict between King Birendra India's and Prime Minister, Rajeev Gandhi's government allegedly exploited the realism theory of IR to back the people's movement.

Similar to this, political parties in Nepal expressed dissatisfaction and called on India to impose a blockade on the nation in an effort to undermine the Panchayat however, given the international unrest that existed between Nepal and India, this was a mistake as it gave India another chance to meddle in Nepali politics. Realist and geopolitical IR theories hold that India trained the troops of major Maoist leaders and gave them temporary sanctuary during the Maoist insurgency as a means of influencing a government that was prone to violence. India's "two pillar" policy looks to be in force even though it has ceased being implemented in Nepal (Timalisina, 2023).

China's influence in Nepal was considerably increased by the 12-point accord made prior to Mass Movement II, which was influenced by Indian psychoanalytic theory, IR realism, and geopolitical theory. Similarly, once Mass Movement II (2006 AD) was successful, Nepal's peace process leaders exploited the Madhesis Card to revive relations with India. On the basis of the geopolitical idea of defending national interests through integrated relationship strategies and fostering growth through connectivity, Nepal, nevertheless, aims to strike a balance with its neighbors. India seeks to lessen China's hegemony by maintaining Nepal under its security guard.

In 2009, India's meddling was evident in the dismissal of Prime Minister Prachanda and the appointment of Madhav Kumar Nepal as the head of the CPN (UML) in the Nepali government. When referring to the Indian government, Prachanda would often use the term Kathaputali Sarkar. Nepal's political ups and downs are attributed to India. There are questions regarding Nepalese politics and India's capacity to manage the nation's public administration in light of the dismissal or appointment of high-ranking officials (Timalisina, 2023).

As per Timalisina (2023), India hopes to maintain its role as a micromanager in Nepal and plans to install its own favored government there. India has had a significant influence on Nepal's major political issues, as evidenced by the formation and appointment of an elected government led by Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi, the appointment

of former royalist Lok Man Singh Karki as head of the CIAA, the failure of the CAI, the proposed surrender of the TIA to India, the BIPPA and security agreements, and a number of other internal issues. As stated by Author (2023), India started playing the Madhesi card against Nepal's political elites once the political parties decided to adopt a constitution. India's leaders and ministers, Jayshankar and Sushma Swaraj, have directly questioned guilt in both public and private settings. India's dissatisfaction with Nepal's 2015 constitution and its support for the Madhesh movement has led to the imposition of an unofficial blockade on the country for over five months. Additionally, it is asserted that India still uses Madhesh card strategies in Nepal. A representative of the embassy located in Kathmandu had put out seven suggestions for amending the constitution. In addition, Nepal's frequent changes of government and majority government failure can be attributed to India's influence as well as problems with the need for Indian aid to secure control and authority.

There are many who contend that India undoubtedly influences our political parties as well as our individual leaders. India's influence in Nepalese politics and governance is growing since most political parties in the country allow Indian intra-party lobbying. In 2016, PM Oli's first term as prime minister saw a noticeable shift in his foreign policy toward independence. Its denunciations of its opponents are proof enough for the majority of communist friends, Communist China, and Prime Minister K.P. Oli's strong support, but most crucially, Nepali politics are currently rejecting India's influence. In an attempt to set him apart, Oli shaped the way that people saw his politics. Another potent example is the National Consensus's release of the beaked (Chuche Naksha) map. Prime Minister K.P. Oli intended to establish an autonomous foreign policy in order to eschew India's influence. The belief in "satyamebajayete" or "singhamebajayate" held by Indians is evidently being questioned by Oli in his address in parliament and in his ZEE News interview with Sudhir Sharma. According to Timalisina (2023), PM Sushil Koirala and Prachanda have equally notable viewpoints on the announcement of a new constitution.

In line with author (2023), India's adoption of the EPG concept has been successful since it ratified the 1950 treaty; other agreements and treaties were regarded as unjust, but the EPG was accepted. If Nepal keeps an eye on the situation and keeps national interests front and center in its policies, this could lead to tangible action in the upcoming days. The former ambassador to India, L.R. Baral, claims that poor governance has led to Nepal's increased reliance on India and other countries.

Furthermore, the Roti-Beti rista, which accords naturalized citizens the same status, separates relations between India and Nepal, according to R. Yadav, a member of the Janata Samajbadi Party central committee led by Upendra Yadav. I believed that restricting India's influence in Nepal's internal issues would be more sensible. Similar to this, in order for Nepal's political parties to effectively influence India when needed,

they must work together to represent national interests.

Conclusion

The relationship between Nepal and India has fluctuated since the end of the monarchy. Improving foreign relations is the responsibility of political party leaders. The formation of bilateral alliances requires leaders to possess impartiality and knowledge. While all interactions are bound by and evaluated by history, leaders need to liberate themselves from the historical perspective when the bulk of the baggage is negative. Despite having its own foreign policy based on sovereignty as opposed to the Bhutanese model, which India believed would suit Nepalese expectations; Nepal has been an ally of India since the British era. Nepal wants to strengthen its two-way ties with India on the basis of equal sovereignty. Nepal's ability to accomplish its objectives has probably forced it to fortify its relations with China, which views Nepal as a significant ally. Nepal's capacity to realize its aspirations has probably encouraged it to fortify its relations with China, which views Nepal as an essential ally in achieving its own geopolitical objectives.

This demonstrates that better government-to-government connections are necessary even though interpersonal interactions have dominated Nepal- India ties. Both nations must be aware of one another's problems in order to reach a high degree of friendly relations. Both nations ought to exercise caution while expressing their fury. For instance, both nations must acknowledge the importance of one another's support in preserving regional harmony and furthering one another's interests internationally. More importantly, instead of turning to India for help, Nepali authorities should look inside their own population to find solutions to their own issues. Likewise, given that Nepal has been declared a federal republic democracy, India need to give up on its dual Nepal policy and stop playing about in the country; otherwise, anti-Indian feeling in Nepal might steadily worsen.

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