

The US and India Have a Natural Alliance

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It was in the late 1970s that the United States and India began to have amicable relations after the election of anti-Soviet leader Morarji Desai to the position of Prime Minister of India. In the period of three decades, the Cold War had been taking place between the US and the Soviet Union, with the two nations stockpiling their nuclear arsenals along with seeking allies and taking part in indirect conflicts with one another such as the Korean and the Vietnam Wars (Kapoor and Ganguly). India was involved in this war by maintaining a close tie with the Soviet Union as a response to the US backing of Pakistan, who was seen as an arch-rival to India. This caused US-Indian relations to falter until the late 1970s (Joshi). It was from this point on, up to present day, that the United States and India, for the most part, have become natural allies who

can depend on one another due to similarities in government and economic interests. This alliance between the nations can be seen to have had a positive impact and it can have an even greater impact in the areas of security and the economy through cooperation.

The United States of America was created on the principles of freedom and equality as well as democracy. There are many other democracies in the world, 122 to be exact, and one particular democracy garners attention and prestige, India's (Joshi). This is due to the fact that the nation of India is the biggest democracy in terms of population, seventh in land area and tenth in GDP (Indian General Election). In order to have obtained these prestigious positions in a country of its size, India sustained a prosperous nation under the principles of democracy which led to increased population and productivity of its economy. This illustrious stature of India is what makes it a natural ally of the United States (Joshi). Both nations share the feature of democracy but also share democracies which have functioned lucratively and share a similar history. Both the United States and India gained their independence from Great Britain, although by different means, to become truly free and thereby emerge into the world, eventually leading them to where they are today (Kapur and Ganguly), serving as evidence for the natural alliance that the two nations hold.

America and India's natural alliance can be used to support each other in the important area of security. In places across the globe, especially in Southwest Asia where political and economic interests of both countries intersect, peace and security are needed in order to maintain tranquility. For example, Iran and Afghanistan are major countries in Southwest Asia which require the attention of India and the US in relation to security issues (Kapur and Ganguly). Both nations recognize the possession of nuclear weapons by Iran as a threat which needs to be resolved in some way, such as by passing restriction acts as the US has done, or by debarring exports of items which could be used for Iran's nuclear program as India has done, representing an affinity. Although India hasn't explicitly supported direct sanctions against Iran, they have significantly reduced their magnitude of trade with Iran (Gupta). India needs a marginally healthy relationship with Iran in order to have ingress to Central Asia and Afghanistan and assist in maintaining security through their presence. A connection with the United States can be used to support one another in suppressing Iran in a manner heavy enough to avert a threat, satisfying both parties. India can use their relationship with the US to engage in negotiation talks with Iran, as well as assist more in the stabilization of Afghanistan, after the US is gone from the region by about 2017, through their presence, enabling positive outcomes.

Every powerful country needs a reliable way of obtaining resources and then allocating those resources in a manner which in turn profits the country. This is the purpose of nations' economies and in order to do this, certain barriers have to be overcome and cooperation is needed. The economies of the United States and India are not in the best shape at the present moment with their economies slowly improving from worse states (Indian General Election). However, support for each other can result in renewed growth in economies thereby producing positive results. One way in which this can be done is through foreign direct investment in different areas such as fuels, electronics and services. Two-way investment between the two nations totaled over \$30 billion by 2010, depicting the already heavy presence of foreign investment (Biswal). The US is one of the largest foreign investors in India accounting for 8 percent of total foreign investment. This is due to America recognizing the valuable economic potential held by India as they are growing. India has also been investing in the US, with the volume of investment by In-

dian corporates in overseas businesses growing by 75% annually since the year of 2002 (Joshi). In the near future, the two countries can use this investment to support each other in different areas which are beginning to grow, such as telecommunications, energy, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. India is one of the best places to invest in all of these fields due to their large growth in production and is one of the largest providers of labor (Biswal). In return, American agriculture and natural gas industries can be invested in by India, helping certain areas of both nations profit, positively magnifying their relationship in the process.

A mutualistic relationship between the United States and India has seen to have had positive results in the past and can continue to be positive in the future in security and economics. The affinities between the two nations are plentiful and if action is taken on the basis of these similarities, interests of both sides can be fulfilled at the same time. In doing so, not only will these two countries benefit, but international stability can be maintained through cooperation, resulting in world peace.

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