



## THE ORIGIN OF NON – ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT – A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT:

*The term 'Non – Alignment' is usually used to describe the foreign policies of nations which have not allied themselves with either of two blocs – communist and western which appeared on the international arena after the Second World War. This policy was first adopted by countries like India , Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia and became so popular in the course of time that most of the Afro – Asian Countries which gained independence in subsequent years also became adherents of this policy . It is noteworthy that most of the countries who adopted non- alignment as their national interest to join either of the two blocs and obtained necessary assistance in the solution of their problems. This world have undeniably led to curtailment of their freedom. But these states preferred to retain independence of action and decided to keep out of power blocs. The consideration of playing more active role in the shaping of their policies in the international sphere also promoted them to adopt this policy.*

**KEYWORDS:** foreign policies , obtained necessary , national interest.

### INTRODUCTION:

The birth of the Non- Alignment Movement was one of the most important consequences of the collapse of the colonial system of imperialism . The passionate appeal for the ideological and political unity of the emergent states made in 1946 by Jawaharlal Nehru, the outstanding leader of the world national liberation movement and first Prime Minister of independent of India, was heard throughout the newly free world and taken up by millions of people who had just East away the yoke colonial rule. In the favourable post war conditions when imperialism's position was weakening, when the prestige of world socialism was growing and strengthening, and when the peoples were scoring one success after another in their national liberation struggle, the Non – Aligned Movement quickly gained momentum to become a powerful factor in world politics. Over the quarter of century that has passed since the first meeting of the leaders of non – aligned states in 1961 in Belgrade, the ranks of the movement have quadrupled, now numbering about a hundred countries nearly two thirds of the world's nations with a population of more than 1.5 billion.

Having common problems and sharing common aspirations, the people of these countries began to act together although there was no organization binding them. However, they began to develop some common understanding on world affairs, particularly on the question of the independence of nations which were still under foreign rule. In 1955 an important event took place which helped to strengthen the unity of African and Asian countries. This was the Afro – Asian Conference which has held at Bandung in Indonesia. The leaders of three Asian nations India , China and Indonesia played an important role in the deliberations of this conference . The growing importance of the Afro – Asian

countries was reflected in the United Nations where on a number of issues of countries of Asia and Africa functioned as a group.

Another significant development in the world after the independence of Asian and African countries was the information of military blocs as a serious danger to peace. These countries were faced with the enormous task of social and economic reconstruction which would be done only in a world free from war and tension. Some countries in Asia had joined the military alliances and had allowed foreign bases to be setup on their soil. The extension of military alliances and the setting up of foreign bases were considered by most Asian countries as a threat to their independence and a source of tension. Hence, they opposed these alliances. They were also aware of the danger which the continuance of imperialism in some parts of Asia and Africa posed to them and to world peace. Therefore, they were in the forefront of the struggle for the liquidation of colonialism. Non-alignment has primarily been a policy aiming at the strengthening of independence ending of colonialism and promoting world peace. It was not merely a policy of non-involvement with military blocs but a policy for creating a better world.

India under the Prime Minister of Jawaharlal Nehru played a pioneering role in making non-alignment a major force in the world. The other leaders who played an important role in the Non-Aligned Movement were president Sukarno of Indonesia, President Nasser of Egypt and President Tito of Yugoslavia. The first summit conference of non-aligned nations was held at Belgrade in Yugoslavia in September 1961. It was attended by heads of state or government of 25 countries. Besides, Yugoslavia and Cuba, from Europe and the Americas respectively, the other participating countries were from Asia and Africa. Three other countries attended as observers. The statement issued at the end of this conference affirmed the basic principles of non-alignment such as the stabilization of peace, liquidation of colonialism and imperialism in all their forms, peaceful coexistence between nations, condemnation of racial discrimination, opposition to military alliances, disarmament, respect for human rights, establishment of economic relations between nations based on equality and free from exploitation etc.

Non-alignment began its chequered history as the foreign policy strategy of a few countries in the period following the Second World War. Its chief protagonists in the beginning were India, Yugoslavia, Indonesia, Egypt and Ghana. However, with passage of time non-alignment becomes a strong movement among the developing countries, India's adherence to the policy of non-alignment has arisen from the historic conditions of her freedom struggle. Our leaders then had refused to see India's independence in narrow national terms but as part of the global process of struggle against imperial hegemony and colonial bondage. This accounts for the fact that since independence, India has remained as the forefront of de-colonisation efforts both at the United Nations and outside.

Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative to convene the first ever Asian Relation Conference in New Delhi in 1947, to announce to the world that Asia had come into its own. The responsibility assumed by India was "not necessarily for leadership" as Nehru put it, but for taking the initiative sometimes and helping others to co-operate. Also at India. Thereafter India lent similar support to other freedom movement and called upon the colonial powers to grant independence to subject peoples. As a reaction to Cold War, which was characterized by aggressive bloc building by the two super power, the smaller nations and new states of Asia and Africa felt the need to protect themselves. Therefore, a conference was held in the Indonesia City of Bandung in 1955.

The universality of the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement formulated by Jawaharlal Nehru found expression in the fact that they began to gain the support of an increasing number of newly free nations in Asia, Africa and later on in Latin America. Owing to the prevailing historical conditions Josip Broz Tito paid a great deal of attention to the concept of non-alignment and to the movement itself. Like Jawaharlal Nehru, he believed that the movement should not be confined to a small group of countries, and that it could become an influence force of our time only if it were joined by as many states as possible which shared its principles.

### CAIRO CONFERENCE

The second conference of non – aligned nations, held in Cairo in 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1964 was attended by 46 states nearly half of the world's nations independent at the time . The ideas at the conference also expressed apprehension that 'regional economic groupings of industrialized countries will adversely affect the interests of their economics if conceived and operated in a restrictive and discriminating manner.

### LUSAKA CONFERENCE

It was held in September 1970 in Zambia's capital city of Lusaka in which 63 non – aligned nations participated. The conference welcomed efforts being made for restoring peace in West Asia and resolved that these should be continued. It was also resolved that similar efforts should be made in the case of India and China . The conference demanded that the U.S should withdraw her armies from Vietnam. It was not in favour of London government which in its opinion had thrown open the gates of foreign interference in Cambodia. The west did not appreciate the change of direction taking place in the Non – Aligned Movement at Lusaka. Nyere's plan to convert non – aligned into a trade union of the have knots was mentioned in its press, but was considered unlikely to materialize. The Soviet Union agreed that the non – aligned should seek to achieve cohesion in their approach but an article in mentioned in its. The soviet union agreed that the non aligned should seek to achieve cohesion in their approach, but an article an article anti – imperialist theme.

### Algeria's Conference(1973)

It was held in 1973 in Algeria's capital in September, 1973. It was attended by the representatives of 76 nations. Addressing the Algiers Conference, the Cuban leader Fidel Castro spoke of the aims and tasks of the non aligned movement drawing special attention to the need for a relentless struggle against imperialism and colonialism. To our way of thinking he said the world is divided into capitalist and socialist countries, imperialist and neo – colonial zed countries, reactionary and progressive countries governments in a word that back imperialism, colonialism, neo colonialism, and racism.

### Colombo Conference, 1976

It was held in August 1976 which was attended by 86 nations . It was an important conference in the sense that in it more stress was laid on economic rather than on political problems . The conference resolved that international trade should be so re – organised and that the developing nations get more trade opportunities. It recommended that production system should be re – organised and that existing monetary system should be radically changed and in that the views of developing as is given to the views of developed nations.

### Havana Conference (1979)

The move to have the soviet union recognized as the naturally of the non – aligned nations, mooted at the Algiers conference and reiterated at the Colombo conference , was openly campaigned by the host country at the Havana non – aligned summit conference in 1979 . The Havana conference made an in – depth and comprehensive analysis of the situation in Latin American and in the Caribbean area, expressed solidarity with the struggle of the people in that region, and called for a peaceful settlement of all conflicts.

The summit held at Havana in September 1979 was attended by 92 countries. India at that time, had a caretaker government . Prime Minister cheran singh did not attend the conference. India was represented by the then foreign minister. The Cuban president Fidel Castro who presided over the conference suggested natural friendship between NAM and the Soviet Union. However, the majority of NAM members did not favour the suspension of this founder of the movement Pakistan who had been clearly assigned with the United States in the past and who now sought the non – aligned status, was admitted in the movement.

### Delhi Conference (1983)

The next summit of the non – aligned nations was to be held at Baghdad in September 1982 but the venue had to be changed on account of the Iran – Iraq war and India was asked to host the conference in March 1983. The New Delhi conference met from 7 march to 12 march 1983. It brought presidents, prime ministers, kings and emirs from then 100 countries on the same platform. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was elected the chairperson of the summit and she was to lead the movement for the next three years but an account of her assassination in October 1984 Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi became the chairman of the movement.

The 54 pages declaration reflected the two – part summit declaration, called New Delhi Declaration, called upon the super powers to gibe up their search for power and suggested immediate measures by the international community to usher in a new international economic order. Although there were pursued for enough to cause a crises. The Gulf war between Iran and Iraq of movement was a major source of concern. Libya protested that the Chadian government was represented by Hissene Habre and a delegation representing his Libyan backed rival , goukouni ouddei, arrived at New Delhi only to be sent back on the next available flight.

The United States came in for much criticism at the conference over its Central America policy, its southern Africa strategy and its military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. A state Department spokesman referred to the final political declaration as unbalanced arguing that the many negative elements in the political declaration as unbalanced arguing that the many negative elements in the political part of the final declaration overshadowed some positive elements of the document.

On September 1, 1986 non – aligned summit conference was convened at Harare the capital of Zimbabwe. This non – aligned summit meet led to final stage of the liberation of Africans from the clutches of apartheid. This conference made one significant suggestions on the basis of consensus reached by the leaders participating in it. It was proposed to establish a new solidarity fund to help reduce dependence of front line states on South Africa. These front line states on Zimbabwe. The fund is to be used for emergence and long term assistance for infrastructure development of front line states and other non – aligned countries. The Harare summit declaration also laid emphasis on mutual economic cooperation among the non – aligned nations.

### Belgrade Conference, 1989

The Ninth conference of Non – aligned nations, held in Belgrade in Yugoslavia. The summit this met on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1989. By 1989 its membership had gone up to 102 . It pledged to strive for world peace, freedom, justice and prosperity. It endorsed Rajiv Gandhi’s move for a planet fund and asked the international community to set aside financial resources for environmental cooperation.

It also demanded a lasting solution to third world debt, problem , the removal of protectionist barriers, remunerative commodity prices and stable monetary conditions. The conference also decided to continue its struggle against colonialism, imperialism and neo – colonialism on the one hand , racism, apartheid and all forms of dominion on the other. It also resolved that Africa fund created in 1987 should continue with its activities with india as its chairman.

### CONCLUSION

With increasing confidence the non-aligned movement is coming out as an active and influential force of our time. Having great potentials, it is capable of exerting a positive influence on the development of the international situation during an entire historical epoch. As a factor in world politics non – alignment far from having exhausted itself tends towards further development. Recent events have convincingly shown that more and more countries are disassociating themselves from the aggressive policies of imperialism and searching for new ways of consolidating their freedom and independence in alliance with the progressive forces of our time.

Uniting about a hundred countries in four continents as equal participants, the Non – aligned movement has become a powerful factor in the struggle for international peace and security. It is therefore natural that neutral countries too should take a keener interest in it and express readiness to

cooperate with it. The movement is also attracting an ever broader spectrum of socio - political organizations, which see in its political course an alternative to the imperialist policy of oppression and aggression. Not only national liberation movements fight for freedom from imperialist domination, but also many progressive political parties including communist parties, regard the non - aligned movement as an efficient force in the arms race and the whipping up of international tensions. The policy documents of many communist parties of not only Asia, Africa and Latin America but also of Western Europe contains provisions on the pursuance of a policy of non aligned event of their coming to power.

As the documents of the movements conferences clearly show, the participating countries are aware that they can make for lost time and build a modern society with a well developed socio economic and political structure, with a high level of material and intellectual culture, only in conditions of peace and international security. That is why the struggle to consolidate peace ease international tensions and avert nuclear war will continue to occupy a prominent place in their foreign policy activities . This is bound to bring them into conflict with the imperialist power, which is still out to retain dominant positions in the world by their policy of brinkmanship

To sum up in contemporary international relations, non - alignment is one of the most powerful trends, since, its inception , non - alignment has an anti-statuesque bias. The NAM could be described as both a movement for moderation in East - West relations, and a commitment to global reform in North-South relations. Over the years, there has been a change of focus from a preoccupation with reducing the level of conflict in East west relations to a more pronounced stress on changing the basis of North - South relations. The emphasis has shifted from anti- alignment is neither exclusively a result of bloc confrontation, nor is exclusively linked with economic under development. It is corporate other motivations and objectives namely, working for a situation in international relations in which power politics will be eliminated and sovereignty and freedom of choice will be respected. Non - Alignment represents the wave of the future.

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