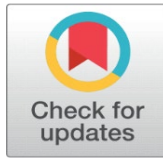
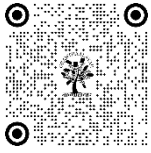


RELEVANCE OF NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

World War II, a wave of decolonization gave rise to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). It was established in Belgrade in 1961, at the height of the Soviet-American conflict. With the fall of the USSR, its political significance has lessened in the post-cold war world, but NAM remains significant in the current global context. NAM developed a distinct political identity over time. An effort has been made in this study to assess the applicability of NAM in the modern era in relation to the goals and intentions that led to its creation. Some people believe that the bipolar world has died and that NAM is no longer relevant as its foundation. The other portion, however, believes that NAM continues to uphold its core beliefs, ideals, and goals of promoting disarmament and creating a world that is peaceful and wealthy. Regional conflicts and crises have persisted despite the conclusion of the Cold War. In the current international environment, NAM can now significantly contribute to fostering global peace and bringing about nuclear arms control and disarmament by nuclear-armed nations. The truth is that NAM is still relevant today. As long as there remains a system of sovereign states, the policy will remain in place. In the same way that the United Nations Organization and its charter are unaffected by the transgressions of the organization and its members, its legitimacy cannot be questioned.

Keywords: NAM, Relevance, World Peace, Cold War, Bipolar World, Third -World, Developing Countries

1. INTRODUCTION

Non-Alignment has given global politics a fresh perspective and had a significant role in determining the character of international relations. It turned into a shield that let recently independent nations flee the militarization race that was being pushed by the two superpowers at the time. The 1955 Bandung Conference of Asian and African nations, which was sponsored by Indonesian President Sukarno, marked a critical turning point in the establishment of NAM. Nehru's five principles and a collective commitment to maintain neutrality during the Cold War were incorporated in the declaration on the promotion of global peace and cooperation that was accepted by the summit. Following six years of the Bandung conference, the organization was established on a broader geographic basis during the height of the Cold War, when the colonial order was falling apart and African, Latin American, and other regimes were fighting for their freedom. It was established in Belgrade in 1961 and was primarily envisioned by Presidents Sukarno of Indonesia, Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, J. B. Tito of Yugoslavia, and J.L. Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. The initiatives of five were the name given to their actions. During the Cold War, these leaders were vocal supporters of a middle path for developing-nation governments between the eastern and western blocs. Twenty-five countries attended the conference. The founder of NAM were preferred to declare it as a movement but not an organization in order to avoid bureaucratic implications of the latter.

2. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMERGENCE OF NAM:

The birth of this movement can be attributed to both positive and negative reasons and events in international politics. Nationalism was strongly ingrained in the newly independent countries of Asia and Africa, and they were unwilling to give up their independence at any point. Due to their economic underdevelopment, many governments were not prepared to join a bloc and become totally reliant on it in order to achieve economic development. In order to preserve and advance their shared cultural and racial characteristics, the recently independent states came together to join NAM. Due to their shared social, political, and economic issues, they required a forum to discuss and advance their nations. Military alliances were the main characteristic of the two power blocs during the height of the Cold War, when the NAM was established. Both groups sought to expand their alliances and assistance from weaker and smaller nations. They therefore chose the NAM policy in order to steer clear of these military alliances and pursue an independent foreign policy. Nonetheless, founding members established the following requirements in order to join the NAM:

- Independent foreign policy,
- Sovereignty, peace, non-alignment with any power bloc,
- Respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty
- Non-interference in other nations' domestic affairs•
- Avoidance of violence;
- Encouragement of equality, collaboration, and the benefit of all nations;
- The 10 Bandung principles, which were eventually approved as the primary goals and objectives of NAM, are the principles that would govern interactions between great and small countries.

3. RELEVANCE OF NAM

NAM However, after the end of cold war, the NAM has been forced to redefine itself and reinvent its objectives in the contemporary world system. The movement continues to see a role for itself after realizing that it has really to play against western hegemony and neo-colonialism in a unipolar world. It opposes foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs and aggressive unilateral measures but has also shifted to focus on the socio-economic challenges, facing member states especially inequalities, manifested by globalization and the implications of neo-liberal policies. Issues such as globalization, the debt burden, unfair trade practices, the decline in foreign aid, donor conditionality and the lack of democracy in international financial decision making are some of the factors inhibiting development. The organization appeals for the protection of cultural diversity and the tolerance of the religious, socio cultural and historical peculiarities that define human rights in a specific region. The NAM can also act as a guide and overseas of the conditions of human rights in some of the member states which have poor human rights records like Syria and Egypt. Since most of its members are developing nations of third world, NAM serves as a great platform to have their voice in the U.N. As these countries are fighting against sociological and economical problems and looking forward for development, it can provide its members a forum where they can discuss their common problems, evolve solutions and work out positions in tackling the international problems of peace, security, development, environmental safety and human rights etc. In such situations, NAM can act as a protector for these small states against the western hegemony. It empowers the member states to take its own decisions without any external influence. It can also play a strong role in devising methods to foster cooperation among these nations to ensure sustainable development and will lead to great progress in various fields as science and technology, culture and economics. In the post-cold war era, the summit conference of Indonesia 1992, Columbia-1995 and South Africa-1997 reaffirmed the continued relevance of non-alignment. The important fact is that a number of conflicts have been settled through dialogue and agreements, there has also been exacerbation of existing disputes, emergence of new conflicts and reappearance of ethnic, religious and socio-economic rivalries are not compatible to the peaceful and secure international environment. Simmering disputes, violent conflicts, aggression and foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs of other states, religious intolerance, policies of domination and hegemony, national and transnational terrorism are such major and dangerous obstacles to harmonious coexistence among states. The NAM will have to discuss all these issues as they are affecting developing countries. NAM is still abide its founding principles, ideas and purposes to establish peaceful and prosperous world, promotion of disarmament, preservation of territorial integrity and sovereignty and even prohibited invasion. With the passage of time NAM emerged as a political entity of its own and it can play a big role in controlling and changing the present international environment. NAM continues to be a global movement of all the third world countries which constitutes 2/3 of the total membership of the world community. It stood committed to secure restructuring of international economic relations.

The threat to world peace, security and development continues to be present. NAM has been all along the movement against apartheid, terrorism, totalitarianism and authoritarianism in world politics. In this direction some progress has been registered and much has to be done.

But most important aspect is the need to realize that NAM did not originate as an ideological camp. It was a revolt against bloc divisions and dominance of the international system by few powers. A non-aligned country wanted a measure of freedom for itself and at the same time, to acquire some leverage through this bigger association in the international system. In that sense NAM provided the emerging and struggling countries a certain psychological security, though not fool-proof and not even demonstrate but nevertheless permitting some sense of belongings. It offered them in a harsh and cruel world some kind of an anchorage without entangling alliances and with their independence intact making it possible for their voice to be heard with a greater seriousness. It continues to be the need of the time. It has not been only a negative movement against cold war and alliance politics but a movement for the unity of new nations against colonialism and neo-colonialism. In the 14th NAM summit in Havan (Cuba) in September 2006 the member countries adopted purposes and principles of the movement in the present international situation. Although the Cold War is over, radical forces, conflict, violent nationalism, terrorism, and vast arsenals of WMDs continue to threaten global peace. Regardless of its size and resources, a single nation cannot resolve these issues on its own. But, the NAM, which is regarded as the largest representative of the developing world, has the power to exert pressure on the global community. Consequently, it may be claimed that the current state of the world more fully justifies the relevance of NAM. The main points are the freedom to weigh all issues fairly and the freedom to do whatever is practical in opposition to what is deemed immoral. The Cold War is actually over, yet regional conflicts and problems still exist. A number of powerful countries are beginning to engage in fierce economic and technological competition. In order to successfully confront the threat of new colonialism imposed through numerous WTO rounds, the non-aligned nations must learn how to maneuver among themselves. NAM served as a stimulant to promote collaboration among South-South countries. Through the creation of several joint committees and the publication of declarations and papers that reflect their common aims, the movements have worked with other developing-world organizations, most notably the G77. This communication and collaboration can be interpreted as an attempt to strengthen the organization's political influence and raise its profile internationally. In order to get the intended outcomes of transitioning from developing to developed nations, it brings up issues of great concern for the southern countries and initiates economic, political, and social development concerns. NAM serves as a forum for amicable conflict resolution and negotiation, ensuring that each member country receives favorable outcomes. The member is shielded from the vast and powerful force in the global arena. In this sense, NAM's primary function nowadays is to frame tangible economic growth for a fair and just global economic system. The three-pronged approach that NAM advocates -depending on their resources, encouraging collaboration among non-aligned governments, and cultivating cooperation with the advanced states includes economic cooperation between developed and developing nations. Global trends of liberalization and globalization have led to complicated economic issues. The divide between affluent and poor has grown. The III World has not benefited economically enough from WTO regulations and practices. The movement has been vocal in its criticism of the UN's existing power structures and dynamics, claiming that strong governments have used the institution in ways that go against its core values. It needs certain changes to become more accountable and representative. There are recommendations made to enhance the democracy and openness of UN decision-making. It believes that the UN Security Council has to be reformed since it is the most skewed and undemocratic component. The significance of permanent members and their vetoes has diminished significantly. Despite this, NAM has continuously worked to strengthen its members' negotiating position at the UN and other international economic forums.

4. CONCLUSION

It is still true that non-alignment is still relevant. Because the majority of the issues that developing countries experienced during the Cold War still exist today. The time has come for the non-alignment countries to assess their past and develop their future policies in order to alter the current international order and create a new one founded on friendship, cooperation, justice, and fair play. This will improve the lot of the third world and restore democracy, human rights, and world peace. In light of the evolving global landscape, NAM must reinterpret its position. To meet new problems, priorities must be reoriented. Its function would mostly rely on its internal fortitude, cohesiveness, and togetherness. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every member state to really endeavor to foster unity and solidarity within the movement. NAM must carefully consider its priorities. It has a part to play in strengthening developing nations' bargaining positions and abilities as well as protecting and advancing their commercial rights and opportunities in WTO

negotiations. It has the power to mobilize developing countries' complaints against the capricious implementation of western notions of human rights. It can also have a significant impact on the nuclear powers' efforts to disarm and control nuclear weapons. Therefore, as long as there is exploitation, conflict, starvation, poverty, and illness in the world, NAM will be vital. NAM's distinctiveness stems from the fact that its objectives transcend beyond the national interests of its member states and have the potential to advance universalistic human causes.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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