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Revisiting Nepal's Foreign Policy in Contemporary Global Power Structure

Editor
Pramod Jaiswal



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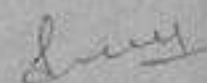
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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>Contributors</i>	xvii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xix
1. Survival of the Small States in World Politics: Foreign Policy Strategy <i>Pramod Jaiswal</i>	1
2. Strategic Autonomy: Nepal's Perpetual Quest for Change in the Face of Continuity <i>Rohit Karki</i>	17
3. Foreign Policy of Nepal Towards India: A Small State Perspective <i>Nazia Khan</i>	35
✓ 4. Relations Between British India and Monarchical Nepal: Treaty of Sugauli <i>Palu Joshi</i>	53
5. The 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship: Road to Review <i>Mahesh Acharya</i>	65
6. Nepal-India Diplomatic Relations in a Historical Context <i>Kalpana Khanal</i>	79
7. Rapprochement of India-Nepal Relations Since 2015 <i>Aparna</i>	93
8. Assertion or Abjuration: India-Nepal Water Relations <i>Shaista Tabassum</i>	104
9. Democratic Trails and the Waterways: A Case Study of Water Sharing Between India and Nepal <i>Piyali Dutta</i>	114
10. Consolidating Nepal-China Engagement and Emerging Challenges for India <i>Sangit Sarita Dwivedi</i>	133

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Relations Between British India and Monarchical Nepal: Treaty of Sugauli

Palu Joshi

Abstract

India and Nepal are two such neighbours that have identities interwoven in culture, religion, and history. This chapter attempts to trace the historical affinities between the two countries. The ties date back to the age of the Buddha and Ashoka the great. The connection was further strengthened during the Gupta and the Rajput eras. The advent of Muslim invaders to India drove out many Rajput chiefs who took refuge in Nepal and the descendants of one such rulers, Prithvinarayan Shah founded the ruling House of Nepal, the Gorakhas. The first contact between the British India and Nepal took place through the commercial relations between the Newar traders and the Britain East India Company in Bengal. However, the political relations did not develop until 1767, when Malla rulers sought British help against Prithvinarayan Shah. The victory of Prithvinarayan Shah, forced the British to view Nepal from a different angle. Prithvinarayan Shah on his part advocated the policy of keeping British and the Chinese forces at peace. When Nepal invaded Tibet in 1788, both the Gorakhas and the Chinese sought British help and they offered mediation between the two parties which was not received warmly by the Nepalese. The opportunity for British came in form of Maharaja Ran Bahadur Shah who abdicated the throne in favour of his infant son, Girvana Yuddha and came to Banaras

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