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A look at Coalition Politics and the Making of Indian Foreign Policy

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ABSTRACT

The decline of congress began after the emergency. The formation of a coalition government in India in 1977 laid the foundation for the era of coalition politics. Hence the new trend changed the scenario of foreign policy in India. India's relation with the world has been seen a fundamental change over the last decade and half. The internal political structure of a country has an important impact upon the countries international affairs. Alliances of convenience between disparate political parties, such as the Congress, BJP and the Communist are often formed with selfish motives and hidden agendas such coalition based on political expediency may be in the interest of the parties that come together to form the government, but they are definitely not in the interest of the nation. In the past many coalition governments both at the centre and the state, have collapsed before the end of their terms due to the inherent weakness of any coalition set up. But phenomenon of coalition government, now an inescapable reality in India's political life, has given small regional parties a greater in governance including foreign policy. The aim of the study is to analyse the Coalition Politics and the Making of Indian Foreign Policy.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The coalition framework of India's constitution governs international affairs. Formally advocates central government control, especially in foreign policy and defence. However, India's foreign policies processes are often flexible to contextual dynamics and do not exactly follow a unitary or federal model. According to the report, the central government has adopted a pragmatic approach to dealing with subnational participation in foreign policy making, without making fundamental and formal structural changes to the constitution or the frontline decision-making institutions. This pragmatism has been evident in international trade, especially since economic liberalisation began. Moreover, despite the central government's constitutional pre-eminence in foreign policy and defence, state entities have successfully used extra-constitutional ways to influence the central government's foreign policy procedures. Coalition Politics is thus an on-going process in India's lively democracy.

1.2 Research Objectives

To analyse and shed detailed light on Coalition Politics and the Making of Indian Foreign Policy.

1.3. Methodology

When it comes to supporting its claims, the article is both descriptive and analytical in nature. It makes extensive use of secondary sources to do so, including newspaper articles, magazine articles, and investigation reports, among other things.

2. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

India's foreign policy has been moulded by coalition politics. Because of India's tremendous economic growth, regional parties have gained unprecedented influence, resulting in disproportionate influence on foreign policy formulation. The relationship between the Centre and the States in India has altered considerably during the previous decade. This is due to regional parties gaining control over national parties like as the BJP and Congress. Despite a number of attempts, regional parties have been an important element of the current Congress-led UPA coalition administration since 2004. Regions were crucial in putting together the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which ruled from 1998 to 2004. Regional parties fought intensely from independence until the 1980s, when Congress ruled. Making foreign policy has become more difficult because of the muddled lines between national and international interests. It is possible that certain regions or provinces may suffer more than others due to trade agreements, for example. International rivalry in agricultural industries is a concern for rural areas. Some regions and provinces, for example, are affected more than others when military action is taken, for example in terms of human and financial sacrifices. Be that as it may, the effect of regional constituencies and their delegates on public international strategy is to a great extent obscure. It is obscure the way in which included territorial gatherings lobbying for seats in local legislatures are in National foreign policy

A strong centralization of foreign policy is expected to allow for a unified and effective response to global concerns, particularly in the realms of international security. Furthermore, for a long time, policymakers and academics assumed that there was a permissive consensus on how foreign policy was decided; the conclusion being that a small elite controls foreign policy solely to safeguard national interests.

Is there a shared national interest here, which is often a difficult question to answer in international relations? In multicultural or multi-ethnic cultures, this topic is particularly relevant because of the shift in political debates over identity to foreign policy discussions and decisions **(Hill, 2013).** FPA has shown and contended in recent decades that domestic political players disagree with foreign policy, particularly in democracies. The importance of political parties, parliaments, and foreign policy participation has been emphasised **(Wagner, 2018).**

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An additional line of research has shown that smaller states are increasingly getting involved in international affairs. With Para diplomacy, regional interests are promoted on the international stage without recourse to national governments. They may have parallels in other cities, regions, and states. In most cases, the rise of Para diplomacy can be traced back to the actions of subnational players on foreign policy.

Regardless of their impact in deciding national foreign policy in both immediate and circuitous ways, our emphasis is on regional political parties as opposed to Para diplomacy. By highlighting underrepresented entertainers, this article plans to make a significant commitment to global relations hypothesis. A large number of the stories composed in regards to the impact of regional or sub national entertainers on unambiguous foreign policy choices have zeroed in on how different institutional structures have offered entertainers more elbowroom to take part in autonomous unfamiliar movement **(Paquin, 2013).** This study is worried about laying out when and how coalition governmental issues majority rules systems integrate into national foreign policy.

In the event that regional parties are keen on unambiguous foreign policy issues, and if the central government enters coalition power-offering arrangements to regional parties at the public and territorial levels, we contend that the timing, nature, and degree to which regional parties do not entirely settled by the institutional-coalition setup assuming you're keen on concentrating on national interest, this system can help**. (Wong, 2018)**

Similar studies on coalition foreign policy have disregarded India, despite the fact that it is the world's most populous democracy and shares many legislative institutions **(Alden and Brummer, 2019).** There are numerous examples of coalition politics and regional parties' influence on foreign policy processes and decisions in Indian politics since the late 1980s, when coalition governments became commonplace. Existing scholarly explanations can be evaluated, and new theoretical and empirical discoveries might be generated, as a result of these encounters.

Furthermore, it enhances FPA and international relations studies theoretically, thereby overcoming the field's still strong US and Western European bias. Indian foreign policy debates have been impacted by regional parties in the past, according to research **(Asthana and Jacob, 2019).** This time, we're going to go a little further and see when and how the regional players got involved. Based on regional party preferences and coalitional composition, we propose four possible outcomes. Our goal is to develop a theory that may be applied to other democracies that have federal systems and coalition governance.

2.1. Regions and foreign policy-making: the state of knowledge

However, whether or not regional political parties have an impact on the actions of the central government in terms of foreign policy is still an open question. 1 All of these variables affect the influence of political parties on foreign policy: an open or closed system, leaders with autonomy or limitations, and open or closed institutions. An in-depth examination of foreign policy decisions made by coalition governments is critical (Kaarbo, 2012). Studies on foreign policy and coalition governments consistently favour them. Recent studies have examined the limitations of coalition governments on international policymaking. A coalition government was formerly viewed as a barrier to foreign policy. International policymaking in coalition administrations is hampered by compromises, decision postponement, and non-

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decisions (Beasley and Recent studies have concentrated on the elements that explain the foreign policy results of coalition governments.

Thus, new coalition government effects on foreign policy ideas and causal mechanisms have appeared. Claims that coalition administrations have more "radical" foreign policy are made by **(Kaarbo 2012).** Its size **(Kaarbo & Beasley, 2008)** and institutional values can affect how a coalition is established **(Ozkececi-Taner, 2005).** Coalition-building has been found to aid minorities' concerns in international policy, according to certain researchers. Kaarbo and Bea used causal pathways to describe how lesser-known parties impact coalition cabinet foreign policy. For instance, "political hijacking" stresses the pertinence of minor gatherings in coalitions that might pull out their help (and perhaps imperfection). Blackmailing gives small gatherings a lot of force, which ought to prompt a cruel foreign policy?

Foreign policy research in multilateral and federated states like India, for the most part, ignores the role of coalition management. In terms of international politics, there is a misunderstanding of how regional parties can lobby on behalf of their members. It is worthwhile to investigate how federalism influences foreign policy. This review from the 1990s scrutinized the country states customary brought together and brought together foreign policy approach. As of late, globalization and other primary changes in the worldwide framework have extended the impact of sub national entertainers on international relations. A few investigators have looked at the developing pertinence of political sub-units in various federal frameworks. Outer relations if constitutional frameworks give power sharing as well as leave the conveyance of foreign policy capabilities across countries unsure

2.2. Regional parties and national foreign policy-making

To address some of the foregoing concerns, this study examines the influence regional parties have on foreign policy decisions, as well as the magnitude of their influence. The influence of a regional party on national foreign policy is our dependent variable. Regional parties are those with a concentrated base of support in a certain geographic area of a country, as indicated by the party's stated goals and policies **(Ziegfeld 2016).** Regional parties can run in both regional and national elections as long as their constituents live in a certain area. To put it another way, we define regional political party influence on national foreign policy as follows:

Coordination: the central government and the regional party preference agree on a foreign policy decision **(Borzel, 2002).**

Compromise: In actuality, the central government selectively implements certain of the regional party's professed foreign policy priorities.

Quid pro quo: in order to win over a regional party, the central government makes concessions that are not directly related to the foreign policy choice **(Thacker, 2008).**

No dialogue: the central government ignores regional party preferences in foreign policy decisions.

Regional preferences and multi-tiered coalitional structures explain why regional parties care about foreign policy and influence it. To us, regional preferences are defined as well-informed and steadfast choices throughout time and a distinct set of foreign policy challenges **(Jaganathan, 2019).** Regional biases can be seen in foreign policy if it is related to economic or cultural interests. There has been a long history of ethnic solidarity between the Tamil minority and the DMK and AIADMK, for example. In the early 1990s, economic liberalisation

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increased the state's economic interest in national economic policy **(Basu, 2016).** India has acquired regional economic interests and assets as a result of its direct Para diplomatic trade links with overseas firms. **(Jacob, 2019).**

Regional party platforms reflect this preference. While we argue that it is possible to see a central government-regional party discussion process on foreign policy issues in response to substantial regional party opposition, we argue that it is not adequate. India's politicians have varying views on the relevance and accountability of foreign policy matters in their campaigns, according to **(Staniland 2018).** Small but regionally concentrated parties, we argue, can have an impact on national leadership and, as a result, on international affairs.

The second explanation is multi-level alliances. According to one study, coalition studies have affected Indian domestic policy. Despite India's transition to a coalition administration, its foreign policy has remained same. In national coalitions, regional parties play an important role.

National coalitions have increasingly relied on the support of regional parties. Since 1998, the INC and the BJP have had to establish broad coalitions with many minor regional parties. Before or after national elections, party nationals have had to come an agreement with potential coalition partners on more or less structured common political plans. Although the Netherlands and Israel are examples of parliamentary democracies that share power over foreign policy, India's political system does not. In India, first-past-the-post has solidified power. A single political party (the INC) maintained legislative dominance for the first four decades following independence. The Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Ministry of External Affairs have traditionally made decisions about India's foreign policy.

Foreign policy coalitions, including their institutional and political restrictions, have been examined in detail **(Sridharan, 2003).** Foreign policy choices in India are hampered by against incumbency opinions, political vulnerability, and provincial party interests. In this review, we take a gander at how federalism and coalition politics can assist with making sense of how regional parties can impact central government foreign strategy choices in a government democracy like India. Latency has recently been the attention of exploration on the directing impact of coalition politics on foreign policy results. A multi-party coalition with a national party in power and regional parties in both houses of Congress is an option **(Murali, 2006).** The regional party's home state legislature vote and seat share should also be taken into account. As a result of the Indian political system's institutional features, "locked-in followers" are created **(Sridharan, 2012).** National and regional parties are constrained and empowered by these electoral interdependencies to influence the policy agenda of a ruling coalition.

Even if they only have a few representatives in the national assembly, national parties must consult regional parties in order to boost their electoral prospects and build large and stable coalitions **(Sridharan, 2012).** Regional parties may exert disproportionate influence over national policy, notably foreign affairs, due to their participation in both national and regional parliaments. It's possible that certain regional parties are depending on national party support in regional legislative elections, even if they have members in the national parliament. There has been little centralization and power sharing through these informal coalitional bargaining games **(Aldecoa and Keating, 1999; Michelmann, 2009).** There are four possible outcomes, each influenced by regional preferences and coalitional dynamics.

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Because there are no strong regional preferences or multi-level alliances, central government is not under any obligation to make large foreign policy concessions to the regional parties because of this fact. There is a strong regional inclination in favour of a multi-alignment structure. The central government should be willing to make small sacrifices on foreign policy in order to accommodate regional party preferences that are quite strong.

When there are no strong regional party preferences, a coalition may use logrolling **(Oktay, 2018; Snyder, 1991).** In this situation, a regional party exchanges its vote for other advantages (concessions unrelated to the foreign policy issue). A multi-layered coalitional framework and a strong regional preference are essential for the national government to accommodate the needs of regional parties.

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3. CONCLUSION

Since a central coalition government hasn't existed for a long time, it appears that the Indian democracy is enjoying the rule and services of a single-party system, with the current ruling party; BJP, enjoying its power and serving the country. The public, on the other hand, will always appreciate government decisions and policies as long as they are made in a rational manner. It is only the party or parties that make up the government that are important. Single-party rule has had an indelible impact on how democracy has evolved in India, making fragmented governance part of the system until Modi administration interrupted this flow and brought a new twist to democracy's development. Because of this, numerous political parties and individuals have disputed the advantages and disadvantages of a multi-party government against a single-party administration. Many people are still sceptical if a coalition government can provide the mobility and stability that an ideal government should have, despite the heated argument. India has had its share of both alliance and single-party rule, given the constant search for the ideal governance. Since the coalition has been in power for so long, it appears that Indian democracy is benefiting from the rule and services of a single-party system.

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