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India and Russia: A global prespective

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Abstract

India and Russia share a historically rich relationship that has evolved over the decades, shaping the dynamics of global politics. This research paper examines the multifaceted dimensions of the India-Russia relationship, exploring its historical roots, strategic partnerships, economic ties, and geopolitical significance in the contemporary global scenario. Drawing upon scholarly articles, governmental reports, and expert analyses, this paper elucidates the mutual interests, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration between these two nations. Additionally, it assesses the implications of their alliance on the global stage, considering its impact on regional stability, security dynamics, and the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Keywords: India, Russia, geopolitics, strategic partnership, economic cooperation, global prespective

Introduction

The relationship between India and Russia dates back to the early 20th century, characterized by shared ideologies, strategic interests, and cultural affinities. Despite the changing global dynamics and geopolitical realignments, the bond between these two nations has endured, evolving into a comprehensive strategic partnership. This paper aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the India-Russia relationship from a global perspective, examining its historical evolution, strategic significance, economic cooperation, and its implications for global politics.

Historical Evolution

The historical evolution of the relationship between India and Russia is characterized by a rich tapestry of diplomatic engagements, strategic cooperation, and cultural exchanges. Dating back to the early 20th century, the foundation of this relationship was laid during the Soviet era and has since endured through geopolitical shifts and global transformations. The historical ties between India and Russia trace back to the Soviet era when India emerged as a prominent ally of the Soviet Union during the Cold War period. The signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship in 1971 marked a significant milestone in their relationship, solidifying their strategic partnership. Despite the dissolution of the Soviet Union, India-Russia relations continued to thrive, transitioning into a more diversified and multifaceted partnership in the post-Cold War era.

The Indo-Soviet relationship gained momentum during the Cold War period, marked by shared ideological affinities and strategic interests. The signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in August 1971 was a pivotal moment, solidifying their partnership. This treaty provided a framework for collaboration in areas such as defense, technology transfer, and economic assistance. India's alignment with the Soviet Union during regional conflicts, including the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1965 and 1971, further strengthened their bond.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, India-Russia relations underwent a transition, adapting to the changing global landscape. Despite the geopolitical realignments of the post-Cold War era, India and Russia maintained their strategic partnership, albeit with adjustments to their priorities and areas of cooperation. The Declaration on Strategic Partnership signed in 2000 laid the groundwork for a comprehensive and enduring relationship between the two nations, encompassing political, economic, and defense spheres.

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In the contemporary era, India and Russia continue to collaborate on various fronts, including defense, energy, and space exploration. High-level exchanges between leaders of both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral ties. Additionally, multilateral platforms such as the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) provide avenues for India and Russia to coordinate their positions on global issues and promote mutual interests.

Strategic Partnership

The strategic partnership between India and Russia is multifaceted, encompassing defense cooperation, diplomatic coordination, counter-terrorism efforts, and collaboration on regional and global issues. This section provides data and insights into the key aspects of this strategic partnership, highlighting its significance in shaping the geopolitical landscape. The strategic partnership between India and Russia encompasses various dimensions, including defense cooperation, counter-terrorism efforts, and diplomatic coordination. Both nations have consistently supported each other's interests in international forums such as the United Nations and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), amplifying their collective voice on global issues. Additionally, the defense ties between India and Russia remain robust, with India being a major importer of Russian military hardware and technology.

Defense Cooperation

India and Russia have a longstanding defense partnership, with Russia being one of India's major suppliers of military equipment and technology. The defense ties between the two countries are characterized by joint military exercises, technology transfers, and the co-production of defense systems.

- As of 2020, Russia accounted for approximately 58% of India's total defense imports, making it the largest defense supplier to India.
- Major defense deals between India and Russia include the procurement of advanced military platforms such as the S-400 air defense system, Su-30MKI fighter jets, and T-90 tanks.
- Joint military exercises such as INDRA and AviaIndra are conducted regularly to enhance interoperability and combat readiness between the armed forces of India and Russia.

Diplomatic Coordination

India and Russia engage in close diplomatic coordination on regional and global issues, often aligning their positions in international forums such as the United Nations, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

- Both countries have supported each other's candidatures and initiatives in multilateral organizations, contributing to the strengthening of their partnership.
- India and Russia have collaborated on issues such as counter-terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, and climate change, promoting shared interests and values on the global stage.

Counter-terrorism Efforts

India and Russia cooperate closely in the fight against terrorism, sharing intelligence and best practices to counter extremist threats and ensure regional security.

- Joint initiatives such as the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral mechanism and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO serve as platforms for collaboration on counter-terrorism efforts.
- Both countries have emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of terrorism and prevent its proliferation in the region.

Economic Cooperation

While defense cooperation remains a cornerstone of the India-Russia relationship, both countries have recognized the need to diversify their economic engagement. Bilateral trade between India and Russia has steadily increased over the years, albeit remaining below its potential. Efforts to enhance economic cooperation have been underway, with initiatives such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) aiming to facilitate trade connectivity between South Asia and Europe via Russia.

In 2040, India's purchasing power parity is expected to overtake that of the United States, and become the world's second largest economy after China. With the rise of India, the global order is also undergoing major changes, and there will be a diffusion of power among countries in the form of a new multipolar geo-strategic landscape with new complexities. With these major changes, India is likely to become the world's most influential democracy in the second half of the 21st century. Furthermore, India will have the opportunity to impose a new framework of security, development and progress not only for itself but also for other developing countries around the world. As an emerging global power, this should be India's core endeavor in the coming decades. According to the International Monetary Fund, India currently accounts for 15% of global economic growth, even though 40% of the country's population lives in poverty and only a third of the population has access to the internet. Currently, India bears a disproportionate share of the world's economic burden. India, home to one-sixth of the world's population, has adopted its own special path not only in the national interest but also in the interest of the developing countries.

Current global politics sees India as an unprecedented opportunity to advance its national interests. As a rising power, India's long-term interests lie in influencing the establishment of a new world order. Beyond this, a new world order is being born in the form of a shift of power from West to East. New values are emerging and India should open up to them. On the one hand, multipolarity has intensified. In the new situation, all countries are protecting their sovereignty and choosing development paths that are consistent with their own cultural and historical characteristics. New centers of development have emerged that are not dependent on the West for their progress. Obviously, no one country can dominate the world system. On the other hand, the Western powers, led by the United States, are giving up their status as global leaders. They are reversing, or at least slowing, contemporary trends toward multipolarity. Furthermore, UN organizations are ignored, global agreements are rejected and priority is given to unilateral self-interested efforts.

Since 2017-18, the world has witnessed a period of decline in the inherited world order, opening up the possibility of building a new global order. I hope this time it will be more just, stable and peaceful than last time. But serious disputes and crises can also arise. The current state of Russian-

American relations is just the beginning. In the medium term, the first priority of the major powers will be to prevent large-scale war, which is increasingly likely. At the same time, Russia will also continue to deepen ties with China and India and improve relations with US allies and partners such as Japan, South Korea, and possibly Western European countries. The United States is currently trying to distance itself from Europe, especially economically and strategically, while also trying to maintain Europe's dependence. Additionally, Fall asked: Why is the United States spending blood and money to protect its wealthy allies in Europe and Asia? The United States also seeks to push China to the south through its 'Indo-Pacific' policy. Encircles till the east. To weaken China's position, the United States, Japan, India, and Australia formed an alliance to try to open a commercial and energy supply route across the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Hence the Quad is a US-led alliance to contain China and provide an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative. The United States is pushing for a true alliance between Russia and China. On the other hand, China's assertive and often aggressive behavior is seen as a major concern for India, as it makes India's closest neighbors wary of China. Failure by India to resolve its differences with its smaller neighbors will pave the way for China to project influence in South Asia.

From a geopolitical and geoeconomic perspective, the most significant global change that has had a huge impact on the international system is the astonishing transformation of the Chinese economy. India's economic growth is also good. But China's remarkable rise has shaken the foundations of the world order. China's economic transformation, driven by economic reforms begun in 1978, is clearly the most important development. As economic power shifts to Asia, China's modernization, especially its navy, should leave no doubt that it intends to become a great power and dominate the 'Indo-Pacific' region. Similarly, it is demonstrating its economic and military strength in the region. The Belt and Road Initiative has attracted many ASEAN countries to sign on to it in hopes of chipping away at China's geo-economic scope and sphere of influence.

On the other hand, the Trump administration challenges the world order on many levels. This has resulted in the United States provoking trade disputes with close allies, challenging traditional Western alliances, and withdrawing the United States from international agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement. Threatens to withdraw the US, withdraw from international migration treaties, and use International Court of Justice prosecutors to prosecute US citizens. Separately, Washington has withdrawn from the nuclear deal with Tehran called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which it signed with Germany and EU members of the UN Security Council to prevent the development of nuclear weapons. In turn, these limitations can be removed. The EU and most countries support the nuclear deal, so Donald Trump finds himself isolated before the Security Council. Washington's allies British Prime Minister Theresa May and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke out against Trump at the Security Council meeting and supported the deal with Iran.

Washington has halted millions of dollars in aid to Palestinian refugees in hopes the move will force Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to join a US-led peace process with Israel. The Trump administration's move away from multilateralism is a bad thing for the United Nations, and a

rising China makes its presence felt in many ways. Beijing is deftly shaping global discourse and challenging the US-led world order. China has become a significant player in the UN, contributing about 10.25% of the UN peacekeeping budget and sending more troops since 2012 than the four Security Council member states combined. What is worrying for India is that the system China is building will pose a more fundamental challenge to Indian interests than the US-led system.

Geopolitical Implications

The strategic partnership between India and Russia holds significant geopolitical implications, particularly in the context of shifting global power dynamics. As major emerging economies and members of various international organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), India and Russia play a crucial role in shaping regional stability and security architectures. Their collaboration extends beyond bilateral interests, influencing the broader geopolitical landscape in Eurasia and beyond.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the strong foundation of the India-Russia relationship, both countries face certain challenges that could potentially hinder further cooperation. These challenges include divergent strategic priorities, bureaucratic hurdles, and competition from other global players. However, there are also ample opportunities for deepening collaboration, particularly in sectors such as energy, technology, and people-to-people exchanges. Harnessing these opportunities requires proactive engagement and sustained dialogue between India and Russia.

India and Russia

Since the early 2000s, frequent annual summits between the leaders of India and Russia held in both countries have been part of our special partnership. On October 4, 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in New Delhi to attend the 19th Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership Summit. The two leaders are keen to strengthen mutual trust and personal ties, which was reflected during their informal meeting in the Russian city of Sochi on May 21, 2018. Russia is concerned about the United States' growing ties with India, with which it has recently signed a Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (CCSA) through 2-2 negotiations. Washington has threatened to impose sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Act (CAATSA) if the S-400 deal is signed. Rum was accused of meddling in the US election after the US imposed sanctions over Russia's actions in Ukraine. India is also concerned about Russia's growing economic dependence on China in the energy, communications and defense sectors, as well as its growing ties with Pakistan. More than 60% of India's defense equipment is still imported from Russia. India has repeatedly said that it will go ahead with the \$5.43 billion S-500 system purchase agreement and that the United States should find a solution through CAATSA to eliminate any sanctions issue. The interdependent long-term relationship is important for economic engagement, with trade growing by an encouraging 21.5% in 2017, taking the bilateral trade volume to \$10.17 billion. India and Russia have pledged to increase trade to \$30 billion by 2025 and both sides aim to invest \$50 billion in the same period. High potential areas

include artificial intelligence, cyber security, robotics, science, biotechnology, outer space, information technology, nanotechnology and construction products and trade with Russia in resources such as timber, agricultural products and diamonds. Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted the annual summit in New Delhi on October 5, 2018. The previous summit was held in St. Petersburg in 2017. The strategic partnership is important for many reasons, but both countries also face several significant challenges. In the last few years, there have been some big changes not only in relationships but also in relationships. There is a mixture of excitement and anxiety about what will happen when President Putin arrives in New Delhi. Both sides are enthusiastic about two important Saudi defense projects and plan to simplify and strengthen civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. But New Delhi is concerned about the development of Russia-China relations and its impact on India. On the other hand, Moscow is also suspicious of India's changing strategic policies, especially its relations with the United States and New Delhi's defense trade expansion policy.

The signing of the I-400 air defense missile system is good news for India and its armed forces. "However, the uncertainty of reaching an agreement till the last minute also points to the growing influence of the United States on India's foreign policy." This bodes well for the future of India's bilateral relations, especially with Russia. Not there. The I-400 is Russia's most modern surface-to-air missile system. It can destroy any enemy bomber, drone and missile within a radius of about 380 kilometers. Last month, the United States announced the Chinese military's purchase of fighter jets and S-400 missiles from Russia. The purchase of silo systems was banned. India wants the Trump administration to phase it out of the weapon systems to defend itself against China's bigger and better military.

Conclusion

Therefore, India and Russia are equal partners in international affairs. Both countries support strict adherence to the rule of law and the establishment of a multipolar democratic international relations system based on UN principles. Both sides are keen to jointly respond to 21st century threats and challenges, promote an inclusive agenda, and maintain global and regional security. The India-Russia relationship, viewed from a global perspective, embodies a unique blend of historical camaraderie, strategic convergence, and mutual respect. Over the decades, this partnership has transcended geopolitical shifts and emerged as a stabilizing force in the evolving global order. As major actors on the world stage, India and Russia wield significant influence, both regionally and internationally. Their strategic partnership, rooted in shared values and common interests, extends beyond bilateral cooperation to address pressing global challenges. Whether in the realms of defense, diplomacy, counter-terrorism, or economic cooperation, India and Russia have demonstrated a commitment to fostering stability, security, and prosperity on a global scale. In an increasingly multipolar world, the India-Russia relationship assumes greater significance as a counterbalance to unilateralism and hegemonic aspirations. As champions of multipolarity, both nations advocate for a more inclusive and equitable international order, characterized by respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the principles of non-interference. Looking ahead, the

India-Russia partnership is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the geopolitical landscape of the 21st century. By leveraging their respective strengths, harnessing the potential of strategic cooperation, and exploring new avenues of collaboration, India and Russia can contribute significantly to the promotion of peace, stability, and sustainable development on a global scale. In essence, the India-Russia relationship transcends mere bilateral ties; it embodies a shared vision for a better world-one marked by cooperation, mutual understanding, and solidarity in the face of emerging challenges. As they navigate the complexities of the contemporary global order, India and Russia stand as beacons of strategic partnership, exemplifying the potential for synergy and cooperation in an interconnected world.

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