

# India and Asian Powers: Russia, China and Japan

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## Abstract

The cold war period and the disintegration of Soviet Union have resist the journey of India's relations to these three major powers of the world. In this article, the Russian close strategic cooperation on the cold war days and Chinese war and their influence and Japanese differences with India are highlighted. India's non alignment policy has reshaped the relation between these two as both three of them are part of cold war rivals. With increasing heights of economy and military potential these countries are important actors on world map. India have to solve the ongoing border issues with China, the hope and aspirations of Japan and making gap between India and its traditional partner Russia. With such the real value of coordination happens and India became the centripetal leader on Asian map.

**Key Words:** Diplomatic, Agreement, Skirmishes, Bilateral, Communist

## Introduction

By geographical location Russia, China and Japan has become the major Asian as well as major world powers. China and Japan lies entirely in Asia whereas Russia makes it geographical extent up to Europe which credit it nation between two continents in so called Eurasia. They have not weight individually with regards to USA but the military capability of Russia always threatens the American supremacy. China has also emerging nation with military capability which has increasing day to day but its strength with respect to USA is limited. Both China and Russia are adversaries of USA in the cold war period. Though some instances happened like 1970's when due to strained relation between Russia and China, China had moved closer towards USA. Japan has been close ally of the US. India on the other hand has traditional close ties with Russia. With respect to Japan it has no inimical relations with it, and it has strategic differences and territorial problems with China. But today we have much focused on strategic relations with Russia as well as USA. We have always keen to normalise over relations with China and improve relations with Japan. India's relation with these three major powers of the world is examined independently.

## Indo Russia Relations

Russia is a new country on political map of the world having around 3 decades of their birth. It has principle successor state of Soviet Union, which on December 1991 disintegrated. We have understood the benefits and burden of the relation of Indo Russia with backdrop of Indo Soviet relation. India having not very cordial relations after Independence but the superpower rivalry motivated Soviet Union to reexamine the relation with India. India having non aligned foreign policy not getting military aspect but bilateral relations between both the countries. The Soviet leaders Nikolai Bulgarin or Alexi Kosygin referred Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India. As Kashmir was centripetal security issue Indian leader appreciate this gesture. India in response voted in favour of Soviet Union in 1956 on the UN resolution of democratic election in Hungary which was under Soviet occupation at that time. 1962 war between India and China makes India rethink to establish military cooperation with Soviet Union, as USA and other western countries refuse to make expansion of military capability of India. Same year both the countries begin a programme of military technical cooperation. India do not keen to enter the cold war politics and it made agreements with Soviets that only economic, commercial and modernization of armed forces took place by which no story is repeated as 1962 have.

India is strategic autonomy and security cooperation with Soviets makes India individual performance some better mode. The regional politics and geographical changes make Indo Soviet security cooperation more enhanced. The USA, Pakistan and China makes nexus makes a new axis power. Before 1971 war of India and Pakistan, Soviet signed a historic treaty with India of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation. On a rough estimate about 60% of Indian army military hardware, 70% of naval hardware and 80% of Air Force hardware are of Soviet origin. The new relationship after Soviet disintegration was based on 'Pragmatism and Flexibility' and was no hurry to devote much time to India. Also new regime believed that Pakistan was much more valuable than India in foreign policy and security related issues. To deal with Islamic fundamentalism Pakistan has their role as middleman.

Russian force considered Pakistan, Iran and Turkey on higher priority than India. After expansion of NATO, the crisis of Balkans and American militarism induced Moscow to reprioritize its foreign policy agenda. India once again comes under Russian focus. When US president Bill Clinton pressurize India over Nuclear issue. Moscow sent green signal to New Delhi for agreement over two light water nuclear reactor. It paved the way for two Kundankalam reactors in Tamil Nadu. Russia also suggested India on the Kargil war of 1999. After Soviet disintegration India face no more difficulty and rely on limited supply of spare parts and supplies on them.

### India China Relation

Both of these countries have one of the oldest civilization of the earth. The religious, cultural and trade links between them are centuries old.

In modern history of the World, both of them have gained independence almost at the same time by 2 year gap. The relations between them have deep fluctuations in last 7 decades. 1960 was the armed conflict period, 1970 was period strategic distances maintained by them and 1980 were normalisation efforts started. After the end of cold war both of them searching for relations based on conflict resolution, confidence building and cooperative agreements. After Independence India adopted non aligned policy and China have close alliance with Soviet Union. But the India's interest of befriend China did not affect the relation between these two. Nehru welcomed the birth of communist China in 1949 and India was first among non communist countries which recognise them. The two countries signed five principles of Panchsheel, which later became important principles to manage international relation. India also supported China's entry to UN. But after later 1950 both the principles of Panchsheel and Bandung conference spirit disappeared. The border issues make the start of bitterness of bilateral relationship. China refused to recognize Macmohan line as international border and also challenged Kashmir accession to India. The Sino Indian war of 1962 had blow down India's prestige at home as well as in international arena. After about fourteen years of war the relations were almost frozen. In 1976 both of nations resumed ambassadorial diplomatic ties. In these fourteen years China has hostile policy towards India. However, in this period the defeat of Pakistan in 1971 war and emergence of Bangladesh had changed India's profile in South Asia. The industrial and agricultural success makes India self confident democracy in the region. Indira Gandhi has fully devoted to make full fledged diplomatic relations with China.

The 1980 border talks were held, that led unfrozen of relationship. It was result of meeting between Indira Gandhi and Chinese Premier Hua Guofang in 1980. Both the countries supported to improve relations for cause of Asian peace and stability.

In fact occasional skirmishes continued with diplomatic relation and ongoing negotiations. Armed intrusion in Sum Dorang Chu valley in 1987 happen when seventh round of bilateral dialogue happens. The disintegration of Soviet Union and changing scenario of world also seeks to reshape the relations of these two countries. Narshima Rao visit to China in 1993 had in changed scenario of world. End of Cold war and change of foreign policy makes both the countries to set a new diagram for global political situation. Rao signed the Agreement to maintain peace and tranquility along line of Actual control (LoAC). After a year Chinese premier Jiang Zemin also concluded four agreements in various fields and promoted Confidence Building Measures (CBM's) between these two countries. In 2003, PM Vajpayee and defence minister Fernandes make successful visit to China, which strengthens the bilateral relation. Today, the scenario is quite change, China having its areas of military bases which called as string of pearls which makes it of super power status. The OBOR project reflected their strength. Recent conflict between these two countries over Doklam issue has suggested that much more improvement have needed for the betterment of longer perspective.

### Indo Japan Relations

Both the countries have centuries old relations. During the reign of emperor Kemmei, Japan first came to contact with India. The first contact based on the religion and 19th century marked connects of these two countries on the commercial basis. Japan had deep appreciation for Indian nationalization when India was under colonial rule. Japan's victory over Russia in 1904-05 have potent stimulus to Indian nationalist wanted their political activities Japan were one of the countries which give support for India's independence.

India has always a "country of great charm as a centre of old civilization" for the Japanese people. The Buddhist also gives close ties between these two countries.

Japan was defeated nation in Second World War J.L. Nehru looked warmth to post war Japan devastation happened due to Atom bombs. India supplied iron ore which makes help to Japan to reconstruct. USA makes ally to Japan in cold war period and this makes determine the nature of Japan India relations. The 1954 US- Japan mutual security treaty and India's non alignment making both the countries into different basket. Both of them have huge political divergence. The growing US India political differences also make strategic divergence which affect India Japan relation. At the time of 1965 war between India and Pakistan, Japan cut off aid and credits to India.

1970 was the period when Japan political distances from India widened much further than before. Japan did not support the liberalisation of Bangladesh and India's peaceful nuclear explosion. The end of cold war makes new liberalisation policy that brought both the countries to come closer to each other. The field of trade, investment and services, as well as rapidly expanding field of technology is the area of cooperation between these two countries. Japan in start of 21st century ranked fifth largest investors in India. The civil nuclear deal between these two countries in 2016 makes strategic and mutual dialogues much more clear.

## Conclusion

The Russian India relationship are always seen as all weather friends. Today, Russian President Valdmir Putin and Indian PM Narendra Modi have cordial relations and seek for much more areas of bilateral trade. The changing of geo political strategies growing ambition of every nation and India should manage the Moscow's weakness and growing dependence to Beijing.

India China relation is examples of conflict over border issues. The recent examples of Doklam Skirmishes show that. India should beware of Chinese tactics. Chinese are very much aggressive towards their border and economic edge. But the nuclear prone countries have not engaged in all time bitterness that makes other Asian countries always threatens with their effects.

India Japan relations are traditionally strong with no hostilities ever done. Modi government in today's frame makes high preference to Japan. Japanese PM Shinzo Abe make visit to India after his tenure. 2014 strategic global partnership between these two countries shows the strengthen ties between these two. The civil nuclear deal and fourth largest FDI investor and bullet train project in India are all seen as the ongoing influence of these two countries in each other arena.

The three countries today have serious partners of India in different sectors which should be seen by India as how to ensure long lasting relationship with them should be maintained. India are drivers of South Asian countries. These countries know the market and potential of India. India should bargain their interest while make the interest of them. The peaceful coexistence are the virtue of relations of India with these three countries.

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