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Rediscovering Nepal's Relationship with South Asia and East Asia: India and China in Comparative Perspective

Sangit Sarita Dwivedi

Abstract

A country's foreign policy and the dynamic of its relationship with neighbouring states have been conditioned by a complex of factors. For any country, peace, stability and prosperity of its neighbours are of utmost concern. For India, China and Nepal, geography has made neighbours, history has made friends and economics has made partners. Both India and China have formally recognized Nepal's independence in treaties. Nepal, the strategically located landlocked nation of 30 million people, is a playground for its two giant neighbours—India and China. How to balance relations with the two neighbours is a challenge for Nepal. For much of its history, Nepal has been heavily influenced by India. India has traditionally viewed Nepal as a buffer against China. China has ceded some territory to Nepal to facilitate boundary demarcation and has endorsed Nepal as a 'Zone of Peace'. Nepal continued to support China's application for membership in the UN. Domestic political turmoil, lack of political will and resource crunch have prevented Nepal from effectively cooperating with India. The keystone of Nepal's China policy was maintaining equal friendships with China and India while simultaneously seeking to decrease India's influence in Nepal. Further, Kathmandu felt that the competition between its two giant neighbours, China and India, would benefit its own economic development.

Rediscovering

Therefore, Nepal special reference intends to focus on It will discuss the remaining in the trilateral relations

Nepal is a "delimited" is the way King Prithvi summed up the relationship century (Magnier 2000)

A country's foreign policy neighbouring states any country, peace, is a concern. The common sovereign equality interests has been the and Nepal, 'Geography and economics has made a nation of 30 million namely, India and Nepal's independence a buffer against China influenced by India to facilitate boundary Peace'. How to balance for Nepal. Nepal's position between India and China needs to maintaining equal seeking to decrease India. Further, Kathmandu's China neighbours—China. However, Sino-Indian relationship is remarkably in re-