

The Analysis of the Differences between India and the United States on the Korean War

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Abstract: There are great differences between India and the United States on the Korean War. After the outbreak of the war, the United States made a decision to intervene it and manipulated the UNSC to pass the resolution, giving the American military intervention to the UN's coat of arms. At the beginning of the war, India supported the United States but opposed the expansion of the war. After China took part in the war, India mediated between China and US and promoted them reach the agreement on the prisoners of war. The main reason for the differences between the US and India on the Korean War is the different national strategic interests of two countries

1. India Opposed the U.S. Expansion of the War and Mediated Actively between China and US

When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, the United States quickly made a decision to provide assistance to South Korea. After the North Korean occupation of Seoul, the intervention of the United States escalated. At the same time, the United States submitted the Korean War to the UN Security Council, and manipulated it to pass three related resolutions, giving the American military intervention to the UN's coat of arms. In September 1950, the "United Nations army" took control of most of the south of the "38th parallel" and conquered Seoul. During this period, China repeatedly warned that US should not cross the "38th parallel". With the acquiescence of the United States, the army of the South Korea crossed the 38th line on October 1.

At the beginning of the Korean War, India supported the United States at the United Nations Security Council. However, India did not agree with the way of US dealing with the Korean crisis. On 25 June, India pointed out that India's support for the United Nations resolution did not mean that India abandoned the basic position of settling disputes by peaceful means. On June 29, India issued a statement: "India's support for United Nations resolution does not mean that Indian will adjustment its non-alignment policy, India will continue to carry out an independent foreign policy and seek to establish friendly relations with all countries." And India disapproved of the United States linking the Korean War to the Taiwan issue and Indochina. India refused to provide any military support to South Korea.

India stood for a peaceful resolution of the Korean crisis and opposed further expansion of the war. India claimed to restore the China's legitimate position in the United Nations so that China and the United States could seek a permanent solution to the Korean issue. Nehru advised all non-permanent members of the UN Security Council to form a committee to review all peaceful

proposals, and attempted to prompt the United States reconsider the discussion of China joining the United Nations.

When the "United Nations Army" landed in Incheon, India conveyed China's warning to the United States and strongly discouraged the United States from crossing the "38th parallel." The United States dissatisfied with India's attitude. On October 7, the United States manipulated the UN to pass the resolution of unify North Korea. The representative of India voted against it. After the "United Nations Army" crossed the "38th parallel", China sent volunteers to take part in the Korean War. The situation changed. The "United Nations army" lost many ground, and the United States considered using atomic bombs. India mediated between China and US. India admonished the United States not to using atomic bombs and tried to persuade China not to cross the "38th parallel".

On December 12, 1950, India and the other 12 countries called on the UN General Assembly to convene an international conference to discuss for a peaceful resolution. The proposal requested the UN General Assembly to organize a three-member-committee to urge the two sides to cease fire as soon as possible. On December 14, the UN General Assembly adopted the proposal to establish the "Korean Armistice Three Committee" composed of the chairman of the fifth general assembly and the representatives of India and Canada. China refused to accept the mediation and its proposal, and advocated the convening of the 7 countries' meeting to discuss the Korean issue. India respected China's views and agreed to hold the conference advocated by China.

On January 24, 1951, the United States put forward a proposal at the UN General Assembly that declare China an "aggressor" and demanded the UN impose sanctions on China. India was opposed to it and united the other 12 countries to propose an amendment. However, the UN General Assembly passed the resolution identified China as an "aggressor" on February 1, 1951. India voted against it. On May 18, 1951, the UN General Assembly passed the U.S. proposal to impose an embargo on China and North Korea. India voted against it again.

2. Differences between India and the United States on the Repatriation of Prisoners of war

On July 1, 1951, the United States, China and the North Korea began armistice negotiations. The great differences between the two sides on the repatriation of prisoners of war caused the negotiation to be protracted. In November 1952, India proposed a compromise proposal on the repatriation of prisoners of war on the basis of considering the positions of both sides. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Indian proposal in December 3, 1952. On July 27, 1953, the two sides signed an armistice agreement through the active mediation of India and the negotiations between China and the United States.

According to the prisoner of war agreement, in September 1953, a "Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission" was formed by the representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Poland and India. Indian Army Lieutenant General K.M. Cariappa served as the chairman of the commission. On September 9, K.M. Cariappa led 6,000 Indian soldiers to Korea and took over the prisoners of war who had not yet been repatriated by the warring parties. The work of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission was rejected by the South Korea. And South Korea even sent spies to the prisoners' camps and stirred up unrest. India had to use force to suppress the riots. The South Korean government even threatened to "use force" against the Indian caretaker troops. India submitted a memorandum to the United Nations Command, asking the United States and the United Nations Command to provide security guarantees for Indian soldiers. And India submitted a formal note to the United States asking the US to take effective measures to abide by the armistice agreement. Under the strong demand of India, the United States exerted pressure on South Korea and indicated to India that it would be responsible for its security in the North Korean army.

According to the armistice agreement, a high-level political conference should be held within 3

months after the signing of the agreement. South Korea was strongly opposed to India's participation in the high-level political conference. The United States insisted on participating only by the belligerent countries, and did not favor the participation of the Soviet Union and the neutral countries such as India and Burma. The United States held many talks with India on this issue. Finally, due to the manipulation of the United States, on August 28th, UN General Assembly passed a proposal which only inviting belligerent countries to participate in the high-level political conference. Because of China's refusal, the high-level political conference finally aborted. It made India dissatisfied with the United States.

The miscarriage of prisoners of war was deadlocked. As a result, the United States unilaterally announced that it would release all outstanding prisoners of war on January 22, 1954. However, India wanted to submit it to the United Nations General Assembly. Due to the opposition of the United States, the UN General Assembly did not have specific measures to deal with it. The United States, through its ambassador to India and its representative in the United Nations, exerted pressure on India to transfer the remaining prisoners to the "United Nations Command".

Despite its vigorous efforts to try to bring about a high-level political conference, India failed to do so because of American obstructionism. On January 20, 1954, India had to transfer all remaining prisoners of the war to the "United Nations Command."

3. The Main Reasons for the Differences between India and the United States

The differences between India and the United States on the Korean War are determined by their national strategic interests of the two countries.

On the end of World War II, the national core strategy of the United States is to ensure the status of its' world superpower. For the first time, the United States became a global power. Strong strength made American ambitions grow synchronously. However, the expansion of the United States met with obstacles from the Soviet Union. The United States and the Soviet Union began a cold war. In the context of the Cold War, the global strategic goal of the United States was to halt the expansion of communism, defend the free world, and establish an anti-soviet and anti-communist coalition around the world. Therefore, one of the important diplomatic strategies of the United States was to pull the regional powers into the free world led by the United States. The United States actively organized a strategic encirclement from the North Atlantic to South Asia, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the United States carried out a policy of political isolation, economic blockade and military encirclement to the PRC. The United States refused to recognize the PRC, and obstructed the restoration of China's lawful seat in the United Nations. At the same time, the United States exerted the influence on other countries, asking other countries to choose between the "free world" and "totalitarian world" and to maintain a consistent position with the United States.

India, as a major Asian power, was a key target of American influence. The main goal of the United States' South Asian policy was to pull India into the "anti-communist" western camp. For India, communism was not the main threat to India, and its priority was to seek the country's economic development. India did not agree that Communist was the greatest threat to the "free world". India believed that the real enemy of human society was poverty, hunger, disease, racial discrimination, and the exploitation and control of the weak powers and nations by the world powers. Thus, India's policy to the United States had a dual nature. On the one hand, India need the United States economic assistance and must cooperate with the United States. Therefore, at the beginning of the Korean War, India responded to the call of the United States to condemn the North Korea's military actions against South Korea. On the other hand, India insisted on the

non-alignment policy. Once joining the Western camp, India had to involve in the struggle between East and West, then India was unable to concentrate on economic construction. This would delay India's development process and further led India to rely more on the west economically. Therefore, India rejected the request of the United States to send troops to North Korea.

India's foreign strategic objective was becoming a "world of great power". India wanted to establish its absolute leadership in the South Asian subcontinent. The pursuit of the status of great powers had become the basic starting point and guiding principle for India. In order to realize its strategic goal, India held the banner of anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism and actively supported the movement of Asian and African nations for national independence. India did best to unite the newly independent Asian and African countries and form the third force headed by India. During the Korean War, India tried to play an important role. India proposed the proposals for peaceful settlement of the Korean War. However, the United States' military intervention made the proposal of India failed, and the important role of India failed to emerge. Therefore, opposing the United States interfering with Asian Affairs became an important part of India's strategic interests.

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