



NON – ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Study Material for PLSA 4th Sem
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DEPAETMENT OF POLSCIENCE

Origin

1. **Non-Aligned Movement**, popularly known as **NAM**, is a platform of 120 developing countries who received their independence after the very **2nd World War**. Gradually the new independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America were in a dilemma to be with any bloc formed due to the ideological hegemonism of USA and USSR and which lead the World in hostility among the members of the blocs. So the idea of **Non-Alignment** first came into the mind of Jawaharlal Nehru, the PM of India and he shared his view with G.A Nasser, the President of Egypt; Nkrumah, the President of Ghana; General Sukarno, the President of Indonesia and of course with Marshal Joseph Tito, the President of Yugoslavia. The efforts of them finally took shape as the **Non-Aligned Movement**. The first Summit Conference was held in Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia in September **1961**. Marshal Tito chaired the conference. Since then **NAM** organised its 18th conferences almost after every 3 years in the capital Cities of different member states. The last Summit held in 2019 in Baku of Azerbaijan and the next will be held in 2022.

Meaning

- **Non Alignment** is not a passive or negative policy. As a positive concept it opposes certain values but it also promotes certain valuable ideas which are in harmony with its goals like decolonisation, preservation of international peace, attainment of new international order and freedom from commitment to any power bloc.
- Nehru described **Non-Alignment** as dynamic and positive policy that flows from struggle for freedom.
- The African leaders viewed **Non-Alignment** as a means to safeguard their independence from Western powers and to resist the neo-colonialist intervention.
- The Arab nationalist leaders as a means to free the Middle-East from Western domination.
- Professor Partha Chatterjee is of the opinion that "in terms of social transformation in the 3rd World countries, an external policy of **Non-Alignment** must mean in its content a program for National Self-reliance and independence."



OBJECTIVES

- The objectives of NAM have been set in the first Conference where 25 Heads of member States were present and they committed about:
 - 1. Peace and disarmament;
 - 2. Independence including the right of self- determination;
 - 3. Economic equality among members, with an emphasis on restructuring the existing international economic order;
 - 4. Cultural equality, with an emphasis on restructuring the world information and communication order;
 - 5. Universalism and multilateralism through strong support for the United Nations system.
- All these worked as underlying guidelines of the **Movement** and in Havana Summit

of 1979 formally made as principles of the platform.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

1. The NAM contributed international politics in various ways. Such as:
2. A. The NAM has played a useful role in accelerating the process of decolonisation
3. . In the post Second World War period. It has relentlessly struggled against imperialism,
4. colonialism and even neo-colonialism. National liberation movement of Asia and
5. Africa have also been encouraged by NAM.
6. B. The steady growth in the number of Non-Aligned countries prevented the process of
7. . Polarisation in world politics. It caused to emerge the concept of multipolarism.
8. . C. The NAM has acted as a potential force against racial discrimination and played
9. significant role in Africa and Namibia in this regard.
10. . D. The NAM has contributed to the cause of disarmament and arms control measures.
11. E. The NAM has contributed to strengthen the unity of the developing nations and has
12. expounded the cause of South-South cooperation which has to be a viable alternative
13. . Neo- colonial exploitation.

- **DECLINE OF NAM**

- Though NAM began with a new idea in international relations and received immense popularity among nations of the Third World but after the collapse of the Socialist Camp and the dismantling of USSR in the '90s the NAM lost its fame and gradual decline of the ' Movement ' was inevitable. However, the main causes of the decline are as follows:
 - a) in last 3 decades the NAM has been weakened due to absence of efficient and dynamic leaders.
 - b) the NAM has been torn by disputes and wars among members;
 - c) in recent decades the NAM has failed to undertake effective program of actions and forward-looking strategy. That has deminished the influence and stature of NAM.
 - d) the member States of NAM has no alternative economic policies against the two rival ideologies and more or less they accepted the popular principles of the two lost it's own identity and moved towards the decline.

RELEVANCE :

- In view of the fact that the NAM developed as an attempt to thwart the Cold War,
- It has struggled to find relevance since the end of the Cold War. There are a few main views regarding its relevance:
 - A) From political perspective, NAM can forge unity and political cooperation among countries. Such unity may go a long way in forging a strong political force against American hegemonism and imperialistic and neo-colonial designs of any great power.
 - B) From economic perspective, NAM may wage protests against neo-colonial economic exploitation and inequitable economic order.
 - C) The NAM still bears relevance from security perspective. The Gulf-War of 1990-91 highlights that the security of small states can be jeopardized by American designs. No weak developing state can safeguard its own security. Consequently, NAM can consolidate its position as a strong force against big power hegemonism.
 - . D) The NAM can play constructive role in protecting human rights and preventing gross
 - violation of human rights in many areas of the world.
 - . E) The NAM countries can sponsor collective measures for protection of natural environment, ecological balance, control of narcotics drugs and control of terrorism.

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