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Title: India's Policy towards Palestine Since 1947: A Critical Study

Abstract

Since the World War-II, the major issue of the West Asian turbulence is the Palestine problem. The creation of the state of Israel, the human tragedy imposed upon the people of Palestine, which is unprecedented in the world history. The Palestinian people were going to the status of refugees and driven out from their homes and earths. Since then the helpless people of Palestine have been running from pillar to post in search of their land liberation. This was followed by the two-prolonged strategy of extermination of the Palestinians and large expansion of their settlements after the occupying the areas of Gaza Strip, West Bank, Sinai and Golein Heights. India's policy towards this grave problem grew and crystallized on the fundamental issues arising out of the complex situation before and after her independence.

Ever since the establishment of the state of Israel, the Palestine question has picked the conscience of mankind and has in fact proved itself to be a disturbing feature of the second half of the 20th century. More than six decades that have already gone since the first Palestinian Diaspora took place in 1948 and 1949. However, the Palestinians especially the refugees have been successful in keeping the idea of Palestine alive and have forced the Arabs and world countries to take their aspirations into consideration. It hearts the Palestinians when they are referred to as refugees and not as a national people with rights to an independent state.

Indian political leaders in the nationalist period up to 1947, consistently and firmly upheld the cause of the Palestinian Arabs. They shared certain historical experience with the Arab Nationalists in the period of freedom struggle in India as well as in West Asia. The most important was to both of them colonized by a common foe: British Imperialist in Afro-Asian continent. The major principles of India's foreign policy can be traced to policies pursued by the Indian National Congress (INC), and the top Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, before and after India's independence. Such as promote to the international peace, NAM, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism, anti-racialism and regional cooperation. India's strategic environment has been considerably influenced by the geo-politics of West Asia. Its trade and commerce, communication, social and cultural intercourse demonstrate that West Asia in a sense stand for gateway to India.

The Indian leadership even after the death of Nehru (1964) continued to support the Palestinian cause. Mrs. Indira Gandhi adopted an activist approach and India's policy became pronouncedly pro-Palestine *vis-a-vis* anti-Israel. The foreign minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Morarji government tried to forge closer ties with Israel and got Moshe Dayan, the Israeli foreign minister, to come secretly to India. The plan was however, scuttled by Morarji Desai. Desai was a true Gandhian and was of the firm view that India could have no relationship with Israel at the expense of Palestinians. To discuss also about the right wing group in India, which want the good relation with Israel on the issue of Palestine-Israel conflict? They always condemned the policy of Indian Government towards the Palestine.

The Indian government, approach towards the Palestine issue after the post-Cold War period was changed. The collapse of USSR, Gulf War-1, Economic liberalization and Globalization affected the whole world, on the level of political and economic. Therefore, Indian relation with Palestine changed and with Israel improved. It goes without saying that India's firm consistent support of the Palestinian cause, in the Cold War period, has been articulated on political, ideological and on moral terms.

The basic fundamental of India's foreign policy were anti-imperialism, anti-racism, backing of the liberation movement against colonial domination, contradicting military occupation about any one's land, solution about whatever universal dispute through negotiation, a relentless movement against neo-colonialism and also support for the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) by heading it in every sphere about universal governmental issues. In the post-Cold War period economic, energy, security related issues need made precedence over moral furthermore ideological considerations.

The pragmatic shift in India's policy towards Palestine became visible when in 1992; India decided to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. All these changed came with the BJP Government coming to power. The BJP government in India made a paradigm shift from cultivating the Palestinians along with the Arab world towards a one sided strategic partnership with Israel. The Left supported Congress (UPA) government extended the same policy. The BJP party came into power in 2014 parliament election and Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India. Israel attacked on the Gaza and Indian other party leaders want a resolution in the Rajya Sabha against the Israeli attacks. But the foreign Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that India's policy on Palestine issue remains unchanged and the same policy will be continued.

President of India Pranab Mukherjee, visited Jordan, Palestinian territories *vis-à-vis* Israel in October 2015. He became the first Indian President to visit Palestine and Israel. During his visit President held meeting and interaction with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and were having talks regarding political interaction, deeper economic engagement and academic collaboration and wider cultural contacts.