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Title: Post-Cold War Indo-US Relations with special reference to Economic, Defence and Civil Nuclear Cooperation

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It is an irony that despite being liberal democracies, the US and India could not maintain cordial bilateral relationship during the cold war period. Exceptions apart, as far as economic, defence and civil nuclear cooperation is concerned, the bilateral relationship was not friendly. Various factors caused often strained ties between the two countries. Cold War rivalry and the US containment policy to prevent the spread and influence of communism, India's non-alignment policy and perception of the US that India was closer to the Soviet Union, close military and defence relationship of the US with Pakistan, facilitated by the US containment policy and India's apprehension of its adverse and inimical implications on her security and national interests as Pakistan's anti-India policy posed a threat to India's security and territorial integrity, India's economic backwardness, and strategy of import substitution economic policy and planning as an instrument of economic development, India's nuclear policy and her refusal to be a party to the nuclear non-proliferation regime related treaties etc, are some of the important causes which paved the way for estrangement, distrust and often tensions between the two countries, preventing them from establishing close friendly and durable strategic bilateral relationship.

However, Indo-US relations witnessed positive developments after the end of the Cold War. India lost a formidable ally and a big market for her exports with disintegration of the Soviet Union and Russia the successor state, did not agree to supply military equipment to India at the discounted price of the USSR. Thus, India had to rethink its relations with the US due to the loss of the USSR as a dependable ally militarily and economically and emergence of the US as a sole super power after the end of the Cold War and as a result of rise of China and growing confidence of Pakistan after the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan. Similarly, liberalization of Indian economy, though initially under the pressure of balance of payment crisis and gradual emergence of India as one of the biggest economies, presence of highly educated and highly influential Indian origin people in the US, emergence of some dynamic leaders in both the countries, rise of terrorism etc, are some of the other equally significant factors that paved the way for strong, friendly and close relationship between the two countries. The unprecedented progress in Indo-US economic, defence and civil nuclear cooperation after the end of Cold War is discernible in the overwhelmingly growing bilateral

trade, joint regular military exercises and the conclusion of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal despite the fact that India is still not a party to the NPT and CTBT.

The thesis comprises five chapters, including Introduction and conclusion. In the introductory chapter, a brief historical and analytical description of Indo-US relations has been systematically provided, explaining among others, some of the factors that were responsible for strained ties between the two countries in the Cold War period. The chapter also sheds light on the factors that have played and still play an important role in fostering healthy and close bilateral relations in the Post-Cold War era.

The second chapter focuses on the Indo-US Economic and Trade relationship. The chapter having given a brief description of India's economic policy since its independence, addresses the circumstances that led to the liberalization of India's economy and the various factors that brought the countries closer to each other in the Post-Cold War period. It highlights a number of issues, namely, i.e. Post-Cold War emerging trends in India-US trade relationship, balance of trade and trade barriers between the two countries. It also sheds light on investment relationship, and some of the future potential areas of cooperation.

The third chapter focuses on the defence aspects of Indo-US relations. It sheds light on various post-cold war positive developments undertaken by the two countries. However, it also highlights India-US defence relations during cold-war, shedding light on various factors that created obstacles in the way of close India-US defence relations. Various hurdles in the bilateral defence relations have been analyzed. The chapter specially focuses on variety of issues i.e. joint military exercises, bilateral defence trade, various landmark defence agreements concluded after the end of the Cold-War, Pakistan and China's impact on defence relations between India and the US etc.

The chapter on Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation, the fourth ones, addresses a number of issues including a brief history of India's nuclear programme, international treaties related to nuclear non-proliferation regime and their adverse implications on Indo-US relations due to bilateral differences between India and the US over these treaties, Indo-US Nuclear Deal and critical analysis of its major criticisms proving that most of them are based on unsound grounds etc.

The final chapter comprises the conclusion of the thesis.