



Gandhian International Relations to Change the World through Out of Box Thinking

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Abstract: This essay is an attempt to apply Gandhian principles to problems of International Relations. In essence Gandhian principles can be reduced to : Truth, Non-Violence, Love, Peace and Simple-Living. This essay questions if India's defence policy and foreign policy shouldn't be derived from Gandhian Principles? Hence doesn't that mean that India should reduce its own defence budget by say half at the least and then seek to reduce global defence budget by half. This essay proposes a land and money for peace in Israel-Palestine problem. This essay questions the cost benefit analysis of India's legal right to Kashmir. The essay questions India's duplicity on Tibet - on one hand saying Tibet is part of China and then allowing Tibetan government in Exile. The essay calls upon Indian leadership to attempt to reverse partition of India since there will be parity between Hindu and non Hindu population. Please

I. Introduction

At the outset I must admit that I am neither Gandhian nor an expert on Gandhian principles. Indeed since I was born in 1969, almost a century after the Mahatma Gandhiji was born, I am very distant from Gandhian principles, because the world has changed so much in that century and morality and ethics have been compromised in ways unimaginable in nineteenth century. I am a product of twentieth century.

But I have explored Meditation and Morality to the extent possible. However I cannot claim to be religious or spiritual, at least not in traditional sense of word. I am very westernized person, and hence for me to claim to be Gandhian would be travesty of truth of untold proportion. But without mocking truth I can claim to be a good person.

I have read a bit about Gandhian Thoughts. Starting with his autobiography - Story of My Experiments with Truth, the Fischer biography on Gandhi, Quotes by Gandhi from various sources and a basic understanding of Gandhi, that every Indian unmistakably has.

But just as I admitted I have only read a 'BIT' about Gandhian Principles. And hence with my modern, western mind, Gandhian Principles, can be to an non expert be reduced to following:

1. Truth
2. Non-Violence
3. Love
4. Peace
5. Simple-Living

Much as the story of 6 blind person touching elephant at various part and declaring different things, I concede and confess, my understanding of Gandhian principles could be blurred.

However, at least I am honest in admitting that I am neither a Gandhian nor an expert on Gandhian principles. But for all my faults, I would at the risk of appearing immodest claim, that I am a good human being.

In Christian world, it is said with some bit of truth and some bit of exaggeration that "The last Christian died on cross." Now along same lines, again admittedly with some exaggeration, but equally some truth it could be asserted that "The last Gandhian was killed by Godse."

After independence, at least there were some who were pretentiously and ostentatiously Gandhians, but in last quarter of century the facade of Gandhian mask also has been dropped. Munnabhai from that famous movie is probably among the few Gandhians alive.

If that sounds as an exaggeration, consider this - 60% of politicians have criminal cases against them. Declared assets of politicians are 1000 times per capita income of states. And election expenditure limits are exceeded by factor of 50.

But for evil to succeed all it requires is for good people to do nothing. See being a Gandhi is extremely difficult, which is why there are so few of him. But at least we can be good human beings and being good human beings requires us to adhere to these 5 principles of what being Gandhian means even in these modern, westernized, irreligious world:

1. Truth



2. Non-Violence
3. Peace
4. Love
5. Simple-Living

However this essay is not about Gandhian Principles. This essay is about application of Gandhian principles to International Relations problems, especially but not exclusively Indian context. Hence without digressing from the topic of this essay - Gandhian International Relations - let us just restrict ourselves to one and only one topic - how Gandhian principles could be applied to solve International Relations Problems.

Out of Box Thinking

Nobel Laureate Albert Einstein said about Mahatma Gandhiji that "Generations to come may scarcely believe such a man as this walked in flesh and blood." Hence as Indians we must take Einstein seriously.

Einstein also said that there are two things that are infinite - size and universe and humanity's stupidity and I am not sure about the former. Einstein also said that Insanity is the belief that you can solve a problem by thinking along the same lines that caused the problem in first place.

Now thinking is an art and somewhat a science. Most people do not know how to think. But there is no need to despair. Thinking can be taught just as flying a plane can be taught. That is what Edward De Bono the world's greatest expert on lateral thinking, creative thinking and out of box thinking says. Edward de Bono says that thinking is like driving skills whereas brain is like a car. You have to learn how to use your brain. And just as driving a car can be taught so can thinking be taught.

Now let us go back to what Einstein said about humanity being infinitely stupid. Well humanity is infinitely stupid because it does not know how to think. And humanity can be taught to think. And as Einstein pointed out that you cannot solve problem by thinking along the same lines that caused the problem in first place.

Hence you need to think in a manner that is different so that you don't think in an insane way and are branded as infinitely stupid - according to Einstein of course

The training to think differently can be branded as creative thinking, out of box thinking, lateral thinking or something like that. The author has been a teacher of creative thinking, lateral thinking and out of box thinking

The author brings his out of the box thinking approach to bear on some international relation

issues. This paper is an attempt to solve world's problems with out of box thinking.

Deriving India's defence policy and foreign policy from Gandhian Principles

Mahatma Gandhiji is India's father of nation.

Mahatma Gandhiji said -

"I have nothing new to teach - truth and non-violence are as old as hills."

"The day power of love overcomes love of power the world will know peace."

"Be the change you want to see in the World."

In view of the above shouldn't India's defence and foreign policy be based on love, peace, non violence. Shouldn't India be the beacon light of world peace, since its father of nation is Mahatma Gandhiji. And shouldn't India itself be committed in action and words to non violence, peace and love before it seeks to preach the world to peace, non violence and love. After All if India proudly claims that Mahatma Gandhiji is father of nation, then shouldn't that mean something.

Of course, saying that India should be an example of peace, non violence and love is just a qualitative description of what Gandhian principles means. But in quantitative terms what does this mean ? Say can India set a target to reduce its own defence spending by half from 2% of GDP to 1% of GDP as a verification and validation of India's real commitment and adherence to Gandhian Principles of Non-Violence , Peace and Love. And having demonstrated India's adherence to Peace, Non Violence and Love, can India then seek to reduce global defence spending from 2% of GDP to 1% of GDP.

Idealistic, Impractical, Impossible - Is It?

Of course the argument would be that reducing defence spending as a percentage of GDP by half is idealistic, impractical and impossible.

Here are some facts that might surprise and shock us.

During world war II the number of soldiers were 300 million for a global population of 2.5 billion. Now as we speak in 2020, the number of soldiers is 30 million in a global population of 7.5 billion. That represents a 97% reduction in number of soldiers per million basis.

The global defence spending as a percentage of GDP has reduced from 6.5% of GDP during 1960 to 2.2 % of GDP in 2020. This represents 75% reduction in defence expenditure.

Less than 10% of nations spend a significant percentage of GDP on defence - USA, Russia, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Britain, France,



Australia, etc. Thus almost 90% of nations of world are already close to the target of spending 1% of GDP on defence.

Hence the idea of reducing global defence spending to 1% of GDP is not idealistic and neither impractical nor impossible. Of course it may not happen overnight. But over a period of 25 years if all nations start reducing defence spending slightly it is possible to reduce defence spending by half from 2% of GDP to 1% of GDP.

Of Course, Kashmir is Integral Part of India

Maharaja Hari Singh did sign the Instrument of Accession. Hence the question of plebiscite on grounds of morality does not arise. This essay will not argue on settlement of Kashmir problem on grounds of Morality, just because this essay is about Gandhian International Relations. This essay is as practical as it is idealistic even if it is based on Gandhian International Relations.

This argues points to the absurdity of cost benefit relations for Kashmir.

India spends around Rs. 5 lakh crore per year on defence, directly or indirectly. More than half is due to Kashmir problem. Plus there is the excessive grants to Kashmir which is ten times central grant to rest of Indian states. Thus it is safe to say that almost Rs. 3 lakh crore per year is spent by India on Kashmir.

Now Kashmir's GDP is 70,000 crore and Kashmir's wealth must be Rs. 1.5 lakh crore.

Thus with the Rs. 3 lakh crore India spends on defence to keep Kashmir, India can buy all wealth of Kashmir in 6 months, all wealth of Jammu and Ladakh within 6 months, thus buying all wealth of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh within 1 year.

And that is not all. With the Rs. 3 lakh crore per year India spends to keep Kashmir, India can buy all listed companies in Pakistan stock exchange in 1 year, all listed companies in Bangladesh stock exchange in 1 year, all wealth of Pakistan in 15 years, all wealth of Bangladesh in 20 years, and all listed companies in 100 nations of world in less than 100 years.

Considering that the cost benefit ratio of holding Kashmir clearly proves that it is not worth while holding Kashmir, hence it may be worthwhile to consider Manmohan Musharraf formula :

1. Autonomy: After all it is just autonomy, not independence. Again democracy by definition involves autonomy. Again, Indian states do have a certain degree of autonomy. Plus since India can buy all assets of Kashmir within 6 months of defence expenditure, thus India can economically

own Kashmir, even as it grants political autonomy to Kashmir.

2. Demilitarisation: Once you have granted autonomy demilitarisation won't be a problem

3. Porous Borders: That won't be a problem as long as you ensure that only Kashmiris move across borders.

4. Joint Control: Once you have given autonomy, what is the problem of joint control

Honestly some times decisions have to be made not on legality of a situation or morality of a situation but the cost benefit ratio of a situation.

Hindi ChiniBhaiBhai

The proxy war between India and China is not due to border dispute. The problem is Tibet. And the Tibet story can have many versions depending on who you hear the story from. However one thing cannot be denied that Tibet was part of China till 1912 in some way or another. Hence China's claim on Tibet has a certain degree of validity to it. At any rate India's official position is that Tibet is part of China.

Obviously, India should no more go to proxy war with China over Tibet anymore than India should go to proxy war with United States over Vietnam or India should go to proxy war with Russia over Afghanistan. Again, India's official position is that Tibet is part of China. Hence it follows that Government of India should ban Tibetan Government in Exile. Also considering the fact that the war mongering Tibetan Buddhist, Dalai Lama, has taken Canadian citizenship, shouldn't he be asked to go to his nation on long vacation. And since the other Tibetans in India have not taken foreign citizenship, they be compelled to take Indian citizenship. These set of policies will end India's run with hares and hunt with hounds kind of policy on Tibet, where India says Tibet is part of China and allows Tibetan Government in Exile to function from India. India can go for Belt and Road Initiative without getting into debt. Then there is the border dispute between China and India. Honestly China may not be interested in entire Arunachal Pradesh. After all recently China just named 6 places of Arunachal Pradesh as part of China. It perhaps may be in interest of India to give away a little bit of Arunachal Pradesh to China - say 10% of Arunachal Pradesh - Tawangetc - to China in exchange for Peace. And Aksai Chin is not even worth fighting over. Thus by giving up 0.01% of GDP, India can save almost 3 lakh crore per annum in defence expenditure. After all land for peace has been tried by brave Shivaji Maharaj. With that saving of Rs. 3 lakh crore, India can buy all assets of Jammu,



Kashmir and Ladakh in 1 year, all listed companies in Pakistan stock exchange in 1 year and all listed companies in Bangladesh stock exchange in 1 year and all listed companies in 100 nations of world in less than 100 years and all wealth of Pakistan in 15 years and all wealth of Bangladesh in 20 years.

Reversing Partition of India

India was partitioned on basis of religion because Muslims feared domination by Hindus. But by 2070, when population in Indian sub continent will stabilize there will be parity between Hindu population and non Hindu population. Hindu population will be 1100 million and non Hindu population will be 1100 million. Here is how. By 2070

Pakistan population will be 400 million - 99% non Hindus

Bangladesh population will be 200 million 10% Hindus and 90% non Hindus

India population will be 1600 million 75% Hindus and 25% non Hindus

Adivasis, Lingayats classified as Hindus can get non Hindu classification - 120 million.

Thus over all it adds up to 1100 million Hindus and 1100 million non Hindus.

Hence there could be an argument for reversing partition of India

India as a Super Power

In 1991, China and India had same per capita income. However by 2021 China had a per capita income that is 5 times per capita income of India. The reason is that China grew at 10-12% growth rate, whereas India grew at a 6-7% growth rate. This is again because the saving rate of China was 48% and India's saving rate was 28%. And according to HarrodDomar Model of Development, growth rate is proportional to saving rate.

However if India increases its saving rate to 48%, India can also grow at 10-12% per annum. The way to do this is of course by monetizing 25000 tonnes of gold which amounts to 60% of GDP. Indian attachment to gold is due to concept of Streedhan, whereby a woman only inherits gold. However after Hindu Succession Act 1956, women can inherit all forms of wealth. Hence it will not be a problem to monetize gold and increase savings rate.

If India increases its growth rate to 10% on an average for next 50 years, it will double its gdp in 7 years, and double its gdp 7 times in 50 years, thus taking it to 128 times the 4 trillion dollar gdp by 2074. Hence India's GDP would be 500 trillion dollars by 2074. By then US GDP would be 100

trillion, China GDP would be 200 trillion, Europe GDP would be 100 trillion and GDP of Britain, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Middle East would be 100 trillion. Thus Indian economy would be bigger than economies of USA, China, European Union, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Britain and Middle East.

Israel Palestine Problem

Let us not get into the whole history and geography of Israel Palestine problem.

Suffice it to say that Land for peace as a way to solve Israel Palestine problem has been tried and found wanting. This essay proposes land and money for peace instead of land for peace.

Now Israel's GDP is 400 billion dollars. And Israel spends 4% on defence. Palestine's GDP is 16 billion dollars and per capita income of Palestine is 2000 dollars. If Israel establishes peace with Palestine Israel can easily reduce its defence spending from 4% of GDP to 1% of GDP. How about Israel contributes say 2% of its GDP to Palestine's development. This will help Palestine become a rich nation and eradicate poverty and Israel has nothing to lose since if Israel establishes peace with Palestine, it can reduce its defence spending by 3% of GDP.

Plus Israel can extend a generous affirmative action towards Arabs living in Israel and Arabs from Palestine seeking employment in Israel. This affirmative action could be in form of reservation of seats in Parliament for Arabs, quota in government jobs for Arabs, tax concessions for Arabs, wage subsidy for Arabs, transfer payments for poor Arabs and so on.

Hence a new peace proposal for Israel and Palestine could be as follows:

1. Land for Peace
2. Money for Peace
3. Affirmative Action for Peace

Yes this peace package has a monetary component to it and on face of it, it seems that there is cost to Israel. However considering that Israel can save on defence expenditure, it is obvious that Israel has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

African Population Explosion

Sometimes it is assumed that Mahatma Gandhi was against family planning. However it must be remembered that Mahatma Gandhiji was part of first half of twentieth century, when family planning was very rare. However, if Mahatma Gandhiji had lived till the end of twentieth century he would have most certainly advocated family planning.



While population is stabilising in Asia and Latin America, Africa seems to be undergoing population explosion of untold proportions.

African fertility rate (number of children born per woman) is hovering around 5 and it will take almost a century for Africa to reach fertility rate of 2. By then African population would have quadrupled from 1 billion to 4 billion.

Clearly Africa will have hard time to combat poverty if its population is going to increase 4 times. Hence it is must that Africa should control its population drastically. India has had experience of population control and hence can contribute to population control of Africa. India through India African Forum Summit must make an attempt at controlling African population. India owes this to Africa since Mahatma Gandhiji began his career in Africa.

Official Development Assistance

The world presents a strange picture of inequality. On one hand there are nations where per capita income is 100,000 dollars and on other there are nations where per capita income is barely 300 dollars. Clearly rich nations which have per capita income that is 30-60 times the per capita income of poor nations can help poor nation eradicate poverty easily.

And hence there is the concept of Official Development Assistance. This has been earmarked at 0.7% of GDP of rich nations. However while some Nordic and Scandinavian nations do match the recommended official development assistance levels, USA and some European nations fall short of target.

What is worse is that quality of official development assistance has something to be said about it. In that a great amount of Official Development Assistance flows back to rich nations in terms of contracts and salaries.

Hence it is required that there is discussion on quality and quantity of Official Development Assistance at International level through conferences and conventions. Global poverty can be easily removed through international cooperation. All it requires is political will among the leaders of the world.

Organisation of Petroleum Importing Countries

OPEC - Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries - increases oil prices by controlling supply of oil. And the interesting thing is that OPEC increases oil prices by huge amount by reducing oil supply only slightly. Hence it should be obvious that if oil demand is reduced slightly then oil prices will

fall drastically. Hence it is suggested that Oil Importing nations of the world unite and create an Organisation of Petroleum Importing Countries which will seek to reduce oil demand and thus reduce oil prices. Oil demand can be reduced in many ways:

1. Public Transportation
2. Better Insulation.
3. Car Pooling.

For those who would argue that Oil Importers Cartel won't work, the rebuttal would be would it hurt to try.

Communism has last laugh in Cold War

Most people assume that in cold war capitalism won and communism lost. However here is the contrarian view that is designed to shock.

The tax to GDP ratio of most OECD nations increase from 5-8% of GDP in 1917, after Russian revolution to 25-48% of GDP by 1990. Thus communism actually drastically changed capitalism and made communism unnecessary.

What has that got to do with Mahatma Gandhiji?

Mahatma Gandhiji said "There is enough in the World for every person's need but not enough for one person's greed"

Karl Marx said almost the same thing - "From each according to his ability to each according to his need" Thus the ideological victory of communism over capitalism manifested by massive increases in taxes, confirms and affirms Gandhian Principles.

Let us seek to discover Gandhi in ourselves

To make the world a better place let us adopt these five Gandhian Principles:

1. Truth
 2. Non-Violence
 3. Love
 4. Peace
 5. Simple-Living.
- Gandhi can be born in each of us.

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