

Conclusion

India's contribution and participation in UN peacekeeping operations has been unparalleled. If the future foretells increased political instability and conflict, then peacekeeping and peace-building offers the best hope. India, in partnership with other nations, can bring much needed resources and commitment to this process and assist the UN in fulfilling the founding charter "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." As far as the take away for India is concerned it can be safely said that a lot has been achieved by the Indian peacekeeping operations by their sacrifices and professionalism however, no amount of good intentions of the peacekeepers or the good will earned in the mission countries can substitute for the fundamental and the credible gains that the country can extract in terms of diplomatic and economic relations in the larger interest of the nation. The big issue therefore in the current approach by the policy makers comes out clearly as lack of understanding of the big picture and looking at short term or knee jerk actions which do not holistically look at the opportunity that exists for a nation when it participates in peacekeeping operations with such sincerity and in such big numbers as India. For the culture of strategic thinking to be brought into the policy making would require debates and interactions between the Ministries of External Affairs (MEA) and Defence (MoD) as well as some changes within the organizational structures.

Indian policy makers and military need to think big and think strategically for Indian interests in order to fulfill India's aspiration of being a global power.

Sitting on the fence and talking big without deeds to match it is no longer a viable option. India positively has an important role to play in peace-building with its democratic experience, developmental capacities and highly trained and professional Armed Forces.

The 21st century's unipolar world is creating new international dynamics. Any nation that does not deploy all its instruments and resources towards optimizing its security environment would be forced to exist and develop sub-optimally. Nations that evolve and adopt a sound approach to military diplomacy can expect to enjoy a benign, if not completely safe, security environment. India too will have to employ all its instruments including the military as a diplomatic tool in order to augment its strategic purpose.

The Dissertation has logically built up the argument from the inception of UN and India's involvement with the UN from the beginning to the role it carries out in the present and what could be expected of India in future as a an Emerging Power. The important issue on policy appraisal has been carried out keeping in view the changed geo political realities and recommended policy changes that may be considered to derive maximum mileage out of the peacekeeping effort that India carries out as a matured and responsible nation. These recommendations have also included the domain of foreign policy matters which gets highlighted as an area needing a holistic approach to peacekeeping and was felt necessary to deliberate in the analysis to ensure convergence to national interests.