**Foreign Policy**

**Foreign policy** encompasses the tactics and process by which a nation interacts with other nations in order to further its own interests.

**Objectives of the foreign policy.**

1.Maintaining the integrity of the state,

2. Promoting economic interest,

3. Providing for national security,

4. Protecting national prestige and developing national power, and

5. Maintaining world order.

**Instruments of Foreign Policy:**

The instruments of foreign policy may be said to be those institutions or devices through which the national power or resources are used for the accomplishment of the interests and objectives. These are as follows:

**1. Diplomacy**:

2. **Publicity and Propaganda:**

3. **Balance of Power:**

4. **Collective Security:**

The principle of collective security is adopted to secure collective defence as threateningly posed or actually mobilized against a powerful nation or nations. Balance of power and collective security are extremely useful as instruments for smaller nations which have a limited capacity to defend themselves.

5. **International Law and Organizations:**

These are also used by nations whenever possible for advancing the objectives of their foreign policy. During the post War period, Britain and France used the League of Nations to maintain status quo which was in their favour. Now we see that a number of third World countries are using the platform of the United Nations for some of the basic goals of their foreign policies-anti-colonialism, anti-racialism, disarmament and so on.

6. **Economic and non-political methods:**

Various economic methods are also adopted by various nations to achieve their foreign policy objectives and also to harm the interest of Opponents. Economic organizations are formed for this purpose e.g. E.C.O, SAARC. Sometimes nations also exploit religious, cultural and ethnic affinity to fulfil foreign policy objectives tag the use of Islam by many Muslim countries like Arab League.

7. **War and Peace:**

The institutions of war and peace are a kind of ultimate answer to the problems of a nation’s foreign policy of the two, peace comes on the heels of war, generally inaugurating a basic change in the foreign policies of nations concerned. But war is generally a devastating answer to the problems of a nation’s foreign policy. When objectives of foreign policy cannot be achieved through other means, nations resort to war as an end argument.

**Determinants of Foreign Policy:**

Foreign policy of states is determined by a number of factors. These important determinants having bearing on foreign policy can be broadly classified into three categories:

**General or objective**.

**Specific or subjective or internal.**

**External factors.**

The general and objective factors determine the framework in which policy are to be made and operated. These are the factors which are common to all the countries in determining their foreign policy. While the specific and subjective factors vary from country to country in accordance with their internal conditions and needs.

**General and Objective Determinants:**

These are of four types that play role in determining the foreign policy of all the states.

**1. Sovereignty and Integrity of the Slate:**

**2. Inter-dependence of States:**

3. **Promotion of National Interest:**

4. **Internal and External Conditions:**

**Specific, Subjective or Internal Determinants:**

Every state has its own specific interests that require specific decision in foreign policy making. A state may be facing certain problems and difficulties and therefore, has to take several internal factors into consideration while formulating its foreign policy. These internal factors are known as subjective or special factors and may differ from state to state. These particular or specific factors are a under.

1. **Geography:**

2**.History:**

3.**Population:**

it, as a determinant of foreign policy, is relevant both in quantitative and qualitative terms. The political, economic and military phases of a nation’s foreign policy is also moulded by the size, character and distribution its population.

4. **Natural Resources:**

Food, minerals, metal, coal, crude oil, water resources constitute an important element of national power and consequently of foreign policy. Availability of these resources in plenty definitely enhances the importance of a country. For example, the presence of petroleum has significantly strengthened the position of West Asian countries in international relations. They have used oil as a tool of their foreign policy.

5. **Economic Factors:**

Today, no state in the world can boast of economic self-sufficiency. Even the United States is greatly dependent upon world trade for economic prosperity. This mutual interdependence of the economies also works as a determinant of foreign policy. Economic interdependence leads to international economic activity which is expressed in terms of tariffs, import quotas, trade agreements and other financial arrangements.

6. **Development:**

Usually, a developed nation tends to follow an independent foreign policy whereas a backward nation is inclined to pursue a dependency policy. The latter, owing to its poverty and military weakness, would rely on developed nations for economic development and or for its protection against a powerful enemy.

In general, developed states have more active foreign policy than developing states. The former, due to their superior resources, can afford to be more involved in external issues. However, sometimes even developing states, follow active foreign policies to the extent of intervening in other countries, directly or indirectly e.g. Sukarno’s Indonesia, Nasser’s Egypt, Gaddafi’s Libya, Saddam’s Iraq etc.

7. **National and Military Capacity:**

It includes the military preparedness of a state, its technological advancement and modem means of communication. The economic development and enlightened political institutions are also associated with the national capacity. States with adequate military capacity will have greater initiative and bargaining power in foreign policy matters. Only those states have adopted aggressive postures who feel themselves militarily strong.

8. **Ideology:**

9. **Public Opinion:**

Specially in democratic countries public opinion cannot be ignored as one of the determinants of foreign policy. It is often vague, volatile, amenable to quick changes and difficult to mobilize. But once on a particular problem public opinion is mobilized and expressed in clear terms, it becomes difficult for the government to overlook it while taking decision on the issue in question. It was the force of the public Opinion in the United States politics, that compelled the government to order withdrawal of the American forces from the South Vietnam.

The opponents of President Nixon criticized that in October 1973 he over emphasized Russian threat in Middle East and resorted to nuclear alert because he wanted to escape from the Watergate which was about to dethrone him. Thus, it is the insecurity of the ruling elites often projected or taken as domestic instability that moulds the foreign policy on several occasions.

**External Factors:**

Certain external factors and situations also influence and shape a nation’s foreign policy. These factors are as follows:

1. **International Organizations**:

These include international law, the U.N.O., and its activities, UNESCO, W.H.O., I.M.F., etc. The nations cannot completely ignore international law, treaties and contracts so that their violations may not put in danger the policies. Almost all countries are also members of the U. N O. Its decisions and activities effect the foreign policy of many nations. The Communist China for a long time ignored international organizations and consequently could not secure its due position in the sphere of international relations. In 1971 she became a member of U.N.O. and this fact caused several shifts in China’s foreign policy.

2. **World Public Opinion:**

World public Opinion provides dynamism to external environment. It is always changing. It is very difficult to know it unless it becomes very clear and organized. Like a flicker of light, it influences the foreign policy rarely. The characteristic of consistency is absolutely absent in it. Only if domestic public opinion of many countries combines it becomes an effective world public opinion. Then it also serves as a determinant of foreign policy No country howsoever powerful can go ever challenging world public Opinion

3. **Reaction of other States:**

The states cannot always neglect the viewpoint of other states while making their foreign policies. Moreover, every state has some friendly nations or allies. Their reaction about a particular policy has to be given special attention States usually never attempt to pursue those interests which are totally Opposed to the fundamental interests of other state its police ignore the reaction of other states it has little chance to succeed.

4.**Other External Factors:**

The other external factors that have a bearing upon foreign policy are general world conditions, whether tense or relaxed, Political and economic global problems like arms race, nuclear proliferation, economic depression, economic protectionism, economic inequalities e. g. North-South problem, refugee problem etc. Prevailing alliance system and power structure in the world-bipolar or multi polar also influence foreign policy of various states.