

Sovereignty and Survival:

We owe peace to future generations

Understanding Sovereignty

A nation's sovereignty refers to its liberty to govern its own affairs within its territory without any outside interference. If a nation is not sovereign, it will lack the ability to act in the interest of its people. Therefore, a nation should not make any compromise on its sovereignty.

Nations do realise the hard threats to sovereignty such as war, etc. But they often may not be aware of the soft threats coming through the regulations of inter-governmental bodies (IGBs), treaties, foreign aid, etc. International agreements and treaties carry the risk of being unfair to those who have a weak bargaining power. Therefore, the nations have to be alert to such possibilities and not accept the treaties that compromise their sovereignty. An exit route should always be kept open in such treaties.

Hard Threats to Sovereignty

Hard threats include war, covert war (terror attacks), biological warfare and chemical warfare.

Nuclear War and Available Options

The world may have reached a point of no return so far as the prospects of a nuclear war are concerned. The hard realities need to be accepted and preparations made to defend. Our model discusses the issue and available options.

Policies to deal with Hard Threats

A nation has to be militarily prepared to ward off an act of war or its threat. In order to make the right decision in the

given circumstances, it will have to adopt sound policies and thinking with regard to the hard threats. Our model describes seven such policies/ doctrines to counter the hard threats.

The model also discusses (a) how to take principled/ pragmatic position when two other nations are at war, (b) what safeguards an inter-governmental body mandated to protect the member nations militarily need to take to remain on the side of justice, and (c) role of trade/economic sanctions.

Soft Threats to Sovereignty

Soft threats come through the back door and impair sovereignty. The conditions not in the interest of a nation's citizens or justice should not be accepted. Sovereignty is supreme and IGBs & treaties cannot override it. Our model's position is based on the supreme value of justice and not against a developed or a developing nation.

The following elements that impact sovereignty through soft threats have been discussed in our model with specific guidance for the sovereign states:

- Inter-Governmental Organisations
- Treaties and Agreements
- Foreign Aid
- Foreign Debt
- NGOs including Religious Outfits
- Water Sources
- Dependencies on foreigners for food and energy

Responsibility of International Community

Mighty nations need to support and protect the weak nations being unduly harassed.

National Defence

A nation should be self-reliant in defence with a strong defence force. If it is a small/ medium sized nation with no such capability, it should seek the support of a mighty nation to protect it as it has no other option.

Our model discusses the following and provides a broad guidance:

- Defence Expenditure
- Defence Preparedness (various elements)
- Strength of Defence Personnel

Survival of Citizens

There could be certain activities of certain sections of people that may not

be in the long term interest of the survival of the citizens. The threats are both covert and overt. A nation must identify such threats and have a good intelligence to gather information and take appropriate measures.

Our model discusses the following threats and provides specific guidance:

- Religious fanaticism and conversion
- Ethnic supremacy/ regional dominance
- Insurgency (includes armed attacks)
- Natural disasters
- Excessive population growth, and
- Refugees posing risks to survival

Helping a nation to re-orient policies relating to sovereignty and survival

Our model can help assess the existing policies of a nation and take corrective measures.