DIMENSIONS OF INDIA’S ASIAN POLICY

Professor: Frédéric Grare
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Frédéric Grare is “Chargé de mission Asie” at the Center for Analysis, Planning and Strategy at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also a non-resident senior associate in Carnegie’s South Asia Program. At Carnegie, his research focuses on South Asia Security issues and the search for a security architecture. He also works on India’s Look East Policy, Afghanistan and Pakistan’s regional policies and the tension between stability and democratization, including civil-military relations in Pakistan. Prior to joining Carnegie, Grare served as the Asia bureau at the Directorate for Strategic Affairs in the French Ministry of Defense. He also served at the French embassy in Pakistan and, from 1999 to 2003, as director of the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities in New Delhi. Dr. Grare has also written extensively on security issues, Islamist movements and sectarian conflict in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1: Introducing India’s security policy in Asia: The Look East Policy and its evolution

This introductory session will expose the rationale and framework of the course. It will present, in particular, the Look East Policy, India’s policy in Asia, launched in the early 1990 and its evolution in the context of a rising Asia and India’s own trajectory.

Required readings

- Amitabh Mattoo, “ASEAN in India’s Foreign Policy”, in India and ASEAN:The Politics of India’s Look East Policy, Frédéric Grare and Amitabh Mattoo (Eds), New Delhi, Manohar, 2003

Session 2: The determinants of India’s security policy in Asia I: Pakistan

This second session will look at Pakistan as a determinant of India’s security policy in Asia. It will examine the constituting factors of the rivalry and their evolution and will analyze their strategic impact for India as well as the latter’s options.
Required readings:


Session 3: The determinants of India’s security policy in Asia II: The evolution of the China factor in India’s foreign policy

This session will aim at identifying the key characteristics of the evolution of the relationship between India and China and analyze the various dynamics at play between the two countries since the 1990 in order to better understand both India’s approach to regional relations and the way the India-China relationship might play out in the future, specifically in regards to the Asian power structure.

Required readings


Session 4: The impact of the US factor on India’s Asian policy

The fourth session will examine the evolution of the relations between India and the United States. It will analyze the implicit understanding which constitutes the basis of this relationship today, and according to which a strong but autonomous India contributes to the United States interests in Asia, and explain the deeply asymmetrical cooperation between the two countries in which the United States is willing to the modernization of India’s armed forces without a reciprocal Indian commitment.

Required readings


Session 5: Managing the neighborhood: India’s relations with Nepal and Sri Lanka

Session 5 will examine how two sets of factors influence India’s relationship with its immediate neighborhood: ethnic proximity, which affect India’s own domestic policy, as well as rivalry with China and the perceived need to counter or mitigate China’s influence in the vicinity of India.
Required readings


Session 6: Southeast Asia in India’s defense policy

This session will examine India’s defense interactions with Southeast Asia. It will show how India’s military engagement with Southeast Asia is dependent upon the availability of significant military partners in the region and the level of political trust between New Delhi and the concerned countries but also reflects a complex set of priorities, including strategic concerns vis-à-vis China, combined with a desire to avoid antagonizing Beijing and a wish to benefit from China’s economic growth.

Required readings


Session 7: The connectivity issue between India and ASEAN I: Defining a new relationship with Bangladesh

India’s willingness to integrate with Southeast Asia and the larger Asian market is largely dependent upon India’s capacity to redefine its relations to Southeast Asia exhip with its immediate neighborhood and develop connectivity. This is however a challenge as India’s political and security relationship with its neighbors are politically uneasy. In this perspective, this session will examine the evolution of India’s relationship with Bangladesh.

Required readings

- Smurti Pattanaik (Ed), Four Decades of India-Bangladesh Relations: Historical Imperatives and Future Direction, New Delhi, Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, 2012.

Session 8: The connectivity issue between India and ASEAN II: India’s evolving relationships with Myanmar

The 8th session will examine the evolution of India’s relationship with Myanmar in a similar perspective. If the potential for Myanmar to become India’s gateway is a reality, many political and economic obstacles stand in the way of a deeper integration between the two countries. Moreover, India is also competing with China for influence in Myanmar.

Required readings

Session 9: Pacific dimensions I: India and Australia's paradoxical strategic relationship

This session will examine a relatively new dimension of India's Asian policy: its extension to the Pacific. It will show how the development of the relationship is motivated partly by common concerns but will also demonstrate that shared anxieties do not necessarily generate common policies. By doing so, it will highlight some of the concerns that India is facing in trying to face some of its regional strategic challenges.

Required readings

Session 10: Pacific dimensions II: Japan in India’s Asian policy

The 10th session will examine India's relations with Japan. It will highlight its importance of the relationship to India at a time when all policies in the region are perceived and understood through the prism of the need to balance China. Like in the case of Australia, the session will examine how common concerns vis-à-vis China are at once a product of political proximity and of strategic ambiguity.

Required readings
- David Brewster, India as an Asia Pacific Power (chapter on Japan), London, Routledge, 2013

Session 11: India and the Asian security architecture

This session will examine the motivation for, and process by which India gradually when from a situation of quasi isolation to being integrated into a regional security architecture still in the making. It will also discuss the limits and significance of this integration as well as the hurdles it may face in the future given the changing configuration of the power structure in Asia.

Required readings
- K.V. Kesavan, “The role of regional institutions in India’s Look East Policy”, in “South and Southeast Asia: Responding to changing geo-political and security challenges”, K.V. Kesavan and Daljit Singh (Eds.), Singapore, KW Publishers, 2010.
Session 12: India's and China's economic standing in Asia: The political economy of India’s Look East Policy and its impact on India’s security and international status.

This session will go mirror the introductory one and examine the compulsions behind India’s economic reforms of the 1990s and the articulations of these reforms within the Look East Policy. It will assess their economic but also and more importantly their strategic benefits for India as well their consequences for India-China relationships.

Required readings