

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

Over the past few years, India's economic growth and diplomatic influence have increased significantly. India is a rising power and is the leading country among the regional powers to obtain a major power position in the twenty first century. However, its present position in terms of power capability is relatively weak compared to the current major powers. India is changing rapidly and is strengthening its position according to almost all indicators of power capability, as identified earlier. India, along with China, is a country that will acquire all the essentials of power and could become a factor of stability in the international system. In the future, India could be presented as one of the global influences together with Russia, China, Japan and the European Union, led by France, the United Kingdom and Germany. These countries could shape the future of a multi-polar system. But it remains to be seen whether a multi-polar world can develop in the near future, as candidacy of any country is likely to depend on the type of alliance patterns in the international system and whether interests of present major powers will be affected by the acceptance of India. If opportunity and circumstance allow for such change in the international system, India would have an opportunity to shape outcomes on critical issues of the twenty-first century. Therefore, peaceful integration of India into the major power system will be crucial for international order and peace in subsequent decades.

In terms of economics, Indian politicians made crucial decisions that have helped transform the country's economy. One success for India's international political decisions was its insistence that foreign companies must work with Indian firms, thus helping to turn Indian companies into international players. India's large population of English speakers has also helped it develop itself in industries such as the service sector. More significantly, India's large internal market has made it a vastly attractive option for foreign corporations. If India is successful in integrating the Muslim minority and is able to maintain peace with Pakistan, it will have a greater chance to gain the power of position it is searching for. However, when considering whether India will become a global power, two seemingly contradictory images of

India are presented. On the one hand, India is a Third World country with clean water unavailable for much of the population, exceedingly poor transportation, disease and poverty on a massive scale. It is difficult to take a nation as a contender for major power status seriously if millions of its citizens live in poverty. Literacy and education could improve conditions of poverty in India and help its citizens to understand the world as well as where the nation's role in the world is heading. Thus, India has not been entirely successful. There are still huge challenges facing the country such as modernization of a weak physical structure, adjustment of unproductive and costly subsidies, reducing poverty, dealing with the rise of oil prices, food supply shortage etc...

On the other hand, India is a model of development based on a highly educated population, reflected in the successes of the IT boom, nuclear weapons and high-tech medicine. The acquisition of nuclear and missile capabilities and the aspiration to become a major power are similar to the ambitions of China, a model for India to advance itself to the frontline. Rapid rates of economic growth and a growing economy have allowed China to invest heavily in military modernization. Attracting more economic partners and creating a need for other global players in an international open market is necessary for India to increase its power capabilities. For the sake of higher economic growth, it is crucial for India to participate fully in international economic organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). India should pursue membership in other organizations like APEC and the G-8 if possible. Involvement with the major powers on global issues could increase Indian's role in relation to them. Traditionally, India's participation at the global level has been through the nonaligned movement. However, the end of the Cold War and the subsequent end of the bipolar system caused India to adjust its foreign policy to cope with a more complicated international system. As a result, the nonaligned movement became a less important aspect of India's foreign policy.

Regarding issues with Kashmir, it is unlikely to obstruct India's emergence as an Asian and a global power. Indian economic, military and political clouts are increasingly stronger than that of Pakistan. These factors favor India when facing issues with Kashmir in the future, as growing prosperity will enable it to withstand the costs of maintaining military presence in the region and improve military training and

equipment. It is unlikely that the Pakistan insurgency in Kashmir will weaken India's resolution and resources to solve these issues. Moreover, India's economy is growing and trade is expanding as its military is strengthened. International communities are more interested in economic aspects of policy rather than issues with Kashmir. Pakistan's radical Islamist factions also continually threaten its internal security which is weakening Pakistani military resources. Thus, wealth from success in the economic arena and military/political power are necessary and must move in a supportive sustainable way in order to keep up with new of conventional weapons for defense preparation.

In summary, questioning the potential of India becoming a global power must be analyzed in the context of the rise of India in terms of political autonomy, economic welfare and national security through power capabilities in order to assert and maintain major power status. The possibilities for engagement will mainly depend on the function of hard and soft power resources and how these resources affect the interests of the current major powers and the international order itself (Hardgrave, 2001). As mentioned above, economic and military powers are crucial to attract the engagement of other major powers in the world economy and the global trading system. India has strong prospects for a major power role as many of India's fundamental values and interests are broadly compatible with those of the West. India's democratic tradition, its successful market economy and the widespread use of the English language provide a basis for strengthening relationships with western major powers. After more than a half century of incorrect starts and unaware potential, India is now becoming a major power in the international system.