

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

# India

Emerging Power in a Difficult  
Region

# ‘Moral Skepticism’ in IR

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- The International Relations imaginary
- Realism(s)
- Cultural Relativism (Beitz, 1979)

# What does I.R. theory tell us?

- Neo-Realists: Political Structures, Distribution of capabilities, power asymmetries, norms as epiphenomenal, logic of consequences, relative gains
- Neo-Liberal Institutionalists: Institutions, transaction costs, optimizing outcomes, cooperation possible in an anarchic world, absolute gains

# What does IR theory tell us?

- Constructivism: Changing identities and interests, Disaggregating the unit-level (domestic politics matters), Histories, Culture and Geographies matter, Norm compliance - logic of appropriateness

# Foreign Policy

- ‘...foreign policies consist of those actions which, expressed in the form of explicitly stated goals, commitments and/or directives, and pursued by governmental representatives acting on behalf of their sovereign communities are directed towards objectives, conditions and actors – both governmental and non-governmental – which they want to affect and which lie beyond their territorial legitimacy.’  
(Carlsnaes, 2006)

# The Early Years

- India as a postcolonial state
- Gandhian and Nehruvian visions
- Initial advantages for a ‘latecomer’ – secularism, democracy, ideational clout, leader of the non-aligned world (Krishna, 1999)
- Economic protectionism and epistemic diffidence

# Indian self-perception today

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- Growing economic potential, democratically stable
- ‘Large, populous and continental sized economy’ indispensable to address global challenges

# Indian self-perception today

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- Significant defence capabilities, activism in the sphere of UN peacekeeping, Tsunami relief
- Failure of the West to technologically 'corral' India (Saran, 2008)



# External assessments

- Xania Dormandy in the *Washington Quarterly*, 2007
- Recent spate of books about the Asian Emergence
  - e.g. Kishore Mahbubani, *The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East* (New York: Public Affairs, 2008)

# Envisaged Role

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- Climate Change
- Global Disarmament
- Human Rights
- Global Terrorism
- Democracy Promotion
- UN Peacekeeping

# Value Invocation

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- Democracy
- Equity
- Fairness
- Multilateralism
- Responsibility

# Domestic Constraints

- Need to strengthen democratic institutions
- Preserving a secular/multicultural fabric
- Governance challenges – responding to terrorism, inclusivity in economic growth

# Assessment

- Calibrated commitment/responsibility
- International Structural Constraints  
(pending institutional reform at the global level)
- Domestic constraints circumscribing a larger international role.