

Ray, N.(2021) India and Africa: The Road Ahead by, New Delhi, Indian Council of World Affairs, ₹918

India and Africa are the shore neighbors separated by the Indian Ocean. History is evident of their close friendship, cultural affinity, super bonding and cooperation. Africa is being the cradle of human civilization and India is the ancient civilization in natural alliance and contemporary partners. Since time immemorial, India and Africa are linked through historical ties, trade and cultural relations. Although this relationship has lost direction in between the geopolitical importance of the 21st century but growing prominence of India in world politics once again brought these two reasons together. As we stand in 2022, Africa constitutes 54 countries and has 1.37 billion populations. According to the latest survey of the World Bank, seven out of ten developing economies of the world are from Africa. Apart from this, Africa has been home to 99% of world chromium, 11% of world oil, and 9% of world gas, huge deposits of gold, copper, manganese and cobalt. This is reason enough to state the growing importance of Africa in world politics. Therefore, it is no surprise that countries like India, China, USA and other developed countries want to establish positive and progressive relations with the African countries. However, India's relations with Africa are not gigantic like China and USA, for the reason being India's policy of cultural connection, soft power diplomacy and sharing African dreams creates natural relations with the African states. In fact, India's relation with Africa is a golden leaf in its foreign policy doctrine.

This book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on India-Africa relations and it is the outcome of the Conference on India-Africa relations held in Delhi in 2019, and all the contents are holding glorious writings of different experts positioned in various Academic fields. The selected papers mostly discuss India and Africa engagement in the context of global governance, democracy, common security and development challenges, diaspora and people to people connections also contain the perspectives shared by Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaih Naidu and Ministry of External Affairs, Shri TS Tirumurti

to attract the reader's attention. Overall this volume has created a roadmap for future India-Africa relations and helps the researcher in further research.

Dr. Nivedita Ray explores her excellent ideas in 'Strengthening India-Africa Ties: Initiatives, Approaches and Emerging Prospects' to make a better understanding among scholars about the different dimensions of Indians in Africa and Africans in India over the century. She rightly point out the significance of 'India- Africa Forum Summit' for both the India and Africa foreign policy objectives. Her writing also includes Indo-Africa partnership in the trade sector, security concerns, and defense cooperation over the period. Initially, India has developed maritime relationships with Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Mauritius, assisting in terms of military aid. No doubt India is the major fourth largest investor in Africa after the USA, UK and UAE, but the growing importance of China in Africa is putting difficult questions for India to develop its projects in Africa. So, India tries to diplomatically engage with African countries through Telemedicine, scholarships, defense trade, training and capacity-building programmes in the health, education, agriculture, counter-terrorism, maritime, peacekeeping, space and cyber security sectors. Pranav Kumar has rightly observed the importance of WTO in India- Africa increasing fair and systemic trade cooperation. Over the period major areas of convergence and cooperation between India- Africa are based on Agriculture, General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), Trade-related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), etc. However, in the 21st-century issues related to global trade governance create obstruction in India and Africa trade relations and leave far behind both these countries on the global trade map. Looking for the solutions to these issues, India and Africa need to explore new avenues of cooperation at multiple levels and make WTO more rule-driven, transparent, enlightened and equitable.

To reform International Economic Institutions and develop South-South cooperation, Priyanka Pandit provides vivid account of ideas that the coalition of global South can make an effective change in the

international economic organizations. Initially, the growing presence of global powers like China in India and African region put difficulties to develop fair and fastest trade relations. So, both need to clear their controversial areas and develop cooperation in these sectors. S. Shaji specifies in his chapter that the reason behind Asian involvement in Africa and its implementations for democratization and political reforms in the African states. To look into Asia's investment in Africa after the Post Cold war period creates a different picture of Africa in world politics. Chinese are mostly engaged through the public sector companies but not interested in facilitating domestic development and other side India connected through the substantial private companies with the various African states, which attracted certain criticism relating to democratization debates in Africa. In the last two decades, the involvement of these two Asian giants in Africa actively rebuilds the economies and concerns about the protection of human rights, sensitivity to the customs and traditions and non-interference to the domestic affairs of the African States. Sanjay Kumar Pradhan tries to overlap India Africa relations in the energy sector to make better footprints of the Indian companies in the African oil and natural gas market. Africa has now emerged as a hotspot of the global energy market. India's growing energy need in 21st century, creates big issues for future energy security concerns. To meet India's domestic needs, it seeks to maintain a strong partnership with African countries based on the principles of mutual respect and mutual benefit. Delhi needs to strengthen relations with AU member states to ensure good corporate governance, transparency and resource management with equity to play an assertive role in the African energy market. Chander Prakash Wadhwa in his research defines the role of India in UN Peacekeeping missions in Africa and how it works for mutual benefits. Looking to the recent decades Africa is the major contributor to the UN peacekeeping security challenges and out of the total operations Africa hosts 50 percent of these missions. India's help to these missions in Africa creates great scope for cooperation in both these countries in terms of bi-laterally as well as multilaterally.

Now terrorism is the global headache in international politics, and to make it more precise Arvind Kumar broadly looks into the various issues and challenges relating to terrorist activities in India and African states, also focusing on various terror networks and their mode of operations in both these countries. He has also the view that to counter these terrorist coalitions both are need to develop strong counter-terrorism cooperation with a strategic action plan. Highlighting the significance of public diplomacy in India- Africa relations Sanjukta Banerji mostly focuses on the role of the Indian ITEC programme, Indian cinema, civil societies, ICCR fellowship, and medical tourism in African states. Her research argues in the era of new diplomacy to promote south-south cooperation, P-2-P strategy is one of the modern methods to get close engagement with different African states. Promoting the role of Indian Diaspora in Africa Rajneesh Kumar Gupta and Paokholal Haokip both are looking different angles of India- Africa relations. Initially, Rajneesh Kumar rightly observes the significance of Diaspora in Anglophone Africa and divided them into four groups based on their numbers and activities. Mauritius is the only country in Africa having a large number of Indian Diaspora with possibilities of dominant role. In South Africa, Diaspora plays substantial role and the countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, Botswana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe Diasporas perform possibilities of marginal or indistinct role. To understand the role of Indian Diaspora in Francophone Africa Haokip goes through the history of Indian Diaspora in the West Indian Ocean region and analyzes the policy measures taken by Indian leaders from Nehru to Modi to make Indian Diaspora as a part of great Indian family. From his observations he suggests, that the Indian government needs to more particular Diasporic-centric policy towards Francophone African countries to get close relations with its Diasporas. Living in a digital world, social media played a major role in our day-to-day life. Nandini Sen tries to speak about the significance of Indian cinema, music and dance for the Indian Diaspora (especially third and fourth generation) settled in Africa. In countries like South Africa and Durban, Bollywood works as an Indian Cultural Export to reset socio-cultural and religious ties with its Diasporas.

This book is one of the momentous for research scholars to understand India and Africa relations in general to particular method. It covers several aspects like trade, energy, terrorism, diplomacy, diaspora and so on. Starting from India- Africa forum summit on defense and security fields and understanding the importance of WTO and IMF for India-Africa relations, this book address a unique model of development relevant to the priorities of both countries. It is not only lock up policy-focused discussions on developments in different countries but also highlights India's bilateral relations with different African states as well. All the contents of this book are clearly discussed by the author with adequate data and proper citations. This book shaped a new arena of academic research and suggestive for the Indian government to reset India-Africa relations in a gigantic way.

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