

## Defense Diplomacy in Peacekeeping Missions: A Comparative Analysis of the United States And India

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### Abstract

*Defense diplomacy, better known as military diplomacy, is the nonviolent use of military force to advance a country's diplomatic relations and promote its international agenda. This research aims to investigate the practice of the use of defense diplomacy by the United States and India in peacekeeping missions, particularly those under UN mandates. Through a qualitative approach, this research analyzes a case study through a literature review. The research findings highlight the importance of defense diplomacy in achieving national interests through peacekeeping missions and identify key factors that influence its effectiveness, such as military capacity and capability, interagency cooperation and the formulation of diplomatic strategies. The results provide important insights into the role of defense diplomacy in the context of international relations and its potential to enhance the effectiveness of diplomacy.*

**Keywords:** Defense Diplomacy, Peacekeeping Missions, United States, India.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Defense diplomacy, a multifaceted approach employed by countries around the world, has emerged as an important instrument in advancing strategic interests for both developed and developing countries. Central to this strategy is engagement in peacekeeping missions under United Nations (UN) mandates, reflecting a concerted effort to address the complexity and escalation of conflicts that evade traditional diplomatic resolutions. These missions, characterized by the deployment of multinational military and diplomatic personnel, serve as critical interventions to restore stability and create an environment conducive to conflict resolution in regions ravaged by strife.

The concept of peacekeeping, as articulated by the International Peace Academy and underscored by the UN's historical perspective is

"Peacekeeping is an international technique used in conjunction with diplomacy for the purpose of conflict management. Peacekeeping operations employ volunteer military and diplomatic personnel from one or more countries to create conditions for conflict resolution or to prevent further hostilities through supervision of temporary or final conflict resolution. Peacekeeping forces are impartial and exist only with the consent of all parties to the dispute;

therefore, peacekeeping forces do not interfere in the internal affairs of the host state or use coercion to enforce agreements-the use of force is limited to self-defense" (Bash, 1994).

The book *The Blue Helmets: Review of UN Peacekeeping*, the definition of peacekeeping is

"...an operation involving military personnel but without enforcement powers, undertaken by the United Nations to help maintain or restore international peace and security in areas of conflict. These operations are voluntary and are based on consent and cooperation. While they involve the use of military personnel, they achieve their objectives not by force of arms, thus contrasting them with the 'enforcement action' of the United Nations under Article 42." (United Nations, 1990).

From the two definitions above, it can be concluded that peacekeeping is not just a security measure, but also a powerful diplomatic tool as its activities involve the using of military forces to maintenance and restoring peace in conflict-affected areas, this in turn contributes to international security and stability. Peacekeeping aims to stimulate the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means and these operations are carried out by military forces of one or more States on a voluntary and cooperative basis under the auspices of the United Nations. United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) is a United Nations "flagship enterprise" was created as a means of preserving world peace and security.

According to UN DPKO, Since 1948, there have been 72 UN peacekeeping operations, with 17 ongoing as of December 2019 and recorded more than 100 thousand personnel from 125 countries, both from military, police and civilian elements, who were deployed (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2023).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

This research uses a qualitative approach with a focus on literature studies from various journals, books, and related readings. The qualitative method was chosen because it allows in-depth analysis of existing information, enables researchers to understand complex contexts and explore perceptions and experiences from various relevant literature sources.

## **3. RESULT**

There is researcher that lists five reasons political, economic, security, institutional, and normative concerns for why many nations participate in UN peace operations (Bellamy, 2012).

### **a. Political**

- It can enhance a country's international reputation and demonstrate its dedication to world peace and security, among other things.

- Many variables influence the commitment of soldiers or police to peacekeeping operations, reflecting the complex dynamics of international relations and diplomacy. Political pressure, persuasion from allies and major nations, and the role of the UN Secretary-General or Secretariat stand out as crucial influencers among the many influences.
- Participation in a peacekeeping mission indeed grants a Troop-Contributing Country (TCC) or Police-Contributing Country (PCC) the opportunity to influence decisions about the operation. This power is frequently used through the acquisition of important positions inside the mission headquarters.
- Participation in a peacekeeping mission gives the Troop-Contributing Country (TCCS) or Police-Contributing Country (PCCS) access to privileged information about that particular mission. Access to this information is essential for contributing countries to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities.
- The belief that peacekeeping contributions boost a country's prospects of being elected to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is an important motivator for donations. This view is especially important for nations seeking to an elected non-permanent membership or a permanent seat on the Security Council, which may be modified.
- States that have previously benefitted from the organizing of peacekeeping operations may see peacekeeping provision as a means to repay the international community for prior efforts to promote security and peace to their region. This mutual approach demonstrates a feeling of global responsibility as well as an understanding of the interconnected nature of international security and collaboration (Findlay, 1996).

**b. Economic**

Economic reasons can be an important factor in a country's decision to send peacekeepers as they will benefit financially and most peacekeepers come from developing countries. (David, 2010).

**c. Security**

For security reasons many States participate in peacekeeping operations when they see alignment with their national security interests (Findlay, 1996).

**d. Institutional**

Participation in UN peacekeeping operations is determined by a number of factors, including a country's military forces, security sector, and bureaucratic dynamics. According to one institutional perspective, participating in peacekeeping missions is appealing because it gives "invaluable overseas experience" for military and security

professionals. This experience can help military forces improve their professional growth and skills (Findlay, 1996).

**e. Normative**

Contributions to UN peacekeeping operations for normative reasons reflect a country's commitment to certain values, principles, and its self-image as a responsible global actor. Some countries may contribute to UN peacekeeping operations driven by a sense of being "global good Samaritans." This perspective aligns with a commitment to humanitarian principles and a willingness to provide assistance to regions in need, showcasing a country's dedication to global well-being (Brysk, 2009).

In addition to the above reasons, developed and developing countries, such as the United States and India often deploy their military forces in peacekeeping missions as a key element in their defense diplomacy strategy. Their active military engagement makes a significant contribution to their broader diplomacy strategy, with impacts that include humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution and capacity building. It also increases the country's leverage in fostering diplomatic relations with host and troop-contributing countries. UN Peacekeeping now operates 12 global peacekeeping missions, including MINURSO in Western Sahara, MINUSCA in Central African Republic, MINUSMA in Mali, MONUSCO in the Republic of Congo, and UNDOF in Golan (Angelia, 2023).

## **4. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Peacekeeping Missions by the United States**

The United States is actively engaged in contributing to peacekeeping operations and plays an important role in maintaining international peace and security and strengthening global peacekeeping capacity. Through this engagement, the United States simultaneously carries out its Defense Diplomacy, which in this case utilizes the use of military force to achieve broader diplomatic objectives, including the maintenance of global peace and security, disasters and other humanitarian emergencies to enhance the United States image as a humanitarian actor (Serafino, 2008).

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist strikes on the United States the training of military forces to conduct peacekeeping operations has become essential. The United States is currently, actively participating in 15 United Nations peacekeeping operations. There are around 100,000 peacekeeping personnel in all, including observers, military forces, United Nations police, and civilian personnel, the United States has demonstrated substantial involvement in global efforts to maintain peace and security (O Hanlon, 2015).

Not only is the United States the greatest donor to the United Nations peacekeeping budget, but it is also the most powerful country in the world, according to

PolitiFact the United States contributes 22 percent of the United Nations annual budget or approximately US\$3.3 billion per year to support various peacekeeping missions around the world. This financial contribution also reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting peacekeeping operations and ensuring their smooth implementation (CNN Indonesia, 2023).

The United States also provides essential logistical support for peacekeeping operations, including the provision of needed equipment and infrastructure. The United States' commitment to peacekeeping operations through doubling the number of military officers serving ensures strong leadership and adequate technical knowledge. Furthermore, through the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), Military training is provided by the United States to personnel from various countries participating in peacekeeping operations. This not only strengthens the capabilities of those personnel but also improves overall operational effectiveness.

The United States actively sends military and police observers international police peacekeeping operations and the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) (US Department of State, 2023). The presence of international observers and police provides an additional dimension to maintaining order and ensuring compliance with the rule of international law in conflict areas.

The US has participated in peacekeeping missions across the world, including Liberia (UNMIL), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), Sudan (UNMIS), Ethiopia/Eritrea (UNMEE), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the Middle East (UNTSO), and Kosovo. These engagements demonstrate the United States' readiness to respond to problems in a variety of combat scenarios (Bureau of International Organization Affairs, 2023).

## **B. Peacekeeping Missions by the India**

India is one of the countries actively involved in UN peacekeeping missions since the Congo conflict in 1960. India has consistently deployed troops and police personnel to conflict zones around the world, gaining recognition for its professionalism, dedication, courage and commitment to peace, as well as unwavering support.

The country has engaged in 49 peacekeeping operations, contributing more than 253,000 soldiers and a huge number of police officers have been deployed. Till 2023, India is in the third position with a total of 6,073 personnel contributing to UN Peacekeeping (United Nations Peacekeeping , 2023). India's contribution to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions includes diverse personnel deployments and assignments in leadership positions.

India has made significant contributions, including the deployment of 17 Force Commanders, two Military Advisors, one Deputy Military Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, two Division Commanders, and seven Deputy Force Commanders are all part of the UN Security Council (Ministry of External Affairs Government of India , 2023). *India also proactively deployed the first female peacekeepers in the UN operation in Liberia in 2007 and several other missions such as Abyei between Sudan and South Sudan (UNISFA), Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Cyprus (UNFICYP), and the Syrian Golan Heights (UNTSO), despite the fact that there is a whole country of male personnel there* (Timur, 2016).

### **C. Analysis of Similarities**

The United States and India mutually utilize their military capabilities in peacekeeping missions as a tool of defense diplomacy to strengthen diplomatic relations with other countries through the establishment of broader strategic cooperation in various fields and enhance the positive image of both countries according to the worldwide community.

### **D. Analysis of Differences**

#### **United States**

- Contributes significant financial support and can help fund comprehensive UN peacekeeping operations, provide logistical assistance, and intelligence delivery as part of their defense diplomacy strategy.
- The United States provides opportunities for military personnel to help improve the capabilities of the United States military and prepare it for future security challenges.
- Participate in shaping policy and determining UN mission objectives as the United States has political influence in the UN Security Council.
- The United States contributes to UN peacekeeping forces to support the maintenance of global security because global security is important to the economic and political stability of the United States.

#### **India**

- Contributed to sending large numbers of military personnel to peacekeeping missions and innovated as the country sent its first female peacekeepers.
- For Indian military personnel, becoming a UN peacekeeping force will increase financial benefits because the UN provides high incentives for peacekeepers.

- India is committed to UN principles, including peace, security, and non-intervention. India's involvement in UN peacekeeping mission operations is a manifestation of its commitment to these principles.
- India wants to increase its soft power, strengthen diplomatic ties, and present itself as a responsible global actor through the dispatch of UN peacekeepers.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Peacekeeping missions between the United States and India underscore the critical role of military engagement in advancing broader diplomatic objectives. Peacekeeping operations, as outlined by the United Nations, are not merely security measures but are also powerful diplomatic tools aimed at conflict resolution and international stability. Both countries, the United States and India, demonstrate commitment to peacekeeping missions, albeit with different approaches and motivations. The United States, as a global superpower, utilizes its substantial financial contributions and logistical support to shape the objectives of UN missions and enhance its military capabilities. Moreover, its active participation reflects its strategic interest in maintaining global security, thereby enhancing its international reputation and influence.

On the other hand, India's involvement in peacekeeping missions highlights its dedication to UN principles and its aspiration to enhance soft power and diplomatic relations. The significant contribution of Indian military personnel, including pioneering the deployment of women peacekeepers, not only reflects its commitment to peace and security but also serves as a means to enhance its global standing as a responsible actor on the world stage. Despite these differences, both countries have in common that they leverage defense diplomacy to foster cooperation, resolve conflicts and promote stability. Through their active engagement in peacekeeping missions, the United States and India contribute to the international community's collective efforts in addressing complex security challenges and advancing the cause of global peace and security.

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