CHAPTER 1

AFRICAN STUDIES

Doctoral Theses

01. ADITYA PRAKASH
South Africa-India Security Relations Under Globalization.
Supervisor: Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari
Th 28927

Abstract

This study analyzes South Africa–India security relations in the context of globalization, focusing on how global interconnectedness has reshaped bilateral strategic cooperation. In the post–Cold War era, globalization has expanded the concept of security beyond traditional military concerns to include maritime security, transnational crime, terrorism, cyber threats, and economic vulnerabilities. As emerging powers from the Global South, South Africa and India have adapted their security engagement to respond to these evolving challenges while safeguarding their national and regional interests. The research situates bilateral security relations within a shared historical background marked by anti-colonial struggles, India's support for the anti-apartheid movement, and a common commitment to multilateralism. These historical ties have provided a normative foundation for contemporary cooperation. Under globalization, growing trade, energy dependence, and strategic competition in the Indian Ocean Region have further strengthened the convergence of their security priorities. Maritime security has emerged as a central pillar of cooperation, with joint naval exercises, information sharing, and defense diplomacy aimed at ensuring the safety of sea lanes critical to global commerce. The study also examines defense-industrial collaboration and multilateral engagement through platforms such as BRICS and IBSA, highlighting their role in promoting South–South cooperation and strategic autonomy. Additionally, it addresses non-traditional security issues, including climate change, cyber security, and health crises, which demand collaborative responses in an interconnected world. The study concludes that South Africa–India security relations under globalization reflect strategic convergence and pragmatic cooperation, contributing to regional stability and a more inclusive global security order.

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1. Introduction 2. Prospects and Potential of South Africa–India Defence Cooperation 3. South Africa–India Collaboration in Defence Production 4. South Africa–India Maritime Security Cooperation 5. South Africa–India Security Relations and the External Vectors 6. Conclusion. Bibliography.

02. AHMAD (Mohammad Wasim)
Democratization and Political Islam in Egypt and Algeria: A Comparative Study.
Supervisor: Dr. Sandipani Dash
Th 28928

Abstract

The last three decades of twentieth century witnessed a new arena of global politics, and emergence of the third wave of democratization. Before this, two more wave of democratization had come. First in the nineteenth century and then in the years after the second world war. The collapse of communism in 1989 and the pro-democracy demonstrations, economic liberalization and privatization in China in the same year led to the belief that liberal democracy is fast becoming the only legitimate political ideology. Thus, the demise of the Soviet empire, was generally taken as an indication of the triumph of the west in political, economic, and geopolitical terms. Fukuyama famously interpreted these events as "the end of history." Fukuyama argues that the failure of Communism and the subsequent disappearance of Soviet Union from the global stage has resulted in the victory of Liberal Democracy and capitalism. There are no more challenges to these ideologies and as a result, security and freedom has been achieved. Consequently, he argues, history and major events that comprise it have ended. The end of cold war and the establishment of the global political economy have together created an opportunity for democratization in the mid-1980s and early 1990s in the Global South. After 1989 democracy has become a central value of the new global order. Late-twentieth-century globalization also had an impact on the spread of democracy to places that were previously less susceptible to foreign pressures when it came to political system shift.

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1. Introduction 2. Meeting Points among Egypt and Algeria 3. Departure Points among Egypt and Algeria 4. Interface among Political Islam, Ruling Interest and Civilian Aspirations 5. Conclusion and Bibliography.

03. BHARTI (Prem Kumar)
Development Trajectories in South Africa and India Since 1990s: A Comparative Study.
Supervisor: Prof. A. S. Yaruingam
Th 28929

Abstract

India and South Africa are among the most notable democratic nations in the world, as both have successfully accommodated diversity, being multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-religious societies. Both nations share common historical experiences and they maintain unique relations based on shared ideas, ideals, icons and interests. As, both India and South Africa have incorporated federal elements into their constitutions. Like India, South Africa is also founded on the values of human dignity. It has undergone an extensive process of state reform aimed at overcoming the legacy of apartheid and at building a more egalitarian social and political order. The supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law along with a universal and multi-party electoral system, ensures accountability and responsiveness. Consequently, democratic values of both nations are closely aligned with a sense of social responsibility, social justice, equality, and the freedom to live in an independent yet inclusive society.

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1. Introduction 2. Rise of Democratic Imperative in South Africa and India 3. Economic Diversification: Opportunities and Challenges 4. Quest for Social Justice: Priority and Progress. Conclusion. Bibliography and Appendix.

04. JAYVERDHAN KUMAR
Decentralisation of power: a comparative study of India and Kenya.
Supervisor: Dr. Ranjeet Kumar
Th 28930

Abstract

Decentralisation is a complex and multifaceted concept that can be defined as the transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to subordinate or quasi-independent government. Decentralisation has become one of the most prominent political and administrative changes in modern governance, especially in emerging democracies where decentralisation is seen as vital for good governance, deepening democracy and responsive governance. In this regard, both India and Kenya represent some of the best illustrations of decentralisation in action in the developing Global South. This study seeks to examine the historical evolution, constitutional foundations, institutional structures, and practical outcomes of decentralisation in these two countries. While India adopted decentralised democracy through the constitutional amendment acts of the 73rd and 74th amendments, Kenya established a devolved system of governance under the 2010 Constitution. Despite differences in historical experiences, political systems, and socio-economic conditions, both countries have pursued decentralisation with the shared objective of enhancing democratic participation, promoting equitable development, and empowering marginalised communities. The comparative nature of this research provides an opportunity to explore both the achievements and challenges associated with decentralisation. The study critically analyses issues such as local autonomy, fiscal decentralisation, public participation, gender inclusion, administrative efficiency, and accountability mechanisms. It also highlights the extent to which decentralisation has strengthened grassroots democracy and improved governance outcomes in rural and urban contexts. This study aims to contribute to the broader academic discourse on governance reforms, democratic deepening, and local self-government in developing nations. While India's decentralisation model drives as an administrative extension of local self-governance within a complex federal system, Kenya's decentralisation represents a rapid, revolutionary, foundational restructuring of the whole structure of the government. Keywords: Decentralisation, Revolutionary, Foundational, Accountability, Grassroots, Democracy.

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1. Introduction 2. Evolution of Decentralised Local Government in India and Kenya 3. Decentralisation of Power: Reforms and Its Impacts 4. Challenges and Opportunities to Decentralisation in India and Kenya 5. Conclusion. Bibliography.

05. LALIT KUMAR
COVID-19 Diplomacy: Impact on Indian Diaspora in Mauritius.
Supervisor: Prof. (Dr.) Chandrakanta K. Mathur
Th 28931

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic emerged not only as a global health crisis but also as a critical moment for diplomatic engagement, particularly through health and humanitarian assistance. This study examines India's COVID-19 diplomacy and its impact on the Indian diaspora in Mauritius, a country with deep historical, cultural, and political ties to India. By analyzing India's health diplomacy initiatives—such as vaccine supply under the Vaccine Maitri program, medical assistance, and logistical

support—this research explores how these interventions were perceived and experienced by the Indian diaspora during the pandemic. The study adopts a qualitative approach, drawing upon diaspora narratives, media reports, official statements, and policy documents to assess the effectiveness and symbolic significance of India's pandemic response. It highlights how India's proactive engagement reinforced emotional, cultural, and political bonds between the diaspora and the homeland, fostering a sense of reassurance, trust, and belonging among Indo-Mauritians. At the same time, the research identifies challenges, including disparities in access, coordination with local authorities, and the evolving expectations of diaspora communities during crises. By situating COVID-19 diplomacy within the broader framework of diaspora diplomacy and South–South cooperation, the study argues that health diplomacy has become a vital instrument of India's soft power in the Global South. The Mauritian case illustrates how diaspora communities act as both beneficiaries and informal ambassadors of state-led diplomatic initiatives. The paper concludes that sustained engagement with diaspora populations during global crises can strengthen India's long-term strategic partnerships and enhance its credibility as a responsible global actor.

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1. Introduction 2. Indian Health Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: A Theoretical Perspective 3. An Overview of the Indian Community in Mauritius 4. India-Mauritius Health Cooperation during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of South-South Health Diplomacy 5. Diaspora Responses to Indian Health Diplomacy: Community in Mauritius 6. Conclusion.

06. NEGI (Ruchi)
Conflict resolution strategies among farmers and herders in Nigeria's middle belt: Taraba, Benue and Plateau.
Supervisor: Prof. A. S. Yaruingam
Th 28932

Abstract

In Nigeria, social and political problems are sometimes imbued with ethnic and religious passions and appear as ethno-religious conflicts. Conflicts have broken out in human cultures for as long as society has existed. The prevailing mindset of Nigerian citizenry places ethnic loyalty well above national allegiance. Nigeria`s history is rife with instances of conflict. Among other types of conflicts, these include inter-ethnic, inter-communal, inter-religious, and interpersonal disputes. Studies conducted in the past have shown that Muslim organisations are at war with Christian groups, and the ethnic-religious interpretation of the conflict is gaining popularity. The study`s focus has been on Nigeria`s Plateau, Benue, and Taraba regions, where the herders are primarily of the Fulani ethnic group and practise Islam while the majority of the farmers are Christians. The farmer-herder conflict has become Nigeria's gravest security challenge, claiming far more lives than the Boko Haram insurgency. It has displaced hundreds of thousands and sharpened ethnic, regional and religious polarisation. The governmental and nongovernmental approach have proved to be a failure in containing the land conflict in the middle belt of Nigeria. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to have a strong and sustainable conflict management, if lives and property are to be saved and for peace to prevail in the area.

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1. Introduction 2. Context, Drivers, and the Conflict Landscape of the Middle Belt 3. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Nigeria's Middle Belt: Mapping, Classification and Characteristics 4. Conflict Resolution Strategies in Nigeria's Middle Belt: Mechanisms, Performance and Limitations 5. Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations. Bibliography.

07. RAHEJA (Sumeet Singh)
Impact of Remittances and Financial Development on Economic Growth: A Case of Select African Countries.
Supervisor: Dr. Rashmi Kapoor
Th 28933

Abstract

Remittances have emerged as a major source of external financial flows to developing economies, particularly in Africa. Over the past two decades, remittance inflows to African countries have increased significantly, often exceeding official development assistance and constituting an important component of household income and external finance. Despite their growing magnitude and relative stability, the extent to which remittances contribute to long-term economic growth remains a subject of empirical debate. This thesis examines the relationship between remittances, financial development, and economic growth in selected African countries over the period 2000-2020. The study explores both the individual and joint effects of remittances and financial development on economic growth. The analysis employs panel data technique, the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM), to address issues of endogeneity and unobserved heterogeneity. The empirical model incorporates key control variables such as foreign direct investment, inflation, gross domestic savings, population growth, and unemployment. The dataset covers the top remittance-receiving African countries, providing a comprehensive assessment of regional dynamics. Empirical results indicate that remittances do not exert a statistically significant direct effect on economic growth in the selected African economies. Financial development demonstrates a statistically significant relationship with economic growth, suggesting that domestic financial structures play an important role in shaping macroeconomic performance. However, the interaction between remittances and financial development is statistically insignificant, indicating limited empirical support for the complementarity hypothesis. These findings suggest that the growth impact of remittances in African economies is constrained by structural and institutional characteristics of domestic financial systems.

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1. Introduction 2. Literature Review 3. Theoretical Framework 4. Remittances, Financial Development and Economic Growth 5. Conclusions and Recommendations. Bibliography.

08. RANA (Paarth)
Preservation of Hindu Cultural Heritage in South Africa.
Supervisor: Prof. Sanjay Kumar
Th 29412

Abstract

South Africa is home to one of the largest Indian diaspora communities in Africa, where Hindu cultural heritage has been preserved and adapted for more than a

century. This study examines the preservation of Hindu cultural heritage in South Africa through religious practices, festivals, language, family traditions, temples, and community organizations. Despite historical challenges such as colonialism, apartheid, migration, and cultural assimilation, the Hindu community has maintained its cultural identity by transmitting values and traditions across generations. Religious institutions, educational programs, and cultural associations have played a significant role in safeguarding Hindu beliefs, rituals, and customs. Festivals such as Diwali, Navratri, and Holi continue to strengthen community bonds and promote cultural awareness among younger generations. The study also explores the impact of globalization and modern technology on cultural preservation, highlighting both opportunities and challenges. It argues that the resilience of the Hindu community, combined with institutional support and intergenerational engagement, has enabled the continued survival and growth of Hindu cultural heritage in South Africa. The findings contribute to a broader understanding of diaspora identity, multiculturalism, and cultural sustainability in contemporary societies.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of Literature 3. The Movement of Hindu Culture in South Africa 4. Bhartiyata Movement in South Africa 5. Connection of Hindu Cultural Heritage with Indo-Hindu Culture in Contemporary South Africa 6. Conclusion. Bibliography.

09. SETIA (Deepak)
Horn of Africa and its Security Concern for India and Africa.
Supervisor: Prof. A.S. Yaruingam
Th 28934

Abstract

The Horn of Africa occupies a pivotal position in the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region, owing to its proximity to critical maritime chokepoints such as the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. This region has emerged as a focal point of global and regional security concerns due to persistent political instability, maritime piracy, terrorism, internal conflicts, and the growing militarisation driven by the presence of extra-regional powers. These challenges have profound implications not only for African states but also for external stakeholders such as India, whose economic, energy, and maritime interests are deeply intertwined with the stability of the region. This study seeks to examine the evolving security dynamics of the Horn of Africa and analyse their implications for both India and African countries. It explores traditional and non-traditional security threats, including maritime insecurity, terrorism, humanitarian crises, and foreign military interventions, while situating them within the broader framework of regional and global geopolitics. The research also evaluates Africa's internal security challenges, particularly state fragility and regional conflicts, and assesses how these undermine continental stability and development. From India's perspective, the study analyses concerns related to sea lines of communication, energy security, trade routes, and the safety of Indian diaspora and maritime personnel. It further examines India's strategic responses through naval diplomacy, anti-piracy operations, multilateral engagements, and its maritime vision of cooperative security in the Indian Ocean Region. By adopting a comparative and analytical approach, this research aims to highlight converging security interests between India and Africa and assess the scope for enhanced cooperation. The study argues that sustainable peace and security in the Horn of Africa require coordinated regional efforts, inclusive development strategies, and responsible engagement by external powers. Ultimately,

the research contributes to a deeper understanding of the Horn of Africa as a critical security nexus linking African stability with India's strategic interests.

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1. Introduction 2. Importance of Horn of Africa In the Maintenance of Peace and Security 3. India and horn of Africa: A security perspective 4. Horn of Africa and its relevance in maritime security and global trade 5. Major global powers in the horn of Africa 6. Conclusion. Bibliography.

10. SINGH (Ekta)
Impact of Migration on Operations and Strategic Planning in MNCs- A Comparative Study Between Major Cities of India and South Africa.
Supervisors: Prof. Gajendra Singh and Dr. Ramesh Kumar
Th 28935

Abstract

Migration, the movement of people across borders for work, has become one of the defining features of today`s globalised economy. This study looks at how migrant workers affect large international companies, known as multinational corporations (MNCs), by comparing two emerging economies: India and South Africa. The central question is whether bringing migrant workers into these organisations actually makes a difference in operations and strategic planning. To address this, the study draws well-established theories in management and organisational research. These theories help explain how people contribute knowledge and skills to organisations, how companies learn and adapt, and how leadership and national institutions shape workplace outcomes. The research collected data from both employees and managers working in MNCs across India and South Africa, using structured surveys. This was supported by existing published research and institutional reports. The data were analysed using standard statistical methods including regression and correlation analysis, to identify patterns and relationships. Migration Impact was also measured and compared across MNCs in each country. The results show that migrant workers bring real, measurable value to organisations. They introduce new ideas, share knowledge across teams, increase cultural variety in the workplace, and push leaders to be more flexible and responsive. India proved stronger at smoothly integrating migrant workers into day-to-day operations, while South Africa demonstrated a greater capacity for inclusive leadership and workplace adaptability. The study concludes that migration, when managed well, is not a challenge to be handled, it is an opportunity to be leveraged. Companies that invest in inclusive hiring policies, cultural training, and supportive work environments are better positioned to compete globally. This research offers practical guidance for business leaders, HR professionals, and policymakers, while also adding to the academic conversation on globalisation, diversity, and organisational development. Keywords: Migration, Multinational Corporations, Workforce Diversity, Organisational Performance, Human Capital, Knowledge Transfer, Leadership, India, South Africa, Globalisation, Migration Impact Index.

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1. Introduction 2. Literature Review 3. Research Methodology 4. Findings and Data Analysis 5. Discussion and Interpretation 6. Conclusion and Recommendations. References. Questionnaire and Appendix.

11. SNIGDHA

India's Trade Relations with North Africa With Special Reference to Egypt: A Study on Burgeoning Economic Engagements From 1991.

Supervisor: Prof. Gajendra Singh

Th 28936

Abstract

India has been historically a part of Africa's movement of growth story, development and capacity building which has resulted in affection and mutual respect at the grass-root level for each other. Africa is enjoying its best period of sustained economic expansion since Independence. Africa`s improved economic performance is also reflected in the smart growth in India's trade with the continent. Global trade of North Africa is marked by weak diversification of exports and high geographic concentration. India's dependence on long stapled cotton from the region had declined sharply while its dependence for crude, fertilizers and inorganic chemicals on the region still continues. The scale of investment in North Africa will depend on the relative size of its mineral and natural endowments and not merely on the size of its markets. Ideal, collaborative and achievable policies are needed for a paradigm shift in the trade and investment between the India and North African countries. India and Egypt are the two countries with oldest civilizations and the two countries share a strong trade association. India is the fifth largest trading partner of Egypt. Several Egyptian countries have invested in India and similarly Indian industries have already invested over $ 3.15 billion in Egypt owing its liberal economy and political stability. With an upsurge in the e-commerce segment, there is an increase in awareness for usage of biodegradable, sustainable and recycling printing and packaging in the markets of Egypt which is driving the growth of Paper, Printing and Packaging market of India. The fact that investments between both the nations remained steady even during the period of Covid-19 indicates the close relations shared between the two over the years. Indian government and companies need to seriously start working in a direction to improve its trade relations with Egypt considering its geographical location that is accessible to Europe, Middle east and African markets.

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1. Introduction 2. Literature Review 3. Research Design and Methodology 4. The Evolution of India-North Africa Economic Relations (1991-2020) 5. Egypt as the Strategic Anchor: A Deep Dive into The India-Egypt Partnership 6. The Disruption and Resilience: Analysing the Impact of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict 7. Hypotheses Testing and Analysis 8. Policy Recommendations and Conclusion. Bibliography.