## CSS | Book Review

World Upside Down: India Recalibrates its Geopolitics

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World Upside Down: India Recalibrates its Geopolitics (Amb. Sujan R Chinoy) REHET BAINS<sup>1</sup>

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In a world where international politics is characterized by transition and multipolarity, Ambassador Sujan Chinoy's book, "World Upside Down: India Recalibrates its Geopolitics," thoroughly analyses India's status within the current global order and its strategic modifications concerning the same. The author is a seasoned diplomat, with postings over to China, Japan, and Australia, who provides us with first-hand authentic and insightful developments in the said regions and how they affect India's power play and hence, its future standing in international politics. He offers an in-depth review of India's shifting strategic calculations and its endeavours to manage the intricacies of a constantly evolving global landscape. This thought-provoking piece of literature explores India's changing geopolitical landscape and its ramifications for the rest of the world. Amb. Chinoy offers a thorough examination of the changing contours of India's connections with the rest of the international community and neighbouring nations. He examines how emerging technology, and the shifting global landscape are influencing India's foreign policy and how this is affecting the country's aspirations in the areas of trade, diplomacy, and the strength of its military. There are four thematic sections that the book is divided into, which address the reconfiguration of the strategic environment in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of the Indo-Pacific and the Quad, China's involvement, and the changing dynamics and obligations of India's immediate neighbourhood nations, including a fascinating chapter on Afghanistan.

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Every section offers an in-depth exploration of the topic, enabling readers to comprehend the subtleties and complexity of India's position in the global community.

In the book, the author goes over India's involvement in the Worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which enforced strong ties with various nations. The deployment of medical resources, the exchange of technologies and abilities, and the support to her nations have all contributed to India's noteworthy involvement in the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this, the nation has forged solid diplomatic ties with other countries, bolstering its international standing. The former ambassador mentions several crucial elements that have influenced India's geopolitical development recently where China's ascent to prominence in the world economy is one notable trend that has presented India with opportunities as well as challenges. A major focus has been India's response to Chinese territorial assertions and aggression. Considering China's growing influence in the area, India has had to change its foreign policy and strike a compromise between its desire to oppose China's perceived aggression and its need to keep close economic ties with the dragon. As a result, India is now actively involved in regional security issues and has stepped up its interactions with other nations in the area.

The book explores the evolving nature of India's ties to different superpowers, such as the US, Russia, and Japan. A careful examination focuses on India's initiatives to preserve strategic freedom and fortify alliances. India's historical closeness to Japan and Russia has contrasted with its recent increased efforts to fortify its connections to the United States and how India could preserve its independence and self-sufficiency while forging stronger military and economic connections with other nations beyond its borders is one of the themes. India has been able to keep its independence while forming strategic alliances with other nations thanks to its "cooperative competition" philosophy, which involved expanding access to international markets and resources while making the most of the country's military, diplomatic, and economic prowess in the region.

India now has a more varied range of international allies and is a major participant on the world area as a result. India's position in the Indian Ocean region is one of the main topics of "World Upside Down." The growing significance of the Indian Ocean to India's security and economic goals is examined by Amb. Chinoy. The difficulties presented by non-traditional security risks, including terrorism and piracy, and the necessity for India to strengthen its maritime ties with its

neighbours, add to the evaluation of India's ability to use its economic, political, and military might to influence the regional order as well as to interact with the Indian Ocean region to support security and stability there. India's interactions with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, among other South Asian nations may have led to benefits as well as drawbacks when it comes to regional collaboration when considering initiatives to strengthen regional security and reduce transitional terrorism. India's policies influence the political, economic, and security landscape of the area as well as the evolving dynamic between India and its neighbours and the potential effects these shifts may have on regional and international security.

The author additionally peeks at India's growing diplomatic efforts, commerce, and investment abroad as India's economic relations are strengthening with various other nations, and how this is affecting India's geopolitical stature. These alliances can both help the participating nations as well as help India increase its influence on the international scene. In reference, India might use these alliances to expand its geographic reach and resource accessibility as well as set up its economic agendas. The role of India in international organisations like the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN) is also taken into the picture, as India has the ability to use these connections to safeguard its worldwide economic standing and further contribute to the development of international organisations. Using these avenues, India tries to further its interests and have an impact on world politics.

India's changing geopolitical environment is intriguingly analysed in "World Upside Down: India Recalibrates its Geopolitics" by Amb. Chinoy. From the classic Cold War dynamics to China's ascent and the demise of the power centres and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the changing dynamics of world geopolitics and India's role in the same, the book provides a thorough and thoughtful analysis of India's evolving relationship with the world. Additionally, it gives a thorough rundown of the tactics India is using to hold onto its position on the global stage. Through comprehensive analysis, Sujan Chinoy gives readers a thorough knowledge of the forces that have moulded India's strategic calculus as well as the chances and difficulties that the country faces going forward. He offers a thorough summary of the evolving nature of India's regional ties in addition to an examination of the internal political factors that have influenced India's foreign policy choices. Additionally, the readers get a thorough study of how India's varied policy choices would affect the country strategically. Policymakers, scholars, and anybody else who wants to

understand the changing dynamics of India's foreign policy ought to pursue this book. From its start to the present, the author gives a comprehensive background of the nation's foreign policy. He also offers a strategic analysis of the political and economic climate in India as well as an outline of the Country's foreign policy choice. India's attempts to transform a complicated and fast-changing world are seen via his insight into the methods and techniques the country has employed to seek its national goals as well the threats posed by worldwide and regional forces. Additionally, it helps readers understand the complexities of India's relationship with its neighbours and how those relationships will affect India going forward. This book may soon be regarded as necessary reading for anybody interested in learning more about India's foreign relations or who just wants to understand them better. Given the circumstances, it is a succinct and to-the-point piece of information produced for the people in the international affairs community and those looking for a place to start when exploring the subject. The book put together different world events as reasons or push factors that have given India, as a country, opportunities to change or tweak its diplomatic and strategic course of action, while keeping in mind the ever-changing dynamics of world politics. It serves as an indispensable read for those who seek a deeper awareness of India's present geopolitical landscape and its consequences for the international community.