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## Non- Aligned Movement and Its Relevance Today

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### Abstract-

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), FOUNDED IN 1961 during the Cold War, was established to provide a collective voice for nations that chose not to align with either the U.S.-led Western bloc or the Soviet-led Eastern bloc. While its influence diminished after the Cold War, the principles of NAM- sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, and resistance to domination by major powers-remain relevant in today's multiple polar world. With increasing global tensions, rising nationalism, economic disparities, and power rivalries, especially between the U.S and China, NAM offers a platform for developing countries to assert strategic autonomy and pursue balanced foreign policies. This study examines how NAM's core ideals continue to resonate in modern geopolitics and explores its potential role in addressing contemporary global challenges such as climate change, digital inequality, and non-traditional security threats.

### Keywords-

Non-Aligned Movement(NAM), Cold War, Strategic autonomy, Sovereignty, Peaceful coexistence, Neutrality, Global South, , Developing countries, Geopolitics, International relations , India foreign policy.

### Introduction-

The Non-Aligned Movement(NAM) emerged in 1961 during the height of the Cold War, when the world was divided between two major power blocs led by the United States the Soviet Union. NAM was founded as a coalition of states that sought to maintain independence in their foreign policies, refusing to formally align with either bloc. Spearheaded by leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, and Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, NAM championed principles such as sovereignty, peaceful coexistence , non-interference, and the right to self-determination.

### Member Countries of Nam

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia,

Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **Observer Countries of Nam**

Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Montenegro, Paraguay, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uruguay.

### **OBERSEVER ORGANISATION OF THE NAM**

African Union, Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Commonwealth Secretariat, Hostosian National Independence Movement, Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, South Center, United Nations, Secretariat of the Commonwealth Nations, World Peace Council (NTI, 2018). The Non-Aligned Movement established in 1961 in Belgrade, SR Serbia, Yugoslavia through an initiative of the Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, Ghana's first President Kwame Nkrumah, Indonesia's first president Sukarno, Egypt's second President Gamal Abdel Nasser, and India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru (the University of Virginia, 2019). These leaders believe that developing countries should

### **Obersever Organisation of the Nam**

Factors responsible for the emergence of NAM Some negative and positive factors and circumstances in the International politics were responsible for the emergence of this movement. The newly independent nations of Asia and Africa were deeply enriched with the feeling of nationalism and were not ready to compromise with their freedom at any stage. As these states were economically undeveloped and to attain economic development, they were not ready to join one of the bloc and become dependent fully on it. The newly independent states having common cultural and racial aspects wanted to preserve and promote it by coming together and unite in the form of NAM. They have common social, economic and political problems and needed a common platform to discuss and to bring development in their countries. At the time of the existence of the NAM, cold war was at its peak and military alliances were the key feature of the two power blocs, both seeking their goals of increasing alliance and support from smaller and less powerful countries. Therefore, to avoid these military alliance and to follow an independent foreign policy, they opted the policy of NAM. Also, these countries were afraid of any type of control of these powerful nations on their sovereignty. This fear make them united and follow the principles of NAM. However, certain conditions were laid down by founding members to join the NAM, as follows:-

1. Having independent foreign policy
2. Having Sovereign state
3. Peace loving country
4. Non-aligned with any power bloc
5. Mutual respect for every nation's sovereignty and

## 6. territory

### **Objective**

- 1 .Decolonization and Rise of Newly Independent States-After World War 2,many Asian and African countries gained independence from colonial rule. These nations sought to protect their sovereignty and independence without aligning with former colonial powers or new superpowers.
- 2 .Desire for National Sovereignty and Non-Interference-Newly independent states wanted to pursue their own economic and political models without foreign interference.NAM emphasized self-determination, on-intervention, and respect for sovereignty.
- 3 .Economic Development Needs-Developing countries faced poverty, under development,and inequality.NAM provided a platform to promote South-South cooperation and advocate for a new international economic order.
- 4 .Leadership of Key Founding Figures-Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru(India) Gamal Abdel Nasser(Egypt), Josip Broz Tito(Yugoslavia), Kwame Nkrumah(Ghana),and Sukarno(Indonesia) played a major role in shaping the version and philosophy of NAM.
5. Opposition to Military Alliances-NAM opposed military alliances like NATO and the Warsaw Pact,promoting peaceful coexistence and global disarmament.
6. Need for a Collective Voice-Developing countries felt marginalized in Global politics dominated by the superpowers.NAM became a forum for the Global South to unite and assert their interests on the world stage.
7. Cold War Rivalry-The intense ideological and political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War 2 forced countries to choose sides. Many newly independent nations wanted to avoid becoming pawns in this power struggle, leading to the desire for a third, neutral path.

### **Relevance of Nam**

However, after the end of cold war, the NAM has been forced to redefine itself and reinvent its objectives in the contemporary world system. The movement continues to see a role for itself after realizing that it has really to play against western hegemony and neo-colonialism in a unipolar world. It opposes foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs and aggressive unilateral measures but has also shifted to focus on the socio-economic challenges; facing member states especially inequalities, manifested by globalization and the implications of neo-liberal policies. The NAM also has identified under-developed economy, poverty and social Security. It believes that international community has not created conditions conducive to development and has infringed upon the right to sovereign development by each member state. Issues such as globalization, the debt burden, unfair trade practices, the decline in foreign aid, donor conditionality and the lack of democracy in international financial decision making are some of the factors inhibiting development. The organization appeals for the

protection of cultural diversity and the tolerance of the religious, sociocultural and historical peculiarities that define human rights in a specific region. The NAM can also act as a guide and overseas of the conditions of human rights in some of the member states which have poor human rights records like Syria and Egypt. Since most of its members are developing nations of third world, NAM serves as a great platform to have their voice in the U.N. As these countries are fighting against sociological and economical problems and looking forward for development, it can provide its members a forum where they can discuss their common problems, evolve solutions and work out positions in tackling the international problems of peace, security, development, environmental safety and human rights. etc. In such situations, NAM can act as a protector for these small states against the western hegemony. It empowers the member states to take its own decisions without any external influence. It can also play a strong role in devising methods to foster cooperation among these nations to ensure sustainable development and will lead to great progress in various fields as science and technology, culture and economics. In the post-cold war era, the summit conference of Indonesia 1992, Columbia-1995 and South Africa-1997 reaffirmed the continued relevance of non-alignment. The end of cold war have raised various hopes as well as possibilities of creating a new world order. However, the economy has started moving along the path of the new dynamics of globalization, the expectations of humanity to attain a new, just and equitable international system based on respect, justice and equity among nations, do not seem to be realized. Though wealth and trade have grown, life expectancy and access for primary education have increased and infant mortality has gone down yet poverty, hunger, employment, environment degradation and threat to peace through stockpiling of nuclear weapons were not considered seriously. Similarly, the important fact is that a number of conflicts have been settled through dialogue and agreements, there has also been exacerbation of existing disputes, emergence of new conflicts and reappearance of ethnic, religious and socio-economic rivalries are not compatible to the peaceful and secure international environment. Simmering disputes, violent conflicts, aggression and foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs of other states, religious intolerance, policies of domination and hegemony, national and transnational terrorism are such major and dangerous obstacles to harmonious coexistence among states. The NAM will have to discuss all these issues as they are affecting developing countries. NAM is still abide its founding principles, ideas and purposes to establish peaceful and prosperous world, promotion of disarmament, preservation of territorial integrity and sovereignty and even prohibited invasion. With the passage of time NAM emerged as a political entity of its own, the summit conference of Indonesia 1992, Columbia-1995 and South Africa-1997 reaffirmed the continued relevance of non-alignment. The end of cold war have raised various hopes as well as possibilities of creating a new world order. However, the economy has started moving along the path of the new dynamics of globalization, the expectations of humanity to attain a new, just and equitable international system based on respect, justice and equity among nations, do not seem to be realized. Though wealth and trade have grown, life expectancy and access for primary education have increased and infant mortality has gone down yet poverty, hunger, employment, environment degradation and threat to peace through stockpiling of nuclear weapons were not considered seriously. Similarly, the important fact is that a number of conflicts have been settled through dialogue and agreements, there has also been exacerbation of existing disputes, emergence of new conflicts and reappearance of ethnic, religious and socio-economic rivalries are not compatible to the peaceful and secure international environment. Simmering disputes, violent conflicts, aggression and foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs of other states, religious intolerance, policies of



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### **Irrelevance of Nam**

The original criterion for membership have been diluted and the dividing line between non-aligned and aligned have been somewhat colored. The regional quarrels and Ambitions have tended to displace the larger objectives and demands. The economic power of the rich nations combined with grave economic difficulties and challenges have placed new constraints on the activity, initiative and bounce of the Non-alignment movement. It was said that NAM is not relevant today in this unipolar world as many of its members are heavily dependent on U.S. The circumstances that led to the creation of this movement have undergone a vast change which has diminished the utility of NAM doubtful. It was also said that cold war has been ended, military blocs have tumbled down and due to the advances in science and technology, and military bases have become a thing of the past. Due to the collapse of Soviet Union and communist bloc, bipolar world is non-existent. Irreversible trends towards peaceful co-existence and active economic Some of the opinions that NAM has become defunct due to various reasons. There are other groups of nations similar to the NAM as G-77, ASEAN and the Common Wealth which are more effective in dealing with economic and trade issues. Foreign aid has been declining at about 10% annually. Instead of relying on aid, NAM countries have to get more private investment into their countries. Some have expressed the opinion that at present, NAM has no leadership on global issues and there are also disagreements among the members. NAM has no position even on issues like Human Rights, Child exploitation and gender issues, nuclear non-proliferation, child labor, poverty, terrorism besides other social and economic issues.

Even, issues on which there is a consensus such as the drug trade, international terrorism and non-proliferation, NAM has not been able to achieve much. As a result, the organization has no direction and its members have to follow the western dictates in this regard. After the end of the cold war many countries have lost interest in NAM. In 2004 Malta and Cyprus have joined the European Union. NAM is criticized as it has failed to promote peace and many of its members have been involved in bloody internal and external violence as civil war in Cambodia and war between Iran and Iraq. Most of the members do not use NAM platform to resolve disputes nor do they contribute much effort to make it more effective. NAM has emphasized the importance of cooperation and unity among its members but cohesion remained a problem due to the size of organization and divergence of agenda. The movement fractured from its own internal contradictions when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. It was supported by Soviet allies while other members (Muslim states) condemn its-cooperation was visible clearly.

### **Purpose-**

To promote and reinforce multinationals and in this

1. Regard, strengthened the central role that the UN must play. To serve as a forum of political coordination of the
2. Developing countries to promote and defend their common interests in international relations. To promote unity, solidarity and cooperation between
3. Developing countries based on shared values and priorities agreed upon by consensus. To defend international peace and security and settle all
4. International disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of U.N. charter and international law. To encourage relations of friendship and cooperation
5. Between all nations based on the principle To promote and encourage sustainable development
6. Through international cooperation and to that end jointly coordinate the implementation of political strategies which strengthen and ensure the full participation of all countries, rich or poor in the international economic relations, under equal conditions and opportunities, but with differentiated responsibilities. To encourage the respect, enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all on the basis of the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, avoiding politicization of human rights issues, thus ensuring that all human rights of individuals and peoples, including the right to development are promoted and protected in a balanced manner. To promote peaceful co-existence between nations
7. Regardless of their political, economic, and social systems. To condemn all manifestations of unilateralism and
8. Attempts to exercise hegemonic domination in international relations. To coordinate actions and strategies in order to confront

9. Jointly the threats to international peace and security, including the threats of use of force and the acts of aggression and other breaches of peace caused by any country or group of countries. To promote the strengthening and democratization of the
10. U.N. giving the General Assembly the role granted to it in accordance with the functions and powers outlined in the charter and to promote the comprehensive reforms of the U.N. Security Council so that it may fulfill the role granted to it by the charter in a transparent and equitable manner, as the body primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

## **Conclusion-**

The Non-Aligned Movement, born out of the Cold War era, was a powerful response by newly independent nations seeking to safeguard their sovereignty, promote peace, and resist domination by global superpowers. While the geopolitical landscape has significantly changed since its inception, the core values of NAM-such as non-interferences, strategic autonomy, and equitable development-remain highly relevant. In today's multi polar world, where new power rivalries and global challenges like climate change, digital colonialism, and economic inequality continue to emerge, NAM provides a potential platform for the Global South to collaborate and voice common concerns. Revitalizing the movement with a modern, issue-based approach can ensure it continues to serve as a force for justice, balance, and cooperation and international relations.

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