

The Relevance of Kautilya's Conception of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

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Abstract:

Acharya Kautilya (375 BC-283 BC) was a legendary thinker of the ancient period of India. He is also known as Chanakya and Vishnugupta, who became Minister in Chandragupta's regime. Kautilya was a great statesman, diplomat, philosopher, and preceptor. Being one of the main Indian ancient authors, who authored the notable treatise 'Arthashastra'. Known as a champion of power politics and that is why his theories are still debating in the context of world politics, which had made him more relevant in the modern age. His ideas occupy an important place in the theories of international politics. He has described different tactics of diplomacy and foreign policy in book VII in Arthashastra which are highly relevant in the modern era also. Although he believes in power politics but his ideas of diplomacy are suitable for war as well as peace. In fact, there is a close relationship between diplomacy and foreign policy. Diplomacy plays a significant role in the survival, stability, and strength of any state in the international society as well as only by successful diplomacy, the interests of the state can be fulfilled and losses can be avoided. Diplomacy is being conducted since ancient times and its importance has increased even more in the era of globalization. In view of this background, this paper encompasses the ideas on diplomacy and foreign policy of Kautilya. Furthermore, an attempt has been made in this paper to explain the relevance of Kautilya's ideas of international politics.

Keywords: Kautilya, Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Power, State

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