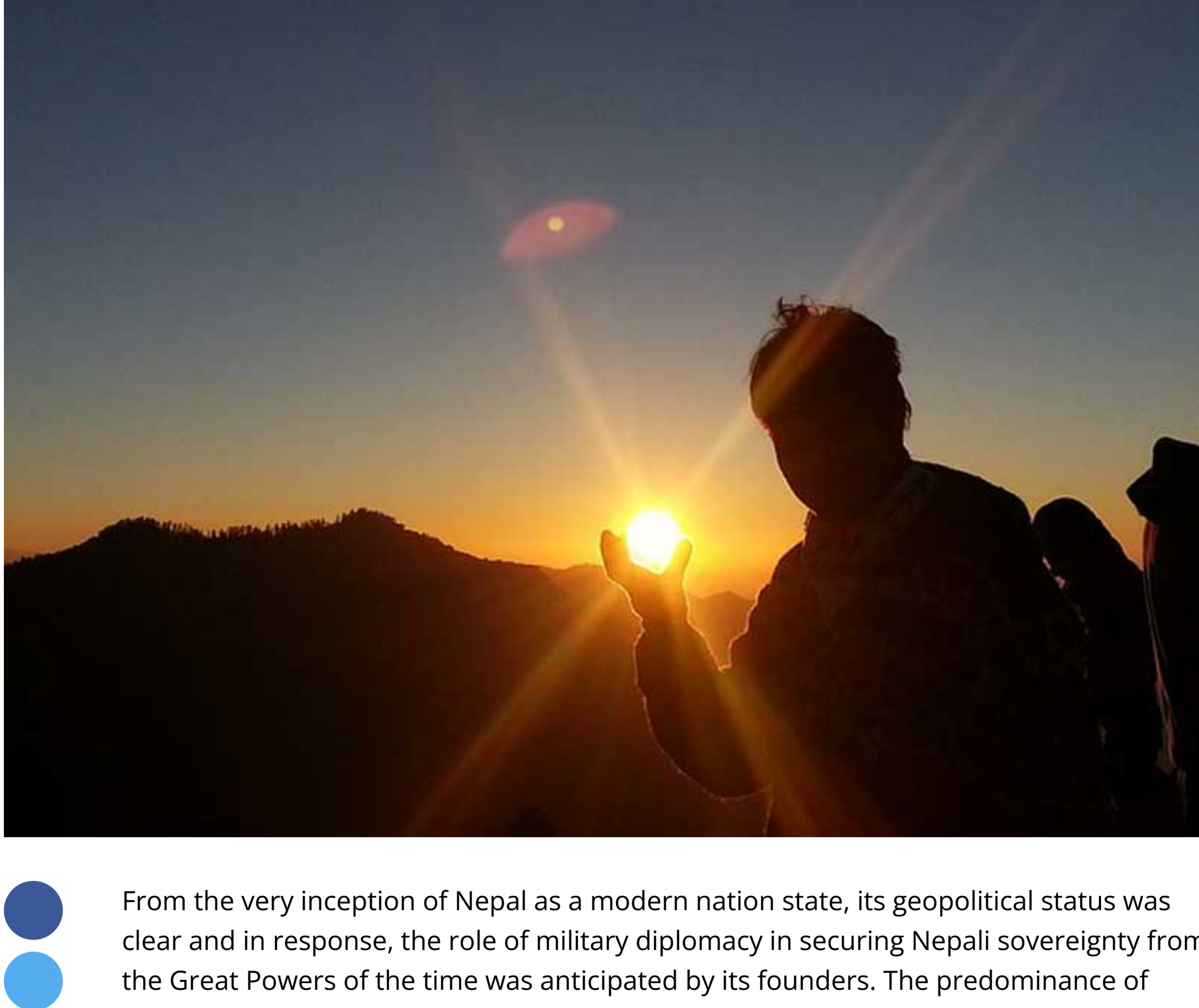


DIPLOMACY

Understanding The Strategy and Use of Military Diplomacy by Nepal

Published 17 hours ago on March 26, 2022
By Harsh Mahaseth



From the very inception of Nepal as a modern nation state, its geopolitical status was clear and in response, the role of military diplomacy in securing Nepali sovereignty from the Great Powers of the time was anticipated by its founders. The predominance of Military Diplomacy in Nepal's foreign policy naturally arose from Nepal position as a buffer state landlocked between the two Great Asian Military Powers of India and China. The Gorkha Kingdom, the precursor state to modern Nepal was founded by Prithvi Narayan Shah, who established the Kingdom in 1768 with the conquest of the dominant power in the region at the time, the Kingdoms of the Kathmandu valley.

King Shah famously quipped that the unified kingdom that he had founded was "a yam between two boulders". Shah's aphorism contrasts the small squishy starchy tuber of Nepal against the two massive boulders of the Qing Empire and an ascendant British Raj. Though the internal political structure of Nepal has shifted dramatically several times since its founding, Nepal's status as the proverbial yam persists though the boulders have morphed into modern day India and China. Though the two massive boulders to the North and South seem like they will eventually absorb the soft vulnerable yam, not only has Military Diplomacy played a leading role in securing Nepal's sovereignty in the Colonial Context, it has also served the Nepali National Interest in the Post- Colonial Era.

From a purely geopolitical perspective, Nepal exists only as a buffer state between the two historical military powers of the Asian Continent, India and China. The Himalayas being the highest peaks on the planet have separated these two great powers for millenia though the himalayan branch of the silk route served to connect their peoples through trade. While the Chinese remained a unified political polity under the Mandate of Heaven for millenia, the Indian Sub-Continent was a patchwork of Kingdoms of vastly differing sizes, cultures, languages, religions until they were forcibly consolidated by the Mughals and the British, giving rise to modern day India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. While rule of over India was slowly and effectively consolidated by the British Colonialists, the Chinese were going through what they refer to as "the Century of Humiliation", in which Chinese supremacy was toppled. A resurgent China in seek of "National Rejuvenation" will naturally come in conflict with the national security interests of India.

However, after reform and opening up of the Chinese Economy under Deng Xiaoping, India has found itself with a powerful geopolitical, ideological, economic rival to its North for the role of the Asian Hegemon. The Point of contention lies in the nebulous terms of the 1950 treaty, especially considering the Since Nepal was declared a Federal Democratic Republic by first Constituent Assembly in 2008, Nepal-China defense co-operation has increased significantly.

Being landlocked, Nepal has suffered many trade embargoes for political reasons. The Indian hegemony has made Nepal turn to China for trade diversity, which has been wrongly interpreted by the Indian establishment as Nepal playing China card. With India too facing the same adverse situation of salami-slicing tactics by China on its Ladakh border, it has been a realization for both countries that relations had to be prevented from going down further.

Military diplomacy is a very important concept for the Nepalese Army especially in the Buffer zone of Nepal. When it comes to Nepal's military diplomacy towards the neighborhood and beyond, it's better to acknowledge the fact that Nepali Army has been conducting joint military drills with different countries, most importantly with the USA, India, and China for many years. Essentially, Nepal's vibrant role in exercising military diplomacy with the great and emerging powers is immensely triggered by neutrality and non-alignment, which are also the foreign policy objectives of Nepal. Unforgettably, having almost six decades of experience in peacekeeping operations around the world, the Nepali Army has effectively enhanced the image of Nepal through the UN peacekeepers.

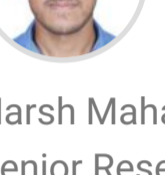
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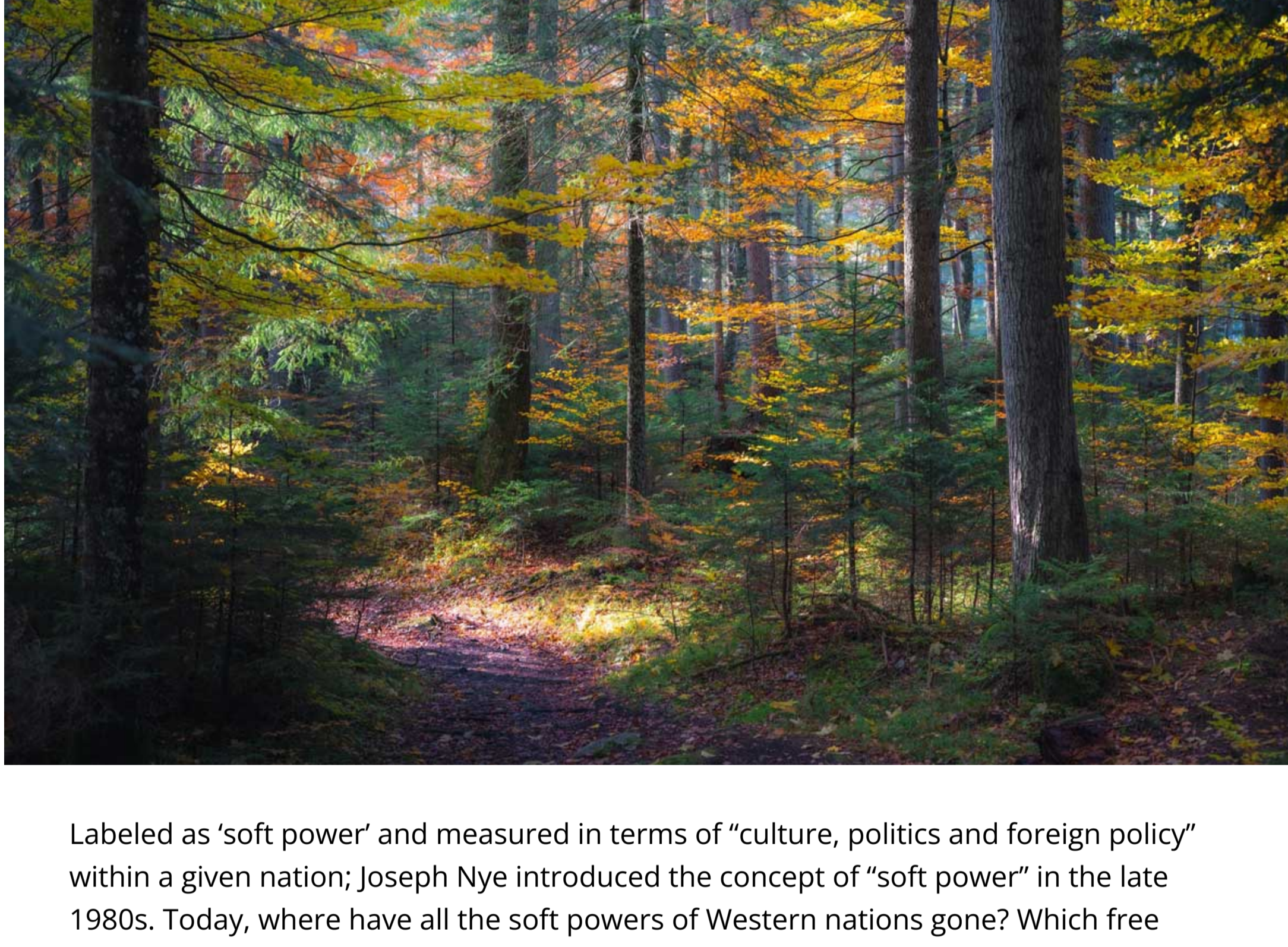
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DIPLOMACY

Where Have The Soft Powers Of Western Nations Gone?

Published 3 days ago on March 24, 2022
By Naseem Javed



Labeled as "soft power" and measured in terms of "culture, politics and foreign policy" within a given nation; Joseph Nye introduced the concept of "soft power" in the late 1980s. Today, where have all the soft powers of Western nations gone? Which free democracy or Western nation is a shiny example?

The term, "culture" already in the meat grinders, squeezing out into casings of 'political correctness' sandwiched between mesmerized and hypnotized folklores in styles of riots or metaverse

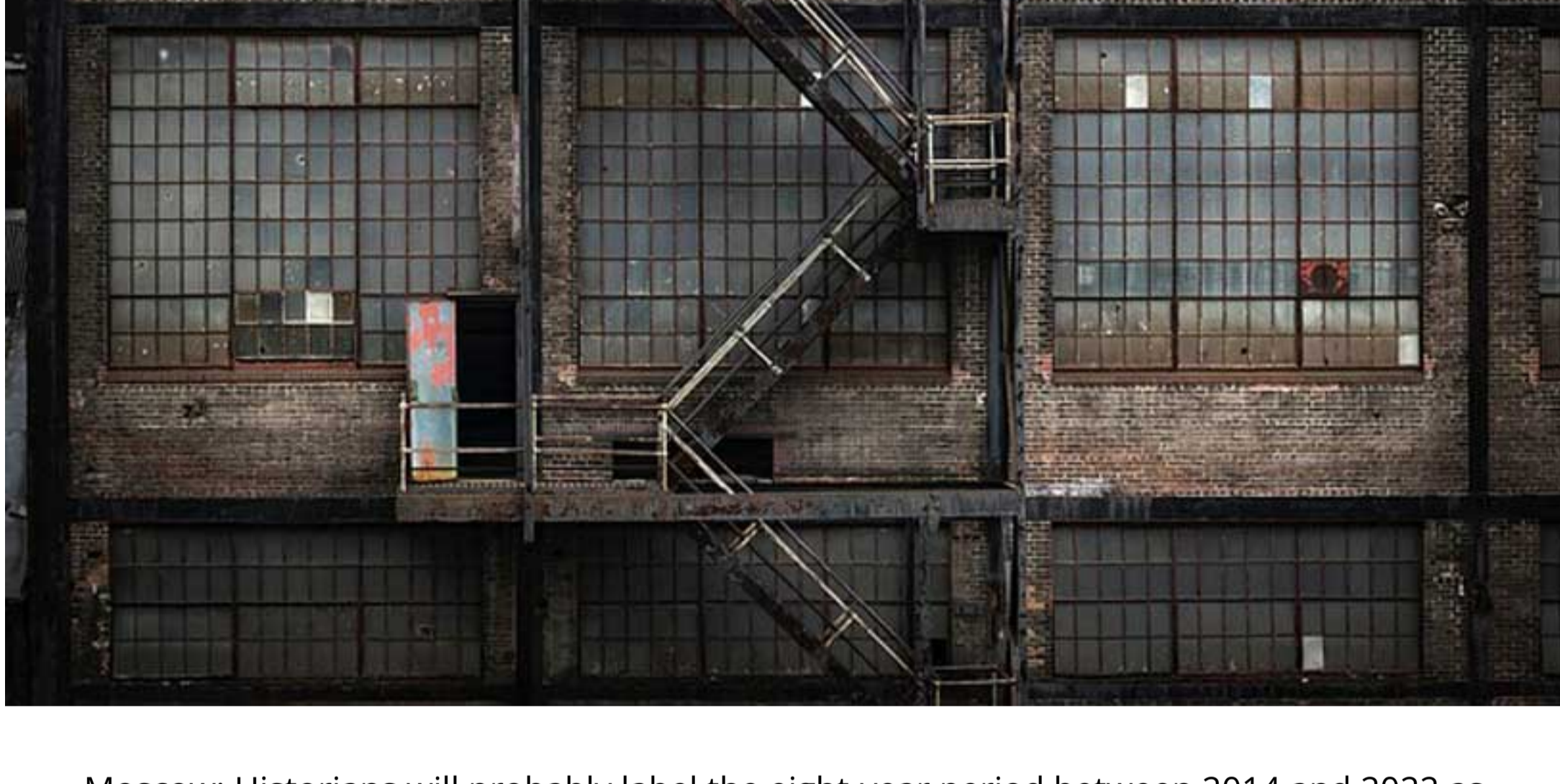
The term, "Politics" mostly about licking self-inflicted fresh wounds of mismatched

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The End of Diplomacy? Seven Glimpses of the New Normal

Published 1 week ago on March 20, 2022
By Dr. Andrey KORTUNOV



Moscow: Historians will probably label the eight-year period between 2014 and 2022 as a time of transition for the European politics in the 21st century. Many trends and processes that first emerged in 2014 to take their final shape and consolidate eight years later. Looking back, we can conclude that the dramatic and unexpected events of 2014 only resulting in a temporary truce between Moscow and the unexpecteds in the West, reflecting the precarious balance of power and the mutual unwillingness of the parties to escalate immediately.

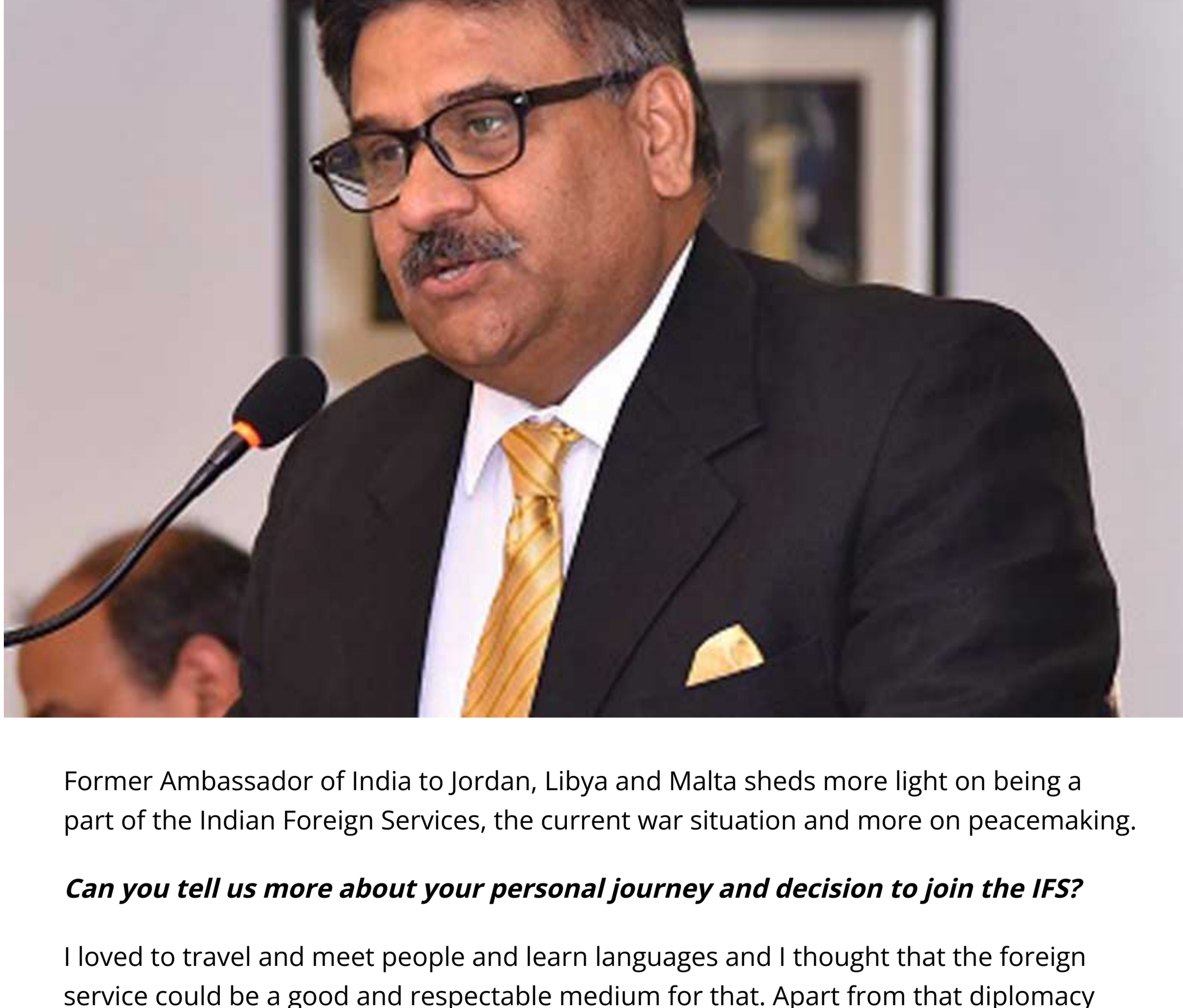
With a temporary truce recorded, both sides commenced active preparations for another round of confrontation. Neither the tumultuous four years of Donald Trump's

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Former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat – More on international relations and war

Published 1 week ago on March 19, 2022
By Vidhi Bubna



Former Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta sheds more light on being a part of the Indian Foreign Services, the current war situation and more on peacemaking.

Can you tell us more about your personal journey and decision to join the IFS?

I loved to travel and meet people and learn languages and I thought that the foreign service could be a good and respectable medium for that. Apart from that diplomacy word itself fit into my Libran mindset and fascinated me a great deal. Moreover, in the foreign services one represents your country and taking initiatives to improve relationships and serve your national interest has no limits. Hence I joined the Indian

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