

SHARE OF GLOBAL GDP

YEARS	CHINA	INDIA	EUROPE
1500	25.0	24.5	20.5
1600	29.2	22.6	22.4
1700	22.3	24.4	22.1
1820	32.9	16.0	23.2
1870	17.2	12.2*	24.1**

SOURCE: Angus Maddison, *Historical Statistics for the World Economy: 1-2003 AD*, (OECD, Paris, 2006)

THREE STRATEGIC CIRCLES

- **IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation; China, Myanmar and Afghanistan. India seeks primacy and veto over action of outside powers.
- **EXTENDED NEIGHBOURHOOD:** ‘Southern Asia’ – from the Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca and the Indian Ocean, including Central Asia. Russia, China and US part of this circle. India seeks to balance the role of other powers.
- **GLOBAL STAGE:** Other institutions and organisations, such as the UN, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. The EU probably falls in this category. Here India seeks to become one of the ‘poles’ in a multi-polar world and a key player in international peace and security.

- **Historical deficit:**
Need to reconnect with Gulf (3.5 mn Indians + energy and trade),
Central Asia and Southeast Asia
- **Security deficit:**
Nuclear and missile neighbourhood
Proxy wars
Local insurgencies and maritime security
- **Economic deficit:**
Energy deficit: imports 70 percent of oil presently and this
dependency will rise to 85 percent in next two decades
Technology deficit: Access to dual-use technology still restricted
- **Global decision-making deficit:**
Uni-polar world unsustainable; Partnership of multi-polar world
Membership of the UN Security Council

- Pranab Mukherjee, speech at Carnegie Endowment, 27 June 2005

Will India lead a coalition against the unipolar order as the realists believe? Does it see geopolitics as a zero-sum game?

Will India, socialised by international and regional institutions, adopt a more cooperative multilateral approach as the liberals believe? Will it see geopolitics as interdependence?

Will China and India be status quo or revisionist?

Two trends are evident:

- First, policy choices are still being debated and formulated and that neither approach alone provides a clear answer
- Second, to understand Indian perspectives on geopolitics will need a more interpretive and deductive approach.