International Relations and Organizations

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Dr. Pradeep Shekhawat

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Preface

International relations attempts to explain the interactions of states in the global interstate system, and it also attempts to explain the interactions of others whose behavior originates within one country and is targeted toward members of other countries.

Alternatively, explanations may be found in the relationships between and among the participants, in the intergovernmental arrangements among states, in the activities of multinational corporations or in the distribution of power and control in the world as a single system.

International relations is a public policy and academic field that focuses on the relationships among members of the international system. International relations include the relationships among and between countries, societies, inter-governmental organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and multinational corporations. Issues in international relations include war, poverty, disease, diplomacy, democracy, trade, economics and globalization.

International Relations, like the world community itself are in transition. In a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world, it encompasses much more than relations among nation states and international organization and groups. It includes a variety of transitional relationships at various levels, above and below the level of the nation states. International relations are a multidisciplinary field gathering together the international aspects of politics, economics, geography, history, law, sociology, psychology, philosophy and cultural studies. It is a meta-discipline.

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 member states which are situated primarily in Europe. The EU operates by an organization of supranational self-governing

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organizations and intergovernmental negotiated decisions through the member states. Significant organizations of the EU contain the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the European Central Bank. The European Parliament is elected every five years through EU citizens. The EU's de facto capital is Brussels.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an organisation of South Asian nations, founded in December 1985 by Ziaur Rahman and dedicated to economic, technological, social, and cultural development emphasising collective self-reliance. Its seven founding members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined the organization in 2005. Meetings of heads of state are usually scheduled annually; meetings of foreign secretaries, twice annually. It is headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.

The book on International Relations is a timely publication. The international scene is fast changing in respect of economic, social and political scenario. It acquaints the readers with all the intricate international agreements, treaties, bilateral political and commercial agreements.

—Dr. Pradeep Shekhawat

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