

Non Align Foreign Policy Towards Great Powers And Regional Power- Case Study Sri Lanka

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“WHOEVER CONTROLS THE INDIAN OCEAN, DOMINATES ASIA. THIS OCEAN IS THE KEY TO THE SEVEN SEAS. IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY, THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD WILL BE DECIDED ON ITS WATERS”

Alfred Mahan.



Abstract – This comprehensive article delves into the strategic importance of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean region and the diplomatic, economic, and military strategies adopted by the nation to safeguard its national interests. The discussion is enriched with insights into how Sri Lanka can effectively utilize its economic, diplomatic, information, and military resources to achieve its objectives. Sri Lanka's unique geographical location places it at the crossroads of major global powers and regional players, making its foreign policy choices of paramount significance. The article also evaluates the risks and costs associated with Sri Lanka's national objectives, accounting for the strategic environment, geopolitical considerations, and domestic factors. Assumptions of competing interests, regional cooperation, and economic competition are considered, both on the international and domestic fronts. This in depth examination of Sri Lanka's foreign policy and strategic approach provides valuable insights into the nation's pursuit of its national interests and the challenges it faces in a complex and dynamic global environment. The USA, China and India interests in Sri Lanka encompass several dimensions. Sri Lanka aims to position itself in the current world order by shaping its Nonaligned foreign policy and foreign relations with great powers and regional power protecting her national interest. A conceptual framework based on Terry Deibel's Strategic Logic Approach to Analyse Strategic Options to manage relation with Great powers and the Regional power as per Sri Lankan National Interests. Further, this paper discuss Ends Means and Ways of nonaligned Foreign Policy according Instrument of National power and Strategic Options Available.

Keywords – Sri Lanka, Non-Align Foreign Policy, Great Powers, Regional Powers, Indian Ocean Region, Geographical Location, Diplomatic Strategies Economic Strategies, Military Strategies, National Interests, Strategic Environment.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

One of the foremost marine exponents made this predicting comment above, more than a century before. The Countries of Indian Ocean Rim were denied the advantages of the whole Industrial Revolution due to the demands of the colonial rulers, and they continue to bear the effects of this decision today. The current political and economic tendencies in the globe at large and in our area of interest in particular, where the oceans, in addition to being increasingly scattered commerce routes, have become areas, sources of much different activity and as a result, the backdrop for conflicts of interest. The geographic position of Sri Lanka can be crucial for preserving India's security. In addition to being in the middle of Africa, the Arab, and Eastern worlds, Sri Lanka is situated in the

centre of maritime trade routes in West and East Asia. (Malik, 2013). Geography plays a crucial part in defining a country's national strength for national defence in addition to the paradigm the nation has selected.(Risman et al., 2023).The island nation's location near critical sea lanes makes it a crucial hub for international trade, including the transportation of goods and energy resources. Sri Lanka was included among the top 30 Locations for Offshore Services by Gartner and among the top 6 in Asia Pacific.(Sharon Melamed, n.d.)

The strategic location of Sri Lanka has consequences for the Indian Ocean's naval and maritime security. It provides an advantageous position for monitoring and controlling maritime activities, securing maritime routes and keeping them safe, and combating piracy, smuggling, as well as other illicit activities. Sri Lanka's strategic location opens up economic opportunities, including port development, logistics services, and transshipment activities. The country has invested in developing ports such as Colombo port and Hambantota port, attracting foreign investment and facilitating trade and connectivity in the region. Sri Lanka's location serves as a gateway for regional connectivity initiatives. It can act as a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, facilitating trade and tourism. Sri Lanka's ports and infrastructure projects, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, enhance connectivity and foster regional integration. Sri Lanka's position in the Indian Ocean holds geopolitical significance. It allows Sri Lanka to engage with major regional and global powers and participate in diplomatic and security initiatives. The country's strategic location and the interests of each nation in the Indian Ocean region have an impact on its relations with India, China, the United States, and other nations.

Sri Lanka established a non-aligned foreign policy in 1948, the year it became independent from British colonial authority. The country aimed to maintain neutrality and not align itself with any major power bloc during the Cold War. Sri Lanka played an active role in the Non-Aligned Movement and advocated for decolonization, disarmament, and global peace. In 1977, Sri Lanka underwent significant economic and political reforms, moving towards a more open market economy. The country began actively engaging with regional and international partners to promote trade, investment, and economic cooperation. Between 1983 and 2009, the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) engaged in a protracted ethnic conflict. Sri Lanka faced criticism for human rights violations and was subject to international pressure to address the conflict's humanitarian aspects. With the end of conflict country has engaged in international forums to address human rights concerns, promote national reconciliation, and seek assistance for reconstruction and development efforts. At present emphasized economic diplomacy and sought to attract foreign direct investment, develop trade partnerships, and enhance economic ties with various countries. The country has pursued a balanced approach in its international relations, maintaining relations with both traditional allies and emerging powers.

1.2. The limitation of the discussion

The difficulty to find literature about foreign policy objectives of the Sri Lanka is one of the key limitations of this study. Further Since there is no white paper available to reveal Sri Lanka's national interest and foreign policy objectives is also another gap in this paper. This Paper will focus only the analysis Sri Lankan non align foreign policy towards regional power (India) and great powers (USA and China).

II. METHODOLOGY

In this study, a qualitative research methodology was adopted, Further, focusing on the quality of exploring phenomena that result from the interpretation of previously published material through literary studies. In order to create a journal report, the author uses Terry Deibel's strategic logic technique to analyse qualitative data and information as a significant tool.

1.3. Conceptual Framework

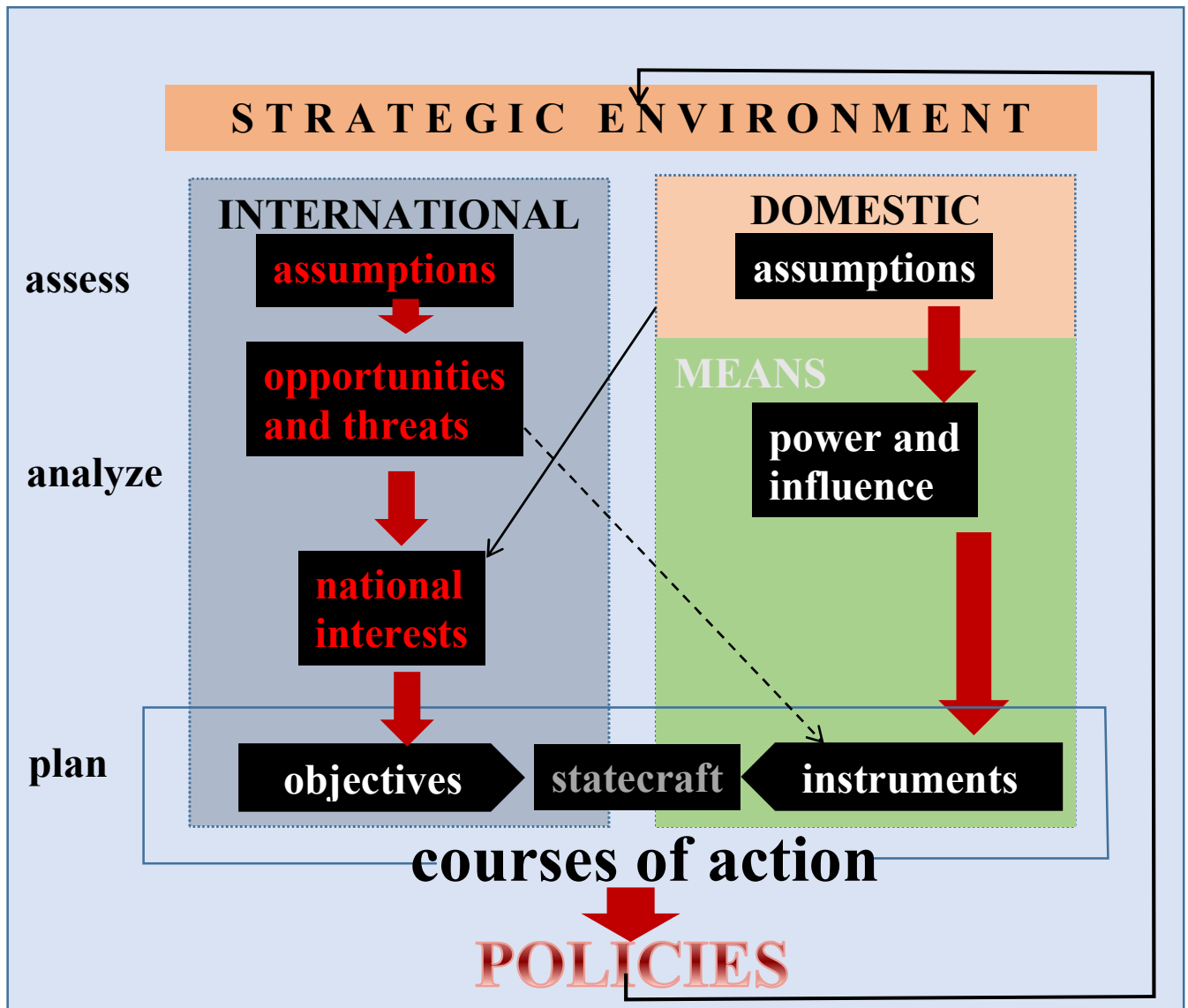


Figure 1: The theoretical basis on Terry Deibel's strategic logic approach.

Source: Dr Terry Deibel's War College

III. THE CASE STUDY

Foreign policy is a strategy or action plan developed by state decision makers for dealing with foreign nations or other international political units. It is aimed at achieving particular national goals as described in the framework of national interests.(Perwita, 2021). The term "non-alignment" denoted a foreign policy posture that signified rejection of East-West forces and solidarity with Third World interests in relation to important international political and economic concerns. It also denoted a rejection of the superpowers' dominance at the time.(Strydom, 2007). In the modern international order, being a small power can have an enormous impact. (Long, 2019). The US and China may consider a small power like Sri Lanka serious for a few correlated reasons. These include Sri Lanka's Strategic geographic location, its aspiration to become a regional economic centre, and its active support of multilateralism and the global rules-based order, which historically balances the interests of powerful and smaller powers.(Wignaraja, 2019) The balance of power between Sri Lanka's relations with the US and India, two other major

power players in the Indian Ocean, has been disrupted by its closer geopolitical alignment with China, especially since 2008(Chandana Priyantha Arangalla, 2017).

3.1. Indian national interest towards Sri Lanka

Geographical proximity to the island nation, historical relationships, and more general regional and strategic considerations all influence India's national interests in Sri Lanka. India's interests in Sri Lanka encompass several dimensions as indicated below.(High Commission of India, 2014)

- a. Maritime Security
- b. Counterterrorism Cooperation
- c. China's Influence on Sri Lanka
- d. Trade and Investment
- e. Infrastructure Projects
- f. Strengthening Diplomatic Ties
- g. Support for Reconciliation
- h. Cultural and People to People Ties

3.2. Chinese National Interest towards Sri Lanka

China's national interests in Sri Lanka are multifaceted and reflect its broader strategic goals in the Indian Ocean region and desire to enhance its regional influence and secure its maritime trade routes. These interests can be identified as follows.(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023)

- a. Access to Markets
- b. Energy Security
- c. Diplomatic Support
- d. Regional Influence
- e. Port Access and Naval Facilities
- f. Counterterrorism and Stability

3.3. USA National interest towards Sri Lanka

The United States has several national interests in Sri Lanka, reflecting its broader strategic goals and regional priorities in the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region. These interests can be identified as follows.(United States Department of State, 2023)

- a. Counterterrorism Cooperation
- b. Maritime Security
- c. Trade and Investment
- d. Regional Connectivity
- e. Promoting Democratic Values
- f. Reconciliation and Peace
- g. Indo-Pacific Strategy
- h. Countering Chinese Influence

3.4. National Purpose of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a maritime nation with a history that dates back more than 2500 years. Its unique ethnic cultural and social values unite all of its citizens as one distinct nation. It is an autonomous sovereign nation. Protecting the country's lasting values and beliefs related to language, ethnicity, customs, and traditions, those loved and passed forth by our forebears, which have been recognized, revered, and respected across the world, is central to the country's national purpose. It is also founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and equity for all, and it is obvious to its true meaning by defending and supporting the inherent rights of all people.

3.5. National Interests of Sri Lanka

National Interest of Sri Lanka can be identified from the speeches of the president of Sri Lanka since there is no white paper published so far. The National interest of Sri Lanka and its foreign policy objectives tend to change with the shifting of the government by the public. Further balance Sri Lanka's position in the global and regional environment while Sri Lanka is experiencing repercussions of regional power rivalry between India and China as well as great power rivalry between USA and China focus on economic prosperity of Sri Lanka while exposing into trade benefits from India, China and U.S. and stick in to non-alignment policy.

National Interests of Sri Lanka has been spelled out as its basic and fundamental needs and wants to remain as an Independent and distinct nation. While the majority of the other issues are internal concerns relating to the country's economic development, security, and citizens' well-being, some of these national interests are connected to how Sri Lanka seeks to position itself in the current global order by establishing its foreign policy and foreign relations with other nations and organizations.

3.6. Vital interests. Sri Lanka's vital interests concern the survival of the nation, and includes the territorial integrity of the country, the guarantee of the nation's sovereignty, protection of democracy, economic resources and protection of Sri Lankans' lives within and out of the country. Vital interests guarantee the nation's security, freedom, and independence, as well as the protection of its institutions and the advancement of its moral principles. Vital interests are matters over which the state is willing to go to war and nullify compromise.

3.7. Important Interests. Very important interests exist than merely defending the nation from external threats. Despite being harder to define, they do involve negotiation and compromise. Sri Lanka focuses mainly on promoting the friendly relations with other nations and maintaining the global peace and stability. Among other things, Sri Lanka aims to pursue the following peripheral interests:

- a. Sustainable development
 - i. Economic growth
 - ii. Enrichment of Social and cultural values
 - iii. Environmental protection and promotion
- b. Friendly relations with other countries
- c. Maintaining Non-aligned foreign policy, with special reservation for strategic autonomy to be aligned with any country that supports the interests of the nation at its crucial times.

3.8. National Objectives

The National Objectives of the country are derived from the National Interest, showing what Sri Lanka is trying to achieve. The process of achieving these national objectives is set in various national policy directives such as economic policy, foreign policy and the defence policy. At the grand strategic level, the Ends are the national objectives flow out from national interests. They are essentially incorporated with the vision of the nation set in future plans. Achieving of the National Objectives is depending on a number of global and domestic factors which include among global security environment, international laws and treaties to which Sri Lanka is a signatory, favourable international economic conditions, International terrorism international alliances and activities and influence of the International Organizations like United Nations. Domestic factors include political and economic conditions, public opinion, social needs and bureaucracy. The process set for achieving the National Objectives

take shape on Ends, Ways and Means approach in a manner that the Instrument of National power is deployed to achieve the Ends (objectives).

Sri Lankan objectives in achieving national interest can be define as follows:

- a. Establish diplomatic leadership role among regional countries.
- b. Stick with non-align policy
- c. Deter separatist ideology.
- d. Establish effectively economic trade and aid agreement with India.
- e. Negotiate in diplomatic means in Indian fishing in Sri Lankan territorial Waters.
- f. Negotiate to restrict the spread of separatism by Tamil Nadu government in India.
- g. Create balance between India and China while ensuring India's security unchallenged.
- h. Create balance between USA and China Great power competition
- j. Establish measures to build confidence on Sri Lanka on HR violations by conducting an investigation to have a better trade with U.S. and EU.
- k. Search for means to come out from existing economic crisis.

3.9. Establishment of the means

What resources are required or accessible for this?

To achieve the objectives mentioned in Sri Lanka, the following resources, elements of power, institutions, actors, and instruments of national power can play a role:

a. Elements of Power

- i. Military Power: Maintaining a fair and capable military to deter threats and safeguard national security.
- ii. Economic Power: Enhancing economic capabilities, attracting investments, and promoting trade and development.
- iii. Diplomatic Power: Building strong diplomatic relations, engaging in regional and international forums, and pursuing diplomatic negotiations.
- iv. Cultural Power: Showcasing Sri Lanka's cultural heritage, promoting soft power, and fostering cultural diplomacy.

b. Institutions and Actors

- i. Government: The government plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing foreign policies, coordinating diplomatic efforts, and managing domestic affairs.
- ii. Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Responsible for diplomatic relations, negotiations, and representing Sri Lanka's interests abroad.
- iii. Ministry of Defence: Contribute to national security, defence, and regional stability.
- iv. Business Community: Engage in economic trade and investment activities, promoting economic growth and cooperation.
- v. Civil Society Organizations: Contribute to social cohesion, human rights advocacy, and community development.

3.10. Instruments of National Power

For many years, the four columns of national power diplomatic, informational, military, and economic have been stated to as "DIME." Following paragraph will explain more about how DIME should be integrated with Sri Lanka national interest. US policymakers and strategists have long recognised that there are many more instruments at play in the formulation and execution of national security policies. As stated in the Joint Doctrine note on strategy, new acronyms like MIDFIELD (military, informational, diplomatic, financial, intelligence, economic, law, and development) provide strategic and policymakers with a considerably wider range of options.(Joint Force Development for the Armed Forces of the United States, 2018).

a. Diplomatic Engagement

- i. Utilize diplomatic channels to establish leadership role, negotiate agreements, and address bilateral and regional issues. Additionally, safeguard Sri Lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity by diplomatically managing US, Chinese, and Indian interests in the Indian Ocean region.
- ii. Engage in diplomatic negotiations with India regarding fishing in territorial waters and address concerns related to separatist ideology.
- iii. Regional Cooperation: Collaborate with regional countries given specific concern on security of India, to maintain a balance of power and address common challenges.

b. Economic Engagement

- i. Economic Trade and Aid Agreements: Develop and implement effective economic trade agreements with India, China, USA, European Union attracting investments and promoting economic growth. Develop Sri Lanka as a significant service provider for global trade in the Indian Ocean as well.
- ii. Economic Reforms: Implement measures to address the existing economic crisis, such as fiscal reforms, investment incentives, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- iii. exploring the natural and maritime resources within the EEZ in coordination with competent international partners.
- iv. Investigative Measures: To enhance trade relations and avoid economic embargoes, conduct rigorous investigations to rectify any human rights abuses that have been alleged by the West. Additionally, protect the GSP+ facility for the European market.
- v. Creating renewable energy sources in cooperation with foreign partners to manage the nation's current energy issue.

c. Information Engagement

- i. Sri Lanka engages in public diplomacy efforts to shape and influence international public view about the nation. This includes disseminating accurate and positive information about Sri Lanka's culture, heritage, economic potential, and achievements.
- ii. Sri Lanka works to counter disinformation and false narratives that may harm its reputation or national interests. This involves monitoring and debunking false information and promoting accurate information through official channels. As well as promote reality of humanitarian operation conducted by SL armed forces utilizing Digital Diplomacy.
- iii. Putting in place long term initiatives to educate the public about the value of religious and ethnic peace for societal cohesion
- iv. Monitoring and managing online content with effectiveness.
- v. Using media, platforms, and e-diplomacy effectively.
- vi. Promote E-governance.

d. Military Engagement

- i. protection against direct, indirect, internal, and external dangers while maintaining a safe and secure environment.
- ii. Based on the projected dangers, defence personnel are deployed in critical regions.
- iii. Increase capacity by reorganising and outfitting defence forces with the necessary military hardware while cooperating with partner nations.
- iv. Based on the nation's current economic capabilities and security needs, a long-term strategy for the Army, Navy, and Air Force's rightsizing and modernization.
- v. Platform and capability developments for the Navy and Coast Guard are being made to secure the maritime area by acquiring greater blue water capabilities.
- vi. Obtaining UN peacekeeping and peace enforcement possibilities for the country's police and defence personnel to enhance their reputations abroad and help the economy.
- vii. Promote Sri Lanka's military experience and geostrategic interests to other nations.
- viii. collaborating with regional and international partners to exchange military training opportunities and conduct joint military exercises to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean region.

It's important to note that the successful implementation of these objectives and utilization of resources require effective coordination, political will, and the involvement of various stakeholders, both within the government and civil society. Additionally, adaptability and flexibility in response to evolving regional and global dynamics are crucial for achieving the desired outcomes.

3.11. Formulating of ways

To effectively use resources and formulate a way to achieve national objectives in Sri Lanka, having a thorough strategy is crucial, taking into account the nation's unique circumstances and difficulties. Here are some key considerations for how to use resources be effectively.

3.11.1 Economic Resources

- a. Prioritize economic development projects that align with national objectives, such as infrastructure development, jobs creation, and poverty reduction.
- b. Foster a favourable business environment to attract foreign direct investment and promote domestic industries. Further, promote a free and fair environment for investors, use democracy and keep the nation lawful.
- c. Allocate resources to sectors that contribute to sustainable economic growth and diversification, such as tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and technology.
- d. Trade agreements with appropriate partners should not conflict with Sri Lanka's goals in economic development or national security.
- e. Examine ways to make Colombo port, the Colombo port development project and Hambantota port a significant transshipment centre for international partners like the United States, China, and India considering that the SLOC passes via the southern tip of Sri Lanka.
- f. Using an independent panel to address concerns the West has raised on the situation of human rights and to continue to obtain the GSP plus trade facility from the European market.

3.11.2. Diplomatic Resources

- a. Maintain strong diplomatic relations with key regional and global partners, actively engaging in bilateral and multilateral forums to promote Sri Lanka's national interests emphasizing Non-aligned foreign policy

- b. Strengthen ties with neighbouring countries and regional organizations like ASEAN to enhance regional cooperation and address shared challenges.
- c. Promote Sri Lanka as a vital service provider to global trade in the Indian Ocean and as a maritime hub by using diplomatic channels to advocate for Sri Lanka's interests on areas like trade, tourism, security and human rights.

3.11.3. Information Resources

- a. Enhance public diplomacy efforts to shape a positive international image of Sri Lanka, promoting its culture, tourism, and investment opportunities.
- b. Invest in reliable and accessible information infrastructure, including digital connectivity and media platforms, to facilitate effective communication and information dissemination.
- c. Develop strategies to counter misinformation and promote accurate and timely information to both domestic and international audiences utilizing Digital Diplomacy.
- d. Utilize academic resource personnel, government and private universities, Military Institution and Think tanks to promulgate scientific papers in various fields to build up image of Sri Lanka.
- e. Enhance awareness and responsibility of a private and public media institution for the support of nation building effort.

3.11.4. Military Resources

- a. Ensure a well-trained and equipped military that is capable of safeguarding national security and contributing to regional stability.
- b. Invest in research and development to enhance defence capabilities, including technology, intelligence, and cyber capabilities.
- c. Foster collaboration and exchanges with international military partners to improve interoperability, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing through Defence Diplomacy.
- d. Promote Sri Lanka's military experience and Defence Diplomacy with other nations.
- e. Promote Naval diplomacy being the island nation safe guarding a national interest and supporting regional stability. As well as enhance naval and coast guard capability and confidence building cooperation with regional and extra regional power players in Indian Ocean Region.

It is crucial to prioritize and allocate resources based on a comprehensive and integrated approach that considers the interconnectedness of these different elements. Regular assessment and evaluation of resource allocation and utilization is necessary to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in achieving national objectives. Furthermore, for a comprehensive and sustainable strategy to resource utilisation and national development, coordination and cooperation among pertinent government agencies, private sector organisations, civil society organisations, and international partners are crucial.

3.12. Assess the Risks Costs

Assessing the risk and cost of the strategy for non align foreign policy towards great powers and regional power, Sri Lanka's national objectives requires careful consideration of the strategic environment and domestic factors. Here are some key points to evaluate are as follows.

3.12.1. Strategic Environment

- a. **Regional Security Challenges:** Sri Lanka operates in a region with complex security dynamics, including maritime disputes, terrorism, and great power competition. These factors can pose risks to national objectives and require careful navigation and engagement with regional actors.

b. Geopolitical Considerations: Due to its advantageous location in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is susceptible to geopolitical pressures. Balancing relationships with major powers while safeguarding national interests is crucial to mitigate potential risks and costs.

c. Regional Integration: Integration into regional organisations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) can open up opportunities for cooperation but can also come with costs and difficulties in coordinating interests with other members.

3.12.2. Domestic Considerations

a. Socioeconomic Factors: Sri Lanka faces various domestic challenges, including poverty, income inequality, and unemployment. The strategy should address these issues to ensure inclusive economic growth and social development.

b. Political Stability: Maintaining political stability and fostering good governance is essential for effective implementation of the strategy. Political instability can increase risks and costs and hamper progress towards national objectives.

c. Ethnic and Religious Diversity: Social cohesion, harmony, and inclusivity promotion techniques are necessary for Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic and multi-religious community. It is required to educate people obtaining example from Indonesia how diverse cultures ethnicities work together utilizing concept of Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity)(Pardo & Setyaningrahayu, 2023). Failure to address interethnic tensions and religious extremism can lead to social unrest and impede national progress.

3.12.3. Economic Engagement

Costs: Developing economic trade agreements, attracting investments, and implementing economic reforms require financial resources. Conducting thorough investigations into human rights violations can involve costs as well.

Risks: Economic engagement carries risks such as dependency on certain countries, competition with other nations for investments, and the potential backlash from international partners regarding human rights concerns. Managing these risks is crucial to avoid economic embargos and protect Sri Lanka's trade relations.

3.12.4. Diplomatic Engagement

Costs: Diplomatic engagement requires resources for diplomatic missions, negotiations, and maintaining diplomatic channels. Further, conducting defence diplomatic activities also involve considerable amount of cost also. There may be costs associated with managing conflicting interests and engaging in complex negotiations.

Risks: Potential disputes and tensions with powerful nations, particularly the US, China, and India, are the key risks. It can be difficult to manage these connections while preserving Sri Lanka's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Whilst engaging defence diplomatic activities need careful considerations friend to all and enemy to none. If non-alignment foreign policy is not carefully followed, engaging with regional and global powers puts the implementation of defence diplomatic measures at grave risk.

3.12.5. Information Engagement

Costs: Implementing effective public diplomacy efforts, countering disinformation, and promoting accurate information require investments in communication channels and media platforms.

Risks: Sri Lanka may face challenges in countering disinformation and managing its online reputation. Cybersecurity risks and the need for effective monitoring of social media content can also pose challenges.

3.12.6. Military Engagement

Costs: Maintaining a safe and secure environment requires investment in defence capabilities, infrastructure, training, and equipment. Capacity building and modernization efforts may involve significant financial resources.

Risks: The main risks are potential conflicts or security threats, both internal and external. Ensuring the rightsizing and modernization of the defence forces while managing budget constraints is essential.

3.13. International Assumptions

- a. **Assumption of Competing Interests:** Major nations like the US, China, and India will all have different interests in the Indian Ocean region. Managing and balancing these competing interests will be a crucial factor in formulating and implementing foreign policies.
- b. **Assumption of Regional Cooperation:** Cooperation among regional countries will be necessary to address common challenges, maintain a balance of power, and promote stability in the region. Collaborative efforts and partnerships will play a significant role in achieving national objectives.
- c. **Assumption of Economic Competition:** Sri Lanka will face competition from other countries in attracting investments and promoting economic growth. Navigating this competition and positioning Sri Lanka as an attractive destination for trade and investment will be essential.

3.14. Domestic Assumptions:

- a. **Assumption of Domestic Political Stability:** Maintaining political stability and effective governance within Sri Lanka will provide a conducive environment for implementing the proposed strategies. Political stability is necessary for making long-term plans, implementing reforms, and ensuring policy consistency.
- b. **Assumption of Public Support:** There is an assumption that the general public will support the government's efforts to achieve national objectives. Building and sustaining public support through effective communication, transparency, and inclusive decision-making will be critical.
- c. **Assumption of Resource Availability:** The availability of financial, human, and technological resources within the country will influence the implementation of the proposed strategies. Adequate resource allocation, efficient utilization, and capacity building will be necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.

These assumptions provide a framework for understanding the international and domestic dynamics that could impact the implementation of the strategy. It is important to regularly reassess these assumptions and adjust strategies accordingly to adapt to evolving circumstances and challenges.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the formulation of the above strategies for Sri Lanka's foreign policy towards great powers and regional power involves a comprehensive and multidimensional approach. By considering diplomatic, economic, information, and military aspects, Sri Lanka aims to protect its national interests, promote economic growth, ensure security, and enhance its international standing. The strategies emphasize the importance of diplomatic engagement to establish leadership roles, negotiate agreements, and address regional issues. Sri Lanka aims to uphold a non-aligned stance while effectively managing the interests of powerful nations like the US, China, and India. Additionally, maintaining a balance of power in the Indian Ocean region and addressing shared issues require regional cooperation. Overall, these strategies aim to strengthen Sri Lanka's position in the international arena, safeguard its national interests, and effectively navigate the complex dynamics of great powers and regional power in the pursuit of peace, stability, and development. Continuous evaluation and adaptation of these strategies will be necessary to address evolving challenges and seize opportunities for the benefit of Sri Lanka and its people.

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