



Rethinking Geopolitical Ambition: An Analysis of India and Its Role in the United Nations Security Council

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The Problem

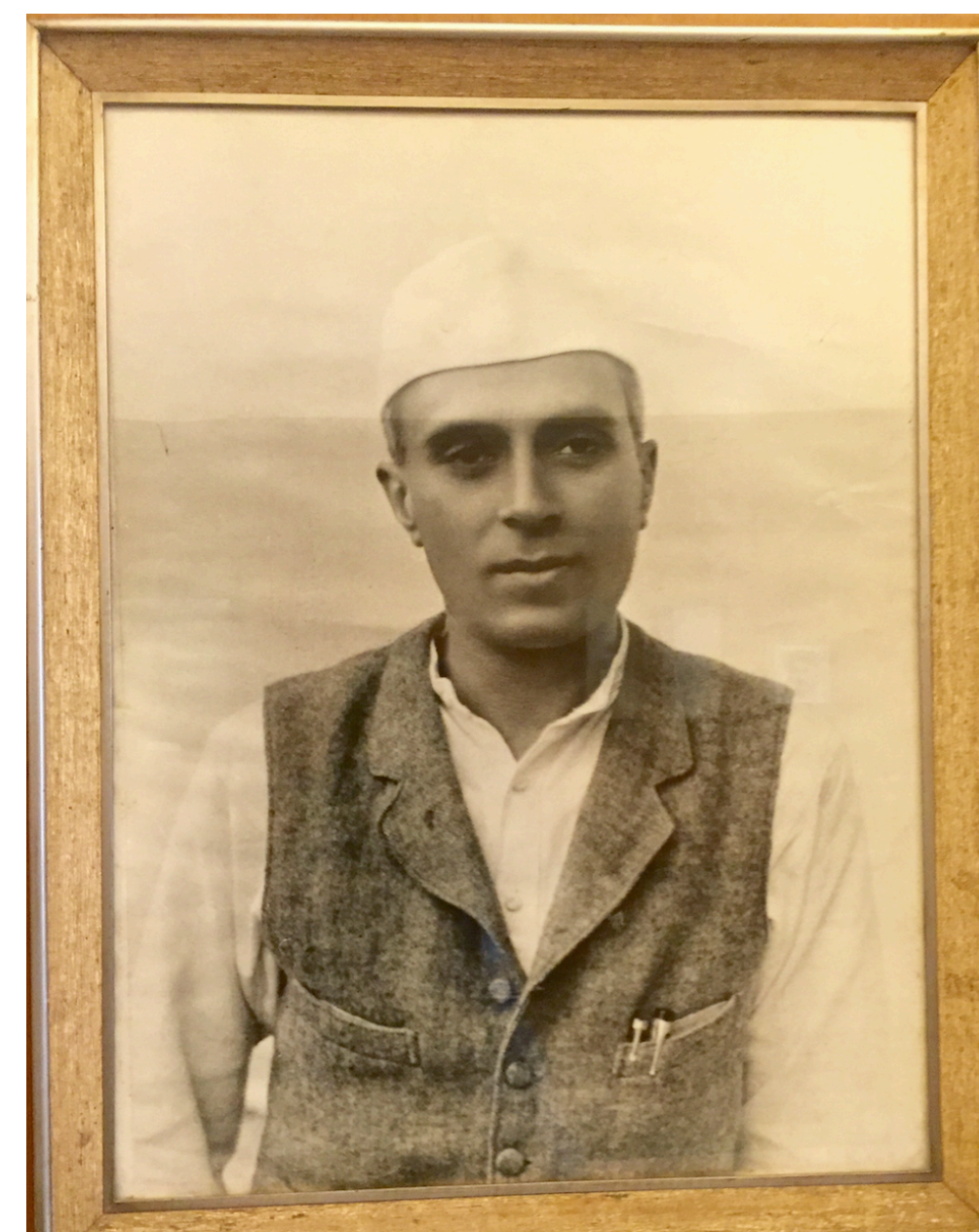
- ❖ United Nations' membership has increased from 113 to 193 without any drastic change to the UNSC
- ❖ In 1950 & 1955, India was offered a Permanent Seat to the UNSC (US & USSR), but declined the offers
- ❖ Now, India, along with other Member States, demands a permanent seat and a revamping of the entire UNSC
- ❖ Proposal to reform UNSC requires approval of 2/3 of the UNGA



Citation: <http://www.spainun.org/en/2015/03/the-reform-of-the-security-council-is-possible/>

Research Questions

- ❖ Why did Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru decline the US and USSR's offer for permanent membership in the UNSC in 1950 and 1955 respectively?
- ❖ Why does India now seek a permanent seat in the UNSC? To what degree is India advancing its own soft power?
- ❖ How has India attracted support from other Member States for its bid in permanent membership?



Objectives

- ❖ Explain that India valued international stability and supported the People's Republic of China for the permanent seat in 1950 and 1955
- ❖ Discover that India now desires a permanent seat in the UNSC to advance its soft power, serve as an effective player in international politics, and influence other countries' long-standing positions
- ❖ Determine the impact and varying influences of India's campaigning for UNSC reforms since 1992
- ❖ Show that India is pursuing public signs of diplomatic approval for its bid for UNSC permanent membership (80+ and counting)

Background

- ❖ Prime Minister Nehru's foreign policy centered on integrating the People's Republic of China into the international community
- ❖ Leader in the Bandung Conference (1955) – milestone for Third World Countries to collaborate and insist that their recommendations play a role in the world order
- ❖ Current Status – “True multilateralism...requires the full and equal participation of all nations – big and small – in the multilateral decision-making process... The voice of the majority must not only be heard but also be respected”

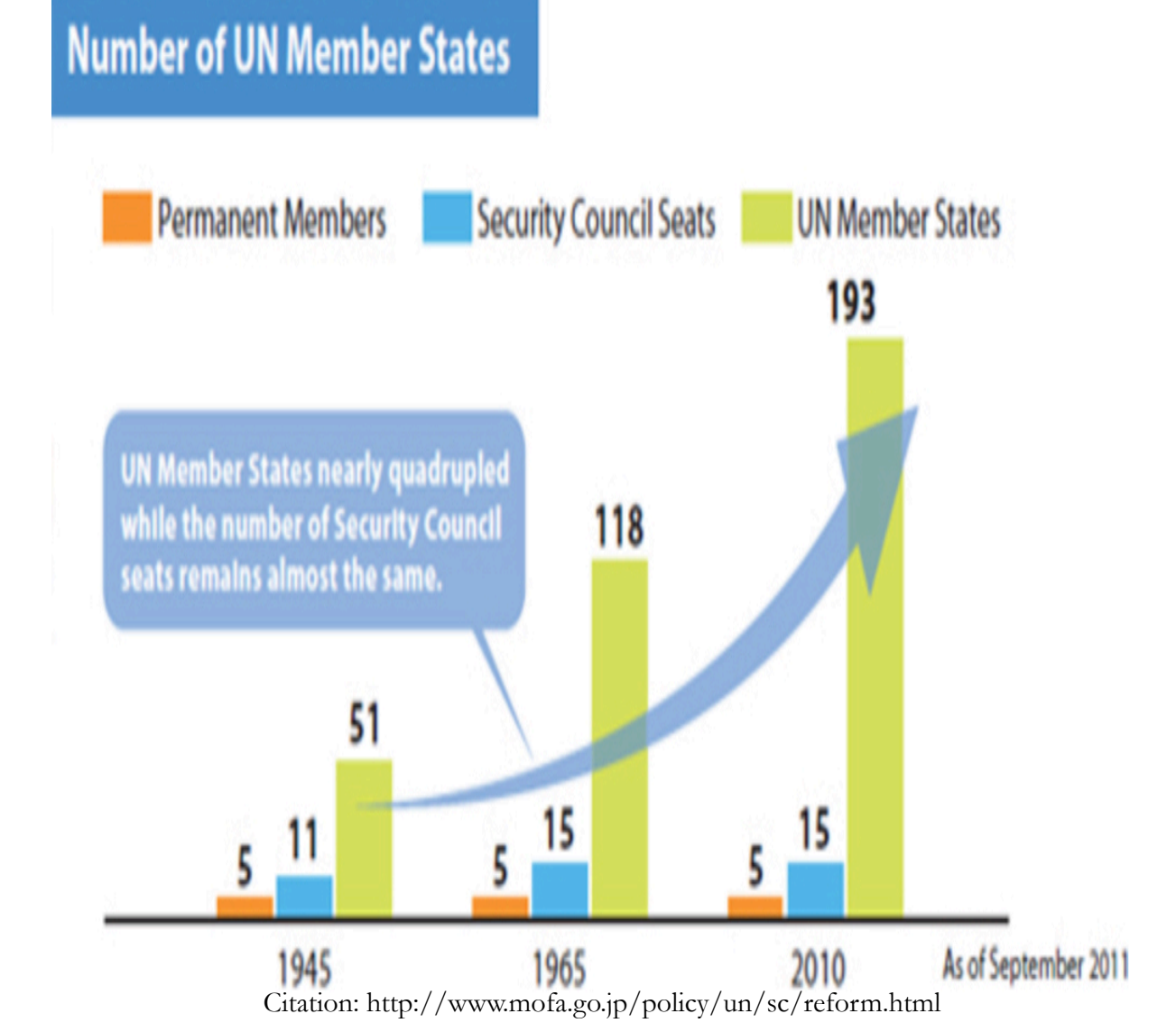
Methodology

- ❖ Visited Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (New Delhi, India) – largest academic repository with collections of private papers, oral history interviews, and other documentary materials of 20th century and contemporary India
- ❖ Premier Archive – Analyzed primary sources from Manuscripts Division (Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, B.N. Rau, Homi J. Bhabha, J.J. Singh, R.K. Nehru, Mohan Sinha Mehta, T.T. Krishnamachari, M.C. Chagla, PN Haksar)
- ❖ Identified 80+ countries that have pledged support for India's bid for permanent membership

Results

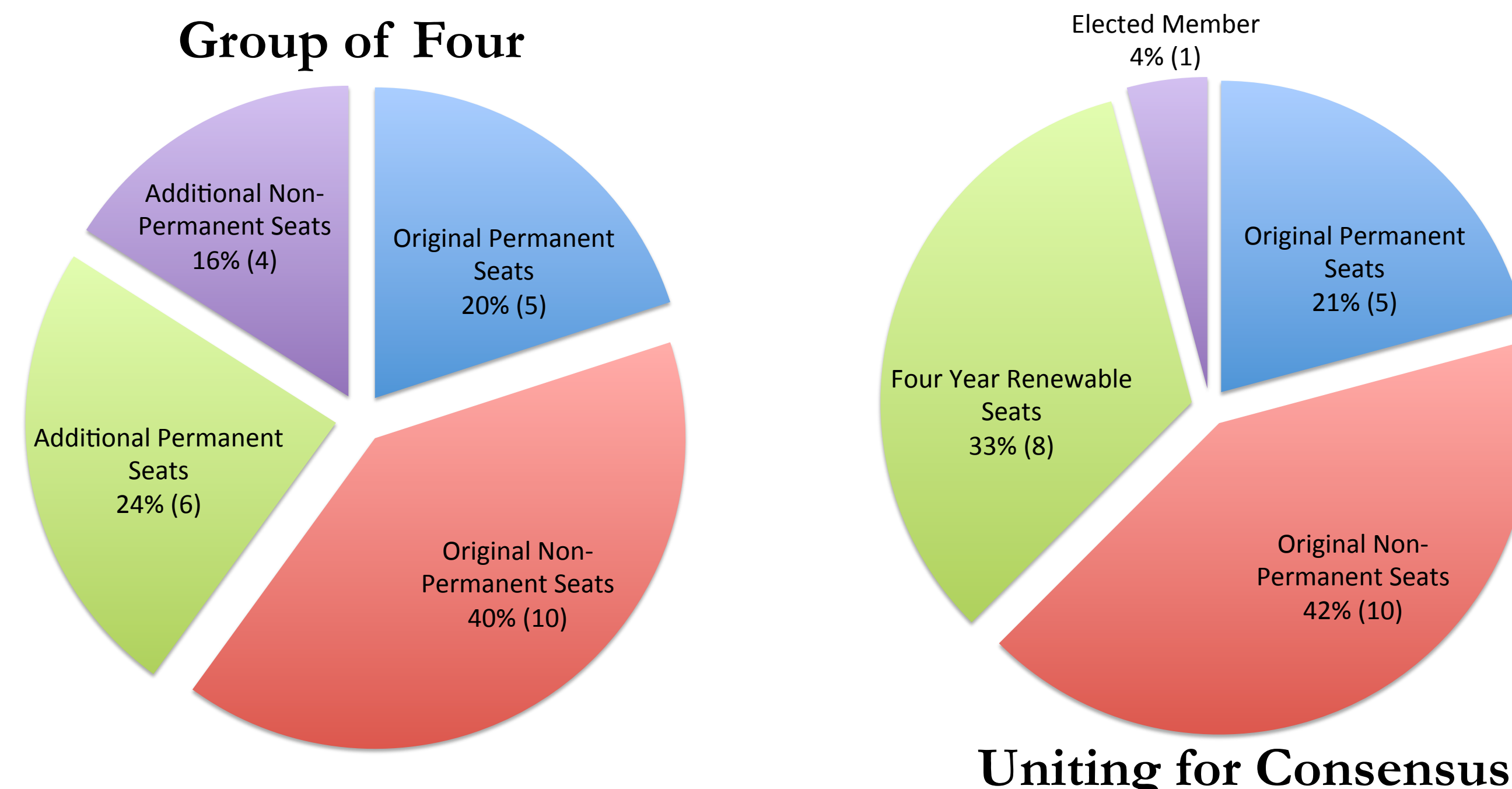
UN Member States Supporting India for Permanent Membership in the UNSC			
Asia-Pacific	Africa	Europe	Americas
Australia	Angola	Armenia	Chile
Bangladesh	Benin	Belarus	Bahamas
Brunei	Botswana	Belgium	Belize
Cambodia	Djibouti	Bulgaria	Bolivia
Israel	Ethiopia	Croatia	Brazil
Japan	Ghana	Cyprus	Cuba
Kazakhstan	Lesotho	Czech Republic	Guyana
Kyrgyzstan	Liberia	Denmark	Jamaica
Laos	Libya	Finland	Peru
Malaysia	Madagascar	France	Suriname
Maldives	Malawi	Germany	United States
Micronesia	Mauritius	Greece	
Mongolia	Morocco	Hungary	
Myanmar	Mozambique	Iceland	
Oman	Namibia	Luxembourg	
Palau	Niger	Norway	
Papua New Guinea	Nigeria	Poland	
	Qatar	Portugal	
Singapore	Senegal	Romania	
Sri Lanka	South Africa	Russian Federation*	
Syria	Swaziland	Slovakia	
Tajikistan	Zambia	United Kingdom	
Tuvalu			
UAE			
Uzbekistan			

Conclusion



- ❖ India –the UNSC does not reflect the realities of the world
- ❖ Soft power – significant aspect of India's foreign policy and identity
- ❖ Success – India has garnered support from countries and blocs since 1992
- ❖ Expansion of geographical representation in the UNSC may add legitimacy
- ❖ Diplomatic relations has greatly increased between India and many countries (foreign visits by current Prime Minister Modi)

Efficiency Models:



Variable: Soft Power

- ❖ Joseph Nye's definition of soft power – Getting a country to “want what it wants”; the ability to shape the preferences of states through appeal or coercion, without the use of force
- ❖ This does not take into consideration the magnitude of shaping norms
- ❖ I argue against Nye's point that soft power “tends to have diffuse effects on the outside world and is not easily wielded to achieve specific outcomes”

Implications & Next Steps

- ❖ India still needs 2/3 of the UNGA to approve its reforms (G-4) to the UNSC
- ❖ Pakistan will continue to oppose India's candidature for a permanent seat
- ❖ Since 1992, India has had a steadfast commitment to UNSC reforms; an increasing number of countries view India as a cooperative, capable player in the UN
- ❖ India must continue to harness its soft power in foreign policy decision making

