

What is Foreign Policy?

Foreign Policy, as George Moddeski (The Theory of Foreign Policy) says, is the system of activities evolved by the communities for changing the behaviour of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment. It is a systematic system of deliberately selected national interests. (F.H. Hardmann The Relations of Nations). It involves the formulation and implementation of a group of principles, which shape according to Rodée (Introduction to Political Science) the behaviour pattern of a state while negotiating with other states to protect and further its vital interests. According to Padelford, and Lincoln (The Dynamics of International Politics), the states decide through foreign policy as to, "what course they would pursue in world affairs within the limits of their strength and the realities of the external environment. The states, gives thereby a sense of purpose that the states seek to pursue. Its main object is to translate the theory of national interest into practice. It has a positive dimension in so far as it aims at adjusting the behaviour of

other states by changing it. It has a negative dimension in so far as it endeavours at adjusting by not altering behaviour. On the basis of what constitutes foreign policy one may include:

- (a) policy makers
- (b) interests and objectives
- (c) principles of foreign policy
- (d) means of foreign policy

Professor Mahendra Kumar (Theoretical Aspects of International Politics) defines foreign policy as a thought out course of action for achieving objectives in foreign relations as dictated by the ideology of national interest.

The foreign policy of a state has a number of bas: They are usually stated as:

- (a) general determinants
- (b) internal determinants
- (c) external determinants