



A Chinese Scholar's Analysis on Border Clashes with India

OE Watch Commentary: In July, the Chinese academic journal *Modern International Relations* published the excerpted article in Chinese-language, which the Eurasian System Science Research Association posted on its website on 7 September. The article, which presents the views of Hu Shisheng, who is affiliated with China's Ministry of State Security, assesses India's "behavior logic" during India's recent deadly confrontations with China along their mutual Himalayan border.

The article asserts that India seeks absolute security on its border with China, which is impossible because it would require China to then be in a situation of absolute insecurity. It attributes India's position to its reliance on the colonial-era borders set by the British and India's continuation of the colonial system. Thus, the article states that to avoid a zero-sum game with China on the border, India needs to accept the current status quo and cease its "forward policy" along the border.

There is also a hint of pessimism from Hu Shisheng on prospects for peace. For example, Shisheng is skeptical of the Indian government's conservative turn, which has squeezed liberals out of power whose business interests made them more accommodating in India's relations with China. Hindu nationalism, according to Shisheng's article, also causes leading Indian politicians to attempt to appear as strongmen and take positions against China to rally popular support. In addition, the article insinuates that the Indian government's coronavirus lockdown negatively impacted Indians' livelihoods and the clashes with China at the border helped distract attention from that.

In the conclusion, the article expresses a desire for the world's two most populous countries to unite. However, it assesses that India's obeisance to an international order led by the United States leads India to be hostile towards China. The article does not assess Chinese policy or strategy or note what China can do to restore harmonious relations with India. It, therefore, places blame for the border clashes on India, which is unsurprising considering the author is a scholar associated with the Chinese government. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



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Source: Eric Feng, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%E7%94%9C%E6%B0%B4%E6%B5%B7%E5%85%B5%E7%AB%99.jpg>
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“The so-called ‘absolute security’ of one party will inevitably constitute ‘absolute insecurity’ to the other party.”

Source: “印度对华示强外交的行为逻辑 (The Behavioral Logic of India's Diplomacy to China).” *essra.org.cn*, 7 September 2020, <https://www.essra.org.cn/view-1000-1116.aspx>

The conflict in the Galwan Valley between India and China sunk the relationship between the two countries to their lowest point since the 1962 border war. The international community, which does not know the truth, expresses sympathy to India, and US political leaders even took the opportunity to succumb to the heat, including frequently criticizing the “China threat” and publicly supporting India.

As early as the Nehru period, thanks to the benefits of the terrain and inheritance of the British Empire's colonial heritage, New Delhi implemented the “forward policy” with great fanfare, and “self-corrected” after the Sino-Indian border in accordance with its own security needs. After Prime Minister Modi came to power, the Indian Border Forces focused their efforts on advancing the “forward policy” in the western section of the Sino-Indian border. This is also the main reason why the border confrontation between the two countries primarily occurred in the western section after Modi took office.

Under the joint promotion of right-wing organizations, Hindu populism has prevailed. Since the Modi government came to power, conservative forces have quickly squeezed the space of liberals traditionally dominated by diplomatic and business elites after they gained political power.

Just when the Modi government was suffering from a lack of effective measures to deal with domestic riots, the outbreak of the new coronavirus epidemic suddenly relieved him, allowing him to quickly resolve the domestic political turmoil in a short period of time by “locking down.” However, the pandemic prevention and control measures quickly brought down people's livelihoods.