The Limits of Jawaharlal Nehru’s Asian Internationalism and Sino-Indian Relations, 1949-1959

Rosie Tan Segil, Salem State University

Degree Type
Thesis

Degree Name
Master of Arts (MA)

Department
History

First Advisor
Michele Louro

Keywords
Panchsheel, peaceful coexistence, McMahon Line, Bandung Conference, Cold War, China, India, collective defense, colonialism, imperialism

Abstract
This paper seeks to provide the genesis of the decline of Jawaharlal Nehru’s friendly relations with China and of his foreign policy doctrine of Asian Internationalism by examining two key moments: the Panchsheel Treaty of 1954 and the Bandung Conference of 1955. Paradoxically, these international events sowed the seeds from which Nehru’s non-aligned movement would arise. Nehru cast away his cherished vision of Asian solidarity, succumbing to the nationalistic currents of state building and the geopolitical trap of the Cold War.

Recommended Citation

Under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s leadership, India played a leadership role among Asian nations. The Bandung Conference was held in Indonesia in 1955. Sino-Indian diplomatic relations resumed in 2000 when the Chinese foreign minister visited India and met with the Indian foreign minister to start a security dialogue. In 2005, the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India, which was a historic visit because the Premier upgraded the bilateral ties to a strategic level. [9] Premier Wen’s visit produced three points.