

CPA TALK 12

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Nepal's politics had the seven political parties, the palace and the Maoists. All major parties involved in the war used the war for their benefit. There was also a cozying up of the palace and the Maoists at some point. Any arrangement between King Gyanendra and Prachanda broke and then the political parties aligned with the Maoists.

International community had well understood Nepal's democracy and the political parties got support from the people and outside forces. After 9/11, it became very difficult for the Maoists to wage war. Even Nepal's Army wasn't in a position to win the war outright. All these forced Maoists to come to the table. Girija Prasad Koirala was worried about the future of democracy, so he entertained the Maoists idea of constitution assembly.

The negotiation with king Gyanendra had to be suspended. And the talks before that were used to understand each other's psychology but the overall environment was not conducive for the talks. Gyanendra was intent on distancing the political parties and the Maoists. King wanted to run one-party dictatorship. King and the Maoists were assured of huge unpopularity of the political parties. The palace was somewhat successful in alienating the parties, but then the Maoists were doubtful of king's intentions. The size of the army doubled, quasi- armed force was set up and there was global campaign against terrorism. The increasing militarisation of the state worried Maoists and they ultimately aligned with the political parties against the king.

India was outside of this whole process. They were alert, studying closely the whole process. Maoists also understood later that they needed international guarantor to ensure the sustainability of the peace process.

The 12 points agreement did not happen at one place and in one sitting. A non-paper was being circulated, and amendments were coming in. It was announced once all the parties agreed to it. It was not like everyone sat together and signed. TRC and CIEDP have started their work and it will frame the road map to Nepal's peace process.

[For further information regarding the book, contact Nepal Transition to Peace Institute \(NTTP-I\) or send an email to contact @nttpinstitute.org.np.](mailto:@nttpinstitute.org.np)