

CPA TALK 15

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After a decade of signing CPA, Nepal's political context looks hopeful though not fully reassuring and satisfactory. The question of Maoists combatants has been resolved though not ideally. Nepal's politics looks highly fragmented and faction ridden. Leadership in all the parties have lost credibility and clout and look less effective than ever. The country stands sharply polarised along socio-cultural fault-lines and development agenda has remained rhetorical yet.

Marginalised groups like the Madheshi's, Janjatis, Dalits and women have reservations, some of them very strong, Vis-à- Vis the new Constitution. Issues regarding peace and reconciliation and justice also remain to be resolved affected by the 10 year old civil war. These issues need to be treated as a special basket, rather than being seen as traditional cases of crime and violence. The onus of peace and reconciliation does not lie on Maoists alone, but also on the Nepali State that was as guilty of violence and human rights violations as the insurgents were.

India was positively engaged with the major players and principal stakeholders of the peace process until the elections to the first Constituent Assembly. India got focused more on mainstreaming the Maoists then promoting Constitution making, peace building or developmental agenda.

Nepal would have made better progress on all counts if the basic understanding between the Maoists and the Seven Party Alliance, particularly, the Nepali Congress that led the SPA, could remain intact, backed by India's support and creative engagement. Breakdown of the first Constituent Assembly without delivering a Constitution was a major setback. India was seldom comfortable with the Maoists. Maoist safe heavens in India were inevitable as that has been the way of Nepali political life. India was not at all comfortable in accepting the Maoists in political mainstream, but it did not have any other option under the circumstances that evolved in Nepali politics of the time.

The most impressive feature of the Nepali peace process is the mainstreaming of the Maoists. There is hardly any radical insurgency movement in the world that has so peacefully been transformed into a democratic process.

Maoists were obviously conscious of the changing global mood and political dynamics after 9/11. The global war against terrorism had started tilting strategic balance against the Maoists who realized that even if they could defeat a Monarchical state, they were not in a position to sustain their victory.

TRC and related issues must be addressed within the framework of CPA which was based on intrinsic national political consensus. These issues must not be used either as political instruments in settling partisan scores or as tools of personal and political vendetta.

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