

## CPA TALK 9

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People were tired of Maoist violence. The country had had enough of it. The war had to end and if it had to end, some of the legitimate demands of warring Maoist party should be responded. After all, the Maoist had not been demanding anything impossible. They were asking for Constituent Assembly, which was the demand of the people since 1950. But the Seven Party Alliance was strongly opposing it without any logical reasons.

The Government and the Maoist were trapped in their own little cocoon. They had to be brought to the common ground. People were tired of bloodshed. So, the Maoist had to be brought to the political process. This spirit guided to work for peace process. Then the 12-point pact happened. However, the spirit with which the whole process started to melt down in the course of time.

The SPA had a reason to go into the peace process mainly because they wanted to get back the power in their hands from Gyanendra's hands. They were negotiating with Gyanendra, Dhirendra and other actors secretly. Maoists were looking for a way out, while SPA also needed Maoist support to fight against the king. They were clearly determined to leave the battlefield and to come to some kind of compromise. Thus, the peace process is the marriage of convenience of these two parties.

People supported the cause only for peace. But for politically aware people, peace was not enough because the country also needed inclusive democracy, social justice and equality. This could be done only through the constitution brought through Constituent Assembly.

The basic interest of the external powers was demobilization of Maoist army. They wanted to make Maoist party like other mainstream party. They were interested to see how the integration of Maoist army into Nepal Army would take place.

Peace process did not just mean integration of PLA into Nepal Army or bringing the constitution through CA but the primary objective of the peace process was to give birth to the constitution that addresses the concerns of all communities.

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