

The blunderbuss called Jawaharlal Nehru



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Rajiv Roy 25 August 2014 22708 views

Can the [NDA](#) government contain the expansionist regime practiced by People's Republic of [China](#) after the blunders committed by former Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Whereas, Narendra [Modi](#), is pursuing India's foreign policy determinedly from the very first day of his swearing-in ceremony by inviting his neighbours and SAARC countries, his is certainly going to be a [stand](#) away from an atheistic Nehru who believed in reason. In his second research Dr BB [Dutta](#), former Shillong parliamentarian have laid down a complete picture of Nehru's flawed [China](#) Policy which earned him and the country an unforgettable humiliation.

He said that when in 1950 [China](#) entered Tibet - which Mao Tse Tung described as the "Palm of Modern [China](#)" Nehru failed to read the implications of [China](#)'s entry through Aksai Chin connecting Tibet with Xing Xiang province of [China](#). This invasion over Tibet was hotly debated in the Indian parliament where Nehru defended himself queerly by saying that in that barren territory "not a blade of grass grows". Mahavir Tyagi, the famous parliamentarian and the great freedom fighter who joined British Indian [Army](#) and then resigned because of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre famously retorted pointing to his own bald head, "nothing grows there... should it be cut off or given away to somebody else?"

This was not the only blunder of Nehru who again failed to read the expansionist regime of the Chinese. In 1954, India and [China](#) signed the five principles of peaceful co-existence (Panchsheel Agreement). "This, together with Nehru's commitment to Non-Alignment, disabled India from seeking opposition to [China](#)'s expansionist moves from other super powers. And worse still, it left India (and overburdened its military) to deal with the emerging power of the People's Liberation [Army](#)," said Dr [Dutta](#) adding that Nehru again failed to realize, when formulating the [China](#) policy, their expansionist character. "This is evident from the

takeover of imperial Manchu territory as part of the modern Chinese nation. He also did not realize that by Communist Party standards, he was only a Bourgeois leader sympathetic to the elite “serf-owning class in Tibet”. He underestimated the resentment a hard core Communist [party](#) could have over India’s inherited [border](#) (McMahon Line) from the British with [China](#),” said Dr [Dutta](#).

Thereafter, Nehru gave Tibet to [China](#) on a platter, leaving no buffer between the two Asian giants. “The growing discontent and unrest among the Tibetans after [China](#)’s entry into Tibet resulted in an uprising in 1959 inviting a Chinese military crackdown. The 14th [Dalai Lama](#) fled to India and was granted refugee status along with thousands who accompanied and followed him,” said the former parliamentarian. Nehru “burnt his ideology into his thoughts and actions”, working day and night on the strength of his belief that he had put India in the global orbit as a great power, playing the role of a great leader mobilising world opinion. Dr [Dutta](#) pointed out that Nehru took pride in projecting India as a cultural power and a developing economy in a strife torn world yearning for peace. “He made two important policy statements for India that India would carry on with nuclear research for peaceful purposes totally avoiding the path of Nuclear Armament. Secondly, he made it clear that Communist [China](#) should be recognised as the true representative of [China](#) in the UN as the legitimate member of the Chinese people and occupy a seat in the [Security](#) Council but he did not put enough importance on India being the World’s largest democracy being present in the [Security](#) Council,” he said hinting that Nehru rather chose to see the other side despite his mistakes.

Quoting Dr S Gopal, he said “He (Jawaharlal Nehru) rejected the Soviet offer to propose India as the sixth permanent member of the [Security](#) Council and insisted that priority be given to [China](#)’s admission to the

United Nations”. The blunder called Nehru rejected a permanent seat in the [Security](#) Council, offered by USA and Soviet Union in 1955, saying that the seat should be given to [China](#) reported The Washington Post in 2010. While reading Nehru’s reply to a short notice question in the Lok [Sabha](#) on 27 Sep, 1955 by Dr JN Parekh, “There has been no offer, formal or informal, of this kind. Some vague references have appeared in the press about it which have no foundation in fact. The composition of the [Security](#) Council is prescribed by the UN charter, according to which certain specified nations have permanent seats. [No](#) change or addition can be made to this without an amendment of the charter. There is, therefore, no question of a seat being offered and India declining it. Our declared policy is to support the admission of all nations qualified for UN membership.”

“Nehru was eloquent explaining the difficulties involved in admitting a [new](#) member by way of displacing Republic of [China](#) (Taiwan) which had a Veto power,” said Dr [Dutta](#), “instead of being eloquent in making a [demand](#) that India being the world’s largest democracy be included in the [Security](#) Council to make it truly representative even by expanding the membership through necessary amendment in the UN charter,” adding that these policy blunders relegated South-Asia to “Strategic unimportance during the cold war”. The former parliamentarian researched that even [more](#) intriguing is the fact that Nehru did receive a [warning](#) about the implications of Chinese entry into Tibet in a letter written by [Sri](#) Aurobindo on 11 Nov, 1950, 23 days before his passing away, giving a lucid analysis of the political dynamics of Sino-Indian relation. Aurobindo wrote, “The basic significance of Mao’s Tibetan adventure is to advance [China](#)’s frontier right down to India and [stand](#) poised there to [strike](#) down at the right moment... Unless India precipitately declares itself on the side of the Communist bloc, it is a threat to all our ideals and aspirations”.

When this letter of [warning](#) about [China](#) from Aurobindo was shown to US President, JF Kennedy by Sudhir Ghosh, Nehru's emissary, the president was amazed that it came from a sage who had not stepped out of his room on the first floor of the Ashram at Pondicherry for 24 years. "Ten years later, [China](#) started attacking India's borders- now manned (earlier un-manned) and in 1962 [China](#) launched a full-fledged [attack](#) on India. A helpless India sought US support. [China](#) withdrew but [held](#) on to the Aksai Chin which the British had left for India for the strategic reason of protecting the buffer status of Tibet. In 1963, Mao announced his nuclear policy saying [China](#) refused to be bullied by any power and would go nuclear. All these developments shattered his policy premises and a heart broken Nehru died two years later," said Dr [Dutta](#).

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