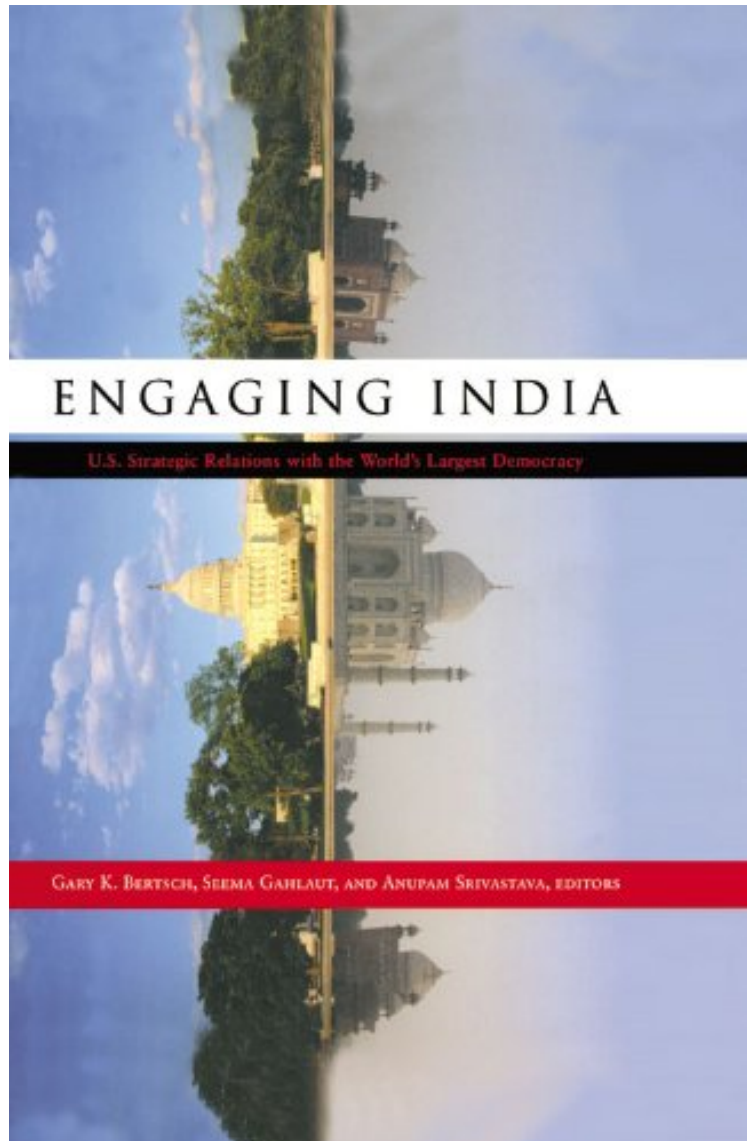


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# Engaging India: U.S. Strategic Relations with the World's Largest Democracy

Von Gary Bertsch, Seema Gahlaut, Anupam Srivastava  
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Von Gary Bertsch, Seema Gahlaut, Anupam Srivastava : **Engaging India: U.S. Strategic Relations with the World's Largest Democracy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Engaging India: U.S. Strategic Relations with the World's Largest Democracy:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Engaging India: A very "engaging" collectionVon CustomerEngaging India is an apt name for a collection of

foreignpolicy essays about the world's two largest democracies since the book, as a whole, delivers successfully on all four interpretations of its title. Its first and most obvious interpretation was employed by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, when she presented the newly published book to the Indian External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh on his recent visit to the US on 28 September, 1999 and commented "Shall we ... [re-engage India in bilateral talks]?" Even before the embers from Pokhara II had died down, the Indian administration had shown its willingness to bring US to the diplomatic table. Not much has been accomplished, however, given the disparate views the two nations have about their strategic interests. The US feels that the members of the G5-and no other nation-have a quasi-birthright to develop a nuclear armament. India vociferously disagrees, citing China and Pakistan as perceived threats and believes that non-proliferation should either be across the board, or not at all. A large segment of the Indian population, especially the BJP government that conducted the tests, feels that India's docile past has weakened its strategic and security interests. However, both India and the US agree upon the imperative need to institutionalize control measures that would ensure peace and harmony in western Asia and avoid an arms race with Pakistan-an eventuality that can seriously disrupt the thin balance of power in that area and empower the Islamic fundamentalists. Several essays in this collection are devoted to threshing out the dynamics that govern these issues. The essays discuss in great detail the primary reasons why the US finds India so "engaging" or appealing-its developing defense arsenal. Indo-US relations have been traced from the Sino-Indian conflict in the sixties, through the Cold War era, to the present day. Besides Indo-US strategic concerns, the book also explores the need and prospects for Indo-US cooperation that is needed to develop and control technology for both peaceful and defense purposes. Although the imperatives dictating nuclear safety, energy, and space are discussed in substantial detail, the primary focus of the essays are the weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological and toxic), their mode of deployment, and the main issues surrounding non-proliferation export control measures like the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). A separate section addressing the regional issues surrounding Indian, Chinese, Pakistani, and Russian strategic viewpoints adds to the overall perspective. The title's third interpretation, as in when you "engage" or take on someone you realize that nothing more than an introductory hand-shake has been accomplished has been highlighted successfully in these essays. Yes, both India and US seem to have begun a new era of negotiations-but that's all it is-just a beginning. Given their diplomatic past, there is no saying what the outcome would be; unless both parties are equally prudent, diplomatically amenable, and less dictatorial about the terms and conditions of an alliance, this new "era" can easily die an early death. The title's fourth interpretation-as in an "engagement" prior to a marriage-is discussed in detail in the earlier sections of the book. A closer look at the US and India reveals them as not unlike a human couple. Like their human counterparts, they have many things in common-both are powerful, democratic, practice freedom of speech, participate in relatively free international trade, and boast a free market. Their differences are equally stark- neither will compromise when it comes to strategically protecting its boundaries from any perceived threats, even when the other finds its reasoning far-fetched. For instance, the CTBT died an early death because the US could not bring itself to ratify it; similarly, India consistently maintains that when it comes to weaponization and non-proliferation, "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." Their psychological similarity has often been dubbed the "mirror-image" effect in the sense that the US finds negotiating with India so difficult because India is its mirror-image on the negotiating table. Their similar strategic goals redoubles the need for healthy diplomatic ties between them since diplomacy can be reasonably thought of as the primary vehicle with which two countries communicate, or in this case, arbitrate away their differences. Let's just hope that this "engagement" ends in holy matrimony and not a premature divorce. All in all, I found the essays in this collection to be lucid and informative; they were all written in a captivating style that assumed little or no background, yet the essays managed to take the reader in to the depths of their ideas without getting too bogged down by technical jargon. The book provides an excellent summarization of the main issues surrounding Indo-US Strategic Relations although an essay that covered their industrial and economic aspects could have made it stronger, especially since a sound strategic alliance is often considered a necessary prelude to a sound economic relationship. For instance, India's booming software industry and the way its huge middle-class of 250 million is being tapped by the American high-tech industries not just as a cheap labor pool but also as a massive consumer group are certainly some other reasons that determine Indo-US relations. An essay that examined how India's trade and other economic interactions with the US has changed over the years and how it influences its current relation would have been quite welcome. I hope their subsequent volumes will elaborate further on the ideas mentioned since a book comprising mere 280 pages cannot be expected to do justice to the complexities inherent in a topic as vast as this. A good starting book for a beginner that also delves deep and makes viable recommendations to the policy makers of both the countries. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Provides some hope for an improvement in relations Von Ein Kunde This book was presented by US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, to the Indian foreign minister, Jaswant Singh, on their recent meeting. The US and India have, for too long, been suspicious of each other. Now that the Cold War is over, both have to re-assess the evolving geopolitics. Pakistan's strategic importance to the US is withering, and Russia no longer fulfills its role of bipolarity. India has a middle-class of 250 million, and the US should seek to capture this market. India has a nuclear

capability but this poses and intends to pose no threat to the US. Rather, her nuclear status exists solely for regional insulation. The prospects for a mutually beneficial strategic and economic relationship between India and the US are there. This book analyses the gains for both sides through engagement, and is written from a positive, but nevertheless, realistic perspective. Let us see what develops, and let us hope that it is good for both sides. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A long overdue analytical approach to Indo-US ties Von bobby shah I obtained a copy of this from the local library, but I definitely would have bought it if .com was my only exposure to it. It is a great analysis of the contemporary issues facing both countries. Given the recent paradigm shift in the world order, it is vital that all countries maximise their self-interest, even when this means forming new partnerships. The book carefully weighs up the obstacles and geopolitical commonality of the two countries. The book leaves the reader with a distinct impression that it is perfectly feasible for the two countries to form a long-lasting partnership, without negating existing relationships which, on the face of it, may seem to be in conflict with such a partnership.

Kurzbeschreibung Recent nuclear tests in India and Pakistan make it clear that the US can no longer continue a policy of "benign neglect" toward India. This book engages the key issues for nonproliferation and foreign policy that affect Indo-American relations. It addresses under-explored areas such as missile control and space cooperation, chemical and biological weapons, and the use of sanctions versus incentives. This book goes beyond historical analysis to offer practical recommendations for policymakers in both countries. Pressestimmen "Blending history with analysis of current affairs and future dilemmas, these essays provide a clear picture of the perceptual, political, legislative and bureaucratic hurdles that the U.S. and India must negotiate if they are to build a relationship befitting the world's largest democracies." -George Perkovich, Director, Secure World Program, W. Alton Jones Foundation and author of "India's Nuclear Bomb" "Engaging India is indeed a timely and significant volume, which puts together a wide array of scholarship and analysis on several crucial aspects of the relationship between India and the United States. It is important that a book on this subject be an intelligent appreciation of facts, various views and differing standpoints. "Engaging India does this expertly and is a creditable achievement." -Naresh Chandra, Ambassador of India to the United States "In "Engaging India, a well-informed group of authors provide broad insight into India's relations with the rest of the world in the shadow of India's 1998 nuclear tests. This book should be read by anyone who wants to understand how these relations developed and where they are headed." -Clifford E. Singer, Director, Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Kurzbeschreibung Recent nuclear tests in India and Pakistan make it clear that the US can no longer continue a policy of "benign neglect" toward India. This book engages the key issues for nonproliferation and foreign policy that affect Indo-American relations. It addresses under-explored areas such as missile control and space cooperation, chemical and biological weapons, and the use of sanctions versus incentives. This book goes beyond historical analysis to offer practical recommendations for policymakers in both countries.