
THE EU IN THE HIMALAYAS: ANALYZING THE EUROPEAN UNION'S ROLE IN POST-CONFLICT NEPAL



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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EU & NEPAL

- Established in 1973
- Based on fundamental principles: “to achieve peace, stability, democracy, human rights and prosperity”
- EU – one of the biggest providers of development aid to Nepal

THE NEPALESE CIVIL WAR

- 1994: Launching of the “People’s War” by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists)
- 2002: The monarch, King Gyanendra, dismisses civilian government
- 2005: Consolidation of absolute monarchy
 - The EU suspends development activities
- 2006: King hands back power to civilian government under domestic and international pressure
- Maoists join mainstream politics

A NEW POLITICAL REALITY

- 2008: Abolishment of the monarchy; signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
- Constituent Assembly elections; operation under an interim constitution
- Emphasis on republicanism, federalism, secularism and inclusive democracy
- But, no historical roots of any of the aforementioned attributes in Nepal

POST-CONFLICT RECONCILIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

- Emphasis on capacity building and empowering marginalized communities
- Support for Nepal Peace Trust Fund and the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
- Monitoring of the first Constituent Assembly in 2008
 - EU Election Observation Mission
 - Technical support

PEACE THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

- EU-Nepal Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013
 - Education (Human rights, conflict prevention, and good governance)
 - Stability and peace building
 - Trade facilitation and economic capacity building
 - Commitment of €120 million
- Multiannual Indicative Program (MIP) 2014-2020:
 - Sustainable rural development
 - Education
 - Democracy and decentralization
 - Commitment of €360 million

EU cooperation to Nepal



TOWARDS A DECENTRALIZED STATE

- Second Constituent Assembly elections in Nepal (2013)
 - European Union Election Observation Mission : 112 observers from 27 EU member states
- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
 - Since 2003, funded over 90 human rights projects
 - Addresses discrimination

THE EU'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TOWARDS NEPAL

- Focused on human capacity building and promotion of democratic values
- Emphasis on multiparty democracy and non-violent conflict resolution
- Promotion of education and sustainable development in rural areas
- Inclusion of marginalized communities

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