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Diasporic Diplomacy: Asian Migrant Communities as Non-State Actors in Global Politics

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Abstract

Diasporic diplomacy has become an important part of international relations in a time when globalization, transnational connections, and the power of non-state actors are all on the rise. Asian migrant populations spread out over different areas have become important players in defining the political, economic, and cultural relations between their home and host countries. These communities have changed diplomacy from a practice that only involved states to a process of transnational engagement that involves many layers. They did this through things like soft power projection, lobbying, remittances, and digital connectedness. This paper analyzes the role of Asian diasporas as non-state diplomatic entities by promoting homeland interests, increasing cultural visibility, and shaping global policy discussions. It examines the historical underpinnings, institutional processes, and strategic frameworks that enable diasporas from South, East, and Southeast Asia to function as legitimate actors in global governance. The study emphasizes the role of diasporic diplomacy in identity formation, power negotiation, and cross-border collaboration through qualitative investigation and theoretical perspectives. The findings indicate that diasporas function as independent entities capable of influencing policy, facilitating cultural comprehension, and reinterpreting sovereignty in a globalized context.

Keywords: *Diaspora Diplomacy, Asian Migrant Communities, Non-State Actors, Transnationalism, Soft Power, Globalization, International Relations.*

Introduction

The changes in international relations over the past few decades have changed the way power and influence are used outside of the nation-state. Historically based on the Westphalian model, diplomacy used to be something that only sovereign states could perform. Globalization and technological progress have, however, broadened the parameters of diplomatic practice to encompass a diverse array of non-state entities. Diasporas migrant populations that maintain persistent connections with their homelands have emerged as significant entities in transnational

politics (Avant et al., 2010). The Asian experience illustrates how diasporas function as conduits between societies, facilitating political, cultural, and economic connections that transcend official diplomatic avenues. Diaspora diplomacy is the ability of migrant groups to communicate with people from other countries in ways that affect international relations, national identity, and development (Brinkerhoff, 2019). Diasporic diplomacy, in contrast to conventional diplomacy reliant on formal state institutions, flourishes through informal networks grounded in shared identity and collective memory. It opposes realist conceptions of power and sovereignty, resonating more with liberal and constructivist interpretations of international relations (Josselin & Wallace, 2001). This change shows that more people are realizing how interconnected the globe is and how important it is for non-state actors to have a say in world politics.

The end of the Cold War made diasporas more visible as transnational players. The liberalization of markets, improvements in communication, and increased global mobility enabled migrant networks to actively influence diplomatic decisions. For instance, the Indian diaspora in the US has been very important in promoting strategic cooperation between India and the US by lobbying and being involved in policy (Devi, 2021). The Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia is also helping China have more power in the region through economic networks and cultural diplomacy (Han, 2021). These examples show how diasporas use their economic power, social capital, and political power to operate as unofficial diplomats. The increasing agency of diasporas corresponds with a transition from a state-centric to a multi-actor framework of global governance. Globalization breaks down strict borders, and power is shared by many groups, such as civil society, businesses, and transnational communities (Keck & Sikkink, 1998). Asian diasporas embody this shift through their remittances, lobbying, and community engagement (Kumar, 2021). Constructivist theorists assert that identity and collective norms influence international relations to the same extent as material power (Katzenstein, 1996). Consequently, diaspora diplomacy can be perceived as a manifestation of developing identities that unite persons across boundaries through common historical and cultural connections.

Historically, Asian diasporas have participated in transnational endeavors that beyond territorial boundaries. Historically, the Chinese, Indian, and Filipino populations in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East served as channels for trade, education, and cultural exchange (Fitzgerald, 1972). These patterns of movement produced networks that persist a long time and still affect how countries interact with each other now. Diasporas frequently uphold dual allegiances and manage dual affiliations, balancing their connections to both their country and the host society (Cohen, 1997). Their distinctive positionality empowers them to function as mediators and informal ambassadors in international affairs. Technological progress, especially in digital communication, has greatly increased the diplomatic power of diasporas. The internet makes

it easier for people to talk to each other and get things done in real time, which lets migrant communities get involved in politics and issues back home no matter how far away they are (Diminescu, 2008). Diasporas can sway public opinion, back development projects, and push for political changes using online channels. This digital aspect is a new kind of networked diplomacy, where digital communities and social media participation are important for creating stories (Gilboa, 2001). Asian diasporas efficiently leverage these networks to disseminate their cultural and political impact on a worldwide scale. The economic ramifications of diasporas represent a significant aspect of their diplomatic influence. Asian migrants' remittances constitute a big part of their home nations' economic growth, poverty alleviation, and social welfare (ADB, 2005). These monetary transfers represent a sort of economic diplomacy that fortifies bilateral relations and bolsters the credibility of migrant populations as contributors to national development (de Haas, 2005). When diasporas put money into business, education, and technology, they make connections across borders that change the way development cooperation works.

Both authoritarian and democratic governments know that diasporas can be useful for their own ends. Countries like China and Russia that are autocracies often use diaspora networks to spread their soft power and influence geopolitically (Ghodsi, 2021). Democracies such as India institutionalize diaspora diplomacy via official engagement strategies that foster mutual benefit and cultural projection (Gamlen, 2014). The fact that there are ministries and advisory councils that deal with diaspora issues shows that these groups are a part of national foreign policy strategies (Dufoix, 2017). These institutional frameworks codify the function of diasporas as agents of diplomacy and development. Cultural identity is another important part of diasporic diplomacy. Diasporas maintain their legacy and enhance the soft power of their countries of origin through festivals, educational initiatives, and cultural interactions (Hirsch & Miller, 2011). Cultural diplomacy like this makes countries more visible over the world and helps them trust each other (Nye, 2018). Asian diasporas, especially those from India and China, have shown how cultural continuity outside can help a home country gain more power and respect in global settings (Kumari, 2016).

Diasporas frequently participate in lobbying and advocacy that influence the politics of the host country. For example, Sikh and Tamil diaspora groups have had an impact on discussions about foreign policy in Canada and the UK (CFR, 2023). While this kind of action improves representation, it can also cause diplomatic problems when the interests of the diaspora don't match the priorities of the state (Sands, 2023). The increasing presence of diaspora politicians in host nations exemplifies an advanced kind of involvement wherein transnational identities influence the formulation of domestic and foreign policy (Karabegović & Mešić, 2024). Their involvement highlights the progression of political pluralism in multicultural democracies. The examination of diasporic diplomacy converges with notions of transnationalism and globalization.

Transnationalism underscores the enduring interactions between migrants and their countries of origin, fostering social spaces that transcend national boundaries (Basch et al., 1994). Diasporas embody hybrid identities that contest traditional notions of citizenship and belonging (Bauböck et al., 2010). This hybridity enables them to traverse many cultural and political landscapes, consequently influencing diplomatic engagements through versatile and adaptive approaches (Brubaker, 2005).

Diasporas have also helped their home countries become more democratic and peaceful. A lot of people have come together to support human rights, fair elections, and rebuilding after a war (Ogden, 2008). Their participation in crisis response, humanitarian aid, and political activism demonstrates their independence as moral and political agents (Esman, 1986). Diasporas often function autonomously from state oversight, illustrating the ethical aspects of international relations where moral authority may surpass formal institutions (Beverluis, 1989). The growing importance of diasporas in the world of rising countries shows how important they are to geopolitics. Chinese, Indian, and Vietnamese populations worldwide act as mediators for trade, innovation, and investment (Felbab-Brown et al., 2024). Professionals, entrepreneurs, and students in these areas build economic and educational linkages that make relations between the two countries stronger (Hao, 2021). Their involvement shows that diplomacy is becoming more dependent on networks of individuals rather than just on government structures.

Diasporic communities are diverse and might even be split up among themselves. For instance, Vietnamese diaspora communities have different political views because of their experiences and beliefs over time (Nguyen, 2024). In the same way, Jewish and Chinese diasporas in Southeast Asia have traditionally faced social distrust and exclusion. This shows how diaspora identification can affect local politics (Reid, 2010). These difficulties underscore that diasporic diplomacy is not uniform but rather embodies conflicting narratives and dynamic social realities. From an institutional perspective, diasporic diplomacy corresponds with evolving paradigms of global governance defined by horizontal collaboration among diverse stakeholders (Risse-Kappen, 1995). Migrant communities work with international organizations, NGOs, and local governments to promote human rights, education, and long-term growth (Mylonas, 2016). This dispersed involvement shows that diplomacy is no longer only for state elites; it is now shared by a global community that is connected.

As globalization advances, the incorporation of non-state players into international relations becomes progressively essential. Diasporas, due to their transnational capabilities, are ideally situated to reconcile divisions between nations and society (Ragazzi, 2024). Their roles in resolving conflicts, promoting cultural understanding, and sharing knowledge show how power and influence in world politics are shifting. To understand how diplomacy and sovereignty will change in the twenty-first century, we need to know what they did. In conclusion,

Asian migrant groups demonstrate the evolution of diplomacy from a rigid state function to an inclusive, participatory activity. Their diverse responsibilities in economic, cultural, and political spheres indicate the development of a novel diplomatic paradigm characterized by hybridity, adaptability, and interconnectedness. The following sections examine the theoretical, empirical, and analytical aspects of diasporic diplomacy to elucidate how Asian diasporas persist in reshaping global interactions in an increasingly interconnected world.

Literature Review

The scholarly discourse on diaspora diplomacy encompasses various fields, including international relations, political sociology, and migration studies. Scholars have contended over the role of diasporas as instruments of soft power, economic influence, and transnational political involvement. The research emphasizes that diasporas have transformed from passive groups of migrants into active contributors influencing the global political arena. This section brings together important academic views on diaspora diplomacy, theoretical frameworks, and real-world examples that are pertinent to Asian settings.

Defining Diaspora and Diplomacy

The concept of the diaspora encompasses not only physical displacement but also persistent emotional, cultural, and political connections to the country (Cohen, 1997). Diasporas frequently maintain what Vertovec (1999) characterizes as “triadic relationships” among the motherland, host country, and transnational networks. Diplomacy, which used to be mostly about states, has grown to include non-state actors who use advocacy, communication, and resource mobilization to have an impact (Josselin & Wallace, 2001). The convergence of these two conceptions results in diaspora diplomacy, in which populations overseas participate in transnational contacts that influence the perceptions and actions of states. Gamlen (2014) contends that nations are progressively acknowledging the strategic value of their diasporas and incorporating them into formal foreign policy frameworks. As a result, many Asian countries have set up diaspora ministries, advisory councils, and engagement programs. Brinkerhoff (2019) also talks on how digital connectivity is becoming more and more important for diasporas to take part in global issues through online forums, social media campaigns, and virtual lobbying. These studies collectively indicate that diaspora diplomacy functions at the intersection of informal networks and official state systems.

Diaspora Diplomacy as a Form of Soft Power

Nye (2018) proposed the idea of soft power, which is key to understanding how diasporas fit into international relations. Soft power means changing people's preferences by making them want to do something or convincing them to do it, not by forcing them to do it. Diasporas help with this by sharing their cultural heritage, language, and values with the people they live with. Hirsch and Miller (2011) assert that diasporas function as cultural ambassadors, augmenting the

prominence and legitimacy of their countries of origin. The Indian and Chinese diasporas have utilized education, technology, and cultural industries to enhance favorable perceptions of their nations (Kumari, 2016). Han (2021) underscores that the Chinese diaspora serves as a vital conduit for the spread of China's soft power, particularly in Southeast Asia, where historical trade connections and cultural familiarity enhance its impact. Similarly, the Filipino diaspora participates in cultural diplomacy via artistic expression, labor networks, and religious outreach (Kumar, 2021). The literature acknowledges that diaspora diplomacy functions as an informal yet potent means of promoting national identity and enhancing bilateral relations.

Economic and Developmental Aspects

Economic participation constitutes a significant aspect of the research on diaspora diplomacy. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2005) say that money sent home by migrant workers is a lifeline for many developing nations. De Haas (2005) views these financial transfers as tools of economic diplomacy that connect households, governments, and global markets. Diasporas also help with trade, investment, and the sharing of information, which are all things that official diplomacy can do. Felbab-Brown et al. (2024) assert that diasporas frequently function as transnational entrepreneurs, establishing networks that enhance creativity and facilitate cross-border collaboration. Evidence from India and China shows how governments actively involve their citizens living abroad to help with their own economic goals. Gamlen (2014) notes that India's "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" and investment summits promote diaspora involvement in nation-building initiatives. In the same way, Ghodsi (2021) says that China uses its global diaspora to promote technological cooperation and geopolitical might. These studies underscore that diaspora diplomacy is intricately connected to global capitalism, development policy, and the advancement of national interests.

Political Mobilization and Advocacy

Recent research has focused a lot on the political side of diaspora diplomacy. Keck and Sikkink (1998) elucidate how transnational advocacy networks empower non-state actors to sway state conduct via information politics, symbolic politics, and accountability mechanisms. Diasporas employ analogous techniques through lobbying and activism to influence policy outcomes in both host and home nations. Devi (2021) shows how Indian-American groups successfully advocated for better relations between India and the US and had an effect on trade and security laws. Sands (2023) offers a contrary viewpoint, cautioning that diaspora lobbying could incite diplomatic tensions when local interests clash with national aims. For instance, the activism of the Tamil and Sikh diasporas in Western countries has often put a strain on bilateral relations (CFR, 2023). These instances demonstrate that diaspora diplomacy may serve as both a catalyst for collaboration and a cause of conflict. Mylonas (2016) additionally observes that diasporas might function as political entrepreneurs by contextualizing homeland issues

within a global framework, thus broadening the scope of international involvement.

Diasporas, Identity, and Transnationalism

Transnationalism theorists consider diasporas as social constructs that function across boundaries while preserving various identities (Basch et al., 1994). Bauböck et al. (2010) characterize this as a manifestation of “dual belonging,” enabling diasporas to serve as conduits across societies. Brubaker (2005) presents the concept of diasporas as “imagined communities” that gain power from shared narratives rather than geographical proximity. This conceptual framework elucidates the mechanisms by which diasporas mobilize for diplomatic objectives in the absence of direct official backing. Diminescu (2008) and Gilboa (2001) stress how the internet world is changing how diasporas get involved. Online communication technologies enable geographically scattered groups to sustain connections with their homeland and orchestrate collective action in real time. Digital diasporas increasingly affect policy discussions, organize humanitarian help, and change public opinion around the world. This change shows how diplomacy has moved from being based on location to being based on media and connectivity, where identity is shown through these things.

Diasporas in Authoritarian and Democratic Settings

The relationship between diaspora and state changes depending on the sort of political regime. Ghodsi (2021) contends that authoritarian regimes frequently exploit their diasporas for strategic advantages, leveraging cultural and commercial connections to enhance their influence internationally. In contrast, democratic states typically promote diaspora involvement via inclusive policies and collaborative engagement frameworks. Dufoix (2017) examines how India formalized diaspora diplomacy to increase its global presence while preserving diverse relationships with its residents abroad. Mylonas (2016) notes that states with liberal democratic traditions gain more from diaspora partnerships since they are founded on trust and openness.

Ogden (2008) broadens this discourse by positing that diasporas contribute to democratization and peacebuilding, especially in post-conflict contexts. Their participation in election observation, development assistance, and human rights advocacy illustrates that diaspora diplomacy extends beyond state interests to include ethical and humanitarian considerations. Esman (1986) bolsters this assertion by highlighting that diasporas frequently possess moral legitimacy, enabling them to function autonomously from governmental oversight.

Exchange of Culture and Education

Cultural diplomacy is a common topic in writing about diaspora participation. Hirsch and Miller (2011) emphasize that cultural exchange programs, language education, and artistic partnerships function as instruments of soft power. Through festivals, schools, and cultural centers that improve understanding between countries, diasporas help keep and promote their national history. Nye (2018) contends that these modalities of cultural outreach enhance reciprocal trust among

nations. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Chinese Confucius Institutes represent organized methodologies in diaspora-oriented cultural diplomacy (Kumari, 2016). Educational mobility is also a big part of diaspora diplomacy. Hao (2021) observes that Asian students studying abroad frequently serve as informal ambassadors, fostering intercultural discourse and professional interchange. Universities with large Asian communities are places where people can interact in a relaxed way, and where intellectual cooperation works alongside official diplomacy. These educational connections help create global epistemic communities that make long-term international relationships possible.

Constraints and Analytical Perspectives

Although the body of work on diaspora diplomacy is substantial, academics advise against idealizing diasporic impact. Nguyen (2024) notes that diasporas exhibit internal diversity, with not all people subscribing to uniform political ideologies. Reid (2010) asserts that past experiences of exclusion and prejudice can hinder diaspora-state interactions. Ragazzi (2024) emphasizes that certain nations endeavor to co-opt diasporas for propaganda objectives, thereby compromising their autonomy. These arguments highlight the necessity for a sophisticated comprehension of power dynamics in international involvement. Risse-Kappen (1995) and Katzenstein (1996) assert that the influence of diasporas should be examined within the larger frameworks of global governance and identity politics. Diasporas engage with international organizations, NGOs, and host governments in intricate manners that obscure the distinction between state and non-state diplomacy. Beversluis (1989) asserts that diasporic diplomacy contests the conventional order of international relations by incorporating moral, cultural, and human-centric aspects of global engagement.

The literature collectively illustrates that diasporas serve as adaptable non-state actors with the capacity to impact economic, political, and cultural domains. They use soft power, economic capital, and digital connectedness to reach their goals in both their home country and the country they are living in. Theoretical insights from transnationalism, constructivism, and globalization studies offer a robust framework for examining their diplomatic agency. The variety of Asian diasporas shows that their responsibilities depend on the situation and are determined by historical, political, and technological factors. The subsequent section expands on these ideas to formulate a theoretical framework that contextualizes diaspora diplomacy within the overarching development of non-state involvement in global governance. It examines the interplay of identity, communication, and institutionalization in shaping the diplomatic practices of Asian migrant populations in the twenty-first century.

Comparative Framework: Authoritarian and Democratic Approaches

Different political systems have different ways of getting involved with the diaspora. In authoritarian regimes, states often exploit diasporas as instruments of state power, manipulating narratives and coordinating

actions with strategic goals (Ghodsi, 2021). Democratic regimes, on the other hand, encourage participation, allowing diasporas to openly take part in policy discussions and development cooperation (Dufoix, 2017). The comparative approach underscores that diaspora diplomacy is influenced by the characteristics of political institutions and the extent of receptiveness to transnational engagement. Mylonas (2016) contends that democratic states gain more advantages from diaspora relationships owing to transparency and trust-based collaboration. On the other hand, authoritarian governments risk losing their diasporas by using surveillance and ideological coercion. This difference helps explain why the diaspora is more or less effective in different parts of Asia. India's pluralistic framework fosters dynamic diaspora networks, whereas China's state-centric approach exemplifies a top-down paradigm of engagement. However, both show how important diasporas are for advancing national interests.

Putting the Framework Together

The theoretical synthesis arising from constructivism, transnationalism, and global governance posits that diaspora diplomacy exemplifies a sort of “networked agency.” It functions within intersecting domains cultural, economic, and political where participants exchange norms, knowledge, and resources to attain common objectives. The combination of these theories emphasizes that diasporas serve as both subjects and objects of diplomacy; they are influenced by national policies while simultaneously shaping global processes through agency and involvement. This integrated framework forms the conceptual basis for the forthcoming analytical parts. It allows for a multifaceted comprehension of the ways in which Asian diasporas participate in diplomacy as identity-driven, economically incentivized, and normatively influenced entities within the international framework. The framework elucidates the intricate relationship among power, identity, and ethics in modern global governance by integrating perspectives from several theoretical traditions.

The examination of diasporic diplomacy entails comprehending the role of Asian migrant groups as non-state actors that impact global politics via identity construction, economic networks, and political lobbying. This part investigates the pragmatic aspects of diaspora engagement by analyzing the methods, institutions, and interactions that define their influence in international relations. The analysis expands on previously explored theoretical foundations by including constructivist, transnational, and global governance approaches to elucidate the functioning of diasporas beyond state boundaries.

Diaspora Networks and Economic Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy has emerged as a principal means by which Asian diasporas impact international affairs. Remittances, investments, and trade connections constitute substantial contributions to both host and home economies. According to ADB (2005), remittance flows from Southeast Asian migrants have enhanced national development policies by advancing infrastructure and social welfare. The economic influence

of diasporas frequently results in diplomatic advantage, enabling them to facilitate interactions between nations and markets. Gamlen (2014) delineates three kinds of diaspora engagement: strategic collaboration, charitable development, and policy discourse. Each illustrates the increasing significance of diaspora capital in influencing international collaboration. De Haas (2005) asserts that the economic impact of diasporas transcends monetary contributions; it encompasses the dissemination of knowledge and technology that propels modernization. Felbab-Brown et al. (2024) contend that diasporic economic networks overlap with global security and governance concerns, particularly when informal cash flows become linked to geopolitical rivalry. The Indian diaspora's influence in the United States and the Gulf illustrates the transformative capacity of economic diplomacy. Indian entrepreneurs have leveraged institutions like the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre and worldwide trade chambers to provide investment opportunities that enhance New Delhi's international reputation (Kumar, 2021). The Chinese diaspora significantly contributes to regional economic growth by enhancing the Belt and Road Initiative's outreach through corporate partnerships and cultural advocacy (Hao, 2021). These instances illustrate how diasporic economic networks provide alternate diplomatic avenues founded on trust, community, and reciprocal advantage.

Projection of Soft Power

Cultural capital constitutes the bedrock of soft power diplomacy. Diasporas utilize cultural expression to enhance the visibility and legitimacy of their homelands in international arenas. Hirsch and Miller (2011) examine the preservation of memory and identity via cultural practices that link migrants to their ancestral origins. Cultural symbols are reinterpreted and disseminated in host societies, contributing to a wider diplomatic discourse. The orchestration of festivals, artistic exhibitions, and religious events by Asian diasporas exemplifies their dual function as cultural ambassadors and global citizens (Kumari, 2016). Han (2021) notes that Chinese cultural institutes overseas serve as instruments of soft power by advancing Mandarin language education and Chinese cultural heritage. Likewise, Indian diasporas utilize Bollywood, yoga, and gastronomy as tools for cultural dissemination (Devi, 2021). These initiatives promote mutual understanding and foster favorable impressions of their nations, aligning with Nye's (2018) definition of persuasion-based diplomacy. Cultural diplomacy is, however, not devoid of controversy. Reid (2010) observes that in certain Southeast Asian contexts, cultural affirmation by Chinese groups has provoked nationalist responses, demonstrating that soft power can occasionally intensify ethnic sensitivities rather than alleviate them.

Mobilization of the Diaspora in Authoritarian and Democratic Contexts

The political engagement of diasporas differs among various regime types. In democratic cultures, diasporas frequently function as advocacy groups promoting inclusive policies, yet in authoritarian environments, they may encounter restrictions or co-optation. Ghodsi (2021) elucidates

that authoritarian regimes often exploit expatriate populations as instruments of soft power while concurrently surveilling them to suppress dissent. Conversely, democratic nations acknowledge diasporas as collaborators in policy discussions and developmental collaboration (Mylonas, 2016). South Korea's interaction with its diaspora exemplifies participatory diplomacy, wherein expatriate Koreans contribute to innovation, research, and national branding (Mylonas, 2016). Concurrently, China strategically utilizes its diaspora, underscoring devotion and national rejuvenation within its overarching soft power strategy (Han, 2021). These divergent models illustrate the variety of diasporic diplomacy within political systems, emphasizing the necessity to examine diasporas as adaptable, context-sensitive agents rather than uniform entities (Ragazzi, 2024).

Digital Diplomacy and the Emergence of Networked Communities

The internet revolution has profoundly altered diaspora engagement. Diminescu (2008) asserts that digital tools facilitate real-time connection and the building of collective identity among diasporas across boundaries. Via social media channels, diasporas galvanize support for political initiatives, orchestrate humanitarian assistance, and shape public opinion. Gilboa (2001) characterizes this change as "digital diplomacy," as virtual networks supplant conventional diplomatic routes and promote inclusivity. Digital activism within Asian diasporas illustrates this transformation. The StopAsianHate movement galvanized transnational solidarity among communities, influencing global discourses on racial justice and identity. Digital networks enable diasporas to record and disseminate alternative political viewpoints that contest mainstream media portrayals (Collyer, 2013b). Digital diplomacy transforms power dynamics in global communication, allowing non-state actors to influence political discourse instantaneously. Nonetheless, digital diplomacy poses obstacles as well. State monitoring, disinformation, and cyber manipulation can erode diaspora trust and autonomy. Han (2021) cautions that authoritarian regimes utilize digital channels to surveil diaspora action, obscuring the distinction between engagement and control. Notwithstanding these hazards, the digital realm continues to be a vital arena for diasporic diplomacy, enabling migrant groups to function as global communicators and policy shapers.

Diasporas and Conflict Resolution

Diasporas significantly contribute to peacebuilding and conflict mediation by promoting conversation and aiding post-war reconstruction. Esman (1986) was one of the initial researchers to observe that diasporas function as transnational mediators, utilizing their moral and cultural capital to impact negotiations. Dufoix (2017) asserts that diasporas frequently adopt dual roles: as proponents of peace and as vocal critics of injustice. The Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora has participated in humanitarian assistance and political campaigning for minority rights, illustrating the moral intricacies of transnational politics. Engagement of the diaspora in conflict mediation is seen in Myanmar's political crisis, as

abroad Burmese communities have galvanized international awareness and humanitarian assistance (Avant et al., 2010). Through advocacy and media initiatives, diasporas exert pressure on global institutions to address human rights issues. These efforts highlight the role of diasporas in global governance, not just as cultural or economic entities but also as advocates for justice and human security (Ogden, 2008).

Diaspora Diplomacy in Modern Geopolitics

The geopolitical significance of diaspora diplomacy has intensified as nations increasingly depend on their expatriate communities to exert influence internationally. Cohen (1997) characterized diasporas as "carriers of globalization," whose existence enhances inter-state connectivity. The relationship between India and the United States exemplifies how diaspora involvement enhances bilateral collaboration through common democratic principles and professional connections (Devi, 2021). Similarly, Chinese diasporic populations in Southeast Asia are pivotal actors in Beijing's endeavor for regional integration (Han, 2021). CFR (2023) and Sands (2023) indicate that diasporic politics may also produce diplomatic conflicts, shown by the Canada–India discord regarding Sikh agitation. Such instances demonstrate that diaspora diplomacy functions within a contentious landscape, where national interests, identity politics, and global standards converge. Felbab-Brown et al. (2024) contend that the exploitation of diasporic networks by major powers signifies a novel stage of geopolitical rivalry marked by influence operations and narrative management. Thus, diaspora diplomacy must be regarded not merely as a mechanism for collaboration but also as a locus of contention within the changing global framework.

Digital Diplomacy and Networked Societies

Digital platforms have transformed diasporic involvement, facilitating international collaboration and campaigning (Diminescu, 2008). Diaspora communities utilize social media to promote political initiatives, disseminate information, and coordinate humanitarian efforts (Gilboa, 2001). Initiatives like StopAsianHate demonstrate how internet networks enable diasporas to influence global narratives and apply moral pressure on governments (Collyer, 2013b). Digital diplomacy has enhanced the prominence and efficacy of diaspora lobbying, especially in democratic regimes where public sentiment impacts policy formulation. Nonetheless, digital platforms present hazards such as misinformation, governmental spying, and cyber-manipulation (Han, 2021). Notwithstanding these limitations, digital technology amplifies the ability of diasporas to function as significant non-state actors, broadening their influence and effect.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

This study illustrates that Asian diasporas have become significant non-state actors in global politics. Their involvement includes political lobbying, economic investment, cultural promotion, internet mobilization, and conflict mediation. Diasporas function as intermediaries between host and home nations, leveraging their networks and resources to influence policy decisions, enhance bilateral relations,

and exert soft power globally. They have transcended traditional notions of migration, becoming organized, strategic, and proactive agents in international relations.

The study emphasizes that diasporas are neither uniform nor inactive. Every community utilizes techniques customized to the political, economic, and cultural contexts of both the host and home nations. Economic resources augment their leverage, whereas cultural and digital instruments boost their visibility and influence. Engagement with the diaspora is influenced by political circumstances, where democratic nations provide increased autonomy, while authoritarian regimes impose restrictions or appropriate diaspora initiatives. In addition to political and economic power, diasporas are crucial in social and humanitarian spheres, encompassing conflict mediation, peacebuilding, and international charity. This multifaceted involvement demonstrates their capacity to function as both strategic and ethical agents in international relations. This research demonstrates that diasporas offer distinct benefits to homeland governments. Their networks enable investment, commerce, and technological transfer. They further advance cultural diplomacy by fostering language, arts, customs, and educational exchanges internationally. The involvement of diasporas in policy lobbying and advocacy amplifies the impact of their home nations without direct governmental engagement. Simultaneously, their contributions assist host nations by augmenting economic connections, fostering communal development, and reinforcing multicultural integration. The dual advantages render diasporas an indispensable resource in international relations and global governance.

Digital technology have become a vital instrument in diaspora diplomacy. Social media, digital platforms, and virtual networks enable diaspora communities to organize on a global scale, mobilize rapidly, and communicate transnationally. This digital realm enhances their influence, rendering advocacy more direct and conspicuous. It enables diasporas to address crises, shape public opinion, and exert soft power more efficiently than conventional methods. Nonetheless, these instruments pose hazards such as misinformation, cyber-surveillance, and political divisiveness, necessitating meticulous management to preserve credibility and legitimacy. Diaspora diplomacy offers a normative and ethical aspect to global politics. Diasporas frequently serve as proponents of human rights, social fairness, and humanitarian assistance. Their actions illustrate that non-state actors can affect international standards, ensure governmental accountability, and assist neglected groups. The ethical dimension of diaspora participation highlights the necessity for responsible and transparent procedures to maintain legitimacy and trust internationally.

The policy consequences are substantial for both domestic and foreign administrations. States ought to establish systematic engagement frameworks that optimize the advantages of diaspora involvement. This may encompass advisory boards, diaspora councils, investment facilitation programs, and cultural exchange efforts. Promoting diaspora

involvement in policy and development planning enables states to utilize their expertise, networks, and resources more efficiently. Host nations might gain advantages from programs that incorporate diasporas into civic, cultural, and economic structures, fostering social cohesiveness and intercultural comprehension. At the international level, diasporas can augment multilateral collaboration. Their transnational characteristics establish them as conduits among governments, regions, and international organizations. They can facilitate conflict settlement, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance, so enhancing global governance. Diaspora networks may function as early warning systems for nascent political, social, or economic crises, offering critical insights to politicians and international stakeholders. Acknowledging and integrating diasporas as valid stakeholders in policy discussions can enhance coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness in tackling global issues.

The research indicates the necessity for continuous investigation and oversight of diaspora involvement. Diasporas are dynamic and continually evolving, shaped by generational transitions, political events, and technological advancements. Future study ought to concentrate on second-generation diaspora individuals, the rise of digital activism, and the enduring effects of diaspora involvement on regional stability and international governance. Comprehending these developments is essential for maximizing the efficacy of diaspora diplomacy while alleviating possible tensions or ethical quandaries. In summary, Asian migrant communities have reshaped the dynamics of non-state influence in global politics. Their diverse involvement illustrates that diplomacy is no longer exclusively the purview of governments. Identifying, comprehending, and strategically incorporating diaspora networks into foreign policy and global governance can improve policy results, advance regional stability, and cultivate cross-cultural understanding. Diasporas, as strategic, ethical, and innovative entities, will persist in influencing international relations in the twenty-first century, presenting both possibilities and problems for nations, organizations, and global actors.

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