
**A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON, PRITHVI NARAYAN SHAH: THE ANTI-
IMPERIALIST
(BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND NEPALESE RESPONSE 1743-1775)**

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Abstract

This research article explores the role of Prithvi Narayan Shah as a staunch anti-imperial leader who successfully resisted the British expansionism in South Asia, especially in Nepal. His strategic foresight, diplomatic acumen, and military prowess enabled Nepal to remain independent during the period when most of the Indian subcontinents fell under the British control. This study delves into the British imperialistic ambitions in the 18th century and examines Nepal's vigorously defendant responses under Prithvi Narayan Shah's leadership.

1. Introduction

The mid-18th century witnessed the rapid expansion of British imperialism in the Indian subcontinent. While many regional powers succumbed to colonial rule, Nepal, under the leadership of Prithvi Narayan Shah, managed to consolidate its territory and resisted British influence. Some of the western historians and writers, with biased perspective misinterpreted his role during unification that they portrayed him as a cruel and ruthless ruler and others interpreted his unification process as act of an internal colonization.

If one closely observes the contemporary geopolitics of South Asia, he/she can clearly see that there was parallel internal and external competition to expand the territorial strength in the form of internal unification in Nepal and in the form of British Colonialism in the South. Prithvi Narayan Shah had started the process of unification by annexing scattered small states in order to strengthen the power to check the Colonial Power. On the other hand, the British Empire or the East India Company was swallowing the whole southern Indian plains in the form of colonialism. Regarding the parallel activities of expansion of Nepal and British India, Dhungel and Pun (2009) write that the expansion of the Gorkhas in the hills was running parallel to that of the British in the northern and eastern parts.

During this period of parallel competition and territorial expansion, Nepal and British India confronted in terms of exerting their influence, taxation and the trade issues of the Britishers in Kathmandu valley and through it to the Tibet. To save Nepal from the British imperial policy, Prithvi Narayan Shah as an anti-imperialist, adopted policy of exclusion (Maintaining distance) with the Colonial Power to check the influence of western culture on indigenous traditional culture and the Eastern social values and responded with the policy of expulsion (policy of expelling the foreigners-especially the Europeans). During this phase, there was conflict, resistance and confrontation between Nepal and the British India.

Prithvi Narayan Shah, adopting anti-imperial non-aligned policies and applying appropriate strategies, foregrounded the unification process and saved Nepal from the clutch mighty British Imperial power. This paper aims to analyze the anti-imperialist stance of Prithvi Narayan Shah and Nepal's strategic responses to the British expansionism from 1743 to 1775. The policy of isolation, policy of exclusion and expulsion of Prithvi Narayan Shah along with the Dibya Upadesh and his policies on self-determination and self-sufficiency are interpreted from postcolonial perspective to foreground his anti-imperialistic stance during his rule. Historical-analytical approach and mixed research method is used to measure the anti-Imperialist resistance of Prithvi Narayan Shah.

2. Prithvi Narayan Shah at a Glance

Prithvi Narayan Shah born in 1723 in the Gorkha Kingdom of a small principality in the central hills of present-day Nepal ascended to the throne of Nepal in 1743 after the demise of his father, King Narabhupal Shah. As a ruler, he undertook the ambitious task of unifying various fragmented kingdoms and principalities into a single, powerful nation. His military campaigns, beginning with the conquest of Nuwakot in 1744, set the stage for the eventual establishment of modern Nepal. His leadership was defined by military prowess, diplomatic acumen, and strong governance, allowing him to fortify Nepal against both internal dissent and external threats, particularly from the expanding British East India Company. His military war strategy was so powerful that Captain Kinloch mission of East Asia Company with sophisticated weapons, which was marching toward to Kathmandu valley to assist the king Jayaprakash Malla, was defeated by his Gorilla Attack on November 1767 near Sindhuli Gadhi.

Prithvi Narayan Shah not only started to unify the fragmented kingdoms and principalities known as *Baise Chaubise Rajya* (22nd and 24th states) into a powerful nation on the lap of Himalaya, but also handed over to the future generations the Dibya Upadesh (collections of the noble teachings and lesions) for the long-term existence and prosperity of Nepal. Dibya

Upadesh, the bundle of state policies was not only relevant during unification era but its relevancy is felt in every aspect of national policies in present day Nepal.

Prithvi Narayan Shah is also known for his cultural and economic policies. He emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency and discouraged dependence on foreign powers, which laid the foundation for Nepal's long-standing independence. His governance was deeply influenced by Hindu traditions and principles, which played a crucial role in shaping Nepalese identity and unity. Prithvi Narayan Shah died in Nuwakot in 1775 when he was just 52 years. The process of Unification initiated by Prithvi Narayan Shah was continuously carried out by his successors till the Anglo-Nepalese war of 1814 that ended with the treaty of Sugauli in 1816 which treaty not only forcefully stopped the process of annexation and unification of Nepal but it lost its one third unified territory to the British East India Company as well.

3. Geopolitical Position and Strategic Value

Before interpreting the domestic and foreign policies of Prithvi Narayan Shah, one needs to understand the contemporary geopolitical position of Nepal and the whole political scenario of South Asia. If he closely observes the global historical scenario of mid-18th century he/she can see that the British Colonial expansion was in climax that the whole of South Asian Plain was under the British Colonial control. The British power was marching towards the northern hills to find out the possible trade route to China and Tibet. At that time, Nepal's unique geographic location between two imperial powers—British India to the south and Qing China to the north—gave it immense strategic importance. That is why, Prithvi Narayan Shah defined Nepal's position as a “yam between two stones” and already started to unify the fragmented small principalities into a unified nation strong enough to tackle with the southern British Colonial power. Regarding contemporary geopolitical position Zartman and Rubin (2000) mention “Nepal, sandwiched between China and India, was described by Prithvi Narayan Shah, who unified the small Himalayan principalities into a kingdom in 1769, as a “yam between two boulders” (p.132). This definition clearly shows that King Prithvi Narayan Shah was well known about his geopolitical position and at the same time, was sure that the British was about to climb the northern mountain for its trade route interest to China.

4. Statement of the Problem

Despite extensive research on British imperialism in South Asia, limited focus has been given to Nepal's resistance and Prithvi Narayan Shah's strategic policies. The need for this study arises from the following considerations:

Prithvi Narayan Shah has been variously interpreted by many scholars, writers and historians. His life history, his unification career and his strong policies in Nepal and over the British imperial rulers and so on have been discussed widely in many books and journals. But little attention has been given at Prithvi Narayan Shah as the anti- Imperialist to the British Imperial Power ruling in India. This has been a gap found in this study. Therefore, this study focuses on Prithvi Narayan Shah as a staunch anti- Imperialist to the British imperialism and discusses on his policies and Nepalese strategic response to the imperial power during his rule.

The history of European Imperialism is the history of colonization, territorial expansion, cultural domination and physical or economic control over non-western countries, societies and people. At the same time, it is the history of physical resistance, moral disobedience, struggle for identity and cultural conflicts. This study focuses on the expansionist imperial policy of the British India and Nepal's resistance under Prithvi Narayan Shah during his rule.

The study is relevant for the considerations to interpret the political stand, state policies and resistance of Prithvi Narayan Shah from postcolonial perspective, to analyze the Dibya Upadesh of Prithvi Narayan Shah as a principle to safeguard the Nepalese sovereignty from the British Imperial power and to draw parallels between 18th-century Nepal and other anti-colonial movements of south Asia.

5. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are:

To analyze the geopolitical scenario of Nepal and British India during the mid-18th century.

To explores the role of Prithvi Narayan Shah as a staunch anti-imperialist leader.

To study Prithvi Narayan Shah's policies concerning British imperialism.

To evaluate the impact of Nepal's resistance on British expansionist policies.

To examine the socio-economic and military strategies implemented by Prithvi Narayan Shah.

To interpret Prithvi Narayan Shah's policies and his Dibya Upadesh from Postcolonial Perspective.

To point out the anti-imperialist elements in Prithvi Narayan Shah's words (Dibya Upadesh) and actions (Physical Resistance).

6. Literature Review

Numerous studies discuss British expansion in South Asia, but few emphasize the British imperial impacts on Nepal and its resistance. Some of the studies and researches by Indian and Nepali scholars discuss on the Anglo-Nepalese relations and conflicts. But a Little attention has been paid to Prithvi Narayan Shah's anti-imperial policies and responses to the British imperialism.

Mill (1817) details British colonial policies but lacks insight into Nepal's strategic resistance.

Wright (1877) presents a chronological account of Nepalese history, offering insights into Prithvi Narayan Shah's unification efforts and resistance to British imperialism.

Whelpton (2015) delves into British-Nepalese relations and examines Nepal's resistance strategies.

Liechty (1997) focuses on cultural economy of foreignness and relates its place in the construction of individual, class, and state power in Nepal. He further explores how the persons, ideas, and goods from beyond its borders mean to people in the Kathmandu valley? How were they used, controlled, resisted, or sought after?

Vaidya (2018) details about the unification strategies and activities of Prithvi Narayan Shah.

7. Research Methodology

This study employs a historical-analytical approach, using:

Primary Sources: Official decrees, royal edicts, and British correspondence.

Secondary Sources: Books, journal articles, and historical analyses on Nepalese unification and British imperialism.

Comparative Analysis: Evaluation of Nepal's policies with contemporary anti-imperialist strategies in South Asia.

Postcolonial Perspective: Interpreting Prithvi Narayan Shah's resistance to the British Imperial policy with the policies of isolation, exclusion expulsion and non-alignment.

Mixed Research: Extensive study on the available literature and references available.

8. Impacts and Contributions of Prithvi Narayan Shah

Prithvi Narayan Shah's leadership had a profound impact on Nepal's political, economic, and cultural landscape:

Political Impact: He successfully unified the fragmented kingdoms, creating a strong central governance system that laid the foundation for the modern Nepal.

Military Impact: His guerrilla warfare strategies and military fortifications ensured Nepal's independence from external aggression, particularly British colonial expansion.

Economic Impact: He advocated for self-sufficiency, promoting domestic trade and limiting foreign dependence, which strengthened Nepal's economy.

Cultural Impact: He reinforced Nepalese identity by promoting Hindu traditions and integrating diverse ethnic groups into a cohesive national structure.

Diplomatic Impact: His non-align policy and strategic alliances with Tibet and China safeguarded Nepal's sovereignty and deterred British interference.

9. Prithvi Narayan Shah as an anti- Imperialist to the British Imperialism

The British imperial expansion across South Asia during the 18th century created a seismic transformation of political, economic, and cultural systems throughout the region. While India became the centerpiece of British colonial administration, Nepal—unlike most of its neighbors—retained its formal sovereignty throughout the colonial era. That is why; Nepal's historical experience with British imperialism stands out as an exceptional case in South Asian colonial history that while many neighboring countries experienced full-scale colonization, Nepal retained formal sovereignty.

British presence in South Asia evolved through commercial, military, and administrative domination led by the East India Company. Nepal's military assertiveness under Prithvi Narayan Shah brought it into conflict with British India.

To exclude the outer influence in his sacred Hindu Kingdom, Shah had to execute a strong anti-imperial policy. His policies illustrate a strong anti-imperialist stance that predated the resistance movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. Unlike other South Asian rulers who entered treaties with the British, he proactively curtailed their influence. His success lay in his holistic approach,

integrating military, diplomatic, and economic strategies. His both open resistance to the British Imperial power and strategic non-aligned policies executed to exclude the foreign element from his sacred country established him as anti-imperialist leader of contemporary South Asia.

The East India Company, as its expansionist imperial policy, since its domination over Indian plain, tried to enter into Nepal but Prithvi Narayan Shah as an anti-imperialist, was against the expansionist attitude that he did not let to enter the British into Nepal in any forms or in any guise. He was greatly enthusiastic and alert from the British entrance in Nepal that though in the inspiration of the former Rajas (before annexation of Kathmandu valley) of Nepal, the Britishers tried to enter into Nepal but they were sternly repulsed by his Gorkha troops. Regarding the repulsion of the British Sepoys (armies) in response by the Nepalese troops under Prithvi Narayan Shah, Wright (1877) states:

The two government first came into collision as early as the time of the Gorkha invasion. The former Rajas applied to the British for assistance, and Captain Kinloch with a few companies of Sepoys advanced into the Terai in 1765, but was repulsed by the Gorkha troops. (Wright, D.1877, p.56)

Prithvi Narayan Shah was well known about the expansionist attitude of the British Imperialism that within the short time it had colonized more than hundreds of small kingdoms in the southern plains. That is why; he envisioned the urgent necessity to start the unification process of the scattered small kingdoms and principalities across the northern mountain to make a unified and powerful country, strong enough to tackle with the Mighty British Imperial power, colonizing the southern Indian plain. So, Prithvi Narayan Shah's idea of unification itself was one of the responses to the British Imperialism. Regarding Prithvi Narayan Shah's realization of the geopolitical position of his country and the possible threat of movement of the British power to the northern mountain, Khatri (2021) states:

Prithvi Naryan Shah, in view of what the Colonialists were doing in the south, knew that the British would eventually move from the hot plain of the south to cool hilly places in the north. Obviously, it was a matter of "survival of the fittest" situation for the young King of a small Kingdom of Gorkha. --During the visit, the King spent a good deal of time in studying how the East India Company had been colonizing hundreds of kingdoms of the south one after another over a period of less than hundred years. In the north, Prithvi Narayan continued his unification campaign undeterred (Khatri, U. B. 2021).

As there is always unseen fear from the Imperial power, after laying the foundation of his kingdom of Nepal by integrating a number of small principalities as an independent sovereign nation, Prithvi Narayan Shah adopted the policy of “Non-alignment “ and “Peaceful co-existence”. Realizing this, he kept Nepal aloof and not to entangle with the mighty powers. He thought it better not to come under the influence of imperial power and advised his followers to remain detached from them. He was well aware that one of the characteristic of the British imperialism was to push the occupied and targeted territory in vulnerability with the intention of fulfilling its imperial interests either by physical control or by economic blockade. This vulnerability caused by the landlocked position between the two mighty imperial powers, is imperatively expressed in his Dibya Upadesh. He was well understood about the military strength and sophisticated weapons of the imperialists that he advised his successors not to engage in offensive attack rather prepare for defensive strategy. Regarding Prithvi Narayan Shah’s “Non-aligned” policy, Pradhan (1996) quoting from Leo Rose and Margaratte Fisher (1970) emphasizes:

This kingdom is like a tarul (yam) between the two stones. Great friendship should be maintained with the Chinese emperor. Friendship should be maintained with the imperor beyond the southern seas (the British) Do not engage in offensive attack. Fighting should be conducted, if it is must, on a defensive basis. (Pradhan B. 1996, p.113)

Another imperial policy of European imperialism was to enter into the new territories either in the guise of trade or in the form of other social service to understand the internal dynamics and to trap under its imperial economic policy and colonial domination. Prithvi Narayan Shah was well aware of the British imperial policy that he further responded with the policy of exclusion and expulsion to the Europeans. As an anti-imperialist, he was against import and consumption of foreign products that he not only discouraged reliance on foreign trade, but also promoted domestic production and industry and emphasized on the export-oriented approach. So, he advised to export Nepali herbs to generate wealth within the country. And with the annexation of the Kathmandu valley, he expelled the Capuchin missionaries, the Kashmiri Merchants and the other Firangies (traders) with the view that the foreign traders would make the country a desert by sucking all profits. Regarding his policy of exclusion and expulsion, Pradhan (1996) further adds:

With the annexation of Kathmandu valley, Prithivi Narayan Shah began to execute the policy of exclusion and expulsion of the Europeans at the same time, as he did not want the influence of the foreigners. He expelled the Capuchin missionaries from Nepal. The Kashmiri merchants connected with the Bengal trade was also expelled. He realized that

with the white trade went the white soldiers and their trade soon degenerated into political intrigues. Firangies were driven out of Nepal with the idea that the foreign trade would make the country a desert by sucking all profits (Pradhan, B. 1996, p.114).

Prithvi Narayan Shah's policy of defense of Nepali identity and his policy of opposition to the foreign elements clearly establishes his anti-imperial identity. His act of expulsion of Capuchin missionaries was the clear indication of resistance to the so called "Civilizing Mission" whose hidden intention was spreading Christianity. He was strict on preservation of ancient traditions and practices of Hinduism that in his Dibya Upadesh he has defined Nepal as "Asal Hindusthana". Prithvi Narayan Shah's concept of defining Nepal as "Asal Hindustana" is itself his hatred generated towards the foreign contamination on the ancient local culture in the south. In other words, this concept arose as a way to distinguish Nepal from the Mughal and British-influenced parts of the Indian subcontinent. Regarding the vision of Prithvi Narayan Shah, assuming himself as protector of True Hindu Nation, Liechty (1997) interprets:

Prithvi Narayan's vision of himself as protector of perhaps the last "true Hindustan" is important for a number of reasons. The first is that it established a strong moral distinction between inside (pure) and outside (impure) the valley. As the British encompassed more and more of the subcontinent this distinction only took on greater significance. India became a degenerate land steeped in the ultimate depravity of cow killing and eating...he placed strict controls on merchants and foreign imports, banned dancers, musicians, wrestlers, and other entertainers from Mughal India, (Liechty, M. 1997, p.11)

Prithvi Narayan Shah had taken keen strategic policy of non-alignment and isolationism. Even during the unification, he risks his life greatly and kept his unification process forward seriously after the battle of Sindhuligadhi. He knew that westerners (East India Company) has already entered into Nepal in the guise of health workers and priests to different parts including Kathmandu. Some of them had even penetrated into the royal households of Newar kings of the valley. Seeing the danger of the foreign elements in Nepal, Prithvi Narayan Shah expelled them from his newly unified and consolidated kingdom. Regarding the above mentioned expulsion policy and the intruders of the foreign elements in his newly unified kingdom of Kathmandu, Khatri (2021) further states:

"Prithvi Narayan Shah obviously took a huge risk on his own life and had begun the unification process seriously after the battle of Sindhuli Gadi. The westerners had already sent many spies in disguise as health workers and priests to different parts including Kathmandu valley. Some of

them had already penetrated into the royal household of Newar kings of the valley. Prithvi Narayan saw the danger what those foreign elements could bring in, he expelled them from his newly unified and consolidated Kingdom (Khatri, U.B. 2021)”

Prithvi Narayan Shah as an anti-imperialist was the perfect strategist as well. Since his unification campaign of Nepal, he was well aware of the clever British Empire who had an eagle eye on Nepal to dominate and exploit market in Nepal and in Tibet. So he had responded with an isolationist policy to ward off the clever British Empire ruling in India. To keep the Britishers away from Nepal, he advised his troops to make forts and fortification before the British invaded Nepal and advised to prefer mobile warfare. That is why, he advised not to fight the major battle in the plain but in the inner valley between Chure and Mahabharat. His preferred strategy to defend Nepal was mobile warfare than static one against the powerful British enemies. In regard to his isolationist policy and other strategies, Rawal (2022) states:

Once the unification campaign achieved a significant milestone, Prithvi Narayan Shah was worried about the country's security at the end of his reign. He advised following isolationist policy to ward off the clever British Empire ruling India in the premise of running East India Company. The King envisaged the mercantilist British would eventually come to exploit markets in Nepal and Tibet through Nepal. He recommended not to fight a major battle in the plain but in the inner valley between Chure and Mahabharat. Rather than a static one, mobile warfare was his preferred tactic to fight against the powerful enemy. (Rawal, S.S. 2022)

Prithvi Narayan Shah was aware about the characteristic of the British imperialism that it tries to enter in the guise of trade and traps the territory by imperial economic influences and its policy of expansion. That is why; he was always well conscious and careful enough from the foreigner and the foreign influence in his country. His thought of keeping his country aloof from the influence of imperial power was clearly expressed in his Diba Upadesh as well. Regarding the problem of foreign influence through imperial trade and generated fear in Prithvi Narayan Shah, Pradhan (1996) again indicates:

It was the complex problem of trade from the north and the south, joined to the problems of divergent spheres of influence and the expansionism of the East India Company... Prithvi Narayan Shah's efforts to promote the trade of Gurkha and his caution against letting foreign traders, even of Indian origin into the country, as enunciated in his Diba Upadesh, indicates the need for a healthy fear of the British.(Pradhan, B. 1996, p.114-15)

During 18th century, the native rulers were compelled to compromise and negotiate with the imperial authority, under imperial economic policy. Though Prithvi Narayan Shah stood against the imperial powers, he had to negotiate with them. He thought that it would be better to tackle with words rather than use of force against the mighty imperial powers. Though he needed to negotiate with both the China backed Tibet in the north and the British Imperial power in its south, while negotiating, he remained firm in his opposition to infiltrate his country. Regarding this practical tactic of Prithvi Narayan Shah, Pradhan (1996) mentions:

Prithvi Narayan Shah showed throughout an appreciation of the superior strength of both Tibet, backed as it was from China, and the East India Company. At no time did he attempt to use force against either of these powers. The basic problems that confronted him in relations to both Tibet and the Company made him to carefully negotiate with them..... showed himself true to his basic suspicion of the intention of the Company and firm in his opposition to their efforts to infiltrate Nepal (Pradhan, B. 1996, p.115).

Before the annexation of Kathmandu valley, there was proper trade relation and commercial intercourse between Nepal and the East India Company but after the Gorkhali's conquest the trade sharply declined. Prithvi Narayan Shah well knew the real intention of the British East India Company who was intensely eager to revive relationship with Nepal for the purpose "trade to Tibet" through Nepal. So he responded aggressively with the policy of exclusion of foreign elements and his aggressive policy heavily declined the foreign trade. The anti-imperial policy of Prithvi Narayan Shah which declined the foreign trade was expressed by Tashi Lama to George Bogle. Regarding the declining of foreign trade with the rise of Gorkhalies, Singh (1996) states:

But with the triumph of the Gurkhas in 1769, this trade sharply declined. The aggressive policy of the Gurkha King was a consent subject of complaint expressed by the Tashi Lama to George Bogle. The report of Bogle on the "Trade of Tibet" contains a vivid description of how this trade was annihilated as a result of the Gurkha conquest (Singh, N. K. 1996, p.4-5).

One of the most important characteristics of the Western Imperialism was the misinterpretation and stereotypical representation of the non-west using the negative connotations like barbarians, uncivil and illogical to justify their co called "Civilizing Mission". They used to portray in their discourses, with the colors of negative decorations, to the native people "the others" who did not fit to their imperial understanding. As an anti-imperialist that does not fit to their Imperial policy, Prithvi Narayan Shah had also become the victim of misrepresentation in their imperial discourses. Most of the contemporary Western historians and the Capuchin missionaries, who

were forcefully expelled from the Kathmandu valley by Prithvi Narayan Shah, represented him as ruthless and cruel ruler. Regarding the baseless and biased representation of Prithvi Narayan Shah in contemporary imperial writings, Whelpton (2005) mentions:

Both early British sources and the writings of the Capuchin missionaries stress Prithvi's ruthlessness, whereas mainstream Nepalese historians have often tried to discredit accounts of Gorkhali cruelty as biased. The British had initially seen the Gorkhals as barbarians from the hills threatening their Newar trading partners, while the Capuchins, who had once enjoyed cordial relations with Prithvi, were later barred from the kingdom in the belief that they had encouraged British intervention. Both parties thus had reason to dislike the king, but it is still unlikely that the Capuchins in particular would have fabricated what they present as eyewitness accounts of atrocities. Most notorious was the order to cut off the lips and noses of the inhabitants of Kirtipur after its surrender in 766, a story corroborated in at least two Nepali sources (Whelpton, J. 2005, p. 37-38).

The discussion with above mentioned quotations and interpretation clearly shows that Prithvi Narayan Shah was an anti-imperialist who not only responded the British Imperialism with the active resistance but also executed the policy of exclusion, expulsion and non-alignment to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nepal. His anti-imperial policies and war strategies successfully blocked the British Imperial power from entering into and colonizing Nepal.

10. Results

Prithvi Narayan Shah's anti-imperial stance and strategies contributed Nepal to obtain the unique ability to maintain independence in the face of British expansionism. His physical resistance with the British imperial expansionist policy and his strong response with the policy of isolation, exclusion and expulsion to the Europeans, successfully stopped the British Imperial rulers from entering into Nepal. His military and diplomatic strategies along with the domestic and foreign policies worked as the pillars to save Nepal from the British Empire ruling the whole of Southern plain. The British imperial power tried its best to enter into Nepal and exert its domination but Prithvi Narayan Shah's active resistance and anti-imperial policies successfully discouraged their imperial intentions in Nepal. One can clearly observe the long-term implications of his policies on Nepal's sovereignty.

11. Conclusion

Prithvi Narayan Shah was the anti-imperialist leader of South Asia. His active resistance to the British expansionist activities and executed anti-imperial policies successfully preserved Nepal's independent identity during the height of British imperialism. His vision of unification through annexation of small scattered and fragmented principalities to check the British expansion and influence, policies of isolation from the imperial powers, policy of exclusion of foreign products and align culture, policy of expulsion to the Capuchin missionaries and foreign merchants to save local culture and economy, policy of non-alignment with the mighty powers, policy of self-reliance by discouraging the foreign import and encouraging the use and production of domestic products, export-oriented economic model and other principles embodied in his Diba Upadesh clearly justify his anti-imperial personality. Prithvi Narayan Shah's above mentioned policies and practices served as guideline principles for his future successors to preserve Nepal's sovereignty and independence. The study justifies the anti-imperial personality of Prithvi Narayan Shah, underscores the significance of indigenous leadership in countering colonial domination and contributes to the broader discourse on anti-imperialism in South Asia.

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