



“As I see it, the greatest challenge for a contemporary historian is that he or she needs to anticipate the verdict of posterity and not simply either confirm or disprove the judgments of the contemporaries or generations that are around. And that really is a very tricky thing to do.”

Srinath Raghavan

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Drawing on the tools of the social sciences and of policy studies, Dr. Srinath Raghavan also uses his own military experience to impart a practical understanding to his scholarly work. From these elements, he builds a remarkable 'total' analysis that synthesizes international and strategic perspectives with regional and domestic context, thereby opening new directions of research in Indian scholarship.



Analyzing strategies for the home and the world



Dr. Srinath Raghavan works in the area of International Relations and Strategic Studies. He looks at these specifically in relation to India. He approaches the study of India's foreign policy from the point of view of history, specifically from the 1940s onwards.

International Relations originated in ancient Greece with the historian Thucydides (460-396 BCE). His analysis of the conflict between Sparta and Athens, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, combines the disciplines of history, political philosophy and international relations. It is often considered the classical text in International Relations. It wasn't until the 20th century that International Relations became a field of study within political science. The discipline focuses on both state and non-state actors in the international arena. Non-state actors include international organizations such as the United Nations. The discipline examines how these entities interact with each other in terms of foreign policy, trade and economics, war and development.

Strategic Studies is the study of the role of force. Many consider *The Art of War* that is thought to have originated in ancient China around 500 BCE to be the very first instance of a strategic treatise. It was written by Master Sun Wu or Sun Tzu, a military general and tactician. The treatise discusses ways of dealing with one's adversary. This is considered by many to be the very first instance of a strategic treatise. Strategic Studies combines several disciplines such as military studies, game theory, and international relations.

Srinath Raghavan's work lies at the intersection of these two disciplines. One of his early works, *War and Peace in Modern India: A Strategic History of the Nehru Years*, deals with the early years of independent India under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The book focuses on the country's foreign policy crises during this time and how Nehru used a careful balance of diplomacy and coercive power in various instances such as the border dispute with China and the refugee influx from Pakistan.

In his book, *1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh*, Raghavan examines the India-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. Raghavan used archival material to examine the conflict and the creation of a new nation in the context of global strategic, diplomatic and economic causalities.

Dr. Raghavan has been responsible for invigorating the discipline of International Relations in India and has also been mentoring a new generation of scholars. In addition, he has also been contributing to debating and forming foreign and security policies.