

Determinants of Sri Lanka's Geopolitical Significance to the United States' Foreign Policy

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The study focuses on Sri Lanka as it is featured significantly in the United States' (U.S.) foreign calendar with several of their senior diplomats visiting Sri Lanka within a span of few months in the year 2015. Analysis will be made on the nature and frequency of the visits. Utilising mainly secondary data, such as speeches, strategy documents etc the research analyses concepts such as geopolitics against the formulation of foreign policies especially that of the United States towards Sri Lanka. The objective of this study is to examine whether the physical determinants of Sri Lanka has a significant impact on the formulation of the United States Foreign Policy. In addition, this study attempts to identify how United States acts in terms of other countries such as Sri Lanka and its guidelines for interactions with them. It will also analyse whether Sri Lanka's close proximity to the Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC) has had any influence towards the United States' urge to link businesses and people and to also reconfirm her interests and influence in Sri Lanka. The analysis will briefly touch upon the security and military advantages for the United States. The study concludes by commenting on whether the U.S. presence in Sri Lanka will increase due to the latter's geostrategic location in the Indian Ocean. It also ascertains that the American foreign policy towards Sri Lanka will be largely driven on economic factors, mainly due to Sri Lanka's location and the ability to amalgamate it to America's future interests in the region.

Keywords: Foreign policy, United States, geopolitics, Sri Lanka

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