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**The Evolving Discourse of Commonwealth of Nations  
Assessing Changing Dynamics and British Influence**

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## **Dedication**

This final year project is dedicated to:

My mother "**wahida**" who has always been a source of encouragement and motivation. With her constant love and valuable advice, I would not have been able to achieve this ambitious goal.

My dear father "**youcef**" thanks to you, Dad, I learned the value of hard work and responsibility. Your support has been a guiding light throughout my entire journey.

My sisters « **Hadil** » « **Salsabil** » « **Ritadge** » and my brother « **Moez** » Your constant support, never-ending encouragement, and unlimited love have been my guiding light. This work is dedicated to you, for always supporting me through every challenge and enjoying every success. Your presence in my life is a beautiful gift, and I am grateful to each of you.

To everyone who supported me and helped me finish my work

**Thank you**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The British Empire covered multiple continents and had a significant impact on international trade, politics, and culture. It was the largest empire in history. The majority of the 56 sovereign entities that make up the Commonwealth of Nations are former colonies or dependents of the United Kingdom. The association's emphasis on equality, collaboration, and common ideals among its member states is what makes it unique. This study aims to offer a thorough grasp of this distinct political and economic union. Its historical analysis looks at the causes of the Commonwealth's creation and development, as well as its beginnings and development. The study examines the links between member states from a political and economic standpoint, evaluating the Commonwealth's influence on international trade and politics. To adequately address the research objectives, the current dissertation is a qualitative study that employs analysis and synthesis of a variety of sources, historical in nature. The study also recommended future analytical study of the British Commonwealth and its dynamic and British influence.

**Key words :** British Commonwealth ,British Empire , British influence ,colonies ,collaboration.

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## **1. General Introduction**

One of the biggest empires in history, the British Empire grew through trade, military conquest, and strategically placed settlements after starting as a colony and exploration endeavor in the late 16th century. With enormous territories all over the world, it peaked in the 19th century and declined in the 20th century as a result of wars and decolonization efforts. From its early 20th-century beginnings as a collection of British Empire dominions, the Commonwealth of Nations, formerly known as the British Commonwealth, has undergone enormous evolution to become a dynamic and diversified organization of 56 independent states. Important turning points like the 1926 Balfour Declaration and the 1931 Statute of Westminster, which acknowledged the independence of member dominions, confirmed this transition. Many African, Asian, and Caribbean countries gained independence and joined the Commonwealth during the post-World War II decolonization wave, which culminated in the 1949 London Declaration, which permitted republics to be members. The Commonwealth's discourse has evolved over the years from addressing post-colonial identities and guaranteeing equitable partnerships to emphasizing economic cooperation, development, and the advancement of democratic governance and human rights.

These concepts were emphasized in the 1991 Harare Commonwealth Declaration. Modern concerns like economic inequality, global health, and climate change are now at the top of the Commonwealth's agenda. Despite its historical significance, British influence now mostly exists in symbolic and cooperative roles, with the UK making diplomatic and economic contributions. This change underscores the Commonwealth's broader decision to prioritize common values above colonial

past, which has allowed it to remain relevant and adjust to new global realities in a world that is changing quickly.

## **2. Statement of the problem**

In the light of the above mentioned research contextualization the research probes the following primary research question :

-how the conceptual foundations of the Commonwealth have impacted member nations' views on human rights, democracy, economic growth ?

## **3. Research problem**

This question shall be investigated through the following sub-questions.:

-In what ways has the Commonwealth's theoretical foundation changed since its starting?

-What is the historical meaning of the term "Commonwealth" and where did it originate?

What are the Commonwealth of Nations' principal goals?

What are the difficulties and disadvantages South Africa and India face as members of the Commonwealth ?

## **4. Research Aims:**

This research aims to explore a range of factors that include social, political, economic, historical, and cultural elements. It looks at the Commonwealth's past beginnings and development, tracking important turning points and changes in goals over time. From a political perspective, the study looks at how the Commonwealth's ties and governance are evolving, how it affects the international and domestic

policies of its member nations, and how it supports democratic ideals and sound governance. In terms of economics, the emphasis is on how Commonwealth participation affects commerce and cooperative economic growth. projects aimed at reducing poverty and promoting development, as well as the success of economic efforts spearheaded by the Commonwealth. Socially and culturally, the study looks at how the Commonwealth promotes trade among its members, how it affects social welfare, health, and education, and how cultural diversity is handled. It also looks at the administrative structures and legal frameworks that control the Commonwealth and how well they work to address global issues. The study also looks into the idea of a common Commonwealth identity, the feeling of unity among participating nations, and how the organization handles difficulties and criticism.

## **5. Methodology:**

Since this research seeks to highlight the evolving discourse of commonwealth nations ,its appropriate to use Qualitative- analysis and synthesis of a variety of sources historical in nature, include encouraging direct communication, advocating for inclusivity, respecting a range of viewpoints, and utilizing common experiences and values to take advantage of opportunities and difficulties.

## **6. Structure of the Dissertation**

The dissertattion is divided into three chapters.the first chapter is devoted to the background of the study under the title Theoratical framework of Commonwealth.the second chapter is concerned A comprehensive examination of South Africa and India could cover a range of topics, such as politics, economy, culture, and social dynamics. South Africa is the largest economy in Africa, and India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Both countries are major

economic players in their respective regions. but the third chapter is devoted to Commonwealth Membership India and South Africa india views its Commonwealth membership as a means of utilising its commercial links and diaspora to engage on a global level. In particular, South Africa sees it as a platform for inter-African political discourse and economic collaboration. Both countries strike a balance between membership privileges and post-colonial legacies.

## **7. Literature Review (selected):**

A thorough examination of the literature on the changing conversation among Commonwealth countries includes a complex analysis of past developments, present conditions, and potential futures. Researchers and academics have looked at the Commonwealth from a variety of angles, covering everything from its colonial past to its current status as a voluntary organization of 54 member states that span all continents and account for a quarter of all countries on Earth. In the past, debates have focused on how colonialism affected the member states, how independence was gained, and how the Commonwealth came to be as a forum for mutual assistance and post-colonial collaboration. The Commonwealth's changing relevance in a world that is changing quickly due to globalization, technological breakthroughs, and shifting geopolitical dynamics is a topic of discussion in modern discourse. Political governance, economic growth, cross-cultural interaction, human rights, environmental sustainability, and efforts to promote peace are among the important subjects. Academics have examined the Commonwealth's efforts to support trade, investment, and sustainable development among its member states as well as its role in advancing democracy, good governance, and the rule of law. Furthermore, talks frequently touch on how the Commonwealth may use multilateral cooperation and dialogue to address

urgent global issues like poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation, and conflict resolution. As the conversation keeps developing, The aim of scholarly inquiry is to evaluate the Commonwealth's performance in navigating intricate geopolitical environments and promoting common objectives of equality, prosperity, and peace among its heterogeneous member states.

## **Chapter one :**

### **Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

### **1.1 Introduction**

#### 1.2 The British commonwealth

##### 1.2.1 Definition of Commonwealth

##### 1.2.2 The Origin of the Commonwealth of Nations

#### 1.3 Historical Underpinnings of Commonwealth Nations

##### 1.3.1 the Formation of the Commonwealth .

##### 1.3.2 the Initial Objective and Principles of the Commonwealth

#### 1.4 Dynamics of British Influence

##### 1.4.1 the Enduring Influence of Britain within the Commonwealth

### **1.5 Conclusion**

## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

### **1.1 .Introduction**

The majority of the 54 member nations that make up the Commonwealth, also known as the Commonwealth of Nations, were once a part of the British Empire. It was formally founded in 1949 with the London Declaration with the goals of advancing democracy, peace, and member development. The Commonwealth does not impose any legal duties on its members; instead, it functions by mutual cooperation and consent. The British queen, who is presently Queen Elizabeth II, is in charge of it and acts as a symbolic leader. The Commonwealth's primary goals are to promote human rights and good governance while also advancing international trade, collaboration, and cultural exchange. The organization is well-known for hosting big international multi-sport competitions like the Commonwealth Games, which take place every four years. The London-based Commonwealth Secretariat

This chapter seeks to explain the concept of British commonwealth, This chapter looks at how the Commonwealth came to be, starting with an understanding of its original goals and tenets. then dives into the post-colonial identities of Commonwealth countries, examining how post-colonial experiences have influenced the group's collective identity as well as the effects of colonial history on the identities of individual members. The chapter also examines Britain's ongoing influence within the Commonwealth, offering a thorough summary of the dynamics of British dominance in this global organization.

### **1.2 The British commonwealth**

The 56 nations that make up the Commonwealth of Nations, formerly known as the British Commonwealth, collaborate on projects like democracy and development. The majority of these nations were formerly British colonies.



## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

### **1.2.1.Definition of Commonwealth**

To preserve ties between nations that were formerly British colonies but were now regarded as "free and equal," the Commonwealth of Nations was established in 1949. With a combined population of 2.5 billion, Commonwealth nations are spread out across the globe and account for nearly a third of all people on Earth. Members of this diversified group come from the world's largest, smallest, wealthiest, and poorest nations. New Zealand is among the fifteen nations whose head of state is the British monarch; the remaining thirty-six are republics. Commonwealth states are frequently referred to as a "family of nations" because of their shared sense of kinship and solidarity despite their diversity. Because of our comparable colonial background, we have many cultural traits in common, such as the English language, a few sports, and comparable legal, educational, and governmental frameworks. Charles III, the monarch, is the head of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth seeks to advance prosperity and peace on behalf of its member nations. This involves supporting nations in the areas of small business growth, law, election observation, and human rights, with a focus on advancing the rights and roles of women and young people. This effort is carried out and supported by numerous networks and organizations that fall under the purview of the Commonwealth. ("The Commonwealth"para 1,2)

## Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth

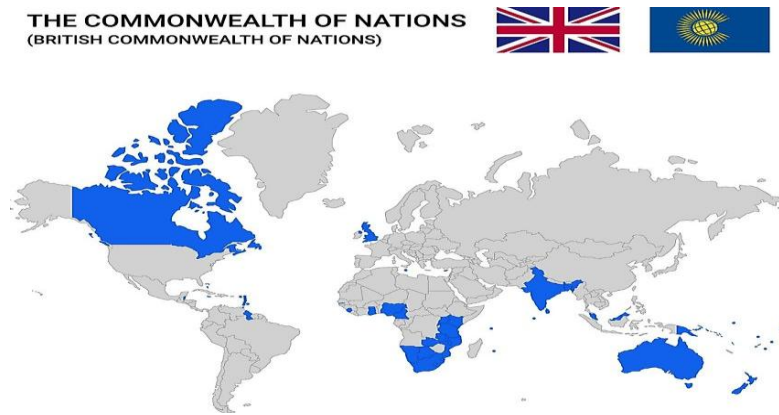


Figure1.1 A Map of World with British Commonwealth of nations Countries . (“What Are the Commonwealth Countries?”)

### 1.2.2 The Origin of the Commonwealth of Nations

The British Empire, which spread to include more colonies and conquered territory in the late 15th and early 20th centuries, is where the Commonwealth of Nations had its start. There were 458 million people living there worldwide in 1922. This corresponded to 1/4 of the global population on a portion of the planet's surface at that time. Despite being autonomous entities already, the four main colonies formed an alliance with the kingdom following the end of World War I. The first four companions were first referred to as "Dominions," then, starting in 1952, as "Commonwealth Realms." Greater foreign sites have been added throughout time; almost all of them were once English colonies or at least The Commonwealth of Nations sees itself more as a cooperative than a legally enforceable body. These days, the Commonwealth of Nations is composed of independent, non-interdependent states. They swear allegiance to the monarchy of Great Britain. This turned out to be the most straightforward provision of the treaty that had ever been promised. In Australia, the British royal home was replaced and is now known as the "Queen of Australia" (or Canada and New Zealand). and Canada, in reference to Queen

## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

Elizabeth II, who was employed as a result of the year 1952. The Commonwealth's symbolic head is still the British Crown.

The executive headquarters is still located in London as a result. All Commonwealth citizens were treated as British citizens up to 1962, allowing them to immigrate to the UK and get British citizenship. Moreover, the Balfour Declaration, which declared that Britain and her Dominions should enjoy equal status, led to the creation of the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1926. This provision became enforceable by Section 4 of the Statute of Westminster, which was passed in 1931. "Unless that Act expressly states that that Dominion has demanded and consented to its enactment, no Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act shall apply, or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of that Dominion's rule," the statement read. Section 1 listed the following as "Dominions": the Irish Free State, the Dominion of Newfoundland, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. (Brahim et al.para 2)

### **1.3 Historical underpinnings of Commonwealth Nations**

The majority of the member states of the Commonwealth of Nations, sometimes known as just the Commonwealth, are political organizations that were once part of the British Empire.

#### **1.3.1 The Formation of the Commonwealth**

The British Empire, which at its height in the late 19th century occupied a fifth of the planet's surface, slowly began to fall apart, giving rise to the Commonwealth of Nations. Its holdings extended from the Caribbean to a large portion of southern and eastern Africa, including Hong Kong. In 1877, Queen Victoria was crowned Empress

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of India. Her rule was crucial to the empire's consolidation. However, several of the empire's colonies became irritated with imperial oversight even as it developed. Representatives from the three British colonies that make up modern-day Canada started talks in 1864 to form a single, self-governing confederation. The Canadian territories of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and New England desired to create their own armed forces out of concern for potential US attack. They pursued free trade as well. Britain consented to the demands of its colonies in July 1867 out of concern that it would spark another revolution similar to the one it had lost almost a century earlier. However, it did not cede sovereignty of the region; rather, a united Canada came under British domination. Because of this distinction, Canada could rule itself, but its laws would still be governed by British authority and might be overruled at the king's pleasure. Other largely white British possessions, such as Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa, and the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland), also attained dominion status in the decades that followed. (McKeever, para 2)

The Statute of Westminster's Section 4 codified this requirement in official form in 1931. It was declared as follows: 'No Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of the law of that Dominion, unless it is expressly declared in that Act that the Dominion has requested, and consented to, the enactment thereof.' 'The Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, and Newfoundland' were listed as 'Dominions' in section 1. The creation of legislative parity between these dominions and the UK was the primary outcome of the Statute. "They are autonomous communities within the British empire, equal in status, in no way

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subordinate to one another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations," the Balfour Declaration stated in reference to the status of Great Britain and the Dominions. One of the products of the 1926 Imperial Conference in London was the Balfour Declaration. Section III addresses India's unique position. You will observe that we did not discuss India in the preceding paragraphs. We have restricted their reach to Great Britain and the Dominions since the Empire already defines India's place in it. ("British Commonwealth of Nations para 1,2) However, we should not forget that Resolution IX of the Imperial War Conference, 1917, appropriately acknowledged India's significant role within the British Commonwealth. We have specifically mentioned India's position whenever we have had the opportunity to do so in this report. The proposed Sub-Conference on Merchant Shipping Legislation included India. Four fundamental attributes of Commonwealth members were established as a result of the Declaration: status equality, independence in domestic and foreign matters, shared loyalty to the Crown, and unrestricted association among Commonwealth member nations. In 1931, a large number of the Balfour Declaration's recommendations were passed into law. But in the meantime, British-Indian relations deteriorated between the Declaration of 1926 and the Statute of Westminster of 1931, leading to the failure of the Round Table Conferences (1930–1932). Gandhi started a significant civil disobedience effort, the Simon Commission was boycotted, and the Indian National Congress battled for India's Dominion status. India was not granted Dominion status or included in the Statute of Westminster, 1931, due to the tense Anglo-Indian ties during this time. The British Commonwealth of Nations was disbanded in 1949 with the London Declaration. Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations declared: "The

## Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth

Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and Ceylon, whose countries are united as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations," in order to accommodate constitutional changes in India.

(“British Commonwealth of Nations para 3,4)



**Figure2.1** a flag of commonwealth of nations (Cdn.britannica.com)

### 1.3.2 The Initial Objective and Principles of the Commonwealth

The majority of the nations that make up the Commonwealth, an intergovernmental organization, were formerly British Empire colonies. Promoting democratic values and sound governance among its member countries is one of its main objectives. In order to provide strong governance, the organization is committed to supporting democratic institutions and practices.

Apart from prioritizing democracy, the Commonwealth also seeks to promote economic development and expansion among its constituent nations. It emphasizes poverty reduction, economic collaboration, and sustainable development in particular. Its initiatives to encourage trade and investment, which aim to speed up economic integration and create prosperity through greater economic cooperation among member nations, are strongly related to this goal. (“the Main Aims of the Commonwealth para 1,4)

## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth's principles place a strong emphasis on people's fundamental right to take part in democratic processes, especially when it comes to free and fair elections that influence their community. In order to preserve and advance democratic culture and practices, governments, political parties, and civil society must answer to the people for their actions. Exercising democratic governance requires the use of representative local governments, legislatures, and other local governance structures. We endorse the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group's duty in swiftly and resolutely, without fear or favor, addressing any and all instances of significant or ongoing violations of Commonwealth values.

We accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other pertinent international agreements and covenants pertaining to human rights. As the cornerstone of peaceful, just, and stable communities, we support equality and respect for the defense and advancement of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development, for everyone, without discrimination on any grounds. These rights have to be upheld in their whole since they are indivisible, universal, interdependent, and connected. color, creed, political conviction, or another—we oppose all types of discrimination.(the charter of the commonwealth para 3)

For everyone to advance and prosper, we genuinely think that the rule of law, sustainable economic growth and development, and global peace and security are necessary. As the best basis for reaching an agreement and tackling significant global issues, such as piracy and terrorism, we are dedicated to an inclusive, egalitarian, just, and law-based multilateral system. Through the UN and other multilateral organizations, we support global initiatives for disarmament and peace. Steered by our commitment to the security, progress, and prosperity of each and every member

## **Chapter one :Theoretical framework of Commonwealth**

state, our mission also includes fostering international consensus on important global political, economic, and social challenges. Since the growth of free and democratic society depends on fostering tolerance, respect, understanding, moderation, and religious freedom, we place a strong emphasis on this necessity. Upholding the dignity of every individual is essential to fostering harmony and success. Diversity and appreciating the complexity of our many identities are essential to the tenets and methodology of the Commonwealth. In order to improve democratic processes and uphold democratic traditions, we are dedicated to promoting calm, open discourse and the unrestricted exchange of information, with the help of an independent and responsible media. (the charter of the commonwealth para 4,5)

### **1.4 Dynamics of British Influence**

Over time, British influence over the Commonwealth has changed. It was powerful at first because a large number of Commonwealth nations were formerly a part of the British Empire. These nations established the Commonwealth after achieving independence in order to preserve friendly ties based on common principles, history, and language.

#### **1.4.1 the Enduring Influence of Britian within the Commonwealth**

The topic of Britain's continuing influence in the Commonwealth has several facets, including historical, political, economic, cultural, and social aspects. Britain, as the former imperial power, is considered the undeclared leader of the Commonwealth, an organization comprising 56 member states and 2.5 billion people who share common historical roots in British colonial rule. Queen Elizabeth II served as the Head of the Commonwealth from 1952 until her death in 2022. Following her passing, King Charles III assumed the role without any formalities. (Sanjaya Baru para 14,15 )



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Addition to add an idea , More than preference or selection, history has positioned Britain as the most powerful member of the Commonwealth, with no other country coming close to matching its stature or challenging its hegemony. Sensitivities still exist, nevertheless, especially throughout the Commonwealth when Britain—the old imperial power—appear excessively assertive. The Commonwealth is perceived by some as "empire 2.0" because of the connections between the British monarchy and the contemporary institution. ( Ransome )

Britain is nonetheless well-positioned to exercise leadership in the Commonwealth notwithstanding these worries. The organization may be made more unified, effective in the international system, and helpful in achieving Britain's foreign policy goals by utilizing its political, military, and economic tools. (Sanjaya Baru ) In the Commonwealth, Britain also has a considerable soft power edge. At the top of the G20 trust rankings for overall attractiveness and overall attractiveness, it holds a particularly strong place among Commonwealth nations, notably those in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. When cultural and educational exchanges are organized by the British Council, people's positive opinions of the UK are greatly enhanced, and their trust in the British government rises by 16%. (British Council)

To sum up, although the matter of Britain's continuous influence inside the Commonwealth is intricate and occasionally disputed, the country's cultural affinities, historical connections, and advantages in soft power guarantee that it maintains a prominent position in the organization's operations.

### **1 .5 Conclusion**

All in All , Originating in the British Empire, the Commonwealth of Nations is an international organization that promotes collaboration among its member states on

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the basis of common ideals pertaining to development, democracy, and human rights. The Commonwealth was first established to preserve ties between the United Kingdom and its former colonies; over time, it has come to prioritize equality and mutual aid. The collective identity of member nations is shaped by common legal and cultural frameworks, which are a result of their colonial heritage. The dynamics of the Commonwealth are changing as member states establish their sovereignty, even as Britain's influence persists. This results in a distinctive combination of historical legacies and modern cooperation.

## **Chapter two**

# **Commonwealth Dynamics : Analysis of South Africa and India**

## **Chapter two : Commonwealth Dynamics : Analysis of South Africa and India**

### **2.1 .Introduction**

#### 2.2.1 Colonial Legacies and Post Colonial Trajectories

2.2 1 colonial legacies have shaped the post colonial trajectories .

2.2.2 the colonial histories of south africa and india with in framework  
commonwealth

#### 2.3. Organizational Structure: Commonwealth Institutions and Mechanisms

2.3.1 the Structure of the Commonwealth and its Institutions.

2.3.2 South Africa and India Engage with and participate in Commonwealth  
Institutions and Mechanisms

#### 2.4 Collaborative Initiatives: Shared Objectives and Challenges

2.4.1The Common Goals and shared Interests among Commonwealth  
nations.

2.4.2 Collaborative Initiatives and Projects undertaken by South Africa and  
India .

### **2 .5 Conclusion**

## **Chapter two : Commonwealth Dynamics : Analysis of South Africa and India**

### **2.1 .Introduction**

Among the fifty-six states that make up the Commonwealth of Nations, the most well-known members are South Africa and India. The majority of these states were once a part of the British Empire. The Commonwealth is in favor of democracy, economic expansion, and human rights. South Africa joined the Commonwealth in 1931, but due to its apartheid policies, which went against the organization's fundamental principles, it withdrew from the group in 1961. With the end of apartheid, South Africa was allowed to rejoin the Commonwealth in 1994. Since then, the country has taken an active part in several Commonwealth initiatives that promote development, learning, and responsible government. However, India became a member of the Commonwealth in 1947 following its victory over British rule. Given that India is among the largest and most populous members of the organization.

### **2.2. Colonial Legacies and Post Colonial Trajectories**

South Africa and India's post-colonial paths have been profoundly influenced by the legacy of colonialism, and their Commonwealth membership attests to the continued influence of these influences in the political, social, and economic domains.

#### **2.2 1 Colonial Legacies have shaped the post colonial trajectories**

The framework of the Commonwealth, India's colonial history is a complex and multidimensional saga spanning several centuries, characterized by social and political revolutions, cultural shifts, and economic exploitation. Since World War II, the Commonwealth has caused ambiguity in the Union of South Africa. The United Nations has expressed the global disgust for any suggestion of racial prejudice. Six new Commonwealth nations have joined the British Empire as a result of the war's invigorated nationalism combined with British idealism and reality. They are

## **Chapter two : Commonwealth Dynamics : Analysis of South Africa and India**

completely independent nations, just like the older ones, however the new club members differ from the pre-war members in that their governments are not white. According to the club's pre-war regulations, there would be no significant difference between the fundamental racial policies of South Africa and other Commonwealth nations. At that point, all of its members—including the United Kingdom—realized how autonomous they were from one another. This regulation was legally established in 1926 at the Imperial Conference, mostly at the request of General J. B. M. Hertzog, the prime minister of South Africa. The British Statute of Westminster codified the idea into legislation in 1931, and the Status of the Union Act, passed by South Africa three years later, included it into its own legal system. No member had contested another's complete sovereignty before 1939 (Lovell p 334 )

South Africa received an invitation to re-join the Commonwealth of Nations on October 25, 1993, with effect from January 1994. Following extensive and fruitful negotiations on constitutional reform between the government, the African National Congress (ANC), and other significant liberation forces, the action was taken. Under Prime Minister H.F. Verwoerd's leadership, South Africa declared itself a Republic in 1961 and withdrew from the Commonwealth. The nation's action came in the wake of harsh criticism from Commonwealth nations on its racial practices. The invitation was sent out as the nation prepared to hold its first inclusive general election in April 1994, and both South Africans and the rest of the world were starting to notice positive developments. (“South Africa to Rejoin Commonwealth of Nations para 1)

India's Commonwealth history began in the late 19th century, when the concept for the Commonwealth was first conceived. India was vital to the development of the Commonwealth concept. India's relationship with the British Empire was shaped in large part by the Indian National Congress, which was founded in 1885. The

## **Chapter two : Commonwealth Dynamics : Analysis of South Africa and India**

Congress's demand for India to have its own government resulted in the creation of the Dominion model. Both India and Britain regarded India's membership in the Commonwealth highly, with the British viewing it as a way to keep connections with their former colony while India aspired for more autonomy. (S. R. Mehrotra para 1,2)

India gained independence on 1947, India and Pakistan became two new sovereign nations as a result of the act. Pakistan was divided into East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The provinces of Bengal and Punjab were divided between the two newly formed nations. The population of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs was divided by these dominions, which also resulted in the largest forced migration in history—one that wasn't brought on by starvation or conflict. The Act terminated all current treaties with the princely kingdoms and outlawed the use of "Emperor of India" as a title for the British Crown. Muhammad Ali Jinnah became Pakistan's Governor-General, Liaquat Ali Khan its Prime Minister, and Lord Mountbatten remained Governor-General. Jawaharlal Nehru was named India's first Prime Minister. (UK Parliament para 1)

India became a republic and a member of the Commonwealth in 1949, despite declaring itself as a republic. Nehru convinced the British government and conference to allow India to remain a Commonwealth member while being a republic. However, the decision had to be ratified by the Constituent Assembly. Nehru's attitude towards the Commonwealth evolved since 1946, and he believed it would bring political and economic benefits to India. However, many Assembly members were unconvinced, with some arguing that membership was akin to dominion status. Nehru responded by arguing that opposition to India's membership arose from bitterness towards the British and India's colonial experience. (India Became the First Republic para 2 ,3,4 )

### **2.2.2 key Events and Policies of South Africa and India**

As Commonwealth members, South Africa and India witnessed important historical moments and policy changes that have influenced their respective paths. Rejoining the Commonwealth In 1994, with the end of apartheid, South Africa became a member of the Commonwealth once again, a major step toward its reintegration into the global community. (“Commonwealth Chronology )

The Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Initiative offered training to South Africa in October 2018. The program included election technology improvements as well as strategies for funding and conducting elections. Working along with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) of South Africa and other anti-corruption organizations in the area, the Secretariat conducted intelligence-gathering seminars with the goal of fighting corruption. To the benefit of South Africa and other members, the Secretariat also helped create a database on vital medications. In addition, South Africa actively participated in the Blue Charter's activities to reduce marine plastic pollution and received support from the Commonwealth in trade consultations and digital connectivity projects. The Commonwealth also helped the Businesswomen's Association of South Africa participate in conversations on women in the digital economy. (the commonwealth org para 1,2,3,4,5,6 )

India became a republic within the Commonwealth after gaining independence from British rule in 1947 and adopting a republican constitution in 1950. In 1961, India's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement underscored the country's Cold War neutrality. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Green Revolution raised agricultural production; in 1991, economic liberalization sparked a sharp increase in the country's GDP.but also,Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC)



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India has demonstrated its active participation in the CFTC with its substantial contributions, which include specialists and support to developing Commonwealth nations. Leadership and Engagement Indian leaders, including as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have taken an active part in Commonwealth gatherings, highlighting the necessity of achieving the SDGs, collaboration on climate action, and developmental assistance. ( kingstone jamaica para 5 )

### **2.3. Organizational Structure: Commonwealth Institutions and Mechanisms**

A number of the Commonwealth of Nations' institutions and mechanisms are crucial in advancing human rights, democracy, and good governance in South Africa and India.

#### **2.3.1 The Structure of the Commonwealth and its Institutions**

The Commonwealth is a voluntary confederation of fifty-six equal and sovereign nations. Members are not legally or formally obligated to one another, and it lacks a written constitution or rules. The following is the Commonwealth's organizational structure

Apart from her position as the ruler of the Commonwealth states, Queen Elizabeth II functioned as the symbolic Head of the Commonwealth. Prince Charles should succeed her, although this duty does not immediately transfer to her successor if she passes away. Commonwealth leaders agreed on this in April 2018. The Commonwealth is run by a number of bodies, the main one being the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which meets every two years to discuss issues of common interest. Until the next gathering, the head of state hosting

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CHOGM is known as the Commonwealth Chairperson-in-Office. (“Structure of the Commonwealth para 1,2)

Founded in 1965, the Commonwealth Secretariat serves as the principal intergovernmental organization, promoting collaboration among member nations and acting as the Commonwealth's observer in the UN General Assembly. Under the direction of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, has been leading the Secretariat since April 2016. The Secretary-General oversees the organization of summits, offers policy recommendations, and supports the social and economic advancement of member nations. Commonwealth nations uphold a distinct diplomatic custom, exchanging high commissioners rather than ambassadors, and some allow Commonwealth nationals who live there to vote.(structure of the commonwealth para 3)

In light of powerful links between member states, Commonwealth individuals can also approach British embassies for consular help in nations where their own country is underrepresented.(structure of the commonwealth para 4)

### **2.3.2 South Africa and India engage with and participate in**

#### **Commonwealth Institutions and Mechanisms**

South Africa and India interact with and take part in Commonwealth organizations and mechanisms, South Africa is a Commonwealth of Nations member, having first left the organization in 1961 and then returning in 1994. It is able to take part in Commonwealth institutions and processes because to this membership. (Mole p 291)

Actively participating in the commonwealth secretariat work closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat, which supports human rights, sustainable development,

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and democratic governance. Additionally, the Secretariat encourages communication and collaboration among the member states. (Mole p 18) also, participating in commonwealth ministerial action group As a member of CMAG, South Africa works to resolve grave or ongoing transgressions of Commonwealth ideals like democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In situations where member nations fail to achieve these standards, CMAG may take action. (Mr Mohanasakthivel J, p 7)

India is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and has actively participated in its institutions and processes since gaining independence from British colonial domination. India gets support for its democratic governance and development objectives through its involvement with the Commonwealth Secretariat. Additionally, the Secretariat promotes collaboration amongst Commonwealth member states and India, strengthening joint ventures in a range of fields. Moreover, India is a member of CMAG, which deals with grave or enduring transgressions of Commonwealth principles like democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In situations where member nations fail to achieve these standards, CMAG may take action. (Mr Mohanasakthivel j para 6,7)

### **2.4 Collaborative Initiatives: Shared Objectives and Challenges**

In many areas of collaboration, South Africa and India have similar difficulties as well as a shared goal. Both nations seek to deepen their alliance by valuing one another and gaining reciprocal advantages.

#### **2.4.1 The Common Goals and shared Interests among**

##### **Commonwealth nations**

South Africa and India agree that access to and quality of healthcare are vital. India's development compact centers on the exchange of knowledge and skills on the

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management of healthcare issues, specifically with regard to HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Food security and agricultural growth are also top concerns for both countries. While India's development compact seeks to strengthen capabilities in agriculture and related sectors through South-South Cooperation, South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) places a strong emphasis on the necessity of agricultural development. This agreement highlights the two nations' shared dedication to promoting agricultural and healthcare development as crucial elements of their development plans. ("South-South Cooperation between India and Africa para 6,7)

The elimination of poverty, the creation of jobs, sustainable development, international solidarity, economic expansion, and education have all been ranked as critical development objectives by both South Africa and India. In close accordance with India's development compact, which prioritizes inclusive development, economic growth, and skill development, South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) seeks to end poverty and places a strong emphasis on job creation. Both nations have made a commitment to sustainable development; India's development compact seeks to accomplish the SDGs through South-South cooperation, while South Africa's NDP has a 74% convergence with the SDGs. Acknowledging the significance of worldwide unity, South Africa is dedicated to reviving the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, whereas India prioritizes international collaboration in order to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. Both countries prioritize economic growth. ("South-South Cooperation between India and Africa para 1)

## **2.4.2 Collaborative Initiatives and Projects undertaken by South Africa and India**

Through a number of channels, the Commonwealth has promoted cooperation between South Africa and India,

The 19 July 1995 Agreement on Science and Technology collaboration between South Africa and India was signed, and since then, the two nations' scientific and technological collaboration has grown and thrived. On October 4-6, 2017, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of India-South Africa Cooperation in Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon. Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, paid an official visit to South Africa and took part in a number of events held in Cape Town and Durban. The delegation included senior officials and scientists. The Agreement was extended for a further three years in October 2017 during the Minister of Science and Technology's visit to South Africa. (Bilateral south africa p 7)

An extensive program of cultural exchanges, including scholarships for South African citizens, is organized throughout the country with assistance from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). On February 24, 2024, at the Chancery, the High Commission of India in Pretoria, in collaboration with the diplomatic missions of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the UN Resident Coordinator Office, celebrated International Mother Language Day (Matram-V). From January 23 to January 31, 2024, an eight-person ICCR group called "Taal Chhandam" traveled to Durban, South Africa, where they gave performances and held workshops. The group also has interactions with nearby dancing academies and schools. As part of the celebrations marking 30 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations, a six-member ICCR Indo-Jazz fusion troupe called "Rajeev Raja Combine," under the direction of Rajeev Ettan Raja, traveled to South Africa from December 7–16, 2023. The troupe

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performed at the Mpumalanga Cultural Experience and Mapungubwe Arts Festival in 7 of 8 Mpumalanga and Limpopo. On June 24, 2023, approximately 6000 yoga enthusiasts participated in the International Day of Yoga, which was hosted by the Consulate General of India in Johannesburg at Wanderers Stadium. Paul Mashatile, the Deputy President of South Africa. (bilateral south africa p 7,8 )

Trade agreements and business collaborations have been enabled by the CEO's Forum and the India-South Africa Business Summit. In 2018, for example, eight memorandums of understanding were signed. India and Africa, particularly South Africa, have a considerable trading volume, with the Sub-Saharan region contributing significantly to this commerce. (bilateral south africa p 7)

In addition , The Commonwealth gives South Africa and India access to a range of multilateral forums, including the BRICS alliance, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the India-African Forum Summit (IAFS). These frameworks encourage teamwork and collaboration on a range of topics, such as cybersecurity, governance, and sustainable development. (Mohanasakthivel J para 3)

### **2 .5 Conclusion**

Consequently, As Commonwealth nations, South Africa and India are connected historically by their shared colonial pasts as British colonies. Both countries are major actors in the Commonwealth, adding to its rich political, cultural, and economic diversity. Even if every nation faces different possibilities and problems, being a part of the Commonwealth offers a forum for cooperation, communication, and support among members on matters of shared concern, including trade, governance, and sustainable development.

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## **Chapter three**

### **Commonwealth Membership: Perspectives on South**

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### **3.1 .Introduction**

South Africa's history of apartheid and racial discrimination has made its participation in the Commonwealth difficult. Since they were against racial discrimination, many Indian Congress leaders believed that South Africa's Commonwealth participation disqualified India from joining in 1947. Until democracy was restored, the Commonwealth suspended South Africa's membership multiple times, either completely or in part. India and the Commonwealth have had a complicated relationship. India decided to stay in the Commonwealth after attaining independence because it saw it as a chance to demonstrate its right to take part as an equal partner and have an impact on Commonwealth policies.

India was initially underrepresented at the Imperial Conferences prior to independence, although it eventually received more direct representation. Following independence, trade relations, the possibility of receiving economic assistance, and strategic defense all played a role in India's decision to remain in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth's significance in Indian foreign policy has changed over time, although India has remained actively involved with the organization, hosting significant Commonwealth events among other things. The Commonwealth has struggled to strike a balance between maintaining democratic values and suspending members who transgress them, and serving as a platform for discussion and consensus-building among its diverse membership. It will always be difficult for the organization to adjust to shifting global dynamics and continue to be relevant for its members, especially developing nations like India.

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**3.2 Perceived Benefits: Economic, Political, and Social Dimensions**

Perceived advantages are provided by the Commonwealth in the areas of politics, economy, and society.

**3.2.1 the perceived benefits of South Africa and India**

India and South Africa can gain from the Commonwealth in a number of ways on the social, political, and economic fronts. provides its member nations, notably South Africa and India, with a number of advantages. The Commonwealth provides member states with a useful forum to improve investment and commerce amongst themselves. For instance, intra-Commonwealth trade increased significantly in India, reaching a value of \$687 billion in 2015. More economic aid and collaboration have been cultivated by this growth in commerce. Furthermore, India's Commonwealth membership fosters South-South collaboration, particularly with little island nations in the Pacific and Caribbean. Through this collaboration, India offers these emerging nations substantial benefits by sharing its knowledge and experiences.

(C. S. R. Murthy para 8)

Moreover, Development Assistance: The main way the Commonwealth provides member nations with development assistance is through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC). India makes a major contribution to the CFTC by giving developing Commonwealth nations financial support and technical assistance. (kingstone para 4,5) The Commonwealth shares South Africa's and India's commitment to democracy and responsible governance. The collective dedication to democratic values among member states promotes collaboration and mutual assistance. Furthermore, given its size as a member state, India has a big say in how the Commonwealth is run and how world affairs are shaped. The enhanced diplomatic

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visibility of India facilitates the attainment of its strategic objectives.(kingstone para 6)

An international institution called the Commonwealth Foundation works to fortify civil society and increase its role within the Commonwealth. India works closely with numerous non-governmental organizations in the nation as a member of the Foundation's Grants and Executive Committees. The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) also emphasizes giving young people the tools they need to make a positive contribution to their communities. India, which makes up the third-biggest portion of the CYP budget, has regional centers in Chandigarh that aid in the development of young people across multiple nations. In addition, the Commonwealth gives its member states a forum for cultural interchange and mutual understanding, which promotes international collaboration and respect. ( kingston jamaica para 9)

In the final analysis, being a member of the Commonwealth promotes commerce, investment, diplomatic relations, cultural interaction, and development assistance while providing South Africa and India with a range of economic, political, and social advantages. These advantages support both nations' general advancement and development in the global community.

#### **3.2.2 Commonwealth membership has impacted the development trajectories of both nations**

Both South Africa's and India's development trajectories have been significantly impacted by the Commonwealth. Membership has had a significant impact on their progress in the following ways, An important participant in the economic endeavors of the Commonwealth has been South Africa. Through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the African Continental Free

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Trade Area (AfCFTA), in particular, the nation has supported the organization's efforts to promote trade and investment. However, Technical aid and capacity building programs have been given to South Africa by the Commonwealth, especially in the areas of governance, human rights, and economic growth. The nation's institutions have been strengthened and its economic prospects have improved thanks to this support. (Vickers et al. p 3)

India's development of commerce and economic prosperity have been significantly aided by its Commonwealth membership. The nation has contributed significantly to the organization's investment and trade programs, particularly through alliances with other Commonwealth countries in Asia and Africa. Furthermore, especially in the areas of information technology, healthcare, and education, India has been a significant supplier of technical support and capacity-building initiatives to other member states. These initiatives have strengthened these nations' social and economic development tremendously. (C. S. R. Murthy p 8,9)

Lastly, the development paths of South Africa and India have been significantly shaped by the Commonwealth. The organization's platform for collaboration, skill development, and economic expansion has aided in the member states' social and economic progress.

### **3.3 Challenges and Drawbacks: Addressing Inequality and Disparities**

There are many obstacles and disadvantages to addressing inequality and inequities in Commonwealth nations like India and South Africa. Despite disparities in economic systems, histories, and cultures.

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**3.3.1 The Challenges and Drawbacks associated with Commonwealth membership for South Africa and India**

The Commonwealth of Nations has presented both challenges and drawbacks for South Africa and India in their respective memberships. Difficulties within the Commonwealth have arisen as a result of South Africa's handling of its Indian minority. This has been a significant source of conflict, especially for India, which has long criticized South Africa's racial laws. (Petrie p 61)

Also, Apartheid was a big problem for South Africa, and the Commonwealth helped to put pressure on the country to end it. Due in large part to the organization's advocacy for human rights and racial equality, apartheid was eventually brought to an end by strong international pressure. (Fitzwilliam para 6)

One major obstacle has been the long-standing dispute between South Africa and India regarding the treatment of Indian communities. South Africa's racial policies have drawn criticism from India, straining ties between the two countries within the Commonwealth. Tensions within the Commonwealth have resulted from India's reluctance to participate in its defense and strategic responsibilities. India finds it challenging to fulfill these commitments due to its internal economic and security issues. (Petrie, "India and the Commonwealth p 62,63) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) since 2018, indicating that India's participation in the Commonwealth has decreased recently. This has sparked questions about India's dedication to the group and its capacity to spearhead a revitalization initiative. (C. S. R. Murthy, para 6,7)

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**3.3.2 Issues and Historical grievances affect South Africa and India's engagement with the Commonwealth**

South Africa and India's participation in the Commonwealth is greatly impacted by problems including inequality, inequities, and historical grievances. India has voiced concerns and fostered unity against South Africa's apartheid regime through its Commonwealth membership. India led the international community in endorsing the anti-apartheid cause, cutting all commerce with South Africa in 1946 and enforcing a total boycott. India's relationship with South Africa dates back to Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha movement and its support for the anti-apartheid movement. India was the first to sever trade relations with the apartheid government in 1946 and imposed a complete embargo on South Africa. India worked to put apartheid on the UN, NAM, and other multilateral organizations' agendas and imposed international sanctions against South Africa. After talks with the South African Government, India restored relations with South Africa with the opening of a Cultural Centre in Johannesburg in 1993. (*ForeignRelation/India-South\_Africa* p 1)

However, during the 1960s and 1970s, India's involvement in the Commonwealth on African matters was restricted because Indian officials chose not to assume a leadership role in order to allay the animosity of recently independent African members who believed India was not doing enough to further their anticolonial agenda. (C. S. R. Murthy para 21) To address major transgressions of Commonwealth values, such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, the Commonwealth maintains a number of structures, such as the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). India could be a key player in advancing these ideals and collaborating with other participants to address issues regarding the

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security and well-being of the Indian diaspora in politically unstable African nations.

(Mr Mohanasakthivel J para 7,8)

In the final analysis, although India has been able to discuss topics such as apartheid in South Africa through the Commonwealth, there have also been times when India has not been involved due to personal grievances and ideological disagreements. In the future, the Commonwealth presents India with a chance to strengthen its relationships with smaller nations in Africa and the global south while advancing common principles of human rights and democracy.

#### **3.4 Shared Experiences: Lessons Learned and Future Directions**

The Commonwealth relationship between South Africa and India has changed dramatically as both nations realize how important it is to use this platform for influence in the area and mutual gain.

##### **3.4.1 Commonalities and Differences in South Africa and India's experiences as Commonwealth members**

As Commonwealth members, South Africa and India have experienced both similarities and differences, The inhabitants of both nations are diverse, representing a range of ethnicities, languages, and religions. Their governments and society have been molded by this variety.

Among these similarities Due to their shared past, the British Empire influenced the political, social, and economic links between the two nations. The close ties that exist between the two countries are a result of their shared history, South Africa and India have a long-standing friendship that is based on values in common and heroes like Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. But relations were strained as a result of apartheid. In 1993, India reopened commercial and trade



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contacts, reopened a Cultural Center in Johannesburg, and resumed diplomatic and consular ties. 1994 saw the opening of the Indian High Commission in Pretoria, while 2011 saw the establishment of the Indian Consulate General in Cape Town. ( speak para 1)

The fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights are among the values that South Africa and India have in common. The two countries have a close friendship and cooperative relationship as a result of these common ideals, India and South Africa share common experiences and collective strength, fostering a shared vision for the world. The Red Fort Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 1997 and the Tshwane Declaration in 2006 reaffirmed this partnership, aiming to improve the lives of others. These declarations have contributed to both countries' national objectives and cultural extravaganzas, commemorating their 20th anniversary.( speak para 2)

In other hand , India is a major source of cultural influence on South Africa, and the two countries enjoy a vibrant exchange of cultures. Festivals, art partnerships, and other cultural events have all helped to facilitate this interaction. It talks about the growing interdependence of cultures and the concern over a "clash of civilizations." The study highlights facets of politics, history, and culture as it tracks the cultural exchanges between South Africa and India over a span of four centuries. The Indian independence movement was aided and abetted by Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha effort in South Africa. (Dr. Bishnupriya Padhi p 50) India is now South Africa's fifth-largest export destination and its fourth-largest import origin as a result of the two countries' growing economic links. By 2021, they want to increase bilateral trade and investment to \$20 billion. Their strategic alliance has fostered cooperation in a

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number of areas, including trade, business, and technology. It was reaffirmed in the Tshwane Declaration (2006) and the Red Fort Declaration (1997). Furthermore, historically, both nations have supported one another diplomatically, especially during South Africa's fight against apartheid. In 1946, India was one of the first countries to impose political and economic sanctions and end commercial links with South Africa (speak para 5)

India's and South Africa's experiences as Commonwealth members differ in a few ways, India's and South Africa's separate colonial histories shaped the languages, cultures, and political systems of each country. While India was largely ruled by the British, South Africa was colonized by both the Dutch and the British. The divergence in history has had an impact on the evolution of languages in both nations. English is widely used as a lingua franca in South Africa, promoting contact between various language groups. On the other hand, English is spoken by the educated elite and in metropolitan areas more frequently in India. These variations in colonial experience and language distribution, despite the fact that English is widely used in both countries, represent the distinct paths of their colonial and post-colonial history. (“Indian South Africans para 7)

#### **3.4.2 Lessons Learned and best Practices derived from South Africa and India's**

There have been several notable achievements and lessons gained during South Africa and India's involvement in the Commonwealth. Both nations have made use of the Commonwealth as a forum to further their goals, encourage collaboration, and advance common ideals. A few key lessons and best practices can be drawn from their experiences , South-South collaboration An important component of their

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African agendas, South Africa and India have both made the most of their Commonwealth memberships to promote South-South collaboration. The promotion of sustainable growth and development in Africa has been made possible by this partnership, especially through capacity building and people-to-people cooperation, India's Africa policy emphasizes South-South cooperation, with a triangular framework. In 2017, India and Japan launched the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, promoting sustainable growth through infrastructure development and capacity building. However, India would benefit from partnerships with Global North Commonwealth countries. (Mohanasakthivel J para 9) In addition , Triangular frameworks of collaboration, like the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) with Japan, are becoming more and more popular in India. Through capacity building and people-to-people cooperation, this method has the potential to support sustainable growth and development in Africa. As one of the BRICS members, South Africa has also taken part in related projects. (Mr Mohanasakthivel J para 7)

With multiple technical specialists contributed to various projects, India has been a major contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical collaboration (CFTC). This has been widely appreciated by beneficiary states and is a fantastic example of South-South collaboration. Furthermore, India is also involved in civil society activities through the Commonwealth Foundation, an international institution that works to enhance the contributions of civil society within the Commonwealth and to strengthen it. India works closely with a number of national volunteer organizations as a member of the Commonwealth Foundation's Grants and Executive Committees. (kingstone jamaica para 4,5)

### **3.5 Conclusion**

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In the end, South Africa and India's membership is important from a Commonwealth perspective for a number of reasons. India contributes both economic vibrancy and cultural diversity to the Commonwealth, being one of the biggest and fastest-growing economies. The inclusion of South Africa reflects the organization's dedication to post-colonial development and peace. Both countries contribute to the geopolitical diversity of the Commonwealth, which offers chances for cooperation and discussion on international matters including trade, climate change, and social development.

## **General conclusion**

## **General conclusion**

In overall, The Commonwealth of Nations, an international organization founded in the British Empire, encourages cooperation among its member states based on shared values related to human rights, democracy, and development. Initially formed to maintain links between the United Kingdom and its former colonies, the Commonwealth has evolved to place a higher priority on equality and assistance to one another. Due to their shared legal and cultural traditions, member countries' collective identities are molded by their colonial past. Even if Britain's power endures, the dynamics of the Commonwealth are shifting as member states assert their sovereignty. This produces a unique fusion of contemporary collaboration and historical legacies.

South Africa and India are historically linked as Commonwealth countries because they were both British colonies at one point in time. Major players in the Commonwealth, both nations contribute to its rich political, cultural, and economic variety. Being a member of the Commonwealth provides a venue for cooperation, communication, and support among members on issues of common concern, such as commerce, governance, and sustainable development, even if every country faces unique opportunities and challenges.

From a Commonwealth viewpoint, the inclusion of South Africa and India is significant for several reasons. India, one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the Commonwealth, adds both economic vibrancy and cultural diversity. South Africa's involvement is indicative of the organization's commitment to peace and post-colonial development. Both nations add to the Commonwealth's geopolitical variety, which presents opportunities for collaboration and conversation on global issues such as trade, climate change, and social development.

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## الملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقديم فهم شامل لهذا الاتحاد السياسي والاقتصادي الفريد. تتناول الدراسة تحليلاً تاريخياً لأسباب إنشاء الكومنولث وتطوره، بالإضافة إلى بداياته وتطوره. تبحث الدراسة في الروابط بين الدول الأعضاء من منظور سياسي واقتصادي، وتقييم تأثير الكومنولث على التجارة والسياسة الدولية. من أجل تحقيق أهداف البحث بشكل كافٍ، تعتمد هذه الأطروحة الحالية على دراسة نوعية تستخدم التحليل والتركييب لمجموعة متنوعة من المصادر التاريخية. توصي الدراسة أيضاً بإجراء دراسات تحليلية مستقبلية حول الكومنولث البريطاني وديناميكيته وتأثيره البريطاني.

## الكلمات المفتاحية

الكومنولث البريطاني، الإمبراطورية البريطانية، النفوذ البريطاني، المستعمرات، التعاون