

# Philosophy of Jawaharlal Nehru

Apart from his role as a freedom fighter and a statesman, Jawaharlal Nehru is widely regarded the founding ideologue of the Indian Republic. Education in some of the best institutions, extensive travel in Europe and a sound grasp of world history all contributed towards shaping the thoughts and philosophy of Jawaharlal Nehru. Throughout the freedom struggle Nehru remain devoted to Gandhian principles and the precepts of nonviolent movement.

Much of the initiatives launched by Jawaharlal Nehru as India's prime minister were the manifestations of his philosophy and beliefs. Right from his youth Nehru espoused socialism and as the head of state, he laid the foundation of a socialist economy. Under him, the Indian government exerted control over the fundamental sectors of the economy and spawned mammoth public sector enterprises.

Jawaharlal Nehru also projected India as a secular nation and promoted religious tolerance. He believed that secularism will act as the uniting force in the diverse, multi-religious Indian society. Besides taking steps to improve the status of Indian women, Nehru also created frameworks for better representation of minorities and socially disadvantaged groups in government service.

On the international front, non-alignment was basic premise of the philosophy of Nehru. He was one of the co-founders of the Non-Alignment Movement representing nations that maintained neutrality in the East-West confrontation of the Cold War era. Nehru was one of the architects of the doctrine of Panchsheel which was drawn up to improve relations between India and China after the annexation of Tibet by the Chinese.

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