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### **Soviet Public Diplomacy in India: Soviet Teachers of Russian in Indian Universities in the 1960s**

After its independence in 1947, India formulated its foreign policy of non-alignment that opened the country to the influence of the two superpowers. The Soviets supported and assisted Indian industrial development, as, in Soviet mind, an industrialised economy would create a working class that would eventually demand socialist reforms. Therefore Moscow designed an extensive propaganda campaign through film export, educational exchange, books publishing, and radio broadcasting to promote this vision of modernisation. The signing of the Scientific and Cultural Ties agreement between Moscow and New Delhi intensified such activities after 1960.

In this context, this article discusses Soviet efforts to establish Russian language chairs and send Soviet teachers to Indian universities to foster its influence and promote its vision of modernity. After professional teachers of Russian came to India in 1960, the Soviets had however to struggle with resistance from the administration of Indian universities that sometimes had a pro-American stance. This was particularly the case after the Sino-Indian border conflict of 1962 that may have led India to move closer to the US. The conflict also undermined the Soviet image in India because of Moscow's association with communist China.