

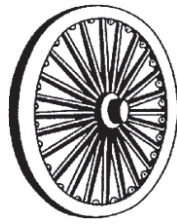
DEFENCE AGAINST  
EXTERNAL INVASION



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# **Defence Against External Invasion**

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## DEFENCE AGAINST EXTERNAL INVASION

*(The following is a translation and adaptation of a Hindi article by S. N. Goenka published by the Vipassana Research Institute in December 2003.)*

Emperor Asoka, who loved his subjects like his own children, made exemplary security arrangements within his empire for their protection. He organized even better defence at the borders of his kingdom to discourage any greedy neighbour from invading it and oppressing the people. Within his empire, the peace and harmony of his subjects were threatened only by a few lawless criminals. But the threat of invasion at the borders of his empire was from the well-organized armies of the neighbouring kingdoms. Therefore, it was necessary to guard the borders with powerful armies as a deterrent to any aggressor.

Emperor Asoka was aware of the seven principles for protection of a republic that the Buddha taught to the Licchavis to face external aggression. He modified the first two principles and adopted the other five principles in their original form as given by the Buddha.

The first principle was that all the Vajjian princes should assemble regularly and have frequent meetings. The second principle advised the Vajjian princes to assemble in harmony, disperse in harmony and act in harmony while discharging their duties.

Emperor Asoka was the absolute monarch of his empire. Therefore, he himself made all the important decisions in his empire, not the councillors. Nevertheless, in times of crises, he summoned his ministers and senior officials to the assembly