



An Institute for Civil Services

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TEST COPY

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AIR - 322
(CSE 2022)

ESSAY

TEST - 5

Essay Batch-2 Test-5

SECTION - A

Roll-No-19369

4. NATIONS WHOSE NATIONALISM IS
DESTROYED ARE SUBJECT TO RUIN

When Surendranath Banerjee explicated the idea of India as a 'nation in making', this land of tremendous diversity and multiple identities had just begun to ascribe to the essence of nationalism. It was an instance of all-inclusive territorial nationalism which succeeded in bringing the mighty British Empire to its knees.

On the other hand, the demand

Appropriate
use of
this Indian
case to
open your
essay

My

for a separate nation for muslims emerged, calling for creation of Pakistan. This concept of religion-based nationalism fuelled communalism and culminated in unbridled violence and bloodshed during the partition of India.

Thus, nationalism has different interpretations and scope. It has been used to foster national unity, solidarity and fraternity in numerous nationalist movements, laying the edifice of a strong nation. On the other hand,

valid argument

radical, alt-right, expansionist
and other ~~not~~ strands of
such narrow nationalism often
ruin the nation itself.

Define
Nationalism
briefly

Although the term 'nationalism'
has been associated with modern
times, the concept dates back
to the ancient civilizations.

It is perceptible in Homer's
Iliad when Hector chooses to
fight in order to save his
city. A sense of nationalism

can also be seen in the
unity of Greek city states
against the Persian invaders
in the Battle of Salamis and
later the Battle of Plataea,
leading to defeat of Persians.

This
could also be
an
example of
patriotism

However, when this nationalism was destroyed, in-fighting became common among the city states. Sparta followed expansionist nationalism and other city states turned against it, culminating in its defeat and ruin.

Nationalism can be a positive force when it serves the people and brings harmony.

However, when it is associated with excessive militarism and aggression, it definitely leads to ruin. It was for this ^{valid} reason that Albert Einstein ^{but important to} referred to nationalism as an ^{define} 'infantile thing' and Noam ^{to ordinary} ^{concept before} ^{you discuss} ^{the} ^{interpretations}

Chomsky asserted that 'Nationalism has a way of oppressing others'.

conversely, nationalism has been a vital driving force that brought people together to fight against oppression and tyranny. It instigated Pasquale Paoli to revolt against the Genoese and proclaim Corsican Republic.

In the same vein, the thirteen American colonies revolted against British in the American Revolution,

which culminated in their independence. However, about a century later, a civil war was fought between the North

Avoid use of multiple examples to illustrate the same argument

and the south of the country, signalling destruction of their nationalism. The civil war ended with widespread devastation of the South's infrastructure, & thus subjecting it to ruin.

Repetition Pan-Germanism highlights another instance of nationalism uniting a country. Johann Grotfried Herder, a supporter of German unity, asserted, "who has lost his patriotic spirit, has lost himself." Brothers Grimm also contributed to the cause by reviving folklore and cultural knowledge. This association with culture also gave a sense of identity to people.

specify what was reinterpreted
However, when this was reinterpreted by Nazi Party as radical nationalism, it resulted in holocaust. Also, expansionist nationalism, as advocated by Hitler, led to downfall of the German nation.

Relevant examples
Another form of ethnic nationalism, Pan-Turkism, arose, in part a reaction to Pan-Germanism and Pan-Slavism. This narrow form of nationalism was advocated by Three Pashas: Talaat, Djemal and Enver, who played a major role in executing the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocides. This extreme form of nationalism has tainted Turkey's image to a great extent.

good
argument
Elaborate
on what
is meant
by "blind
nationalism"

These forms of radical nationalism have given the term a largely negative connotation. Thus, George Orwell held that "Nationalism is hunger tempered by self-deception". He also highlighted the gloomy picture of excessive and blind nationalism in his novel '1984'. Similarly, Rabindranath Tagore called Nation itself as the greatest evil for the Nation.

However, this does not repudiate the significance of nationalism in giving people a sense of identity and belonging. For this reason, David Millie calls for an inclusive national

identity which is necessary for social solidarity.

The failure to come up with such an identity and address the legacy of Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Soviet Union, in the words of Timothy Snyder, has become one of the reasons for ~~the~~ unsettled idea of Belarus nationalism.

In many instances, nationalism has helped ^{people from} diverse backgrounds to form an overarching national identity against severe repression. This is especially true for various anti-colonial movements. Such an identity is formed by tracing common origins to as:

• good dimension

far back as possible.

This form of nationalism was also witnessed in movements other than anti-colonial struggles.

For instance, faced with Ottoman Turks' repression, Armenian nationalists traced their origins to Urartu. Similarly, in the face of Serbian oppression of ethnic Albanians, they traced their origins to Illyria and Ibrahim Rugova raised the flag of Dardania.

Such a national identity was also formed in 1830 in newly independent Greece. It helped in creating national consciousness based

Avoid using multiple examples to support one argument

on Hellenic identity.

Thus, it is rightly said that, "nationalism is both a vital medicine and a dangerous drug." This is also true in case of Arab nationalism, which calls for unity of Arab people, i.e. qawmniya, as against unity of country, i.e. wataniya. This sort of nationalism led Arabs to fight against the Jewish state of Israel. It only declined after their defeat in six-day war.

Populism

Hence, nationalism, as a concept and an ideology, has played an important role in uniting people and giving them a sense of identity. But,

it has also led to ethnic ethnic conflicts, genocides and mass.

With the rise of Alt-right in Europe and USA, increasing nationalist sentiments as visible in events such as annexation of Crimea, Brexit, and etc, the threat of narrow nationalism looms large.

History has enough examples to show how nations whose nationalism is destroyed are subject to ruin. Humanity should move forward with a broad sense of nationalism while embracing themselves as citizens of the world, as envisaged by Rabindranath Tagore and SC Chattopadhyay.

Acceptable
conclusion

SECTION - B

2. WATER CRISIS: CAUSES, CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTION

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in his celebrated poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', paints a sombre picture in the lines, "Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink." He describes the medicament of the sailors stranded in their becalmed ship. Although they are surrounded by water, they their throats are parched as the water is not fit for drinking.

Acceptable!
use of
analogy to
open the
debate

This ~~sit~~ condition has a parallel in the real world. While the earth has about 71% of its area covered in water, less than 3% of it is fresh and consumable. Also, the majority of fresh water is trapped in ice caps and glaciers, and is thus inaccessible.

While the availability of freshwater on earth has remained more or less the same over the years, the drastic increase in ~~populated~~ population has led to water scarcity. The demand for water far exceeds the supply.

These reasons, plus the irresponsible use of water & wastage of water are all responsible

in many regions of the water world. According to an estimate by United Nations, two-thirds of the world population would face water stress by 2025.

Although the terms such as 'water stress', 'water crisis', 'water shortage' etc have become more popular in recent years, the associated problems have been faced by civilizations far back in history.

This analysis may not be relevant

Depending on time and space, the causes of water crisis have varied. Many scholars

have attributed decreasing rainfall and prolonged droughts as the reason for downfall of Indus Valley Civilization.

While this is a natural factor, the fall water crisis in Maya civilization is believed to be a man-made issue. According to a study ^{examined} in Vienna, the ^{relevance} sophisticated irrigation system developed by Mayans ^{inf} interfered with natural water cycle, culminating in a water crisis.

Also, the water crisis in modern times is largely seen as a ramification of excessive human interference in natural

phenomena. Thus, it is caused by rising world population, improving living standards, expansion of irrigation networks, mega projects like dams, reservoirs etc and above all, climate change.

Climate change, according to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists, would increase the likelihood of longer droughts and more frequent flooding. It could lead to a situation of higher temperatures and less precipitation, worsening drought conditions, as pointed out by a Stanford study.

could also mention the NITP Assoc report on the impending water crisis in cities

Water ~~pollut~~ pollution, another major cause of water crisis, is often a result of ground-water overuse, release of industrial and agricultural effluents into water, lack of sanitation etc.

Furthermore, World Water Vision Report recognizes mismanagement of water as the major cause of water crisis. It asserts that the crisis is not about having little water, but about not managing it well, a stance seconded by the United Nations.

There is not enough water to meet the current demand

Being a scarce but indispensable resource, conflicts over water are ineluctable. Although water alone has never been ~~a~~ the only reason for wars, it has been a crucial factor in conflicts and wars throughout history.

This may be a valid argument but it's not necessary in this context

Water crisis has often been created deliberately to gain an edge over enemies. This tactic was used by Assyrian King in 8th century BC, when he destroyed Armenian irrigation system. In 6th century BC, Athens poisoned the water of their enemies. Similarly, the Pakistan Army viciously

poisoned a well in Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

In the beginning of 16th century, Leonardo da Vinci and Machiavelli conspired to divert a major river away from Pisa during a conflict between Florence and the former. World War II saw many instances of the two camps targeting each other's water systems.

Thus, water crisis is created and often exacerbated by conflicts. On the other hand, water crisis itself leads to increased competition for water, resulting in conflicts among

various countries, groups of people, varying interests etc.

The Indus basin became a bone of contention between India and Pakistan after partition of India. The issue had to be settled by World Bank, which brokered the Indus Water Treaty.

However, in absence of such a Treaty with China, ^{issues} conflicts often arise in case of Brahmaputra. India objects to construction of dams and reports of an underground canal being constructed to divert water to Xinjiang.

could mention many water disputes in India

Also, Teesta River sharing remains a major issue in India-Bangladesh relations.

Even though South Asia faces water stress, it is not as severe as in regions such as Middle East, or Sub-Saharan Africa where more intense conflicts are observed.

Israel and Syria have often fought over water ever since the establishment of the former. These include clashes over Sea of Galilee and Jordan River. The conflicts over water are aggravated by political instability in the region.

Repetition
could merely
name the
disputes
since no
new
argument
is being
presented

Turkey, Syria and Iraq often witness tensions due to disputes over Euphrates river. Similar disputes are witnessed between Afghanistan and Iran.

At intra-State level, industry and agriculture often compete for scarce water resources.

Also, Latin America has witnessed 'water wars' in which civilians

have fought each other for water during draughts. Further, tribes have fought against each other in countries such as Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan etc.

These countries conflicts need to be resolved for a better future. The first step should

Acceptable
examination
of
water
disputes

be to manage water efficiently. This could be done by building more water treatment plants, bringing in laws to contain water pollution, increasing sanitation coverage, progressive rate structure for water use, flow constrictors for domestic use etc.

Secondly, as agriculture is a major consumer of water, irrigation needs to be made more efficient. Israel's techniques of reusing treated sewage, digging wells deeper, desalinisation can be followed for this purpose.

Most importantly, cooperation among countries needs to be increased. Mekong River Commission,

Recent
analysis of
possible
solutions

Danube Commission etc provide successful roadmaps for such cooperation. In this regard, the Blue Peace approach, which intends to increase cooperation among countries, can be adopted.

Lastly, water conflicts within a country should be minimized by enacting adequate laws, addressing needs of various groups, engaging all stakeholders and mediating to prevent conflicts from becoming violent.

Thus, the need of the hour is to address the water crisis and increase cooperation at all levels lest we face the same fate as the sailors in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.

good
enough
conclusion

Section A

- Extensive use of examples throughout the essay.
- Always examined the key concepts where possible, i.e., nation-state, nationalism.
- Mentioned the benefits and ill-effects of Nationalism using examples.
- Cited prominent personalities' views on Nationalism.
- Needed more theoretical arguments.

55

Section B

- Discussed how water related disputes impacted conflicting societies historically. This discussion could have been shorter.
- Examined few causes of water crises.
- Could have analysed the Indian water crisis a bit.
- Offered appropriate solutions.
- Could have discussed the following aspects
 - ↳ Water pollution
 - ↳ underground water scarcity
 - ↳ Promotion of water intensive crops that are often incompatible with the soil.

51