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GENERAL STUDIES

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SECTION-A

Q(1) (a) Power as a concept is central to realist theory. V.V. Dyke writes that power is both means and ends in international politics

Power is defined as the phenomenon when a nation or entity is forced to do something which it wouldn't have done otherwise.

Power in international relations are decided by various tangible elements like territory, economic strength and intangible elements like bureaucracy / political clout etc.

Power is majorly of two types - soft power & hard power. Hard Power is defined by militarily and economic elements while soft power is much more fluid and comprehensive understanding of power. It includes cultural elements, diplomacy, media etc.

Soft Power a concept popularised by Joseph Nye is critiqued of -

(i) Ambiguity of definition: what really is soft power is unclear.
(ii) Lack of institutional backing to soft power
(iii) Developing nations prioritise hard power and thus lack of resources for soft power.
(iv) Soft Power engagement can be a one time engagement :. lack of sustainibility.

Even though soft power is criticised it is very important to analyse

1 (b) Epistemic communities and International rel[n]

(k) Role of NGOs and INGOs in International rel^{n}.

NGOs and INGOs are major transnational actors in the world system. Different schools of thought have viewed their roles differently.

(i) Realists say that NGOs are not that prominent and states are the only prime actors.

(ii) Liberals appreciate the role of NGOs in the international system. They have successfully carried out multiple tasks like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International in human Rights and Greenpeace in environment.

(iii) Marxists are skeptical about NGOs being neo-capitalist entities but appreciate the work done by them for labour welfare.

Thus there are concerns globally regarding vested interests of NGOs and the lack of transparency but they have indeed worked towards the most vulnerable communities like women, refugees, aborigines, LGBTQ rights.

2

Mention what the two groups consist of / role of Transnational NGOs in IR / they facilitate activities / intensify globalization

(d) Coronavirus and Human Security

Human security is an all encompassing concept that ensures security of humans from ~~economy~~, poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment, military attack.

Coronavirus being a WHO announced pandemic is a threat to human security as it endangers public health worldwide.

As worldwide people get infected and succumb to the virus it affects the economy of countries and leads to further impoverishment and disdain. According to reports by organisations like WB, IMF the economies are falling; according to ILO, jobs are under threat; according to IFPRI, malnourishment is higher due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In these taxing times, it becomes imperative for countries to visit ~~the~~ David Mitrany's functionalism to collaborate and come out of this crisis through vaccine development, joint action.

Mention longer perspective of national security & collective security, impact on food, health, economic & educational security

1 (e) Power transition theory & realist balance of power system.

Realist Balance of power system is an equilibrium of sorts where countries are at almost same power level. It gives rise to alliance system development. Balance of power avoids outbreak of conflict & war.

X——————X—

Inadequate

Mention central claims / influence on foreign policy / political analysis

Q3.

(a) System's theory to international relations is one of the scientific approaches to study. International world as a system has a number of actors and variables.

1

In Morton Kaplan's theory of International relations he discusses various stages of the world as a system -

(a) Balance of Power system where there was an almost equilibrium of power among states was popular till the outbreak of 1st world war.

(b) Bipolarity is of two types - ~~unipolar and bipolar~~ loose and tight which was distinguished on basis of presence of other centres of power for ex- NAM, emerging China

(c) Universal Model system - when there is an overarching body like the UN below which there are countries like - members of UN

(d) Hegemony - when there is a country that is above other smaller countries like US being a hegemony

(e) The equilibrium model where roughly all ~~the~~ powers are equal.

System's theory has been criticised for not giving enough characteristics of the system itself, its actors & variables.

Mention limitations of both approaches

What is the critical evaluation of the two theories?

3 (6) Collective security is a way to achieve peace in the world order where aggressive powers are countered by an alliance of security where countries ally for the security of all. It is based upon one for all theory.

Collective defense means that it is a military union of countries where all secure defense of each member for ex-NATO. Liberals criticise collective defense of being a shrewd way to achieve peace.

X——X

You are touching with simply answers upon basic definitions, without detailed comparison & critical analyses

3 (c) Transnational social Movements

Transnationalism is the phenomenon when an issue or entity cuts across boundaries of nation & the concept of territoriality.

They are seen in NGOs, INGOs, MNCs and even notorious actors like terrorists. Today due to globalisation and greater connectivity of people, there is greater interaction between people that leads to joint collective action by people on social issues like - climate change, racism, gender rights for ex.

Realists are skeptic of such transnational movements as being secondary to efforts of state while liberals welcome such transnational movements. In complex interdependence theory, liberals say that nations are connected through various issues.

If we look at gender rights as an example of transnational social movements we see that though they started in western developed countries but it later moved to 3rd world countries. It was in 1979 that convention of elimination of violence against women (CEDAW) was adopted. In 2020 we celebrate 25 years of Beijing declaration of gender rights. Today gender rights movement has expanded in scope and in number of countries and includes diverse movements like LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights etc.

If we look at environmental issues — these have also led to social movements transnationally. There is a unique chorus of unity among the developing countries against developed nations that has led to common but differentiated responsibilities as an accepted norm. Developed countries have been made to help these nations technologically and financially due to transnational social movements.

X ——— X

Mention critical comment / World Ministerial Conference / patterns emerging in countries / collective action dynamics

05 (a) 3 generation of human rights

Human rights are those principles ~~of~~ that govern the lives of people. They are enshrined to humans because of being human beings. They are universal and inalienable.

Does that even answer the question? Mention red, blue & green rights, critical analysis

5 (b) Technological challenges to deterrence theory.

Deterrence means literally to create fear. It is the act by which a sense of fear is generated through certain actions, possessing certain weapons in the international system.

Deterrence can be conventional, technological, militarily, economically.

Deterrence is a realist approach to peace where an entity won't attack other because of the massive retaliation it might face.

But building deterrence depends not only on financial resources but also technological capability which is often not possessed by developing smaller countries. ~~has they lack in~~ also many treaties like NPT create a situation of nuclear have and have nots in the international arena where non nuclear weapon states do not get access to the technology.

2

~~2020~~

Mention 2020 NPT Conference / hypersonic weapons / AI / new technologies / impact of / outer space / critical analysis

5 (c) Basic assumptions of Balance of Power System and its critique

Balance of Power System is a rough equilibrium of countries have almost equal power. It also leads to alliance system to achieve Balance of Power. It also assumes that once Balance of Power is broken, war is inevitable. According to Kaplan's system theory, it functions when there are around 5-7 major powers.

But often it is critiqued whether Balance of power holds relevance today when conventional wars have seized and the number of states have also increased

But doing away with the system completely won't be correct, there is need for looking at Balance of Power in today's times through greater functional cooperation among states

X——X

Mention critical comments, 5 principal assumptions/postulates, critiques, lost relevance

5 (d) 'I can't breathe' – movement and question of human right

'I can't breathe' movement is a movement against Black Racism of USA. post George Floyd case Researches have shown that it is evident that Blacks in USA are more prone to police attacks, murder, violence for even petty crimes.

It is a part of the larger 'Black Lives Matter' movement that demands justice ~~action~~ against such racist acts.

Race all over the world have been used to study human evolution and biology but when such differences of biological & physical characteristics become reason for prejudice and injustice it is Racism.

Racism is a blatant violation of multiple human rights, rights that are given because of 'being humans'.

Racism often leads to segregation, lack of equal opportunities, lack of access that are against principles of human rights as per UDHR.

Mention George Floyd, white supremacy, Black inferiority conditions of Blacks, victimization

5 (e) Complex Interdependence

Liberal theory of international relations is in contrast to the realist conception on power and war. It was popularised post second world war and has various streams of thought like - Democratic peace, Functionalism, Independence & Complex Interdependence.

Complex Interdependence theory popularised by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye has been influenced by thoughts of Kant, Friedman to name.

It says that today countries are today linked by complex layers of interdependence. Countries can't be kept out from such interdependence.

2

Mention assumptions & characteristics of international transactions / interconnectedness, detailed analysis

Q7(a) Power has been central to international relations study. It had been traditionally defined in terms of hard power. The constituents of hard power as realists put forward is military strength, no of arms, missiles possessed. Also the economic clout, trade, also come under hard power. Such understanding of power suited the earlier system where conventional wars were a common scene.

But since cold war times when wars and clashes between country are more based on ideologically strength and cultural prominence, soft power has taken importance.

Soft Power has been particularly popularised and theorised by Joseph Nye. For him various elements of soft power is - diplomacy, cultural strengths, films & TV, media forms.

for ex- American soft power can be a suitable example for its extensive soft power as its culture has grown to be the universal single culture - in terms of food, dresses - a phenomenon called as McDonaldization.

But soft Power has come under critical lens -

(a) lacks a concrete definition in terms of constituents
(b) lacks the backing of state level institutions
(c) Not enough resources are being spent
(d) Its sustainability in the long run is questioned.

Mention critical comments into tangible assets / Nye's classification

5

But today no form of power can be ignored as unimportant.

A successful foreign policy needs the right mix of hard and soft powers called the smart power by Nye.

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(7) (b) National Interest according to realist theory is a prime concern for the states or the raison d'etat of the state according to Mienke.

Morgenthau had said that National interest will exist until state exist. It is a pseudo theory as there can be no clear definition of national interest. It changes with time and situation.

Thus Morgenthau says that some interests are permanent, are like sovereignty, territory, security of nation while some are variable which depend on that particular situation for ex- getting a vaccine for the coronavirus for its people.

To understand the identical conflictual and complementary interest of nation, let us take the example of the geopolitics of south china sea.

It is a major trade route and location of manufacturing. It is shared by a number of countries but due to its strategic position, it has been

a point of conflict.

If we look at the interest of china & other neighbouring countries, we see that there is conflict of interest regarding the control of sea waters. China has proposed its 9dash line which has been challenged by countries like Philippines, ~~Thai~~ Vietnam etc as an attack of their territory, which is a key national interest.

Then if we look at interests of USA and India in south China sea, they are complementary to each other because both want a free Indo Pacific, freedom of navigation & demilitarization.

In the international arena, the conflict and complementarity of national interest decide who allies would be.

Mention meaning importance of states behaviour & foreign policy

Robinson's classification in states

07(c)

Deterrence theory is the concept of using fear to ensure ~~the~~ peace and avoid war. It is achieved through - conventional way, nuclear way, economical or other non military means.

Nuclear deterrence is the kind of deterrence where countries amass nuclear arsenals to instil fear of mutually assured destruction if once attacked.

But ~~now~~

But nuclear deterrence theory is marked by problems like:

1. Liberals criticise this violent and expensive way to achieve peace.
2. It gives birth to a huge arms race and stockpiling weapons.
3. Huge production of nuclear arsenals has the fear of going into hands of non State actors like terrorists
4. Developing countries end up spending huge portion of resources for such weapon development, ignoring the socio economic needs of citizens.

Thus nuclear deterrence should only be a transition phase, the aim should be ultimate disarmament.

5

Mention how it may post a casual relationship / commitment to mass murder / impact of catastrophic failure / false sense of confidence

The issues of environment and gender justice are both transnational issues that cuts across boundaries and also are linked.

The environment around us has been harmed, exploited for fulfilling the various wants of humans. This has led to unprecedented climate crisis. The resources extracted from the environment has led to the development of few while impoverishment of others.

Those suffering the most from climate justice are the vulnerable communities from both developed & developing countries. Though developed nations are at a better positions in terms of impact of climate change, the women in both developed & developing nations ~~to~~ are worst placed.

As ecofeminist, Vandana Shiva has also stressed, the worst impact is on women and thus gender justice needs to be addressed for complete climate justice.

In the prevalent institution of patriarchy, the resources of a household are generally in the control of male members ~~that~~ thus natural resources vest with the males. The women though interact with nature closely - while picking up food, collecting fuel wood, rearing the cattles they do not have ownership over it.

So when natural resources degrade, the women suffer the most because they have no agency to bring a change.

These countries need to collaborate both on gender justice and climate justice together. One would only lead to another.

Mention gendered indigenous knowledge / IPCC Report 2014 / critical comments / gender budgeting techniques / gender equitable sustainable development

Joseph Nye had stressed on the right balance of hard and soft power; i.e. smart power to maximise national influence.

National influence refers to the global standing, reputation, legitimacy, clout that a nation possesses in the international sphere. Through such influence, a nation gains a strong bargaining power in major international treaties, platforms, negotiations etc.

It can be best understood by taking example of ~~the~~ USA during the cold war and post cold war era.

If we consider its hard power, it was way ahead of other countries in both ~~the~~ conventional & nuclear ~~the~~ weaponry. USSR though equalled it during cold war, post cold war it broke apart. A number of missile control treaties, non proliferation treaties were guided by US's influence be it INF of 1985 or NPT of 1969.

USA was also very strong economy wise and had upper hand in the functioning of the foreign exchange rate system. It has been prominent in international institutions like WB, IMF through its huge donations, share. In the IMF, it virtually possesses a veto power to oust any proposition.

If we consider its soft power, American culture has been the ubiquitous culture. Its music, fashion, food of the USA

has been accepted by people all over the world.

But such national influence has often led to crossed its limits and encroached upon the sovereignty of ~~nations~~ countries. The gulf war, attack of Iraq, Afghanistan are remembered as acts of aggression & breach of state sovereignty.

Also ~~other~~ some institutions like WHO stand a threat towards paralysis if the USA takes away its funding which is a threat of global governance. USA's unilateral exit from the paris climate deal also diminishes the mammoth challenge of climate change.

Thus there is a need for objective view towards national influence. National Influence of few nations should not lead to breakdown of entire system.

Mention critical comments, limitations of hard power, cost of using force, democratic culture, economic freedoms, modernization