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SEC - A

~~Am~~

3. when state becomes overreaching, people become miserable.

Apt use of
quote is
open the
essay

"A state which dwyrds its men, so that they become more obedient instruments in its hands, will find that no great thing can be achieved with small men."

— JS Mill

Notion of state came into existence with ancient Greece's nation-state.

It is believed by the social contract theory that relationship between a state and its people is that of a transaction. In order for this transaction to be just, it is important for this relationship to find a harmonious balance. The state has definitive functional responsibilities, duties, and powers over its people and likewise the people too owe allegiance to the state.

When the state transgresses its ambit to exercise greater control over the people, it hampers the balance and makes people mere means and tools in the hands of the state. It is understood that people enter into the social contract willingly to preserve their liberty and to allow creation of an equal, fair and just society.

good use of theory to illustrate your point.

leave space between paragraphs

However, with an overarching state which begins to interfere with lives of the people unreasonably suffocates the initial purpose of entering into the contract with state. It makes people subservient to the state and leads to frustration of their individuality. In this context, measures to check the state become critical to ensure harmony and allow people to develop to full potential of their personalities.

A "state" was first defined in terms of sovereignty by French philosopher Jean Bodin. The state has supreme control over a defined territorial area. It makes all the decisions regarding the internal and external affairs with absolute freedom, free of any coercion from internal or external pressures.

However, the guiding light behind decision-making must always be the benefits of its people. This basic principle is accepted even by Hobbes, who in his book "The Leviathan" describes the state as a monster, larger than life. But even Hobbes succumbs his all-powerful, omnipresent state to the will of the people.

could shorten this section. You've already referenced social contract theory.

The Indian Constitution begins with the sacrosanct words "we the people of India". This concept of rights of the people against unjetttered powers of the state is a fairly recent development. Most historians trace its origins to the "Bill of Rights" passed in England in 1689 which is called the Magna Carta of civil liberties of people in any state.

For a dominant part of human history, the state was Monarchical. It was ruled by 'determinate human superiors' as defined by Austin. The rulers exercised absolute powers over their subjects, who were seen as inferior beings in need of protection of the king.

Relevant
but
address
the
main
aspects
now.

This monarchical form of government allowed the state to assume paternalistic and sometimes despotic nature. It allowed the state to demand unconditional obedience from its people. This despotic nature of the erstwhile state is predominantly responsible for the feudalistic societies that existed in most countries till the advent of the industrial Revolution.

It is this overreaching state which led to colonialism as people everywhere were viewed only as "subjects", as instruments at disposal of the state. This also led to frequent wars as Monarchs found no qualms with asking his subjects to sacrifice their lives, oftentimes for personal interests & pride.

Decide
the
focus
of your
essay and
avoid
largely.
Discuss the
dangers of
overreaching
state
now.

The American Revolution culminated in formation of the first democracy. Founding fathers Jefferson, George Washington were the first people to conceptualise a limited state. This democratic state was not paternalistic, it followed laizze faire and liberty of the people was the highest, most cardinal virtue.

Today, most states are democratic. It is settled that the state must be limited, guaranteeing fundamental rights to the people.

Laski defines the modern-day state as pluralistic, decentralized and upholds the role of civil society, private sector and people at large for governance. The modern-state owes its existence to the people.

Condense
this
dimension.
Main
question
yet to be
addressed

However, there still exist upteen examples when today's state becomes overarching leading to miserable people. In her book,

"Jerusalem: The Banality of Evil",

Hannah Arendt captured how even a seemingly democratic state can become tyrannical & perpetuate the worst form of suffering on its own people.

5 million Jews were murdered, gassed to death by their own state in Nazi Germany.

This dichotomy became even more complicated under the socialist USSR. A state born out of revolution of the masses, the proletariat for the objective of creating a perfectly egalitarian society ended up becoming one of the most totalitarian and

Relevant but absorb the main argument here - the dangers of a totalitarian state, its signs, its meaning.

authoritative states. It is often witnessed that the state has immense powers to manipulate its people into subservience.

A sinister, dystopic form of this manipulation was depicted by George Orwell in his book "1984" where the state as Big Brother became so overarching that it controlled each thought and each action of its people.

Hence, it becomes pertinent to question how the state must be controlled? Is it even possible to control this "Leviathan"? This simple answer to this lies in the profound idea of "constitutional morality." It comes from the people, it makes the people masters of their own destiny.

Relevant
dimension

Constitutional morality finds its origin as early as ancient Greece too. It was Aristotle who first propounded the idea that functions and powers of the state must be divided into various organs. This thought found climax in Montesquieu's notion of separation of powers. This idea begins tethering the state by decentralizing its powers.

It is not just separation of powers that makes a united state though. Constitutional morality includes a plethora of ideals like Republicanism, federalism, principles of natural justice, rule of law. This list is not exhaustive & grows dynamically.

Highlight Don't mindlessly underline words. few points per page for neatness.

However, the underlying idea remains constant: only a state where people are sovereign can ensure the happiness, satisfaction and freedom of the people. People should demand accountability, transparency and responsibility from the state at every step.

people as ultimate sovereign can be achieved through the modern democratic state provided that the society is just with the least amount of socio-economic and man-made disparities. A healthy democracy demands intellectually and spiritually evolved people. In absence of which, even the democratic state degenerates as a tool in the hands of either the rich as propounded by Marx or

Valid
dimension

a tool in the hands of majority as demonstrated by Bryce. Plato in his book "The Republic" gave an account of how democracy becomes 'mobocracy' in absence of people with evolved consciousness.

Hence, it should be the constant effort of people coupled with constitutionalism which can ensure the optimum balance between state and the people. With advent of globalisation & the internet revolution, notion of state and sovereignty have undergone rapid and radical changes. The world has become so inter-related and interdependent that no state and its people can exist as islands. This was witnessed most recently through Covid 19 pandemic, the impact of

Relevant
argument

Russia-Ukraine conflict on the economies of all nations alike. In this context, India's dream of 'vasudev kutumbakam' gains immense significance. Today with climate change, the 6th mass extinction caused anthropogenically and global supply chains for production of chips to submarines, the inter-relationship of all states and idea of a 'global people' is a reality. Common concerns of humankind have gained significance which calls for a radical, collective effort of the state and people to work together for betterment of our one world.

(Try referencing the main points in the conclusion.)

58

Section B

3. The biggest irony of present day society is that god within individuals dies young.

" Tat Tvam Asi "

This Upanishadic statement holds the ultimate Reality of the universe according to Indian Philosophy. It is believed that all humans share identity with God. This idea finds tradition in western thought as well in St. Augustine's statement that we are all created in the image of God.

Meaning unclear

Perhaps no word is as enigmatic as "God". Notions of what entails God are innumerable. The idea of God has as many interpretations as souls in the world. But it is largely accepted that God is the Perfect Being.

The Perfect Being has all the virtues, values and attributes of goodness known to mankind in perfection. Hence, there exists a moral compulsion in every human being to achieve ideals close to the idea of God. However, this inner conscience is always in need of practise, reflection & affirmation.

Man is born as 'tabula rasa' and the God within each requires to be realized. In a scenario where society as a whole has lost touch with its essence, this realization becomes impossible.

Idea of Godly virtues is abandoned as a utopian and ridiculous concept. The God within the individual dies due to suffocation and suppression of each attribute that idea of God stands for.

lost argument

In order to understand why this God within us dies young, we must first inquire the nature and aspects of the modern, present day society. We must inquire what it is about this society which kills God. Present day society has been ushered into a fairly uniform culture because of globalisation and the internet.

This uniformity also comes from predominantly democratic and capitalist nature of state. People around the world are in almost similar situations, ideologies quickly become popular and gain compliance in such a world. Present day society is driven by technology & scientific innovations. Man is undeniably, unquestionably the most superior being in nature.

Questionably
simplistic
statement.

Qualify
it.

The notions of virtue of 'individuals' and humanism has brought man at the centre of the universe.

Our scientific achievements have convinced us of our invincibility. In such a society, the notion of God itself becomes redundant, delusional and limiting.

Man does not believe in the idea of a transcendent Perfect Being anymore, man thinks he is the Perfect Being just by virtue of being human. But this thought ignores the basic reality that man is part of nature itself. The Darwinian dominance of theory of evolution discarded role of 'God' in creation of man. This biggest collateral damage of this was that man started to reject even those ideas that

Before beginning the analysis define the concept - "god wellman"

made idea of god.
Present day society, thereby is
governed by survival of the fittest.
Richard Dawkins, in his book,
"the selfish gene" describes that
nature of man is not godly and
cannot even be so. It encapsulates
the mindset of present-day society
which revolves in the animalistic,
materialist and selfish nature of
man.

The form that religion took is
also extremely crucial to
understand why people rejected
God. Religion became the sole
proprietor of god. The idea of god
was abused in such horrifying
ways to perpetuate oppression,
hatred and violence among people.
And so present-day society became
averse to the idea of god. It
became almost a "trigger word".

Valid
dimension.
Could
probe
spiritual
elements of
the key
concept as
well.

with rejection of god came rejection
of ideals that god stood for. However,
compassion, forgiveness and love
for all are seen as weaknesses.
The individual since he is born
is conditioned to a world of
cut-throat competition. A world
where the individual is in constant
battle with everyone and everything
around him.

Since the child begins formal education
he is taught that he is in constant
competition with all his peers. The
child is ingrained with survival
of fittest mentality. He is taught
virtues of saam, daam, dand, bhed.

This notion of unending competition
leaves the child in a daze of
isolation. Albert Camus captured
this constant fear in his book
"The Stranger" where the protagonist
suffers such severe derangement
of values that he ends up

Good
reading of
this
dimension

killing his own mother.
Present day society kills the
innocence of the child with the
burden of constantly jending for
oneself. The child is taught distrust
and suspicion in order to teach
him survival. This environment
kills the inner conscience, it makes
the individual numb, completely
lacking in empathy.

Social media has assumed centre
stage furtherance of this isolation.
The children of today are exposed
to a drowning flood of information,
voyeuristic gaze into others' personal
lives has become the norm. This
enhances the sense of competition
and loneliness manifold. It is
not wrong to say that the "hustler"
mentality makes the young completely
blind to sufferings & miseries of
society and also their own self.

Good
arguments

Japanese author, Osamu Dazai captures this individual suffering in absence of genuine human connection in his book "No longer Human". The protagonist suffers from a lack of connect with his own true self which causes him to repeatedly commit suicide.

This misery caused by wrong identification of the 'self' with ego, materialistic achievements and wealth leads the individual to kill the virtues of god within himself. Gautam Buddha explained the constant cycle of 'dukkha' caused due to this misidentification. For sanity of existence, it is essential for the individual to find and understand his true self which finds semblance with the god within.

Valid dimension

Soren Kierkegaard in his book 'fear and trembling' explains how an individual can realise the God within, the process of achieving authentic existence. Only when an individual is honest, moral and ethical in every action can he realize God and achieve true happiness of being.

The nature of the individual in present day society becomes just posed with conflicting virtues.

It causes internal dissonance and this lack of integrity destroys the peace of man. To fight this contradiction, both the individual and society need to be aligned.

This lack of alignment becomes even more precarious as we enter the age of Artificial Intelligence, where the machine is taught sentience.

hampers

If humans do not recognise & realize the God within, they will create machines which are as pragmatic, glorifying bourgeois logic. The need of humanity is to gain the abandoned sense of God. If humans want to enjoy the pleasures of their inventions & rationality, it is indispensable for them to inculcate values of fraternity, compassion and overarching love for all.

God within the individual is the only synthesizing value which allows man his moral progression. It allows individual to become truly perfect through his journey and constant practice of enforcing moral reasoning & upholding inner conscience in the image of God.

Good enough conclusion

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Kashish's comments

- Section A
- Essay appeared to be on the evolution of modern state with brief references to the main question.
 - Always define the key concept - "overarching state", its impact, its dangers.
 - Discussed importance of checks & balances.
-

- Section B
- Before beginning analysis, define the key concept thoroughly along with its many interpretations.
 - Discussed the troubles with modern society in detail and the importance of aligning self with God.