

Submitted by

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Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end. (20)

In its response to 9/11, America has shown itself to be not only a hyperpower but increasingly assertive and ready to use its dominance as a hyperpower. After declaring a War on Terrorism, America has led two conventional wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq, demonstrating its overwhelmingly awesome military might. But these campaigns reveal something more: America's willingness to have recourse to arms as appropriate and legitimate means to secure its interests and bolster its security. It has set forth a new doctrine: the right of pre-emptive strike when it considers its security, and therefore its national interests, to be at risk. The essence of this doctrine is the real meaning of hyperpower.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has consistently argued that the only option in the face of hyperpower is to offer wise counsel. But increasingly this is a course that governments and people across the world have refused. The mobilisation for war against Iraq split the United Nations and provoked the largest anti-war demonstrations the world has ever seen. And through it all, America maintained its determination to wage war alone if necessary and not to be counselled by the concerns of supposedly allied governments when they faithfully represented the wishes of their electorates. Rather than engaging in debate, the American government expressed its exasperation. The influential new breed of neoconservative radio and television hosts went much further. They acted as ringmasters for outpourings of public scorn that saw French fries renamed 'freedom fries' and moves to boycott French and German produce across America. If one sound-bite can capture a mood, then perhaps it would be Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. At the height of the tension over a second Security Council resolution to legitimate war in Iraq, Mr O'Reilly told his viewers that the bottom line was security, the security of his family, and in that matter 'There's no moral equivalence between the US and Belgium'. It is, in effect, the ethos of hyperpower articulated and made manifest in the public domain of 24-hour talk. And America's willingness to prosecute war has raised innumerable questions about how it engages with other countries. Afghanistan has seen the removal of the Taliban. But there are no official statistics on the number of innocent civilians dead and injured to achieve that security objective. The people of Afghanistan have witnessed a descent into the chaos that preceded the arrival of the Taliban, a country administered not by a new era of democracy under the tutelage of the hyperpower, but merely by the return of the warlords. Beyond Kabul, much of the country remains too insecure for any meaningful efforts at reconstruction and there is enormous difficulty in bringing relief aid to the rural population.

Questions: (4 marks each)

1. Why does the doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America deny space to counselling?
2. What is the essence of 'moral equivalence' whereas War has no moral justification?
3. Why do countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace?
4. Arguably Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war. Are they? Why?
5. What Tony Blair's meant by 'wise counsel', and did it prevail?

- ① Doctrine of power deny space to counselling because it allows America to attack any country when its interests are threatened. This gives America an absolute power over the world. It is obvious that no hyperpower go for the process of counselling.
- ② Although war has no moral justification, it has been made justified through moral equivalence which seeks to compare two things and label them bad or good. America's wars are justified by comparing them with her national interests. It means national interests are core and foremost for Americans, so the war to protect these interests is also good and legitimate.
- ③ Countries occupied by hyperpower have no peace because the hyperpower has to achieve its objectives without having any concerns about casualties of innocent people. This fact can be depicted by America's war in Afghanistan where no statistics of deaths of civilians are available in pursuit of fulfilling it's own objectives. The same is the case with Iraq.

④ Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war because Europe believes in the process of counselling and debate over the issue of war and it do not agree with US doctrine of single-handedly waging a war in the name of national interests.

These facts can be proved by Tony Blair's statement of providing wise counselling. Further, O'Reilly's statement of denial regarding moral equivalence between US and Belgium also shows Europe's alienation to US's concept of war.

⑤ Wise counsel means getting of giving advice on the basis of sound judgements and experience. Tony Blair believes that hyperpower has to go for wise counselling and refrain from starting a war alone.

Wise counselling is not prevalant if we see world's hyperpower, US. US always focus on its interests and does not bother to get any advice from its allies.