

Topic: World peace is a choice of superpowers.

### Outline:

- I. Introductory remarks: The superpower have a significant role to play in the establishment of peace.
- II. Thesis Statement: It is true that actions and choices of major powers are at the heart of establishing world peace, but their choices indicate that the world is heading in the opposite direction.
- III. Super powers and their significance in contemporary world.
- IV. Super powers' role in the establishing of peace.
  - A. Act as a mediator in the growing conflicts
  - B. Prevent proliferation of Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction
  - C. fulfill their commitment made to meet the Paris Accord requirements.
  - D. play a significant role in the United Nations.

E. Make rules to limit the growth of disruptive technologies.

V. Actions and choices of super powers threatening the world peace.

A. The on-going China-USA war

B. Russia-Ukraine war and involvement of Nato.

C. Major power's irresponsible role in Gaza-Israel war.

D. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and Nuclear.

E. Growing conflict in Indo-Pacific region

F. Role of major powers in making UN toothless organisation.

VI. Positive role played by Super powers:

(i) Vaccine distribution and Grain deal with Russia.

VII. Ways to encourage super powers to make the choice of maintaining the world peace.

A. Reforming the UN.

B. Encouraging meaningful dialogue among super powers.

C. Promoting cultural diversity and religious harmony

D. Opening of diplomatic channels

E. Encouraging women involvement in peace talks and <sup>at</sup> leadership positions.

F. Increasing the role of <sup>global</sup> civil societies -

VIII. Concluding remarks: Superpowers have to make a hard choice of establishing world peace at all cost.

### Essay

Since time immemorial, establishment of peace has been the overarching goal of all human actions and endeavors. All major religions — Islam, Judaism and Christianity — have conveyed the message of peace. Moreover, numerous landmark treaties, such as treaty of Hudaibiya and treaty of Westphalia, were signed to materialize the long-cherished dream of peace. Similarly, at its core, the United Nations (UN) was formed with a motive to establishing peace and security at the global level. However, the unfortunate fact is that world peace has remained an elusive dream. The primary

reason behind that is the growing divide between major powers and the rest of the world in terms of wealth, power and influence. The current scenario of major powers and the rest of the world can best be explained through prophetic lines of George Orwell's Novel "Animal Farm". He writes, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." Simply put, although all nations have an equal say to establishing peace, it is superpowers which have a final say in these affairs. Therefore, it is true that actions and choices of major powers are at the heart of establishing world peace, but their choices indicate that the world is heading in the opposite direction.

There is no denying that superpowers — USA, China, France, etc and Russia — play a pivotal role in world affairs. Their actions have a significant impact at global level. The most important factor behind their strength is their economic clout. According to the World Bank report, major powers — USA, China, France

Russia and UK - are among the top-ten-economies of the world, USA being <sup>the</sup> first and China the second. Another element that adds to their prestige at the global level is the possession of nuclear weapons. According to Stockholm institutes, USA possess 5,573 nuclear war heads, Russia (5,177), China (350), France (290) and UK (375). Similarly, they are veto powers at ~~the~~ United Nations (UN). These factors along with many others are making super powers an indispensable players in world affairs.

That said, super powers can play a constructive role in the establishing of world peace as their actions and choices have a far-reaching consequences. The most significant role major powers can play in the establishment of world peace is to act as mediators in the growing conflicts. Super powers have good economic and diplomatic relations with other countries. They can use this leverage to broker a treaty or deal among warring countries. The role of China in brokering deal between ex-combatants in Sudan, Arabia and Iran - is

A glaring example of that. Other superpowers can act as mediators to defuse tensions between rival states like Pakistan - India, Russia - Ukraine and Palestine - Israel, their actions are threatening the world peace -

Another area in which superpowers can play instrumental role to establish peace is to curb proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction -

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the result of far-sighted thinking of superpowers -

The two super powers - USA and USSR - of that time provide a blueprint for NPT, which was later signed by other nuclearised states except Pakistan and India. This is a clear indication of the fact that superpowers have a final say in the matters of international significance -

Adding to that, fast-changing climate of our <sup>Blue</sup> planet is posing a significant threat to the world peace. The Superpowers can contribute significantly to address the scourge of climate change. In this regard, they must fulfill their commitment made in the Paris accord signed in 2015. Moreover

they must water their <sup>financial</sup> promises made in COP 09, providing \$100 bn annually after 2020. Similarly, super powers have capabilities, expertise and resources to make renewable energy more accessible and affordable. In this way, super powers can play a significant role to mitigate the curse of climate change.

likewise, major powers are of great significance at the United Nations. Their choices at this international platform is of paramount importance because they are veto powers and permanent members of Security Council (SC). If any of P-5 vetoes any resolution, it shall not pass. The primary rationale behind security council is to maintain peace and security. Super powers being at the heart of SC proves that their choices and actions can propel the world in the direction of peace.

lastly, super powers have a critical role to play in the emerging field of disruptive technologies. In his book, "The power of crises", Ian Bremmer has warned the world leaders to be

were dangerous of disruptive technologies such as AI and so on. He urges superpowers to make rules to limit their exponential growth. As superpowers like USA and China are leading the way on this front, they have to ensure these technologies do not end up causing damage beyond repair.

None the less, the actions and choices of superpowers indicate that the world is headed in the direction of chaos, anarchy and destruction. The most glaring example to validate this claim is the intensifying war between two main powers: USA and China. This war started in the form of trade war, but it is no longer confined to that. Many experts have termed it a new cold war. Jan Bremmer says that China-USA conflict have the potential to disrupt the peace and security of the world. Despite that, there is no end insight in this war, both countries are not compromise on anything to defuse tension. This ideological, economic, and technological warfare between two main powers is not a good omen



for the world peace.

Moreover, Russia - unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is a clear indicative of the fact that the super powers are not the torch-bearer of peace and hope. Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, 2022. More than a year has passed, but nothing has changed. There is no ceasefire or another kind of agreement. Ukraine has a full support of Nato and USA. According to UN office of the High Commissioner for Human rights, around 91000 civilians have died in this war. This pro-longing of war regardless of its dire consequence is a clear sign of the fact super powers have no interest in establishing world peace.

Similarly, Major powers have not demonstrated responsible behavior and <sup>played</sup> constructive role in the on-going Gaza conflict. The UN has termed Gaza as "graveyard of children" as more than 6000 children have died so far. Sadly, super powers have no concern for their safety, only for their interests. The role of USA is very pathetic in Gaza conflict. USA has used its veto power to prevent the

prevent the killings of civilians by Israeli forces. Moreover, the Wall Street Journal has said in its report that USA-made weapons are used by Israel in its conflict. This is an irrefutable proof of the fact that superpowers are deliberately making the choice of not promoting peace at the global level. The fact is that wars and conflicts are in their best interests.

In addition, proliferation of nuclear weapons have been the main threat to the world peace. Yusef Noah Harari has termed nuclear weapons as "collective suicide". The superpowers are turning a blind eye to the countries which are making nuclear weapons. According to the Pentagon report, China is going to double its nuclear arsenal in this decade. Moreover, USA is providing eight nuclear-submarines to Australia through AUKUS. Other countries like North Korea have been stubborn in their commitment to make nuclear weapons. In this entire scenario, superpowers have acted as a silent spectator and have done nothing to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Moving forward, Indo-Pacific region has become a theatre of the growing conflict among superpowers, particularly between China and USA. No doubt, Indo-Pacific has been the backbone of global economy as the major of trade passes through it. However, in the recent years, it <sup>has</sup> become an arena of conflict and dispute. China's claims, based on its nine dash line, are not acceptable in the eyes of other superpowers. Thus, they are making/forging alliance like Quad and AUKUS to contain China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. This backluster behavior of superpowers in Indopacific clears that they are not interested in peace.

Last but not the least, as the major powers are major shareholders in the UN, their growing influence on the UN has made the organization toothless. Their possession of veto power has made UN Security Council a talk shop. Whenever an important resolution that can have significant but it clashes with the interests of superpowers, they use their veto power to reject it. Russia has done it many times in the recent years. The USA has used veto to block

two resolutions regarding humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip. This mis use of veto by super powers is a proof of a fact that the super powers are deliberately making a choice of spreading chaos and conflict, not peace.

The above paragraph discussed the choices of super powers are leading the world in the opposite direction, the following paragraph will highlight the positive role of super powers.

It is true that all actions of super powers are not causing chaos. There has been some positive developments as well in the recent years. The major contribution by the super powers to establish peace is the widespread distribution of vaccines to combat Covid-19. The USA distributed its vaccines in the developing and the developed countries alike. Moreover, China also distributed its vaccines across the world, particularly in Africa. This action of super powers led to establishment of peace in the world. Likewise, after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, many countries in the Middle East, Africa and the

in other

Europe, faced food shortages. In this chaotic situation, Russia showed a responsible behavior and allowed the distribution of grain across the globe through a deal made in Turkey. These actions of super powers are contributing to the fact that actions of super powers are at the heart of maintaining peace and order.

In order to compel super powers to work for the establishment of peace, some major changes need to be made. There are numerous reforms that must be taken so as to correct the behavior of super powers. The first and the foremost way is to reform the UN. The UN chief, Antonio Guterres, has called reforms in Security Council so as to make it more suitable for current challenges. One way to reform UNSC is to increase its numbers: both permanent and non-permanent members. Some experts suggest that total number of UNSC should be around 25. This would increase effectiveness of the UN as it would become more inclusive. Another way is to make its laws more binding, if not completely binding. Thirdly, its

finances must be increased so that it can accomplish its goals. In this way, UN can become more effective organization.

Another way to establish peace in the world is through the process of meaningful dialogue among superpowers. These dialogues can be organized through the good offices of UN or the regional organization like ASEAN or it can be done through informal platforms. The prime purpose of these dialogues should be to encourage super powers to vent their aspirations and come to an understanding of how to exist mutually and peacefully in this world. This is a best way to defuse their tensions and promote peace in the world.

Thirdly, promotion of cultural diversity and religious harmony is the need of hour. The problems of populists, Islamophobia and what not are the outcome of lack of tolerance. China's Global Civilization Initiative is a glaring example. It calls for the respect of other culture, tolerance, equality and mutual-coexistence. This initiative must see the daylight and complemented in the letter and the spirit.

Fourthly, encouraging women's involvement in peace talks and at leadership positions. The Economist Magazine argued that encouraging women in peace talks and leadership positions can minimize the chances of war and conflict. Moscow, <sup>Good Friday</sup> agreement is the outcome of far-sightedness of women and their role to keep talks going until an agreement is reached. Thus, women are known for nurturing, caring and emotions; their involvement in peace talks or at leadership positions can make this world better to live in.

Lastly, increasing the role of global civil societies is a viable option. These societies include Transparency Agency, and Nuclear Decrement Agencies. These can pile up pressure on governments by encouraging masses to raise their voice for the safety and security of their states. When masses take to the streets, it compels superpowers to yield in to the demands of people. In this way, the super powers can be coerced to take necessary steps to establish peace in the world.

In the light of above arguments, it can be concluded that the world peace is heavily dependent on the actions and choices of the superpower. There is no doubt that superpowers are the major players of the affairs of the world. Their main strength lies in their <sup>huge</sup> economic clout, military might and others' dependence on them. Moreover, the actions of major-powers are indicative of the fact that the world is headed in the direction of conflict, such as 1999 conflict, USA - China war and Russia - Ukraine war. The corrective behavioural measures <sup>must</sup> ~~are~~ be taken at a war footing so as to establish peace. In this regard, superpowers have to focus on broader & far-sighted goals. As Christopher Lascelles writes in his book "A short history of the world": "Unless we change our focus from short-term goals to long-term aims, nothing will change and we would be heading in the direction of chaos and conflict of the past".