

Topic: World peace is a choice of superpowers

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: World peace is said to be dependent on a variety of factors. However, it predominantly remains within the domain of global superpowers. Unless superpowers show their political and economic willingness to maintain world peace, it will remain a distant dream.

2. World peace and superpowers

3. World peace is a choice of superpowers (thesis)

- a) Political prowess of superpowers
- b) Military might and hegemonic designs
- c) Domination of UN security council
- d) Economic clout to mitigate conditions of war
- e) Role in the proxy wars

4. World peace dependent on other factors (anti-thesis)

- a) Concept of collective security
- b) Strength of middle powers
- c) Role of global organisations
- d) Responsibility of other states to ameliorate war-like conditions
- e) Rising regional conflicts

5. Role of super powers outweighs other factors in the peace process (synthesis)

- a) Skewed balance of power

- b) Military capacity surpassing middle powers
- c) Render UN ineffective
- d) Control of world economic systems
- e) Withdrawal from a proxy war and its negative effects

6. Conclusion

The global community continues to raise its concerns regarding the oppressive attacks of Israeli forces on the civilians of Gaza, yet Israel's military carries out the horrific strikes relentlessly. The reason being that it has the backing of a global hegemon, USA, and other superpower states of the world. Even a billion calls for peace are rendered useless against the stance of superpowers. Thus, world peace is a choice of superpowers. They have the political prowess to determine the fate of global peace. Moreover, their military and economic power is essential to the peacemaking process. Although world peace is said to be dependent on a variety of factors, it predominantly remains within the domain of global superpowers. Unless superpowers show their political and economic willingness to maintain world peace, it will remain a distant dream.

Before delving into the debate of whether or not world peace is a choice of superpowers, the concept of world peace and superpowers needs to be elaborated. World peace can be defined as a lack of war or conflict at bilateral, multilateral or global level. It also includes mitigation of conflicts within the states. In addition to this world peace encompasses the domain of political, economic and social

security of all nations of the world. The notion of superpower iterates the political, military, economic and cultural clout that certain states hold in the present day world order. These states have an influence not only within their region but across the global landscape. Countries such as USA, China and Russia can be regarded as the present day superpowers. In the past century, UK, France and Germany also held a similar status. After clarification of these concepts, the arguments in favor and in opposition of the topic are highlighted.

There are a multitude of reasons as to why global peace is a choice of superpowers. Among these a major reason is that global superpowers have the political prowess to influence many decisions across the world. They can take decisions which can escalate conflicts or they can initiate steps to ease down the tensions. A recent example of how a superpower mediated peace process can be seen through the KSA - Iran rapprochement deal. The tensions between the two rivals seemed to be unending until China took upon itself to broker the deal. By using its political power as a regional and a global leader, China was able to convince the contending states to reach a peace deal. Hence, it can be seen

that through their political prowess, superpowers can take decision to promote world peace.

In a similar latitude, the military might and the hegemonic designs of the superpowers can determine the fate of world peace. Certain superpowers use the strength of their military to promote their expansionist policies and achieve hegemony in the region. In 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and tried to further expand the domain of its influence. This aggressive maneuver by the Russian state clearly displays the fact that superpowers do not shy off from using their military potency to gain hegemony of the region. This can play a role in disrupting world peace. Therefore, with their military capacity, world superpowers hold the fate of global peace in their hands.

Another factor that increases the role of superpowers in the decision of world peace is that of their domination of United Nations Security Council. The UNSC is comprised of 15 members. Out of these the 10 states are non-permanent members. Whereas, the superpowers hold the 5 spots of permanent members and are known as the P5. This standing allows them to veto any decisions against their own vested interests. Therefore, they dominate the decision making process of the UN. Thus, this also highlights the significant capture that

the global superpowers have on the peace process of the world.

Additionally, the global superpowers also have the economic clout to mitigate the conditions of the war. War is not always a result of some out of the blue trigger event. It occurs due to longstanding socio-economic crises that force two or more nations to engage in a conflict. Since, global powers have the economic resources they can alleviate war-like situations. US and China are two of the greatest economies. If they direct their resources to help the conflicting nations improve their internal socio-economic conditions, they will resolve the root cause of the war. Thus, through their economic clout, the superpowers can make a choice to garner global peace.

Moreover, the role of superpowers in different proxy wars also illustrates that they hold the cards in the global peace paradigm. Proxy wars are often initiated when two states want to avoid a direct confrontation, yet they seek to destabilize their opponents. US, China and Russia continue to meddle in the middle east and engage in proxy wars. This has resulted in the destabilization of the region. The conflicts in Syria and Yemen are a clear indication of the fact that through their

involvement in proxy wars in different regions, the global powers can disrupt the peace process. In addition to this, the Cold War era saw confrontations between US and USSR at different fronts across the globe and it promoted an environment of conflicts. Hence, by participating in proxy wars the superpowers can disrupt the world peace and thus, the question of world peace remains at their mercy.

Although superpowers hold important influence in determining the fate of world peace, other factors also play a role. One of the major factors is the concept of collective security. Collective security ensures that no one state holds complete domination of the global order. Thereby, states engage in bilateral and multilateral alliances to ensure that their security is a responsibility of all the states intertwined in that alliance. The Concert of Europe in the past and the present day European Union, reflects the practical application of this concept. Now the security of each member of EU is a collective responsibility of all. Therefore, peace and war in the region is not in the hands of some superpower, it is the prerogative of the allied nations under collective security. Thus, collective security also plays a role in the world peace order.

Adding onto the argument, the role of

middle powers and their military strength also determines the balance of peace in the world. Defined by Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Middle Powers are states with considerable economic, geopolitical and geostrategic strength to impact the global political order. These states such as India, Brazil, ~~Canada~~ Iran, KSA and Pakistan, have a sufficient economic and political capacity to influence the decisions of the world. Therefore, not only superpowers but also middle powers can influence the global peace prospects.

As previously stated that UNSC is captured by the dominating forces of PS, however, UN and different global organisations ensure that the world does not descend into another world war. Despite the looming doubts over the efficacy of UN, it has successfully prevented any likelihood of a global war, unlike its predecessor. Moreover, other global organisations and alliances such as EU, OIC, BRICS, SCO can play a role in promoting regional and global peace. Thereby, world peace is not a prerogative of superpowers alone, different global organisations contribute to the peacemaking process.

Although global powers have the economic clout to mitigate conditions of war, the role of other states within this context

can not be ignored. Over the past decade, many developing countries have witnessed a substantial economic growth. Energy rich gulf states, India, Brazil, ASEAN states and South Africa, have all emerged as the new economic powers of the world. Despite that, their role in mitigation of socio-economic suffering of the rest of the developing states in their respective regions is insignificant. In contrast, these countries have used their economic ascent to pursue hegemonic designs. Therefore, it is not the sole responsibility of superpowers to mitigate the conditions of wars globally. Many regional emerging economies can play a similar role and thus, they can also contribute to the global peace process.

Another dilemma of the global peace prospect is that regional conflicts are rising. Although superpowers have some influence in the regional conflicts, ~~the~~ major responsibility lies with the participating states. Many African states such as Sudan and Congo are war torn at present. Yemen, Syria, Iraq face a similar debacle in the Middle East. Although some external influences by the global and regional hegemons have disrupted the power equations and have contributed in the escalation of tension, the primary

responsibility lies with the government of the states who have not alleviated the problems of their populations and have taken steps to exacerbate the conditions of war. Therefore, not only do the super-powers contribute to disruption of peace, but it is also the governments of different states that have a role in imbalance of peace process in the world.

Even though the previous arguments give a perspective regarding other factors that influence the dynamics of world peace, the real choice is still in the hands of global powers. The foremost reason to favor this argument is that in the global political order, the balance of power is skewed. The concept of collective security was to ensure that a joint alliance was equivalent to the strength of its opponents. However, contemporary order reflects that certain nations hold a much greater influence than others. After the collapse of USSR in 1991, US was the sole global hegemon. Since then, China has economically bolstered its position and Russia has revived its military strength. So these three global powers significantly influence the global decision of peace and war. Thus, in contemporary power politics it is the global powers that

hence the choice of peace calculus in their domain.

In a similar context, the military strength of middle powers does not compete with that of the global powers. Russia has the most nuclear warheads in the world, followed by USA. Due to this reason alone, no country has directly entered in confrontation with Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. Hence, with their military capacity, the global powers have a significant clout to determine the fate of world peace.

As previously discussed that global organisations seek to promote world peace and in this regard UN has successfully prevented a third world war. However, the domination of the global powers of the UNSC, ~~has~~ has made UN an ineffective body. UN has failed in its goal to maintain global peace ~~as~~ as witnessed through the recent global conflicts. Russia vetoed the UNSC resolution against its invasion of Ukraine. Likewise, USA vetoed the resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The UNSC has become an instrument for the global powers to maintain their interests and support their allies. Therefore, the role of UN and other global organisations largely depends on the interests of superpowers. Hence, world peace is at the mercy of global powers.

Additionally, the global powers control the world economic systems. Despite the recent emergence of some developing states, most of the world's nations are under the influence of global powers. According to the Dependency Theory, the developed nations have progressed economically by exploiting the resources of developing nations. In turn they have also made the developing nations dependent on them for financial assistance. Due to this economic relation, the developing countries suffer and their internal socio-economic precipitates condition of war. Therefore, the domination of world economic system by the global powers gives them the greater say in the decision to maintain or disrupt world peace.

The role of the different states whose proxy war are conducted was primarily highlighted. However, with the influence of superpowers, these nations pay a far greater price than they signed up for. US invasion of Iraq and their subsequent withdrawal and their ~~presence~~ influence in Afghanistan and an abrupt exit, resulted in a situation of chaos in both the states. The war-torn states had to suffer a political, economic as well as a humanitarian crisis. Thus, even when a global power is dominant in a

region's conflict, it can leave long lasting detrimental effects to their peace process. This example further illustrates that the real choice of world peace lies in the hands of superpowers.

In conclusion it can be said that the world peace is a choice of superpowers because they have the political power to influence decisions, they control the global organisations and they have taken part in numerous proxy wars across the globe. Although the other factors such as strength of middle powers and the concept of collective security, play a role in maintaining the scale of peace, but it is skewed by the insurmountable military might of superpowers and their capture of the global political and economic order to influence all the global decisions of peace and war. It can only be hoped that these superpowers utilize their power for the rightful purpose of establishing world peace.

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