

Q:- Why is it important to study IR and how has it evolved as an independent field of study?

IR's evolution as an independent field of study and its importance:

International Relations has been gone through an unprecedented process of evolution in order to emerge as an academic discipline. There are lot of views about the starting point of IR as a subject of study. Some beliefs that it has been emerged as a subject right after the emergence of Sumerian city state in 3500 BC and some are of the opinion that it has been evolved after the westphalian treaty in 1648.

While, other thought that a proper emergence of IR as a subject started after the world war II. This subject has broader as well as narrow views depending upon the nature, scope, actors and level of analysis. Moreover, in the 21st century is not comprehensible without IR's study.

Inspite of contradictions in its emerging point, it has vast and evident scope.

It deals with the historic study of clans and tribes as well as the present study of emerging multipolar order. IR as a deals with political, non-political affairs b/w and among states, international organizations, international political economy and security, conflict or war and peace studies, Military strategies, globalization, interdependence, theories, approaches of IR and much more.

Debates on Evolutionary Phases of IR as a Subject:

(i) city - state system:

Scholars believe that it has been emerged as a subject when the first city state has been formed with the territorial demarcation.

(ii) nation - state system:

Other group of scholars are of opinion that it has been after the formation of nation-state system with the principles of sovereignty, independence, individual freedom and integration.

(iii) ~~post~~ - world war - I / Congress of Vienna (1815)

Another view has point of view of IR's emergence ~~after~~ before the formation of League of Nations it has been emerged as an academic discipline, with the beginning of treaties.

(iv) post - world war (I):

Some scholar believes that IR has no academic grounds onset of world war (I). They believe it has been emerged as a subject when organizations like of League of Nations emerged and the debates of colonialism ended with the beginning of communism and imperialism.

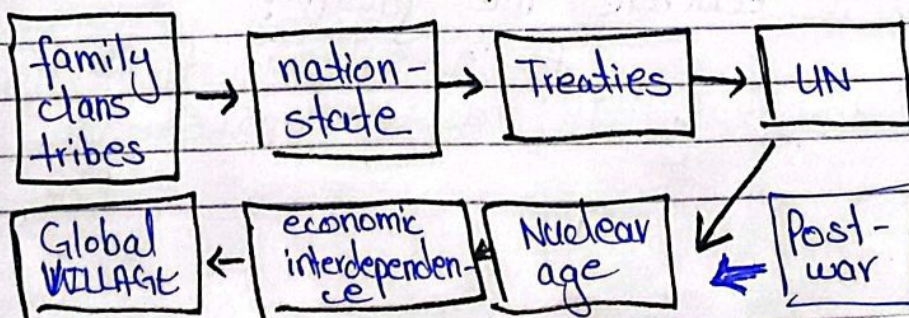
Actual starting point of IR:

In totality all the above mentioned views are correct. But, International Relations evolution as a subject is advent with the start of city-state system, although its scope was limited. With the passage of time its scope increased with the addition of great events in historic time. Thus, International Relations as an academic discipline is transitional in nature.

Post-war factor playing major role in changing nature of IR:

Many post-war factors played major role in changing and advancing nature as well as scope of IR. That includes

- * Dawn of nuclear age with the shift from Balance of Power to the Balance of Terror.
- * Formation of International organizations i.e UN, OIC, EU etc.
- * Beginning of era of economic interdependence with the formation of IMF, World Bank through Bretton Wood's System.
- * Start of the advent of an information age with becoming world as global village and media as fourth pillar of state.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STUDY IR?

Living in the 21st century it is an utmost need of the century to live in, is to study International Relations.

(i) To know what to know:

International Relations make us aware of what is important to be aware of. In the world of netizens, false propoganda's spread like diseases. This subject make us aware of every aspect from stone age to information age. According to English scholar,

"It is tragedy of this world that no one knows what he does not know, and the less the ^{man} knows, he is more sure that he knows everything."

(Joyce Cary)

(ii) to be aware of war:

IR involves the study of causes of war, implications of war and also involves the methods to avoid war. Through its studies we would be able to avoid wars in future.

(iii) to educate the youth:

As a subject it is important to study IR as it makes our

youth aware of the present world and present world order. It also involves the study of International political economy, community and strategies.

(iv) to understand effects of nationalism:

IR makes us aware that World War (I) and World War (II) was the result of nationalism, nazism and fascism ideologies. Thus, it is important to study IR.

(v) to limit nation-sovereignty:

21st century is the century of globalisation and interdependence. Now, world is interdependent and the concept of nation-sovereignty is outdated and controversial. As said,

~~Histor~~
"Geography has made us neighbours, History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder"

(President John F. Kennedy, Former President of USA)

(vi) to follow better world order:

IR allows the student

or learner to be aware of the present world order, and gives the better understanding of the present world order. It tells that when one state violates the world order will be silenced with collective action. Thus, it is very important to study IR to follow the present world order. As,

"The ability to learn how to learn will be the only security you have."

(Thomas L. Friedman)
political journalist

Conclusion:

To cut the long story short, IR has been went through the series of views about its emergence as an academic discipline. But it was present since the city-state system with limited scope. and now it has been of great importance to study for the better understanding of 21st century.