

World Peace is a Choice of Superpowers

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

UN establishment was a collective effort to maintain world peace which is now threatened by various formidable challenges, while achieving world peace is a complex and multifaceted endeavor, Superpowers have the potential to ensure world peace and security.

2. United Nations establishment: A collective effort to maintain world peace.

3. Contemporary Challenges threatening world peace (Climate Change, terrorism, 5th Generation warfare, Nuclear Proliferation, Terrorism)

4. A few Nations as major contributors for the disruption of Global peace

a. US-China Trade War, Tech War (Semiconductors)

b. Russia threat over Nuclear weapons in Ukraine

c. Rising Islamophobia in US and UK; escalating anti-west sentiments

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d. Gaza under siege (Israel-Palestine conflict)

e. Afghanistan considered as sponsor of terrorism

f. China: the major contributor of Green house gases

5. Steps by Superpowers to restore World Peace

a. UN resolution over Israel-Palestine

b. International Arms treaties to control Nuclear Proliferation (START, NPT)

c. COP28 measures to mitigate Climate Change

d. UN security council has imposed established sanctions to counter terrorism (arms embargoes, asset freezes, travel bans)

6. Way forward to Maintain Global peace

a. Superpowers as mediators between conflicting countries (Saudi-Iran detente, brokered by China)

b. Global energy transition from non-renewable to clean energy to curb climate change

c. Strict Implementation of Article 6 of NPT (1970) for Nuclear disarmament

d. Proactive measures by super-powers to counter growing Islamophobia

7. Conclusion

In the end of the Cold War, 'The Fall of the Berlin Wall and German Reunification', is a historical example where superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, played a crucial role in the reunification process of East Germany and West Germany. This example symbolizes the possibility of peaceful resolution during times of profound global change. The choices made by superpowers fostering peace and cooperation over conflict. This shows how world peace is a choice of superpowers. Achieving world peace is contingent upon the strategic choices and actions of superpowers. Nations are characterized by their unparalleled geopolitical influence, military prowess, and economic stability. The establishment of United Nations, after the two deadliest world wars, was to promote international peace and security. Unfortunately, the world peace is again threatened by a number of intimidating challenges which include

burgeoning hostility among nations to gain more power, nuclear proliferation, climate change, and terrorism. A few nations are considered as major contributors to the disruption of global peace. In west, United States of America takes the lead. The competition of having the control over the chips with China, escalating Islamophobia in the states of US and UK. Then comes the threats of Russia over nuclear weapons to Ukraine. Moreover, in the Middle-East, Israel-Palestine war has not only disturbed the regional peace but also the world peace. Afghanistan is considered as the breeding ground for terrorism, which has significantly jeopardized the global peace and last not but the least China being the major contributor in Green house gases production, affecting the climate. To counter these challenges and threats, many initiatives has been taken by the Superpowers such as

the UN resolution over Israel-Palestine, the arms treaties like 'START' by US and Russia to control Nuclear Proliferation, COP28 affective measures to limit climate change and many more. Moreover, the diplomatic engagements, military actions, and economic policies with the influence of superpowers, fostering global peace is the trajectory toward a more stable and Peaceful world.

Establishment of United Nations, as the result of world war I, After seeing the disastrous implications the states felt the dire need of it (UN) to restore world peace. Hence US and other global powers met at San Francisco Conference and established United Nations to promote international peace, to protect fundamental rights of human, social and economic development, and to uphold respect for international law. UN was therefore formed as international police to maintain peace, law, and order.

Unfortunately, in the contemporary era, the global peace is threatened by various intimidating factors which include the scourge of terrorism, climate change, nuclear proliferation etc. But as per the rule of realism, states periodically go to war against each other in pursuit of power and wealth. Among the Superpowers (US, China, Russia) and others are competing for the hegemony. Constantly, strengthening their military force, advancing the tech, and making diplomatic relations all over the world is to get on the top. Perhaps, who will win this race is yet to be decided.

A few nations are considered to be the major contributors in destroying the world peace. On top, the world's two biggest economies - the United States and China besides the trade war, are now battling over another precious resource: semiconductors, the chips that literally power our daily world. US chip sanctions and restrictions

against China failed to curb domestic manufacturing in Chinese foundries, Huawei (world's second-largest smartphone maker), released its Mate 60 Pro flagship phone which is powered by the 7-nanometer Kirin 9000S chip, manufactured by China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC). (**Megha Shrivastava, Deciphering the Changing Contours of the China-US Chip War, 2023**).

The Russo-Ukrainian war is the ongoing international conflict which not only disturbs the regional peace but also impacting the climate and environment. The conflict escalated in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea, a region that was a part of Ukraine. The conflict is complex, involving historical, cultural and political factors. The Ukrainian government, along with many western allies, especially US, views Russia's actions as a violation to Ukraine's sovereignty as US supports Ukraine and its independency and also U.S. has been supporting Ukraine through all means

whether its military aid, economic assistance, political support or any other. Moreover, US has imposed sanctions on Russia to encourage a resolution to the conflict. Russian President Vladimir Putin, announced his decision in a state of the nation address to the the Federal Assembly on Feb, 2021, the suspension of New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), further weakening the last remaining treaty limiting U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals. To resume treaty activities, the U.S. would need to cut off support for Ukraine. **(Arms Control Association).**

Rising Islamophobia, which is a strong fear and hatred towards Islam, Muslims, and Islamic places, still exists worldwide, and is one of the biggest threat to world peace. It is to believe that the western world (America and Europe), along with India is responsible for this rapidly growing hatred for Islam and Muslims. As in India, the ruling BJP's top leaders have

made disrespectful remarks about the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H), and there have been riots targeting Muslims. Then the 'Ghar wapsi' program, where Muslims are forced to convert to Hinduism. Western biased media through their propaganda spread false news about Muslims to rose terror and hatred in non-Muslims. In some European countries, desecrating mosques, burning of Quran, and violence on Muslims have reached to its peak level. According to **Vox Dirriti Report**, there has been an increase of hate tweets, from **32%** in 2017 to **34%** in 2018 in Italy. Additionally, in France, there has been 676 incidents of islamophobia were documented in **2018** against 446 in 2017 (**increase of 52%**). Unfortunately, despite Muslim's history of tolerance and positive contribution to these societies, this is happening in various parts of the world. Then comes the decades-long conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and

displaced many millions of people! The Holy land of Palestine known as 'the land of Prophets', is rooted in competing claims to territory, border disputes, and several wars. Once again, the holy land is soaked with blood. Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza, to annihilate the people and to occupy it completely, all with the active support of West, mainly the U.S. The level of inhumanity and hypocrisy can be seen by the whole world and the uncanny silence of the Muslim Countries' leaders over the massacre has left everyone to feel helpless in this situation. Israel's deadly bombardment of Gaza has killed nearly 15,000 people, in which the majority is women and children. **over 80% the span of 50 days (Al-Jazeera, November, 2023).**

Afghanistan is considered to be a sponsor of terrorism. It is a global established fact that no state can achieve peace and stability unless funding to terrorists as well as providing them safe heavens is stopped.

9/11 attacks blew away the concept of international security. Then the Afghanistan invasion initiated to eradicate terrorism from its roots. The U.S. with its allies, were doing their best efforts to eliminate the Taliban regime, however, it was getting more complex and challenging. On August 2021, the U.S. completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan, this marked an end of nearly 20-year presence of U.S. military in Afghanistan. The withdrawal led to the rapid takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, the group that the U.S. initially sought to remove from power. This raised concerns not only for the stability of the country but also for the peace of world. The U.S. federal price tag for the post 9/11 wars is over **\$8 trillion**. According to ~~World Bank~~ Pakistan Economic Survey of 2017-2018, the country incurred a loss of **\$126 billion**.

The changing temperature of climate poses a great threat to global peace as the loss that comes with this change includes risks that can have

far-reaching impacts on the environment, societies, and economies. **China**, one of the major economies in the world and a superpower is the major contributor of Green House Gases, which includes carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide from all sources. These gases poses a great threat to the Earth and Global peace. According to **World Bank** report, China emits 27% of global Carbon dioxide and a third of world's green house gases. **(October, 2022)**. China with this much emission of harmful gases becomes the largest producer in the world. Hence, it is disturbing the peace of world in many possible ways.

Despite several daunting challenges, and taking notice of the nations disturbing the global peace, international actors, organizations are endeavouring to restore world peace. Many of the initiatives, by the Superpowers of the world, with their strategic actions and choices has been taken to ensure a peaceful world. As in the UN, all superpowers play a

crucial role with their decision. There are 193 in the United Nations, the superpowers have the most powerful vote, which shapes the decision overall. UN passed a resolution over Israel-Palestine Conflict in 1947. According to which, the land is to be divided, 51% to the Jewish people and 49% to the Arabs Muslims, but the Arabs refused. Oslo peace I and II also went in vain. So it goes without saying that UN played its role and tried to keep the global peace and security.

Various treaties (international) to halt the process of nuclear proliferation were signed between different states. As nuclear proliferation poses a great threat to global peace and with this global peace is near to impossible. In the race of hegemony, states are continuously boosting their military strength and take over the other or to be on the top. Hence a number of treaties were signed and ratified to control this nuclear proliferation. A few prominent

ones are START (Strategic Arms and Reduction Treaty) between U.S. and Russia and NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), which is a multilateral treaty, all states are signatories of this treaty except Pakistan, India, Israel, North-Korea. Both the treaties were an international effort to maintain the global peace by the nuclear disarmament and proliferation restriction.

The entire globe is facing the risks of climate change and hence known with the dreadful implications of climate change. UNFCCC (United Nations Framework of convention in climate change) took various steps to limit the climate change such as Kyoto protocol, Paris agreement etc. The most recent is **COP28**, the 28th United Nations conference of parties, held in Dubai Expo City, **2023**. The main objective is to halt the increasing temperature of earth by accelerating the green transition that is already happening and ultimately will cool down the earth with other effective measures taken as

well. International actors and regional organizations are making joint efforts to counter terrorism. Many organizations such as SCO, ECO, ASEAN, all strived hard to get rid of terrorism. UN security council has established a number of different forms of sanctions ranging from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restrictions. The Security Council can take action to maintain peace and restore peace internationally under the **Chapter VII of United Nations Charter**. These measures and sanctions are to support and encourage peace, stability, and security of the world.

To maintain and protect global peace it is important that superpowers with their heavy influence on nations make decisions fostering goodwill, peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building.

Superpowers, serve as mediator between two conflicting nations offering peaceful resolution. The most recent is **Saudi-Iran Détente**, brokered by **China**. Both Saudi Arabia and Iran have long-standing differences, the competition to have the upper hand in the Middle-East. Their rivalry not only caused Shia-Sunni conflicts but also the proxy wars in the Muslim Countries, which resulted in humanitarian crisis in countries like Yemen, Lebanon, Syria. China, as a mediator with close ties, resolved the conflict on neutral stance and economic stability. Both countries agreed to end the era of difference by moving forward and to restore their old diplomatic relations and enhancing previous trade and security cooperations. This resolution offers a peaceful future in the middle-East.

Global energy transition from non-renewable to clean energy is an uttermost requirement to curb climate change for that it is important to cut off fossil fuels and other menacing

perils that harms the environment. It's high time that the states with their collective efforts use multifaceted approach to shift from non-renewable resources to renewable resources. Such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power. Hence shifting to clean energy is a reliable option which will not only be a source of continuous affordable and new environment but also will eliminate the over-production of green house gases. So environment protection is possible through collective efforts of states, influenced by the superpowers.

Moreover, for the peaceful future of world, Article 6 of Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should be implemented strictly. In which, the signatories are obligatory to follow all the objectives in order to maintain the peace and stability of the world. If one does not do so under Article VI, which calls for negotiations for the nuclear disarmament then has to face diplomatic and political

consequences. The violation of the treaty by the violating party will face sanctions and criticism from the international community, the measures of sanction depends upon the severity of violence. But in the long run, the strict implementation of the article VI will encourage the states to cooperate and maintain the peace.

In a nutshell, world peace has always been a priority of all the nations and UN. But the maintenance of world peace is primarily in the hands of superpowers as they have their geopolitical influence, military prowess, and economic ties on all the nations. Being superpowers, it's their responsibility to ensure a safe and secure world. Although, there has been contemporary challenges which disrupted the peace of world and a few nations with their war-mongering nature have contributed the most to annihilate the global peace. Fortunately, inspite of all the dismaying challenges

the states and the UN did not surrendered and continued making efforts through resolutions, programs, and various treaties. Although these efforts are worth praising yet superpowers have to arrange meetings, where they meet and make collective efforts to make the world better and peaceful rather than focusing on the hegemony. Bigger aims requires bigger sacrifices.

There is no way to peace; peace is the way and peace cannot be kept by force, (Mahatama Gandhi). it can only be achieved by understanding. Hence, for global peace, superpowers have to forego their differences and make joint and comprehensive efforts to embark the world upon the word of peace, harmony, and prosperity.

Well- attempted
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