

# ① Topic: Global Politics and International Relations

## Outline:

### ① Introduction:

- i) politics are actions concerned with achieving power in a society on a global scale.
- ii) Global Politics examine important public issues and international relations.

### ② Historical context of Global politics

- i) Emergence of global states and their interactions
- ii) Treat of Westphalia and the birth of modern democracy

### ③ Evolution of global political system

### ③ Multiple actors in global politics which includes:

- i) States and their sovereignty
- ii) International organisations and their roles
- iii) Non-state actors and their influence

### ④ Power and Balance in International Relations with reference to Global Politics

- i) Realism and Power politics
- ii) Balance of Power theory

### ⑤ Globalisation ~~has~~ pro and its impacts on International Relations

- i) Economic interdependence and Trade
- ii) Technological advancements
- iii) political change

### ⑥ Key issues in Global Politics

- i) Security and Conflict resolution
- ii) Human rights and humanitarian crises
- iii) Global governance and Cooperation

### ⑦ Challenges in Global Politics

- i) Nationalism and populism
- ii) Economic degradation and climate change
- iii) Economic inequality and poverty

### ⑧ Future prospects and trends in IR

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- i) Shift in Global power dynamics
- ii) Rise of non-state Actors
- iii) Different emerging challenges and opportunities

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Summary

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Conclusion

Global politics and International Relations encompasses the interaction and dynamics between nations and non-state actors, and international organisations, on global scale. Since, politics are actions concerned with achieving, therefore, it is the mandate of global politics to examine important public ~~the~~ issues, and international relations. In an increasingly interconnected world, the states rely heavily on others. However, this relationship is driven by multiple factors specifically ones based on interest. Therefore, in order to understand the influence of global politics on the international relations among the states, it is important to understand power dynamics, key challenges, and future prospects of this very particular notion.

To grasp the development of global politics, it is vital to consider its historical roots. The emergence of nation states and their interactions laid the foundation for contemporary global politics. <sup>Before 14th century</sup> previously, political power was often held by feudal lords or empires, and people's identification would be carried through their relation with a particular community and religious groups. Therefore, at that time, there was no such concept of centralized governments and distinguished territories. Thus, the whole world was concentrated into the powerful hands of few aspects as mentioned above. However, the concept of a nation-state began to take shape during the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods in Europe (14th to 18th centuries).

Resultantly, this led to the rise of ideas like nationalism and the formation of centralised governments, and the nation-state model started to gain prominence.

Furthermore, the Treaty of Westphalia played a vital role in changing the dynamics of international relations, and laid foundations for the rise of modern nation-states and their sovereignty. This treaty paved the path for the signing of two separate yet related peace treaties. Hence, the

Europe experienced the end of the most devastating conflicts in European history, Thirty years' war (1618-1648). Resultantly, it abolished the medieval notions of a unified Christendom and the authority of the Catholic Church, and established the concepts of state modern nation states and state sovereignty. In addition to state sovereignty, states had the liberty to introduce their own religious and administrative laws, and laws regarding territorial integrity.

The evolution of global political system has shaped by historical events, geopolitical shifts, and changing ideas about governance and international relations. As discussed above the era of Renaissance and Enlightenment and the Treaty of Westphalia changed the power dynamics and the concept of governance. People began started viewing independent states and separate territories as a way of governance. Hence, this led to the era of colonies and exerting control over territories around the world. However, many powerful states, for instance ~~the~~ Britishers, then started exploiting the resources of ~~weak states~~ by subjugating the latter. However, due to globalization and advancement of communication technologies changed the landscape of the world order. in the form of the downfall of great powers, the Ottoman Empire, the British colonies, and the Soviet Union, to the rise of multilateralism - the rise of China, India, South Korea, Italy, etc - and multinational organisations - WTO (World Trade Organisation), ADB (Asian Development Bank), UN (United Nations) - and regional organisations - ADB (Asian Development Bank), SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), AUKUS (Australia, UK, and US). Hence, the global political system evolved with the passage of time towards multilateralism.

Nation-states, international organisations and non-state actors played significant role in shaping international relations. Nation-

States serve as a primary actor ~~by~~ <sup>in</sup> the global politics, and change the dynamics of it quickly. They promote their interests through diplomacy, economic cooperation and military means. These acts are used to negotiate disputes by averting conflicts, ~~to~~ establish economically beneficial contracts by investing in each other's sectors and by promoting trade, and organise military alliances. Resultantly, the world is moving towards progress and development on one hand. However, on the other hand, such security alliances may put the world on the path of perennial adventures yet risky adventures. This could lead to the creation of the blocks as the history is evident. Nation-states are vital, and the global politics is in their hands for ensuring ~~the~~ global peace or anarchy.

International organisations play a vital role in global politics and subsequent international relations. ~~These orgs.~~ For example, United Nations, ~~is~~ established in 1945, provides a platform for all the ~~member~~ countries to present their views on bilateral and multilateral issues. In addition, the territorial issues ~~of like~~ <sup>like</sup> Palestine-Israel, and Pakistan-India are discussed and an endeavour towards conflict resolution is made. Similarly, IMF (International Monetary Fund) helps countries in overcoming balance of payment crises, ~~and~~ via loan facility, and devising a sound and flexible fiscal monetary policy. Moreover, regional organisations like AUKUS, SCO and ADB attempts to stimulate regional cooperation and facilitation. However, ~~they~~ <sup>as mentioned above</sup> organisations may become a victim of politics if bilateral ~~issues~~ <sup>are</sup> not resolved. Therefore, such organisations are vital in <sup>influencing</sup> global politics and ~~align~~ <sup>rearranging</sup> power dynamics.

Furthermore, non-state actors have become highly influential. These actors are now making the countries to revise their foreign policy, trade policy and diplomacy. For example, NGOs (Non-Governmental organisations), such as Amnesty

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International and Greenpeace, etc own immense influence. Such organisations advocates for human rights, environmental issues and other social evils prevail in a society. Similarly, terrorist organisations such as Al-Qaeda, IS-K (Islamic State of Khorasan) among others are working internationally against their adversaries. Terrorist organisations is a global issue, which not only is a threat for humanity, but also impede the developmental projects by attacking on such sites, or abducting the people working in such projects. The world, by putting away their differences, needs to ensure concerted efforts against the evil of terrorism. It is these organisations which predominantly reshape the global politics and international relations.

Power is fundamental element in international relations. Power is defined as, It is the ability to of a state or an actor to influence the decision making of the rest of the countries on regional and international levels. The military strength, economic power, strategic ties, and soft power are some of the major dimensions which define the power of states. Therefore, those countries with strong military and economic power, for example, United States and its rival China are continuously shaping the foreign policies of the states. This means that countries with power lead the rest of the nations and fulfill their interests by moulding the decisions of the rest of the member countries. That's why, power plays a key role in altering the dynamics of international relations.

The theory of Realism further augments the concept of power politics. This theory says that states are the primary actors and their primary goal is to ensure their own security and survival. For this purpose, nation-states should establish military alliances, use military force and engage in balance-of-power dynamics. Realists further argue that internal international system operates in a decen-

tralised manner, having no one central power regulating the whole world. Therefore, countries need to have military, economic and diplomatic strengths. Realism and power politics moves abseast, and the former have been highly influencing the latter for a quite some time.

In addition, the theory of Balance of power shapes the global politics and international relations. This theory is better understood as a state of international order where power is balanced in such a way that nations avoid aggression out of fear of forceful retaliation. For instance, the G5, United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China, and India and Pakistan ~~or~~ among other nation-states sought nuclear power in order to protect <sup>themselves</sup> from the probable threat of nuclear attack. When the USA in 1945 detonate two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> due to the lack of balance-of-power. Since that atrocity, archrival countries are continuously making alliances, building armies, and creating technological and advanced weapons. In today's arena, balance-of-power theory and its implementation have become impending, as the transformation of unipolar world towards multipolarity makes this theory practical.

Another important aspect that has profoundly transformed international relations is the phenomena of Globalisation. The term of globalisation refers to the transport of goods, services, human capital and ideas from one place to another, or from one nation-state to another with a minimal boundary restrictions. Moreover, the availability of internet since 1983 has transformed the landscape of global trade and relations. Resultantly, countries are more dependent on one another for the fulfillment of their political, economical and social needs. This transformation has changed the way of doing politics and overhauling or breaking relations in the international relations. Resulta Due to globalisation, nation-states exert

power or get involved in geoeconomics, in a completely new way.

Economic interdependence and the growth of global trade have generated complex networks of interconnected economies. Now, disruption in supply chain in one country affect the rest of the world. For instance, Russia-Ukraine war have badly affected the Global North and South. Both of these countries are the top listed exporters of wheat, pulses, and natural gas, and weapons. However, since the beginning of that war oil and fuel prices have skyrocketed; Asia and Europe are facing up unprecedented inflations apart from them battling with impacts of Covid-19. Similarly, China, the world second largest economy, is changing the dynamics of international relations through its BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and strategic diplomatic tactics. This complex maze of interdependency constantly influencing the global trade and power dynamics.

Furthermore, technological advancements such as the internet and social media have facilitated communication and shaped public opinion across borders. Before internet the level of awareness among the common people was too low, and they limited access to limited information in the form of print media. However, with advancement of technology in the form of internet and social media keep citizens, businessmen and professionals updated. In addition, politicians are more wary of their words than ever before. The geopolitical relations especially bilateral trade depends upon the common opinion propagated through the social media. This may affect the relations - and economical and political - between and among the nation-states as false propaganda, or evil acts of the rivals against one another are at the arm distance from the people. Hence, technological advancements are continuously influencing global politics and international relations.



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Globalisation have led to cultural exchanges and social movements across the borders, changing the dynamics of international relations. Several cultural exchange programmes including semester exchange programme at university level, and migrations from one state to another for the quest of green pastures also transmit cultural norms across the borders. The Global North, developed part of the world, is home to various ethnicities, religions seeking educational and professional opportunities. This, resultantly, foster good understanding among the different communities. Expatriates working abroad brings foreign currency to the home country, along with selling their services. Thus, globalisation plays a vital role in making the world a better place in the form of strengthening international relations.

Several dimensions as mentioned above, therefore play a pivotal role in reshaping the global politics and international relations. However, one might wonder <sup>and challenges</sup> ~~it~~ apropos the different issues in global politics that may hinder the collaboration and cooperation on the regional and international global level. Diverse <sup>and related challenges</sup> issues have been identified in this regard as explained from here on.

First of all, security and conflict resolution continue to challenge the international community with regional conflicts and proliferation of weapons. Bilateral issues like Pakistan-India territorial conflict in the form of cross border terrorism, Pakistan-Afghanistan porous borders empowers the terrorist activities across the borders brings a halt on the regional stability, whose impacts ~~whom~~ Similarly, the weapons of mass Destruction (WMDs) is a looming threat to the global peace. Selling and buying such weapons creates a gulf between the archrivals, and hence an endeavour towards arms race<sup>s</sup> initiated. These threats and acts by nation-states have already let the world to experience bloody wars in the form of

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innumerable casualties. Therefore, countries need to put a concerted effort for the resolution of conflict in order to ensure perennial peace globally.

In addition, these conflicts give rise to the human rights violations and humanitarian crises. India, for instance, the so called largest democracy, is violating the rights of muslim minorities in the daylight. The politics of for power in Sudan between the paramilitary forces and the sudanese army have destroyed the peace and polity of that country. Businesses have been shut down; poverty is sky-rocketing; hunger and taking the lives of vulnerable portion of society. This has put the humanity on the verge of destruction, and threaten the peace and stability in other parts of the world. It is therefore, essential that the world leaders, and the global organisations take steps to ensure not only the protection of minorities but also the prevention of conflicts leading to humanitarian crises in different parts of the world.

Global governance and cooperation, undoubtedly play a crucial role in global politics and international relations. However, after 9/11, the world is moving quickly towards multilateralism, which means the present era might felt the ~~the~~ Thucydides Trap, the rise of emerging powers threatening the hegemony of prevailing super power. For instance, the rise of china, Russia, and India are changing the dynamics of world politics. These countries are giving us a run for its money, resultantly creating blocks on the world arena. USA is alliance in the form of AUKUS, the USA, the UK, and Australia, <sup>and</sup> QUAD, India, Australia, Japan and the USA. Similarly, China alliances in the form of BRICS countries ~~are~~ Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa <sup>and</sup> SCO countries are the allies leading the world to a block politics. This block politics may lead the world to witness another world war, which would undoubtedly deadly and up unprecedented. Therefore, for the global peace, the global governance is important. Countries

are intertwined with one another; lack of cooperation and governance could be fatal.

Global politics faces various challenges that shape the international relations. Nationalism and populism have surged in many countries challenging the idea of global cooperation and multilateralism. In this era of science and technology, the whole world has become a global village. <sup>However</sup> yet, this closeness and an opportunity to get benefits from one another expertise.

The nationalist and populist ideologies is isolating countries when they need one another's support in combating global issues.

These concepts give rise to <sup>ills</sup> evils of self-interest, nepotism, prejudice, and hatred <sup>towards</sup> the nationals of other religions, ethnicities, and cultures. Recently, the world has experienced a rise in such sentiments like Indian nationalism, Arab nationalism. Hence, this is becoming one of the major challenges ~~of~~ for the global solidarity and harmony.

Today, if world is facing challenges like unemployment, lack of healthcare facilities, and underdevelopment it is because of economic inequality and resultant poverty. After Industrial Revolution in 18th century, some countries especially the Global North experienced a dynamic shift in their social and economic affairs. However, the Global South due to its lack of proactiveness was follower of the Global North, and hence it is facing competition with the 1st former one. Moreover, the world resources are oddly distributed among the countries. For instance, the G7 countries control 90 percent maritime trade, according to Firstpost news-channel. In addition, the multilateral lenders like World Bank, International Monetary Fund have failed to fulfill ~~their~~ very reason behind their existence. Founded by the developed countries, who contribute heavily to the ~~of~~ global warming are not playing their role in helping those who are victims of the latter's acts. In 2022, the devastating floods in Pakistan, cost Pakistan economic damages of \$30 billion. These floods exacerbated the poverty of cash-str-

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pped polity of Pakistan. Resultantly, the world is facing severe economic inequality and poverty especially in the Global South.

Furthermore, global issues like climate change and economic degradation have consequences on numerous fronts. As discussed above the climate change in the form of floods in Pakistan led to the <sup>cost</sup> billions of dollars in damages, the loss of more than 1200 lives, dozens of livestock flushed away in the gushing waters of flood, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-2023. The damages don't stop here, these floods led to the destruction of ripe agricultural fields, Resultantly, the country is still facing the consequences of in the form of reduced agricultural exports, accelerated imports of wheat, the closed businesses, and the unemployment and poverty. This is just one example of destruction let alone the destruction in other parts of world. Unfortunately, states too busy in attaining hegemony do need not to turn blind eye to this global threat. "Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere," by Kofi Annan - Former <sup>UN</sup> Secretary-General.

Humanity is grappling with the impacts of changing dynamics in the global politics and international relations. These impacts warrant an investigation into the future prospects and trends in the relations on the regional and global arenas.

Predicting the future of global politics is challenging, but certain trends are emerging. Shifts in global power dynamics such as the rise of China and relative decline of western influence will shape the international landscape. China has become the second largest economy, and it has proved its mettle by dominating the world largest markets extending from Europe to Asia through its exports. According to Reuters, in 2022 China was the largest exporting country with export worth \$3.1 trillion. Similarly, China is playing cunningly by bringing countries closer as it did

in Iran and Saudi's dispute resolution. These developments alarm the next big change in the world politics. US is countering China by making alliances - bilateral and multilateral. Moreover, this has led to the change in policies of the Arab world, who was used to being dictated by the West. Hence, the world is moving towards multilateralism.

Globalisation and the development in science and technology have changed the parameters of power and influence. Non-state actors including Multinational Organisations (MNCs) and Civil Society organisations will continue to exert influence and challenge traditional power structures. Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Internet they are some of the biggest giants in the current dynamics. Billions of users communicate and get updated through these platforms. This means that these MNCs can mould the policies of nation-states by either blocking their access or stopping being used in those countries. Similarly, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have become influential and could rise voice for against the acts of governments. Global image is pivotal in international relations. Thus, these organisations will paint either good or bad image of nation-states.

Moreover, the changing dynamics suggest that power would reside with those who would be able to use technology in for their interests. The use of Artificial Intelligence will change the traditional structure of doing things. Some of the hot-topics including cyber-security threats in the form of hacking, stealing important state-level information, and provoking sentiments through fake propaganda will be a new challenge. These tactics will influence global politics and potentially change the dynamics of doing war. Furthermore, climate change leading to the floods, heatwaves, and droughts may give impetus to the political clashes on the global level. As a matter of fact, responsible is someone else

while victim is someone else. Hence, these challenges and related impacts will decide the future of global politics and international politics.

By summing up the whole discussion, one can <sup>quantify</sup> ~~enumerate~~ the importance of global politics in influencing the international relations. In contrary to the past, attaining power and influence has taken a paradigm shift, with the rise in globalisation and the inception of nation-states on the world's map. ~~speaks~~ volumes of the new norms. Nation-states, in order to preserve their sovereignty and autonomy, now getting included into different alliances and treaties. Moreover, the bilateral conflicts especially territorial disputes, and conflicts over third territory terrorising the country in the form of another world war. The Rise of new powers, and the decline of existing hegemony ~~is~~ changing the ~~game~~ rules of games.

Moreover, for the attainment of political, economic and military power nation-states have indulged into the arms race. This time the competition for super power status augmented by the use of artificial intelligence and cyber security would have far reaching implications. Some of these implications have already been experienced in the form of secret surveillance on adversaries through artificial intelligence, and the common threat of global warming. Global warming is not only ~~is~~ becoming a murderer of humanity but also a cause of political instability on the global level. These new developments have inflicted and are inflicting havoc on the weaker states in the form of economic poverty and humanitarian crises.

In conclusion, It has become paramount that one should educate ~~itself~~ <sup>oneself</sup> the changing power dynamics, and the new rules of the game in order to better equip ~~oneself~~ <sup>oneself</sup> with the influence of global politics on international relations. Global

Global politics and international relations provides a complex framework interactions between the states, international organisations and non-state actors. By exploring the historical context, power dynamics, key actors one can gain insight into the forces shaping the world. These interactions also emphasize the conflict resolution through diplomacy and active engagement of the governments and organisations for promoting peaceful and prosperous future.