

Exam Questions

Short note on global civil society

(10 marks)

Answer:

The World Bank defines civil society as,

"Civil society refers to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith based organizations, professional associations and foundations. These organizations share the common characteristic of being "private", meaning that they are separate from the state and they are formed voluntarily by citizens or individuals who wish to have a collective voice in the public sphere."

Global civil society refers to those organizations that operate at an international level to address various global issues and advocate for positive change. This concept emerged as the result of globalization and the increased interconnectedness of people across borders.

Key Characteristics of Global Civil Society:

Global Civil Society plays a fundamental role in shaping and influencing public policies, and holding governments and other powerful institutions accountable. Here are some key characteristics of global civil society:

① **Non-Governmental Nature:** Global Society is distinct from governments or intergovernmental bodies, they operate independently and aim to influence policies through advocacy, and awareness campaigns.

② **Transnational scope:** Global Civil Society goes beyond the limitation of national borders, allowing individuals and organizations from different countries to collaborate and work together on common concerns. It focuses on the issues that have global significance, such as Human rights, environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation and social justice.

③ **Voluntary Association:** Participation in global civil societies is typically voluntary, driven by shared values, beliefs and concerns. These organizations leverage their collective power to influence decision making process.

④ **Advocacy and Activism:** Global civil societies plays a crucial role in advocating for changes in policies and practices at international level. It engages in activism, lobbying and public campaigns to raise awareness about issues and policies and push for solutions.

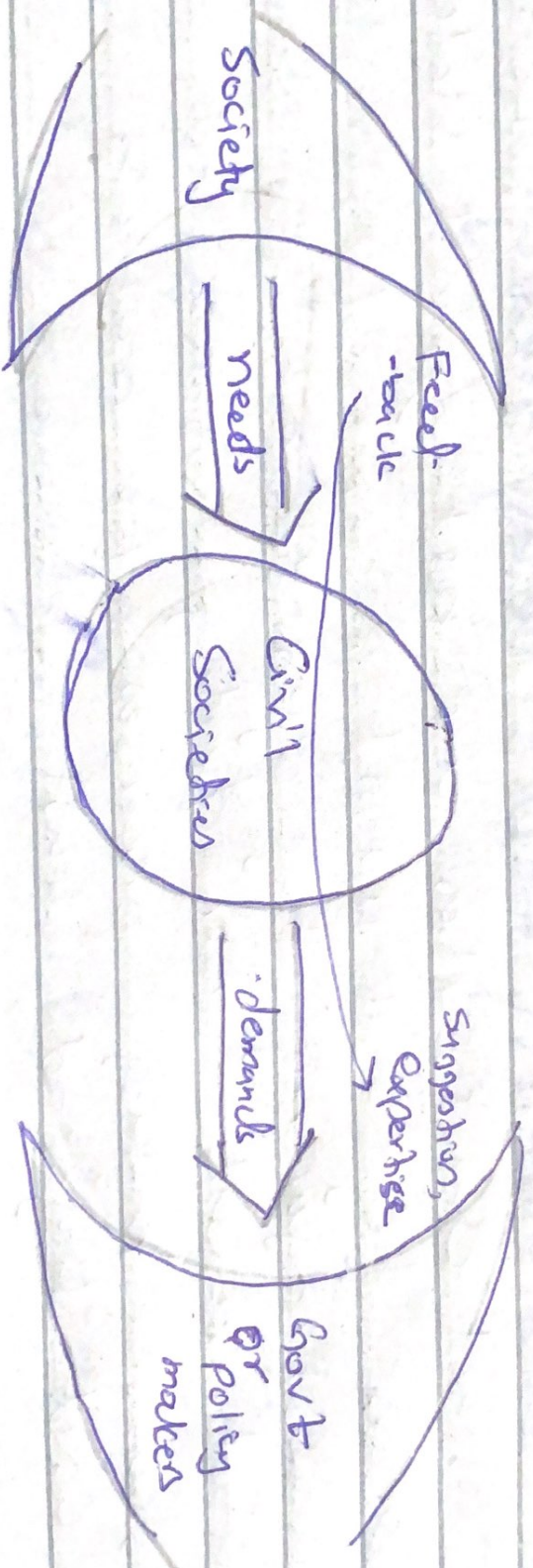
⑤ Accountability and Transparency: While global civil societies are not formal state actors, they still uphold principles of accountability and transparency. They often strive to be transparent about their funding resources and decision making processes to maintain credibility and trust.

Types of Global Civil Societies:

Global civil societies can be broadly categorized into several types based on their focus and approach. Here are some main types of global civil society:

- 1- Non-Governmental Organizations like Amnesty
- 2- Issue-specific Social Movements like climate change
- 3- Human Rights Advocacy
- 4- Environmental organizations
- 5- Developmental organizations
- 6- Humanitarian relief organizations
- 7- Women's Rights Organizations
- 8- International Labour Union
- 9- Children's Rights organizations
- 10- LGBTQ+ Rights Organizations

Global civil societies play a vital role in promoting democracies, safeguarding human rights, fostering a more inclusive and just society.



Q# Define democratic peace. Highlight its basic norms and how it played a vital role in the political economic integration of EU:

(20 Marks)

Introduction:

Democratic peace theory argues that democratic states are less likely to go to war with each other & ^{more likely} ~~are~~ to follow peaceful foreign policy.

Generally in democratic states public holds their representatives accountable for which pushes them towards following peaceful foreign policies and holds them back from taking hasty decisions. Not only that ~~but~~ public sub-institutional checks and balances in democracies makes it difficult for leaders to wage war. In case, if conflict or war starts, they tend to adopt more peaceful conflict resolution methods and are more inclined to use non-violent means. Emmanuel Kant and Michael Doyle are prominent advocates of this theory.

Democratic peace theory - Overview

According to liberal approach, the regime type and domestic structure of country plays a key role in causing and prevention of wars. Liberalist scholars argue that

democratic countries are less likely to engage in wars or any armed conflict where as undemocratic countries often resort to war to solve conflicts. This view of liberal scholars is called "Democratic Peace Theory".

Democratic Peace Theory idea was borrowed from **Emmanuel Kant's** Idea of Perpetual Peace (1795). Kant argues that republic countries are less likely prone to war as compare to non-republics. For Kant Republic country is one where power is divided and has a representative government.

In late twentieth century, liberal scholars like **Michael Doyle** further developed the idea of democratic peace, these scholars showed a link between government and international peace stating that democratic governments lead toward peace and are less like to resolve conflicts through wars.

However, during the time of cold war period, this theory became the ~~pro~~ topic of debate among many international relations scholars and students. A political scholar at the **University of Michigan** undertook an academic research that showed that 353 pair of states engaged in different wars between 1816 to 1991. Out of them, 155 pairs involved a democracy and ~~non~~ non democracy; 198 pair ~~or~~ involved

two non-democratic states fighting each other.
At the same time no war took place
between the two democracies in that period.

Basic Norms of Democratic Peace:

(a) Lack of Public Support for wars

In democratic states, citizens are hesitant towards wars except if they face a direct threat or the benefits of war are greater than its costs. The leaders are compelled to act according to the will of majority of their subjects in democratic states. It is difficult for them to wage a war by ~~standing~~ going against public opinion.

(b) Institutional decision making

In democratic systems usually power is divided and a system of checks and balance is maintained. The decision making mechanism is complicated in democracies due to the involvement of different institutions. In military dictatorships or autocratic governments decision making power is concentrated in single leader or small group. Therefore war decisions are easily taken in such governments. In democratic states, decision making requires prior parliamentary approval for troops deployment or initiating a war.

② Leaders Accountability

In democratic governments, the public holds their representatives accountable for making hasty decisions leading to conflict. Not only public but institutions of accountability are present in democracies and the leader is held accountable for their actions. Which keeps them from making hasty decisions.

③ Cultural factors

Democratic states share a common culture that supports consultation, negotiations in case of conflicts. Democratic states prefer to resolve conflicts via negotiations rather than ~~war~~ starting war. This behaviour reduces the chances of war in such states.

European Union - Overview

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 countries committed in fostering peace, stability and prosperity through cooperation. Established in aftermath of world war II, the EU has evolved into powerful entity promoting free movement of goods, services, capital and people within its borders. It has its own currency (Euro). The EU is also involved in various policy areas, including trade, environment, security and human rights. It serves as a platform for members

to address common challenges, regulate agreements and make collective decisions. Currently EU member states include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, ~~Finland~~ Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Role of Democratic Peace in the Political-Economic Integration of the European Union.

There are many reasons behind the successful political economic integration of the European Union. Democratic peace theory is one of the foundational principles behind this integration.

This theory argues that democracy leads to peace and democratic states are likely to cooperate in different areas. This idea has manifested itself in the integration of the EU in following ways:

- All members of European Union are democratic. The trauma of the world wars had lasting impact on these states, driving the conviction that another such catastrophe must be prevented. This common perception led to the formation of EU which gradually expanded to contain all the European states.

- Democratic Peace proposes that democracies should pursue peaceful foreign policies, especially with other democracies. This is one of the reasons why EU states give much emphasis on people to people connectivity.
- The EU has integrated common market as well as an independent parliament and court of justice to resolve any conflict that may arise. This integration led to the creation of common market aiming to reduce economic disparities b/w between the regions.
- Democratic peace theory proposes that more democracies in the region, the more peaceful the region is. That's why the European region has witnessed fewer wars after the inception of the EU. If any conflict arises it is dealt in EU's court.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the democratic peace norms plays a vital role in the political-economic integration of the the European Union. It argues that democratic states are more likely to maintain peace and resolve conflicts peacefully. The theory has manifested itself in the integration of the EU which later became economical integration as well.