

Q. Does nation-state exist in today's world? Critically evaluate the challenges to it in 21st century?

Answer: Outline

- (I), Introduction
- (II), Concept of Nation-State : Background
- (III), Challenges to modern nation-state system in 21st century.
- (IV), Critical Analysis
- (V), Conclusion

(I), Introduction : Modern nation-state concept does exist in today's world. There are almost 193 members of United Nation (UN), each unit represent one nation-state. However, there exist several challenges to it in 21st century. Although the concept of modern nation state started in 1648, under treaty of Westphalia, which ends the Thirty Years (30) war period in Europe. Initially, it faced challenges, but with the passage of time the challenges and difficulties grow further. Nowadays, there are various socio-political and economic challenges posed to modern nation-state.

(II), Concept of Nation-state : Background
The idea of nation-state emerged in 1648, treaty of Westphalia. Nation refers

to the common culture, language, religion and so on. While state is a political unit. According to Montevideo Convention of 1930, state has four important ingredients.

- (1) A permanent population - Nation
- (2) Territory and boundaries (borders)
- (3) Government - a state
- (4) Sovereignty - an independent foreign relation.

Till now, nation-state faced several hurdles such as Napoleonic war (1803-1815), World War I, WW-II, colonisation and imperialism. Despite all this, nation-state concept survived. Decolonization in 20th century paved way for nation-state. Moreover, there are still various challenges to nation-state concept in this era.

III Challenges to Modern Nation-State in 21st Century : are as follows :

1, Globalization : One of the major challenge to globalization nation-state is globalization. In fact, modern world is like a global village. Different countries of the world have an open trade system such as European Union. People in different parts of the world share same socio-political and economic relations. Therefore, globalization is an entity which poses challenge to nation-state.

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(2) Nationalism : Similarly, nationalism is also a challenge to modern nation state system. Indeed, some countries of the world are multi-ethnic and multi-nationals, for example Pakistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, India and so on. In Turkey, Kurds nation want a separate identity and country. Similarly, Sikhs in India are in favor of Khalistan. Hence, it is very difficult for a country to have multi-national society. That's why, nationalism creates challenges to nation-state.

(3) Inter-national Law : Weak international law is another challenge to modern nation-state concept. Due to this, powerful states exploit poor countries. For instance, United States (US) attacked Iraq, ^{and} Afghanistan in this regard. Though, international law exist, but often some states violate it. Therefore, weak implementation of international law is a challenge to nation-state in future.

(4) Rise in Regionalism : The rise in regionalism is also a daunting challenge to nation-state. Due to regionalism, various blocks have formed in the world, such as European Union, Association of South East Asian Union (ASEAN), SAARC, SCO and many more. This, increase in rate of regionalism creates riddles to nation-state system.

(5) Age of Artificial Intelligence and Its Influence : AI, without any doubt, is another challenge in the way of nation-state. AI has posed several challenges to the state government and its sovereignty. It has led to advancement in cyber-crimes. The sovereignty of a state is at risk due to such technological development. Hence, AI is a major challenge to nation-state concept.

(6) Arms race and Nuclear Proliferation : Nuclearization and armament is a threat to nation-state concept. Even, the whole planet is under danger due to this menace. Different countries are trying to acquire nuclear technology such as Iran, Iraq, KSA, and so on. And if all these countries managed to attain this technology. Then, the survival of nation-state system will be a larger challenge.

(7) Hybrid Warfare and weak International Security : Hybrid warfare between different countries of the world ^{have} weaken international security. Various states of the world are in conflicts with each other. The nature of warfare varies. Currently, various states are involved in indirect warfare such as media, cyber-technology, information etc.

Hence, rise in hybrid warfare undermine international security which put a challenge to nation-state system.

(8), Super-power hegemony : Super-power hegemony is another challenge to nation-state system. Super-powers like USA, Russia and China favors to their interest only and disregard the situation of developing countries. Such stance and position of super-powers creates challenges to nation-state system.

(9), Impartial role of International Media : The dual role of international media is also a major challenge to modern nation-state system. Media portray that narrative, which favored western and wealthy nations. It also creates sensationalism. Islamophobia is also falsely highlighted by media. Hence, impartial media leads to the challenge of modern nation-state.

(10), Technological Advancement and Non-State Actors (NSAs) : 21st century is the age of technology. In the same fashion, terrorism is also on rise. The NSAs have made an unparalleled development. There is a threat that they can get an access to nuclear

Weapons and technology. God forbid, if this happens then it will be a biggest ~~cham~~ challenge to the survival of modern nation-state.

IV, Critical Analysis: Overall, the challenges facing the modern nation-state system are in 21st century are complex and multifaceted. Addressing these challenges will require innovative solutions, ~~com~~ cooperation among countries, and a willingness to adapt to the changing global landscape. These mentioned challenges, if not address on time, can lead to more problems for states and the world.

V, Conclusion: To conclude, it can be said that nation-state does exist in today's world. But it is faced with both traditional and non-traditional threats and challenges. Some of it are increasing globalization, ultra-nationalism, weak inter-national law, rise in regionalism, nuclear proliferation, Hybrid warfare, non-state actors etc. However, these challenges can be overcome through certain solutions such as cooperation among nation, respect for each other's sovereignty and willingness to accept the changing global-politics. Hence, for the peace, prosperity, and stability of international relations, the nation-state concept must survive, and it is only possible through

overcoming its challenges in 21st century.