

## Comprehension 2: CSS 2021

Q. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has consistently argued that the only option in the face of hyperpower is to offer wise counsel. But increasingly this is a course that governments and people across the world have refused. The mobilization for war against Iraq split the United Nations and provoked the largest anti-war demonstrations the world has ever seen. And through it all, America maintained its determination to wage war alone if necessary and not to be counselled by the concerns of supposedly allied governments when they faithfully represented the wishes of their electorates. Rather than engaging in debate, the American government expressed its exasperation. The influential new breed of neoconservative radio and television hosts went much further. They acted as ringmasters for outpourings of public scorn that saw French fries renamed 'freedom fries' and moves to boycott French and German produce across America. If one soundbite can capture a mood, then perhaps it would be Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. At the height of the tension over a second Security Council resolution to legitimate war in Iraq, Mr. O'Reilly told his viewers that the bottom line was security, the security of his family, and in that matter 'There's no moral equivalence between the US and Belgium'. It is, in effect, the ethos of hyperpower articulated and made manifest in the public domain of 24-hour talk. And America's willingness to prosecute war has raised innumerable questions about how it engages with other countries. Afghanistan has seen the removal of the Taliban. But there are no official statistics on the number of innocent civilians dead and injured to achieve that security objective. The people of Afghanistan have witnessed a descent into the chaos that preceded the arrival of the Taliban, a country administered not by a new era of democracy under the tutelage of the hyperpower, but merely by the return of the warlords. Beyond Kabul, much of the country remains too insecure for any meaningful efforts at reconstruction and there is enormous difficulty in bringing relief aid to the rural population.

**Q-1:** Why does the doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America deny space to counselling?

The doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America denies space to counselling because America has maintained its determination for its national security and integrity. It does not need any sort of opinion or suggestion from its allied governments. That is why, instead of engaging itself in debate, America urges hyperpower.

**Q-2:** What is the essence of 'moral equivalence' whereas War has no moral justification?

There is no moral justification of war. However, neoconservative talk show ~~host~~ host, Bill O'Reilly talked about the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. He argued about this in a way which shows the manifestations of moral equivalence.

**Q-3:** Why do countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace?

The countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace because a country is ruled by democracy. But in occupied countries like Afghanistan, one has seen that the Taliban regime was replaced with the warlords who failed to rule the country, and left it with complete chaos.

**Q-4:** Arguably Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war. Are they? Why?

Yes, indeed Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war because from past invasions of US in many countries like Iraq and Afghanistan, it seems more tilted towards war to maintain its national integrity and security. Whereas, the European countries do not agree

with hyperpower US in use of  
force against other countries.

**Q.5:** What Tony Blair's meant  
by 'wise counsel', and did it prevail?

As a Prime Minister, Tony Blair expressed the need of hyperpower through wise counsel. But majority of the governments across the globe have refused it. So, the policy made by Tony Blair did not achieve any victory.