

Q. What do you know about proxy war?

Answer:-

Proxy War

A war between two states on behalf of or on instigation of a third party which cannot directly go into war is called proxy war.

Explanation

Proxy war is a type of war in which two true rival countries do not come in front of each other in the battle field directly, but one or both of them hires third country to fight on behalf of that particular country. That third, or may be fourth ^{country,} also in case both the countries hires their proxies, fight for the gain of interests of that country on behalf of which, it is fighting.

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Examples Cold War

Was between USSR and US, named as cold war continued between 1947 and 1991. Active war in battle field was from 1979 to 1986 and Afghanistan fought on behalf of USA against former USSR.

Saudi-Iran Conflict in Middle East

It is another example of proxy war. Saudi Arabia and Iran were two major rivals while both of them were backing two other parties, Bashar al-Assad & President of Syria and opposition forces fighting to overthrow Assad's regime.

Iran was supporting al-Assad's government with weapons, money and strategic support. On the other hand Saudi Arabia was backing opposition parties with financial and political aid. Whereas Syria was active battle field.

Reasons for Proxy Wars

There are a number of reasons for proxy wars. Some major of them are given below.

i) When a small state cannot fight directly with a large/strong state.

It is the most important reason of proxy wars. When a relatively weaker state has no sufficient military or financial power to fight against a relatively strong state it would preferably go for proxy war. This state might take financial or military aid from some other strong country on the basis of shared personal and national interests.

Example:-

A war between India and Pakistan was fought in 1971 resulted in "fall of East Pakistan" as Pakistan's

province and came into being
a new province of India as
Bangladesh which later on declared
as an independent country
Bangladesh. Mukti bahini and
Indian troops were entered in
East Pakistan to support
civilians of Bangladesh now,
fighting against their own
state. India was supporting
Bangalis as its proxy agent.

ii) When the Public of 1st State Doesn't Allow to Fight Against the Other.

Public opinion matters a lot
particularly in civilized societies.
When public opinion represented by
public representatives is Parliament
or legislature go against direct
war, then that particular country
opt the way of proxy war.

Example:

When US President S. Truman presented Truman doctrine against USSR's out of the way intervention in western countries, in a joint session of Senate and House of Republicans, members of the legislature rejected it. As it was against US foreign Policy - This was inevitable to secure

US hegemony in Europe. So, US adopted the policy of Proxy war making different countries battle field. i.e.

East and West Germany, East and West Berlin, East and West Afghanistan etc.

iii) When External Pressure Enforces a Country to Go into War

When a country faces external pressure to go into war against some other country, it will also choose

the proxy was to fight against that particular country. This premise can be in any form such as putting sanctions on that country, limiting diplomatic relations or may be threat to go into direct war with that country.

Examples:-

(i) US war on ~~terror~~ with Afghanistan after 9/11 is also an example of proxy war on behalf of USA. Pakistan was US's non-NATO ally as US warned Pakistan by saying "Either you are with us or against us".

(ii) Similarly Saudi-Iran conflict in Yemen depicts a true picture of this scenario. KSA is strategic ally of USA whereas, US has rivalry with Iran as it is at the gateway

of Bay Strait of Persia and Strait of Hormuz, the sea-routes to transport 80% of world oil. US wanted to control over influence of Iran on oil routes so a Proxy war was initiated in Yemen between Iran and Saudi Arabia to protect interests of USA.

Factors Determining Success or Failure of Proxy War.

There are numerous factors to determine either a war is successful or not.

(i) Numerical Size and Strength of the Proxy Army

Greater the number of proxy army greater the chances of success in Proxy war. But the factor that

is even more important than number is strength of proxy Army.

The passion and dedication the soldiers have, is a decisive factor

for winning proxy war.

Example:-

Taliban who were fighting against USSR by the support of USA were considering it holy war to protect their motherland. And Afghanistan was proved as last battle field during cold war.

(ii) The Volume of External Military and Financial Aid

Greater the volume of external military and financial aid, higher the chances of success in proxy war.

Example:-

During late 20th century, war of Afghanistan against USSR was backed by USA. America and its allied countries were providing strong military and financial aid to Afghanistan. In contrast USSR had less number of allied forces.

to support him against USA in Afghan battlefield. This scenario decreases the chances of success for USSR. (iv) The M of If P S E

iii) Strength and Ability of Opponent Army.

If strength and ability of opponent army is greater then the chances of winning that was decreased, and vice versa

Example: "Cold War"

During cold war strength of US army and allied forces was far beyond the strength of USSR army troops which led to US conquest in the war. As in case of Afghanistan army used gorilla warfare, the technique of hit and run. It proved a strength of US army against USSR.

(iv) The Presence of External Physical Military Actions in the Favour of the Proxy army.

If neighbouring countries provide military or diplomatic support to proxy army, then this factor increases the chance of conquest in the war. Diplomatic support also plays ~~crucial~~ ^{prime} role in this regard.

Example:-

Pakistan supported US troops and Afghan Mujahideens in war against USSR. It played its role in training and other military affairs.

Pakistan supported refugees, provided shelter, food and even livelihood to Afghan refugees during that war. Diplomatic support was also

provided resultantly US won
that was as a collective
response of all favourable
outcome
conditions.
