

Q#8 Write notes on any Two of the following:

- a. Feminism
- b. Neo-liberalism
- c. Social Constructivism.

## Neo-Liberalism

"The market is an extraordinary instrument for creating wealth, but it is also a harsh and unforgiving taskmaster."

Bill Clinton.

### 1. Introduction:

Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek are among the most influential proponents of neo-liberalism. They advocated for free-market capitalism, limited government intervention, rule of law, property rights and importance of individual choice. Neo-liberalism is a theory in international relations that has few core assumptions.

### 2. Core Assumptions:

#### a. Free Markets:

Neo-realism focuses on free market economy in order for the states to cooperate and get mutual benefit without any trade barriers. It benefits

everyone. For example, World Trade Organisation (WTO), which promotes global trade and reduces barriers to trade.

### b- State role:

Neo-liberalism advocates for the minimum state role in trade and businesses. So, that economy flourishes. State should allow privatization and selling of state owned assets to privatize them is beneficial for state according to neo-liberals. For example currently there is an ongoing debate over privatization of state-owned PTAs of Pakistan. According to neo-liberals privatization is necessary for a functioning economy.

### c- Individualism in State:

As neo-liberalism promotes the privatization, it advocates for individual freedom and choices to make political and economic decisions. For example in democracies like USA there is an emphasis on individual rights and freedom.

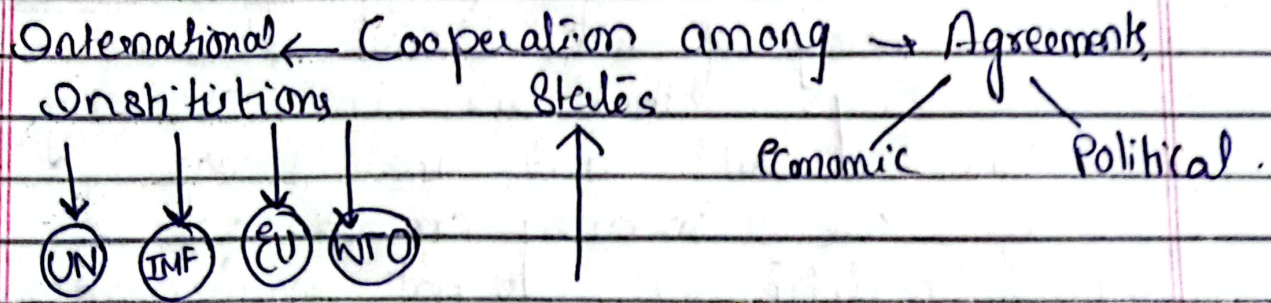
### d- Rational Actors in States:

Because neo-realism advocates for cooperation and individual freedom, therefore behaving rationally of state actors or leaders is one of the core assumptions of neo-

liberalism. Rational actors take decisions which suit best to their interest. For example Pakistan's decision at the time of war on Terror was considered rational at that time.

e. Cooperation through Institutions;

When a state has rational actors they will promote cooperation rather than competition in international arena. Neo-liberalism advocates for cooperation through institutions, like European Union is a collective forum for multiple states to cooperate effectively.



Neo-liberalism.

Free-Market-economy

Individual Freedom

Rational Actors.  
(Decision making)

c

# Social Constructivism.

"Knowledge is co-constructed through social interaction and the learner is an active participant in the process"

Jean Lave

## 1- Introduction:

Alexander Wendit is often considered as one of the leading figures in Constructivist thought. Social Constructivism is a theory of international Relations that says that the understanding of the world and the things in it are socially created. i.e. World reality is what world makes of it. Constructivists argue that international relations are shaped by the ideas, norms and identities of actors rather than just material interests.

## 2- Core Assumptions:

### a- Reality is made up:

Constructivists argue that there is no fixed, universal reality. What we see as real is shaped by

what we learn from the society and the people around us.

For example Nuclear weapons are dangerous for world peace. This is what a constructed belief.

b. We learn from others;

Social Constructivism advocates that reality is not fixed. What we learn is from people i.e friends or institutions like school etc. particularly the media.

c. Reality is subjected to Change;

According to Social Constructivism knowledge is socially constructed.

So the reality constructed at one time can change at other time as it is socially constructed.

For example what is considered normal at one place might not be considered normal at other place.

d. Understanding is Flexible;

When reality is subjected to change it may show different understandings to different people based on ideas, culture or norms etc. For example, white is

the color of dress for widow in India but the same white colored dress is for bride in the West. According to Alexander Wend it

"Anarchy is what states make of it" hence anarchy is also not universal but socially constructed.

e. Language is constructed;

Social Constructivism says that because the world reality is socially constructed, the means to stay in it are also socially constructed. For example language is what we learn from our society or the particular culture therefore it is also socially constructed.

We build understanding together.



Everyone builds their understanding