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IR

Question: Why is it important to study International Relations and how has it evolved as an independent field of study?

Answer:

1- Introduction:

International relations is defined as the relations between states, multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations.

International relations is a vast area of study and is very diverse because of its evolving nature with the passage of time with the increased complexities in international system.

2- Importance of International Relations?

The world now has become a global village and international politics is getting more and more complicated. Therefore to understand why states behave the way they behave in international arena has also become important.

a) Understanding the world through IR:

Before 20th Century world politics was not as complicated as it is today. Therefore international relations was not as much of importance back then as of now. Because it provides the insights of a globalized world where states have become increasingly interdependent.

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b) Peace and Security: and IR

International Relations focuses on establishing peace and security. And in today's world as of pre 20th Century, it is very important to understand the nature and possible reasons and outcomes of a conflict in order to establish peace, and International relations provides that lens. According to book "A working peace system" by David Mitrany, state can create a peaceful world, society through gradualistic and pragmatic cooperation with each other in technical and economic levels of life. And all this can be best explained by studying International Relations.

c) Shaping of foreign policy: and IR:

International Relations provide a valuable insight of foreign policy and decision making. In the world complicated by conflicts, politics, disputes it is meaningful to make use of effective foreign policy.

d) Economic Implications: of IR:

States in international arena interact with each other and make investments, deals, agreements related to economy in order to boost their economy. International Relations help study the economic factors of the society. As David Mitrany

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says "More the trade volume, lesser will be the political tension" that's why states focus on economy and studying International Relations help understand the economy.

e) Cultural Awareness and IR

World is a global stage in which states are interconnected with each other. People to people contact means sharing of ideas, culture etc. Studying international relations also help in understanding cultural aspect of the society. Because society makes the state and states make the international system.

3- Evolution of IR as an independent field of study:

International Relations has evolved significantly over the time. The thing which gives it the importance is because of its evolving nature. It is known as the new discipline because the world politics has changed and shifted tremendously over just one century.

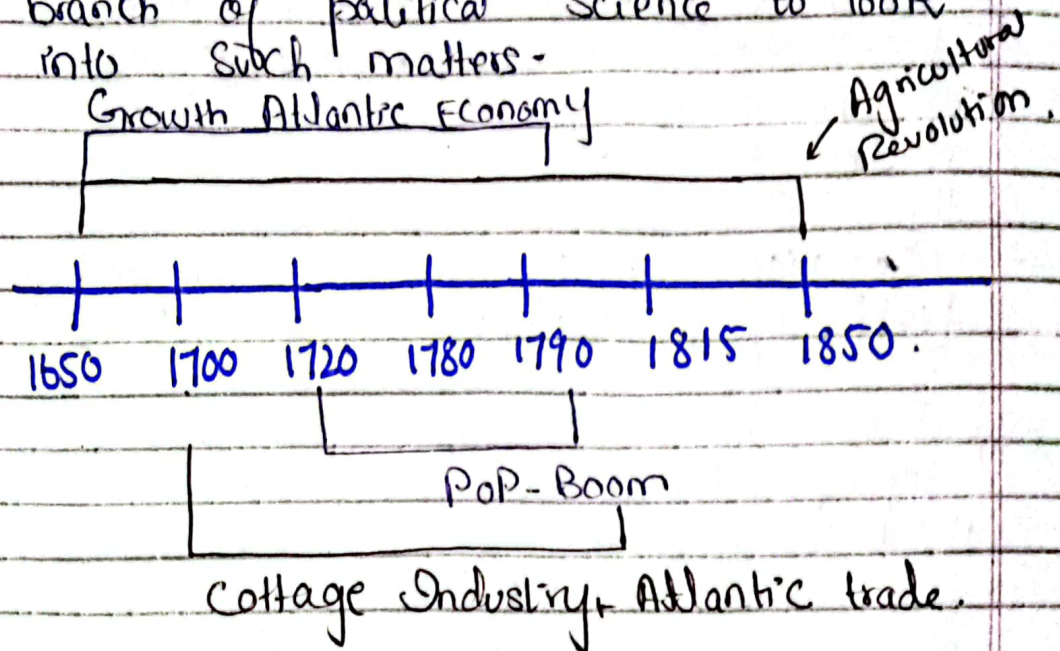
a) Historical background of IR

International Relations has its roots in history. People sooner around 20th century came to realize its importance because there were evolving shifts with the passage of time.

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b) WWs and Political Science: and the emergence of IR;

The world in 20th century has seen two bloodiest wars i.e. the World War I and World War II. After that there were tremendous thoughts about understanding the causes of conflicts and potentially to avoid them. Therefore later on International Relations was made the branch of political Science to look into such matters.



c) Emergence of political thinkers and IR;

There was emergence of certain key thinkers like Woodrow Wilson and Hans Morganthau which provoked and enlightened the international community of need of understand world through clear and crystal clear lens like a separate

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field of study.

d) **Cold war and emergence of IR;**

Cold war gave a dramatic shift to the study of International Relations in context of global politics.

because of cold war world was divided into bipolar system of power.

It gave rise to different dimensions of International Relations making it even vast field than before.

On his book "Destined for war" by Graham Allison refers to Athens and Sparta and describes that if

the ongoing competition in China and US continues it will make war inevitable and intensifies the already more probable

another cold war, this can now give a boost to even more complex nature of International system but

both states can assess their possibilities and outcomes keeping in view the work done by IR scholars after cold war to avoid another version of it!

e) **Diverse Perspectives and IR;**

On the emergence of International Relations, there are key debates and perspectives for example those of Realism and Idealism making global power politics even more understandable.

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f) Globalization and International Relations:

In contemporary world, the most important feature of IR is that a complete understanding of Globalization. The world stage is now overwhelmingly dependent on globalization, making states interdependent on each other for people to people contact, for ~~deals~~ countering global challenges like terrorism, climate change etc, for that purpose states even do come in regional groupings to counter that challenge. IR provide deep insight into globalization and regionalism.

g) Inter-disciplinary nature of IR:

International Relations has now become so vast that it has evolved into multiple branches like Security Studies, Nuclear Studies, Economics, International law, political economy etc. And the peculiar thing is that it is still evolving.

4. Conclusion:

International Relations is a vast field of study that encompasses relations between states, MNCs, NGOs and non-state actors. Factors like globalization, foreign policy understanding, conflict-resolution etc give it tremendous importance to study for international politics. It

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has evolved significantly over a century with the changes and shift in global power politics and is not stopping here it has evolved into multiple branches and is still evolving.