

Date: 12-09-23

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

- Are "middle powers" more important today in geopolitics?
- Which countries are middle powers? Their influence on international stage?
- Is soft power also a factor in their global standing?

The notion of middle powers has long been around. But it has acquired new relevance in the current geopolitical context whose defining features are increasing multipolarity & the US-China competition. These powers have ability to influence geopolitics.

This is due to their economic strength, military muscle or other attributes including demographic characteristics, regional weight, soft power, diplomatic conduct and activism. This gives significant level in global affairs & ability to build multiple relations.

Countries from developed world & Global South: Germany, Japan, Canada, Brazil, India, South Africa, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Singapore & Indonesia. They are heterogeneous group with various ^{varying} governance systems as well as political & strategic interests.

Pakistan is in some respect middle power but its economic weakness has limited and diminished its global impact or influence.

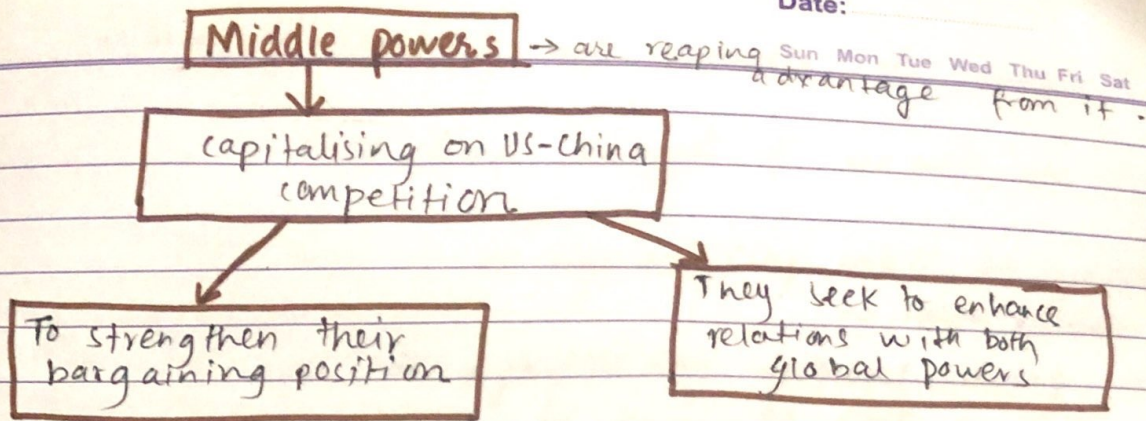
Structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system

② The very currency of power also having changed

- ① **BRICS Summit in South Africa** August 2023
renewed focused on middle powers and their aspiration to reconfigure the global order and rewrite the rules of game.
 - ② Expansion of the group by addition of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Argentina, UAE and Ethiopia, with China working for enlargement, outlined how these emerging economies were seeking a bigger role by using the bloc as countervailing force to US-led western grouping, such as G7.
 - ③ This expansion has increased the weight of BRICS, which represents over a quarter of the global economy and accounts for a major share of the world's oil resource.
- “ Countries are seeking to shape geopolitics by activist diplomacy in a multipolar world.”
- ④ The member countries are exploring on how to reduce dependence on US dollar.
 - ⑤ BRICS has embarked a new chapter to build a world that is “fair” and “inclusive”

Benefits:-

Date: _____



Forexample:-

- ① Saudi Arabia has pursued initiatives that have set a new foreign policy direction and raised its diplomatic game.
 - Riyadh loosened its traditionally close ties with the US to significantly boost its economic ties with China.
 - Saudi Arabia has deftly managed to position itself between the two superpowers and wield influence with both.
 - It has also moved to boost oil prices.

- ② Turkey is another country adept at the middle power diplomatic game.
 - Turkey has maintained ties with both the US and Russia.
 - Ankara has played off the Ukraine conflict to further project its power and increase its leverage. It sought to maintain relations between Russia and Ukraine and with the UN, brokered the Black Sea Grain Deal between them in July 2022.
 - This allows great passage of shipment of grain from Ukraine, a big exporter through Black Sea, whose maritime routes are maintained by Turkey.