

Q2. How the Neo-Realist and Constructivist approaches differ over the study of state behaviour in the contemporary international politics?

### A. Introduction

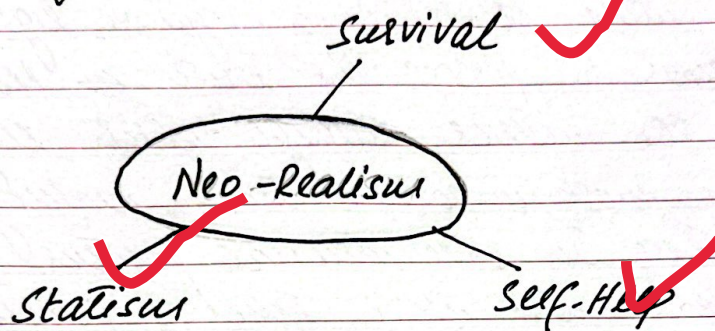
Every theoretical perspective possesses a unique lens through which they view the world. Some view it in a positive light while others in a negative light. Each perspective or theory claims to possess the truth. Moreover, they claim that the lenses through which they view the world are the most important, thus, making their theory superior to others. In international politics one such perspective is Neo-Realist which takes a protectionist or nationalist view of the world. They believe that every nation is left to its own devices and should only prioritise themselves. On the other hand, Constructivist adopt an amorphous stance where nothing is strict and final. They believe in changing ideologies and also talk about how the construction of the world is a figment of one's imagination. These two theories impact how they states behave with each other in different ways and are inherently contradictory theories. In this answer, these two theories will be assessed with regards to their behaviour with states in the contemporary international politics.

### Anatomy of Neo-Realism

Neo-Realism adopts a 'might is right' perspective in international politics. Every state has the

responsibility to look after itself. This ideology emerges from the fact that in the international structure, there is no authority or world government. Thus, states cannot rely on any higher authority to come to its rescue. Instead, states must prepare to fight their own battles and look after their national interest.

### Building blocks of Neo-Realism.



### Principle of survival

Survival is a basic prerogative of a state. The main goal should be to exist so that they can participate in international politics. In order to survive, a state would need to have protection measures in place such as a strong military that can counter threats.

### Principle of Self-Help

Self-help is a necessary principle that every state should possess. This is because the world does not have an international government. This means that world government is in a system of anarchy. Hence, states should only rely on themselves and help themselves if they are to exist.

## Example of self-help in a contemporary world

An example of the notion of self help is Pakistan. Pakistan learnt the hard way that it could not rely on other states such as the US to protect itself. It lost ~~Bangladesh~~ in 1971 East Pakistan in 1971 because of its foolish ~~reliance~~ reliance. Eventually, a neo-realist perspective ~~was~~ was adopted and Pakistan developed nuclear power so that it could help itself and counter enemies in this anarchic world ~~era~~ era.

## Principle of Statism

Statism follows the notion of the state being above everyone and everything else. The <sup>protection of the</sup> state should be the sole aim of it in a neo-realist structure. It believes that states are the only entity on the international stage that matter and that they are unitary (acting alone) and rational (acting in their best interest).

## Example of Statism in a contemporary world

Russia is an example of following the principle of statism. Russia was threatened by NATO expansion towards its border, particularly to Ukraine. Moreover, Russia also held the notion that Ukraine was ethnically Russian and historically and culturally belonged to Russia. Thus, Russia carried out unitary and independent action to invade Ukraine ~~in 2008~~ on 22 February 2022 because it was looking after its own national interests.

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## What are the views of constructivists?

Constructivists do not hold any set view of the world order. In fact the only thing they are certain of is uncertainty. They believe that the world's political scene is constructed or created by humans. According to Wendt, the 'world is what we make of it'. There are no hard truths but just social constructions of what the truth is.

## Example of constructivism in a contemporary world

Wendt highlighted that many things form part of a state's ideologies such as historical perspective, culture, social structure and norms among other things. He gave the example of the nuclear missiles possessed by countries. For example, USA does not consider 100 missiles possessed by the UK a threat but 5 missiles possessed by North Korea threaten them. Thus, it is not the nuclear missiles but the construction of the reality that North Korea is the enemy of the US and a threat, so, North Korean missiles by deduction are a threat.

## Elaborating differences between both perspectives

## Foundational versus anti-foundational stances

Foundationalists and anti-foundationalists are different in their beliefs about whether the world can be tested or evaluated against any neutral or objective procedures. As assessed in 'The Globalization of World Politics' by Baylis et al a foundationalist position is one that thinks that all truth claims can be judged as ~~true~~ true or false. Whereas, anti-foundationalists think that truth claims cannot be judged in this way, since there are never neutral grounds for doing so. To summarise, foundationalists adopt ~~meta-~~meta~~~~ meta-theoretical grounds for choosing between truth claims and anti-foundationalists think that there is no such position available. Thus, neo-realism coincides with foundational ideologies and constructivism lies in with anti-foundational ideologies.

## Constitutive and Explanatory encompassing Neo-Realism and Constructivism and Neo-Realism respectively

Explanatory theories are theories that see the world as external to the theory. So essentially explanatory theories describe the world as it is without impacting it. This is akin to neo-realism as neo-realism analyses the world as an anarchic system in which states hold the highest position. After reasoning and looking at historical examples as well as the current world order, neo-realism (an explanatory theory) preaches nationalism, military might and self-help along with other aspects. On the contrary, constructivism adopts constitutive explanations constitutive theory.

highlight that theoretical perspectives shape the world. This means that as we see the world so we construct it. As Wendt highlighted 'the world is what we make of it'.

## Comparison table of Neo-Realism and Constructivism

### Neo-Realism

- Anarchical world structure - self-help, realism, survival
- Might is right - power is everything
- Explanatory theory
- Foundationalist theory

### Constructivism

- World is what we make of it
- No specific requirement for power
- Constitutive theory
- Anti-foundationalist theory

## Conclusion

Add events and examples  
Elaborate to 7-8 pages

To conclude, neo-realism and constructivism are vastly different from one another. Neo-realism holds a very firm structure and takes a ~~rather~~ negative world-view where states are assumed to be always on the look out. It blames the global structure for the existence of this situation i.e. the anarchical structure. On the flip side, constructivism is not static and adopts a ~~rather~~ unstructured world view. Situations are assumed to change if people want. For example, if states decide to be peace - that is what will happen. To elaborate put into perspective, if ~~Russia~~ <sup>the US</sup> decided that ~~Russia~~ was a ~~goal~~ the USSR - an existing state ceased to exist because of break away states and faulty powers and was allowed to do so.

Q3. Describe the concept of Pre-emptive self-Defense in the context of International law and critically evaluate the legitimacy of US use of force against Iraq.

### A. Introduction

States coming from a position of national interest will try to do everything to protect their nation and also ensure its progress. In an interconnected and dynamic world, threats can emerge from any corner and pose an existential crisis for states. From this perplexing emerged the concept of Pre-emptive self-Defense which seeks to protect states from future threats that have not come to the forefront yet. While in international law, self-defense is a right granted to all individual states, the notion of pre-emptive self-defense come with complications and ambiguity. This followed after an attack on Iraq by the United States while claiming self defense. In this answer, the concept of self defense in the context of international law will be discussed along with an assessment of the legitimacy of US use of force against Iraq.

### What does International law say about self-Defense?

The countries of the world have signed a collective because members of the United Nations which dictates (or at least tries to) international demeanor. Specifically, the states have agreed to abide by the UN charter which advocates peace and prosperity. Moreover, the UN acknowledges the rights and duties of

states. One such right is the right to sovereignty. And moreover, right to self defence is also part and parcel of the UN Charter.

### Article 2(4): Bedrock of ~~the~~ peaceful relations.

Article 2(4) of the UN Charter limits all states from intervening in the affairs of other states. This is to protect the ~~west~~ Westphalian principle of national sovereignty that constitutes as one of the building blocks of a state.

### Article 33: procedure to be followed in case of conflict

Article 33 limits ~~the~~ all states to resort to dialogue for pacific settlement of disputes. This article is contained in Chapter VI of the UN Charter. The article states that parties to any dispute will first seek solution by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, enquiry etc or other peaceful means of their own choice. The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their disputes.

### Article 51 and its analysis with the pre-emptive legitimacy

Article 51 highlights that all states have the right to self defence. This ties into the concept of state survival - states will defend themselves to survive. The concept seems intuitive and just when



taken in the conventional sense. However, the complication arises when concepts such as pre-emptive self-defence come in to play. Since no visible threat can be seen, self-defence rights are susceptible to abuse and misuse. To elaborate, a situation may exist where countries claim self-defence but have ulterior motives. The threat to ~~self~~ state sovereignty or territorial integrity may not exist but slogans for self-defence in the absence of actual threats may come. This could be attributed to the case of Iraq, where it was attacked ~~totally~~ illegitimately illegitimately.

## Legitimacy of Pre-emptive strikes by the US on Iraq

### Rational Actors Taking their world view to make choices

The Rational Actor model assumes that the individual in power has all the information which is correct. Moreover, all information and factors are utilized to come up with a sound ~~concrete~~ course of action. The rational actor wants to protect his state and will do everything he can to make a rational and beneficial decision. In the case of Iraq invasion, the US had gone through the trauma of 9/11 and was increasingly on edge. The rational actor position was held by President Bush who weighed the pros and cons of strikes and made a decision. According to the information he received, Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and would sell them to the US eventually. This propelled Bush to take action before the ~~the~~ weapons were even ~~at~~ discovered. According to Bush, the rational choice was

to avert the action before it even took place.

## Paranoia and hysteria driving decisions

Having gone through 9/11, the country may have had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and people struggling with this may not ~~not~~ think their decisions are credible and accurate. Without adopting an objective perspective, the US went with emotions and attacked Iraq with confidence if there were WMD to begin with. Moreover, 9/11 made people the public and government's pursuers of future attacks so to attack before in this state of hysteria seemed legitimate to them.

## Eye for an eye

Revenge is considered legitimate as it is a reaction to something bad done in the first place. The US, ~~to~~ in its eyes, took revenge from another Muslim country because they felt that it was like taking revenge for the 3000 people (approximately) that were killed in 9/11. Iraq was treated as an enemy of the US and an aggressor that was essentially a punching bag and form of revenge for 9/11.

## Their way of pre-emptive strikes in Iraq

No solid proof for attacks.

There was no proof ~~for~~ that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that was the whole reason the US invaded Iraq. Moreover, the weapons of mass destruction were not discovered ~~even~~ after strikes. So, the pre-emptive strikes were not legitimate.

## Slip of the tongue by Bush during a public event

Bush was called to the podium ~~of~~ to speak about the Ukraine crisis and Russia's invasion. While addressing the public he ~~stated~~ that meant to say that the invasion of Ukraine was ~~illegal~~ and wholly unjustified, brutal but ~~unjustified~~ he says the invasion of Iraq was 'wholly unjustified, brutal'. This Freudian slip was realised a moment later to which he said 'I mean, Ukraine' and after a <sup>momentary</sup> pause he says 'Iraq too'. This small moment ~~had~~ was in fact a deep moment of admittance where the invasion of Iraq was in fact, illegitimate.

## Economic games; not actually about justice.

Iraq, an oil rich country was attacked without them attacking first. The US, an oil thirsty nation carried out pre-emptive strikes while the ~~most~~ <sup>world</sup> was not in favour against such attack as denoted by the UN. One can put two and two together, to realise that it may be about the resources present in Iraq and not for justice. Thus, the pre-emptive strike in this case would be illegitimate as it was for

narrow gains and not self defense.

## Critical analysis of legitimacy of pre-emptive strikes in Iraq

Pre-emptive strikes for self defense are complicated and no one conclusion can be reached. Pre-emptive strikes can be used for evil and for narrow gains. There is no way to check the authenticity of pre-emptive strikes. With self-defense in normal cases, two aggressive actors are seen and self. come out publicly so they can be observed. This would make self-defense legitimate as one throws the first punch and a reaction follows. With pre-emptive as legitimate cause and effect is unknown, actors are not out on the battle field and there is ambiguity.

## Anyone can cry for self-defense

Anyone can claim that they are ~~threatened~~ threatened without proof and can carry out a strike. This puts the world ~~at risk~~ at risk of turbulence and volatility. Rules that have existed for international conduct will cease to exist if pre-emptive strikes become the norm and are allowed.

## Russian invasion justification

Today, Russia is claiming self defense through pre-emptive action. It claims

that NATO had reached its borders and posed a threat. Moreover, it claimed that Ukraine would be a threat if not invaded now. So, pre-emptive action commenced. Russia often cites the US invasion of Iraq and claims of US hypocrisy when it comes to pre-emptive action taken by other states such as the US.

### Future outlook

If pre-emptive strikes become a norm, what will happen to <sup>Rephrase</sup> global order? India could pre-emptively attack Pakistan based on their perceived threat or could annex Kashmir in this regard. North Korea could carry out pre-emptive strikes against the US upon perceived threat and draw the world to world war 3 and eventually total annihilation through nuclear explosions. What's more, pre-emptive strikes may be seen legitimate to nations but could be based on false information or misinterpretation. For instance, a pre-emptive strike could take place against Pakistan by India for terrorist activity that is no Pakistan's fault. This would be a dangerous situation that could quickly escalate.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the pre-emptive self defense strikes according to international law could be deemed legitimate from

the point of view of the nation carrying them out as mentioned. For them their actions may seem justified and rational. On the other hand, it is not a legitimate form of action in the global context and for the victims who may be innocent as in the case of Iraq - they didn't have WMD. Pre-emptive action can have the a ripple impact and may lead to a large scale global concept. In some situations, however, it can be used for narrow ulterior motives such as expansionism and economic gains.

You need to rephrase your last headings

Add justification like  
Us claim it as pre-emptive attack

On humanitarian grounds etc

Make it specific language

Intro → Strategic Culture → constituents

day / date: <sup>adul satian</sup> Economy - NSP +  
social integration CPEC + <sup>Te/10/10/20</sup> growth  
flow

Q5. Define the concept of Strategic Culture and highlight the major determinants of Pakistan's Strategic Culture.

<sup>international projects</sup> Social integration, Economy, Political stability,  
Regional alliance, <sup>Security - India,</sup> Muslim Brotherhood

## Introduction

In order to survive and progress a strategy needs to be devised so that objectives and goals can be identified and followed through. The strategic culture keeps the country's settlement on a pedestal and includes any means to improve the position of the country in the world arena. Factors taken into account include economy, military, social integration and political stability among others. Moreover, the theoretical lens adopted plays a role in a nation's strategic culture. That is, liberalism, neo-Marxism and realism among other views of the world adopted by the nation. Pakistan, like all other countries has also adopted a strategic culture while keeping in view its historical experiences, economic position, and military capability and the international order. The answer, the concept of strategic culture will be deeply analysed through a macro view along with a microview of Pakistan's strategic culture and its determinants.

## Overview of strategic Culture

Strategic culture is a phenomenon or a stance that is adopted by the nations of the world while keeping their national interests.

In mind, each country has a different set of priorities and wants to progress in different ways. Some may formulate a strategic culture that revolves around economic progress while some may be wise and adopt the strategy of military advancement. Most countries have common aims when drawing strategic culture which include survival of the state and progress through having a stable economy, ~~and~~ sound political institutions and an able military in case of foreign attacks.

### Theoretical lenses of strategic culture to understand the concept

Every perspective in international relations adopts its own version of what should be prioritised and what is ~~consequential~~ important. This depends on the theory adopted as seen below.

#### Neo-Realist version of strategic culture

Neo-realists adopt the stance of military might and military means to ensure progress and protection of nations. Because neo-realists believe that the world is an anarchic structure which means that there is no higher authority over the nation and no one to interfere in case of injustice, the nation should adopt means of self-help and ensure its survival. The strategic

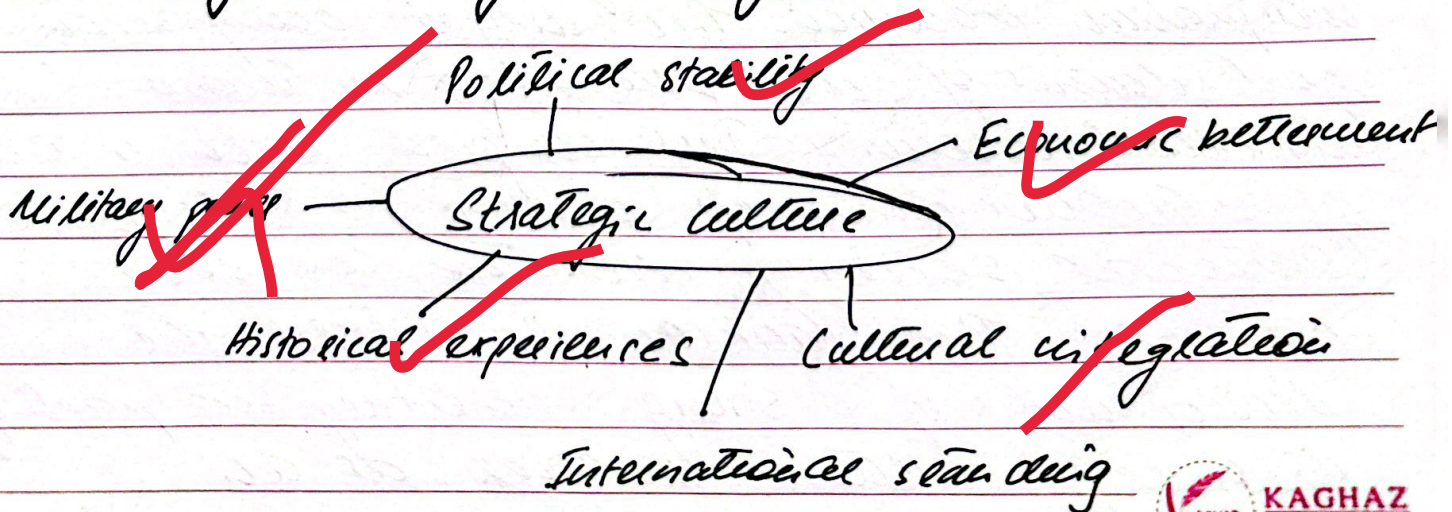


Culture in this case would be to empower the military and protect itself. This is because at the end of the day, nations are left to fend for themselves.

## Neo-liberalist strategy in the world order

The strategic culture adopted by neo-liberals is dependency and interdependence. They favour favour collective action and economic betterment through trade and commerce. Moreover, the international organizations such as the UN and IMF are given importance and placed on a pedestal. This entails that the strategic culture should favour economic integration and an international view of how the nation would be better off. For example, this strategy is adopted largely by China that has progressed through economic relations with other nations and has seen tremendous economic growth and power in the world stage.

## General factors of strategic culture



## Pakistan's unique and justified Strategic Culture

### Pakistan: A product of Traumatic history

Pakistan has had a traumatic history and has had to face many external threats. As a Muslim nation largely oppressed and subjugated in an undivided subcontinent is bound to hold onto trauma and develop coping mechanisms. These coping mechanisms have continued even after independence and have come out in the form of a strong military and emphasis on protection.

### Security consciousness

As Mandela Rodri rightly said, Pakistan is a security conscious state. After independence, Pakistan was faced with a myriad of crisis. The one that took precedence was the protection of the territorial integrity that was the right of every nation under westphalian tradition. The illegal occupation and claims of its neighboring India, heightened its security. This coupled with a lack of international help develop a strong national security culture in the country. Thus Pakistan prioritized the development of a strong military as part of its security culture. Moreover, as an

extra step of protection, nuclear power was developed to ~~anyone~~ for anyone posing a threat to the country as in the past wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971.

National Integration: sound platform for development of such culture

Pakistan was faced the break away of East Pakistan in 1971. After such an extreme episode, Pakistan prioritises national integration. Now, Balochistan has gathered separatist movement momentum and the strategic culture of Pakistan prioritises the national integration of all provinces. Thus, every province is brought into a harmonious country and forms part of the strategic culture.

Political stability

Political stability forms an integral part of Pakistan's strategic culture. After volatile periods of political unrest and the whirlwind Pakistan had to go through after switching hands from military to civilian governments, Pakistan prioritises political stability as part of its strategic culture. As the country becomes more politically stable so too will it become a strong and active participant in the global arena.

## Economic prosperity

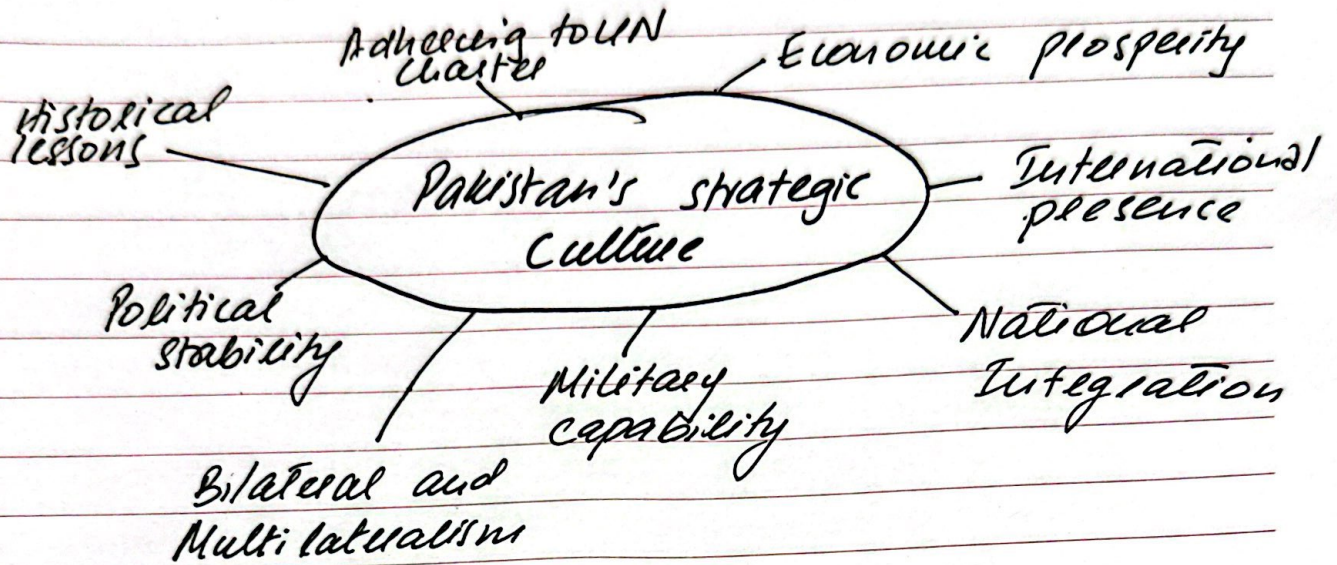
Economic prosperity is part and parcel of Pakistan's strategic culture. An economically stable and well-developing country is in a position of power. It would be able to use economic means to improve other important elements in the country. The importance of economic prosperity can be seen in Pakistan's NSP report that came out in 2022 that kept Economic development at the forefront. Moreover, Pakistan's eagerness to enhance bilateral and multilateral economic relationships such as through CPEC is another indication of this culture.

## International player and following UN principles

As soon as Pakistan achieved independence, Jinnah spoke about how Pakistan would adhere to the principles of the UN and united to peace in its relations. Thus, part of Pakistan's strategic culture is to be one with the world in order and practice peace when dealing with other states as well as <sup>forming</sup> mutually beneficial agreements. This can be seen in the Kashmir issue where Pakistan has always adhered to UN principles and preached of the UN principles of self-determination and

Democracy

Pictorial depiction and constituents of strategic culture



The determinant of Pakistan's strategic culture are

Countering Indian Hegemony

Peaceful borders

Cordial ties with China

Nuclear deterrence

Add such points

Conclusion

In conclusion, strategic culture involves many constituents and different factors influence it. This depends on the theoretical perspective adopted and how the world is viewed. However Pakistan's strategic culture is changing but in some cases the same. For example insecurity and national integration will always form part of strategic culture. However, international presence ~~to~~ while looking at the current events and bilateralism and multilateralism is bound to change depending on the situation. But the ultimate and permanent goal will always be survival and progress.



Q6. Explain the concept of Economic liberalism and relate its core interests with the concept of Neo-imperialism.

## Introduction

The globalized world is a manifestation of economic liberalism. This theory is seeming more applicable as with the passage of time. Indeed the relations between nations are driven by economic factors which also translates into the global order that is seen today. While there have been an abundance of beneficial transactions between states, the picture is not always so bright. Economic liberalism has been accused of showing a facade of exploitation. This takes the shape of neo-imperialism which is not as outright and obvious as imperialism in the past. In this answer the concept of economic liberalism will be studied as well as its link to the core interests of neo-imperialism.

## Breaking down the concept of Economic liberalism

Economic liberalism paints a very positive and cooperative image of the world and the nature of nations. It assumes that nations would mutually benefit if they were to have strong economic ties and develop an economic relationship.



## Concept of anarchy still prevails

Economic liberalism does not show the idea that the world holds an anarchical structure. This means that there is an absence of an international government or world government that can dictate behaviour or control conflicts between states. But, while this anarchical system exists, the solution is to develop trade ties with each other. Economic relationships would create a deterrent factor because states would not want to disrupt their economies, while going to war. Thus, an incentive is provided to prevent conflict.

## Kant's <sup>liberal</sup> economic institutionalism

Kant, an eminent liberalist, proposed that institutions could help prevent conflict. He advocated for power to be held by global institutions such as the UN. The UN could provide guidelines and incentives for states to avoid conflict. Moreover, it could also provide beneficial arrangements and bring states on a shared platform to foster collaboration. This would ensure peaceful relations and foster economic collaboration.

## Ricardo's comparative advantage

Ricardo advocated for states to focus on comparative advantage rather than absolute advantage. Even a small benefit should be closed by

states because something is better than nothing. States should not worry about other states achieving more advantages than them in a transaction because the aim is to achieve any level of benefit. This would ensure progress on a global scale and promote growth.

### Kant's liberal commercialism

Kant highlighted that liberal commercialism would lead to 'good relations among states. Liberal commercialism would mean that trade barriers would be removed and any protectionist practices would be shunned. Thus the world would be a free and open market for anyone to benefit from. Countries that were cut-off from global trade could not participate and achieve advantages and progress. Even developing countries would be better off from a global market determined by market mechanisms of demand and supply.

### The epitomised example of economic liberalism

Economic liberalism has benefitted several countries that were down in the dumps before. China is the greatest example of economic liberalism at play. China was a poor country with a large population. It was the vision of the Chinese government to move away from a closed economy and communism characteristics to free market principles. This catapulted China



to become an economic superpower in a mere decades. Through developing trade ties with a plethora of countries, China was able to focus on mutual benefit and cooperative advantage. This worked out extremely well for China who has a \$1.7 economy and has taken a million people out of poverty.

## The interlink between economic liberalism and neo-imperialism

### Brief overview of neo-imperialism

Neo-imperialism is a ~~subtler~~ more subtle than outright imperialism in the past. Neo-imperialism creeps up slowly on nations and impairs their prosperity. To put into perspective, a nation could ~~to~~ develop imperialistic designs but developing trade & economic ties with a country. This may seem well and good to the naked eye but the more powerful country may try to influence the national sovereignty and impact the territorial integrity of the nation. The neo-imperialist country may try to influence government policy or exploit the workers of the country for its sole benefit while providing peanuts to the host or dependent country.

### Blame on economic liberalism for being ignorant about neo-imperialism

As a result of the world opening up trade ~~has~~ and removing barriers. Countries that were more economically able were pushed to the fore front and economically weak countries could not compete. As a facade of help, some developed countries claimed to want to develop trade ties and provide a mutually beneficial arrangement for developing countries. But what eventually happened was that those developing countries were exploited for their cheap labour and raw materials while the developed country prospered.

### Example of neo-imperialism

The US is accused of neo liberalism because it dug its claws into Latin American countries at in the name of economic liberalism. Eventually countries such as Guatemala, Cuba, and Puerto Rico were economically and politically ~~destab~~ destabilized while the US came out on top of the economic global food chain.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, economic liberalism as a concept seems very positive and advantageous. It advocates for ~~with~~ liberalization and commercialism for the benefit of all. Many countries have benefitted from economic liberalism such as China. However, neo-imperialism

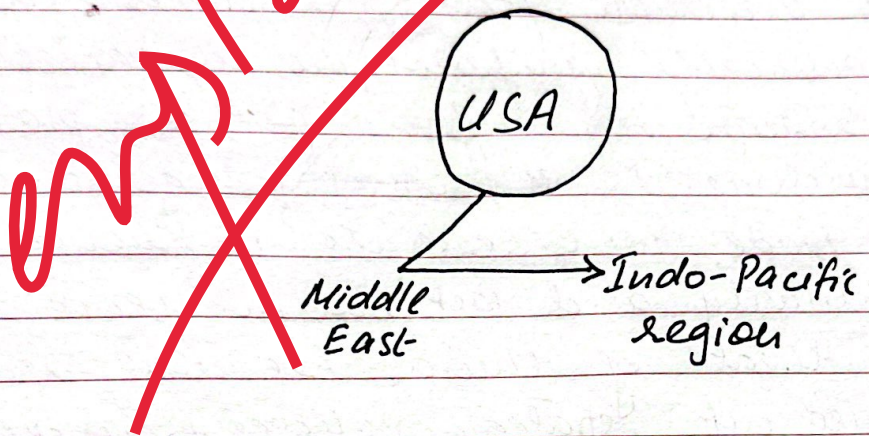
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has manifested as a result of economic liberalism. Nations are now faced with infiltrations in their boundaries and government that are not obvious. This infringes on their right to national sovereignty and territorial integrity like never before. Moreover, it makes free will and self-determination a hazy concept.



resource of oil that was present in abundance. Thus, they fostered good relations with oil producing countries such as Saudi Arabia. As the world has become more globalised and power has shifted to the eastern block globally, US has realised the significance of the East. Thus they have now highlighted the Indo-Pacific region as an area of interest.



### Capitalistic mentality drives the US to Indo-Pacific region

As previously, the US is driven by economic designs and its capitalist mentality. Where the US has seen potential for riches, it has gravitated towards that area. The Indo-Pacific region has seen the rise of the Asian tigers such as Japan and Singapore. These newly rich countries have piqued the interest of the US to develop good profitable economic relations with them. Moreover, the region facilitates trade which the US wants to be a part of. The Malacca Strait for instance sees a mammoth amount of trade activity.

## Protection from communism

The US being a capitalist country wants to promote their economic system globally. Particularly important is the US wanting that communism should be curbed so that they can openly trade with all global actors. As China and North Korea had communist ideals, the US wants to increase its presence to counter the possible increase of communism.

## Role of BR20 in facilitating US presence

The BR20 has become of immense importance to the US. The recent BR20 summit that took place in India signifies that the US wants to foster good relations economically, civility and culturally with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. To pinpoint one key player, the US has specifically worked to improve relations with India so that it can maintain and increase its scope in the region.

## AUKUS: a significant military relationship

AUKUS, an acronym for Australia, US and UK, has emerged as a military relationship that aims to protect these countries. These three countries are particularly concerned about the hegemonic intentions of China and

would like to take some pre-emptive measures. For instance, Australia purchased nuclear powered submarines from the UK to ~~that~~ allegedly to flex its military might and cozen China of its hegemonic designs.

### Significance of Quad for the US

Quad is a <sup>multilateral</sup> partnership between the US, Japan, India and Australia. Its strategic security dialogue aims to promote progress of the member countries and also counter the growing Chinese threat.

### The current US strategies are indeed aimed at containing China

#### Unipolar to Turbulent world order

The US was the sole global superpower for decades. There was a period in recent history in which the USSR posed a threat but after its disintegration, that threat was removed. However, China emerged in recent years economically. It opened its market to the globe and was able to grow its economy exponentially. This posed a threat to US unipolar world order. The US occupied and economically drained by wars such as the war in Korea, was being sigleed by China's growth. Now China is growing to counter and some ~~est~~ predict to surpass the US for the global

stage. Hence, the US has pivoted its policy to Indo-Pacific to counter the threat of China.

## Propelling India to counter China

The US has invested a lot into India economically, economically and socially in recent years. India has emerged as a regional superpower in the so to economically compete with China. The US is aware of the historically negative relationship between China and India such as the war in 1962 and consistent border issues. So, the US is countering China but extended a friendly hand to India. This is in spite of the fact that India has developed relations with Russia, its a US enemy. But because the aim is to counter China, this Russia-India relationship is largely ignored.

## Military presence on the opposite side of the world

The US has increased its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China. It has formed security and military ties with east Asian countries such as Vietnam and Philippines. Moreover, Quad and AUKUS are also military techniques to counter China as mentioned previously. The US has no obvious reason to have military presence in a region far away from its geographical territory keeping in view nationalism and isolationism.



However, it has still adopted a neo-realist framework and developed military alliances and increased its military presence to counter China.

Taiwan: a source of contention for China and a push button for the US

While always advocating for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the US has gone the opposite route and heavily invested itself in the Taiwan issue. Instead of looking at the opportunity cost of spending funds and military equipment on Taiwan, which would have employed US economy, the US has obviously invested itself in the Taiwan issue. This is a very transparent policy of countering China, and not about

The US has always chased its national interest so China has

The US is solely looking at its own benefits without China being a factor

Imperialistic designs of the US historically

The US has always adopted an imperialist approach even when China was not powerful. The US can see the Indo-Pacific region as allowing its presence

militarily, politically and economically. They are not being opposed or pushed out so they've firmly embedded themselves in the area and increased their scope of influence.

Chasing money not because of capitalistic mindset

The US is a capitalist country that aims to increase its wealth. Because the region has seen tremendous growth economically, the pivot to Asia has emerged. Previously the economic interests of the US lied in the Middle East and now upon seeing new riches in the east, the policy has shifted to chase those riches. This has nothing to do with China or its open.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the US has increased its presence in the Indo-Pacific region for a myriad of reasons. These include economic progress, political reasons and social reasons. These have pivoted the US policy from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific region. It can be claimed that this shift has been because of the economically

## General Instructions for attaining good marks in International Relations

Add IR theories and approaches as much as you can

Seems like current affairs question  
Make it IR specific

use IR jargons to differentiate it from Current affairs paper

try reflecting IR concepts or words in your heading

day / date:

no need to apply all theories in one question but one or two that may justify your arguments

Justify your arguments with at least 8-9 headings

Add current developments as an examples to support arguments

add IR philosophers e.g. Morgenthau, Mearcheimer etc and their philosophies

add graphs charts and critical analysis for bonus marks

each question has 2 or 3 parts, give equal weightage to all parts