

# Real Politik is the practical face of the 21st Century politics. Agree or disagree.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 01

### Question 02

#### Answer:

## Real Politik is the Practical Face of the 21st Century

### 1. Introduction:

In the 21st century, the global politics is shaped by Realpolitik. Realpolitik is a political approach that prioritize practical considerations over ideological or ethical considerations. It focuses on the pursuit of national interests, power, and survival of the state. Furthermore, realpolitik is rooted in the ideas of power politics. **Niccolo Machiavelli** introduced these ideas in **The Prince**. He emphasized pragmatism, power, and results over ideals in governance. Machiavelli argued that rulers must do whatever it takes to maintain power, even resorting to hypocrisy. Realpolitik reflects today's political realities, where states state pursue power dynamics and

survival instincts.

## 2. Overview of Realpolitik:

The concept of realpolitik roots from Machiavelli's book "The Prince."

**Otto von Bismark** is one of the most famous practitioners of Realpolitik. He was the first Chancellor of Germany who employed Machiavelli's principles for unification of Germany in the late 19th century.

"Realpolitik for Bismarck depended on flexibility and on the ability to exploit every available option."

*Diplomacy, Henry Kissinger*

## 3. How Realpolitik Represents the Practical Face of the 21st Century:

a. Politics have no place

for morality or religion:

According to realpolitik concepts, the state should take every



measure that suits to acquire, retain, or expand power. For that purpose no case should be taken of what is right and wrong. Morality and religion have no place in politics. Even most nations have constitutions based on national interests rather than morality in the 21st century. In realpolitik, morality and religion are secondary to pursuit of national goals. The secular state concept is driven from this.

## b. The State is an End to Itself:

The state is not a mean to an end, but state is an end to itself. It justifies everything. National interest is the foremost consideration. This self-centric approach is evident in politics that prioritize national development over global cooperation.

## c. Head of the State Must be Feared:

People should be terrified by adopting harsh policies. Fear is better than being loved in realpolitik. The leader's authority is maintained through fear. A prime example is **North Korea under Kim Jong-un**. His regime uses military power and strict control to maintain dominance. The focus on nuclear capabilities is a clear manifestation of this principle, ensuring that the state remain formidable and feared.

## 8. Hypocrisy is Essential for States:

Realpolitik also involves the use of hypocrisy in statecraft. Leaders may present a facade of peace and justice while pursuing aggressive policies. **Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has employed this tactic by portraying Israel as a victim while committing genocide in Palestine.

"Let Mercy on tongue  
and evil in heart."

**Machiavelli**



## e. Rebels Must be

### Crushed:

The use of force be at once : and for all rebellions. Suppressing opposition is crucial for maintaining power. This principle is evident in **Sheikh Hasina's** approach in Bangladesh where she had maintained power for over 20 years by suppressing opposition forces and abducting rebels. Furthermore, **India's ongoing oppression in Kashmir** is also same policy resorted to imprisoning and killing Kashmiri rebels.

## f. Strong National Army

### Development is Must in

### Real Politics:

A robust military is essential in the state. The absence of national army has left **Palestine vulnerable to Israel military aggressions**. In contrast, nations with strong armies can deter aggression and protect their interests.

Strong national army is important in realpolitik for display of power.

### g. Attack when was is Inevitable:

Realpolitik advocates for preemptive strikes when conflict is unavoidable. The United Nation took refuge behind this policy as a strategic move to destabilize Middle East, when it attacked ~~the~~ Iraq in 2003. Bush claimed Iraq possess weapon of mass destruction (WMDs). Though they never found anything in Iraq.

### h. State Must Expand or Perish:

Expansion is a key tenet of realpolitik. States must either grow or perish. **Israel ongoing colonization** efforts in Palestinian territories is one example. By expanding its borders, Israel seeks to secure its future. The strategy highlights ruthless pursuit of power.



## i. States must stand

### with weaker states:

Supporting weaker states can serve strategic interests. If there is a war between two neighbour states. According to realpolitik, it is better to stand with weaker state. Because after defeating weaker state the next target will be realpolitik state. Pakistan took Afghanistan side when USSR invaded it. This concept is called balance of power.

## j. Transnational

### Partnerships are

### Necessary for Survival:

Forging alliance is crucial. States must have strategic friends to enhance power. NATO's expansion is an example of how nations build alliance to stay strengthen its position. There is no friend or enemy is realpolitik. But if forging alliance will help in national interests

pursuit ... then ... these should be alliances.

## Conclusion:

Realpolitik is the practical face of 21st century. Its principles of power, pragmatism, and national interest guide the actions of many states in today's world. It continues to shape global politics and affairs. As global challenges evolve, realpolitik will likely continue to shape the strategies and actions of nations for pursuit of national interests.