

Date: _____

Day: _____

Q.No:2 John Mearsheimer blames the United States for ongoing Ukraine crisis. How do you assess this crisis? Support your argument by drawing empirical evidence from the conflict scenarios.

1- Introduction:

The Ukrainian crisis is a multifaceted geopolitical conflict influenced by historical relations, power struggles and strategic interests. While John Mearsheimer, a prominent realist scholar, attributes the crisis to the United States and NATO's expansion towards Russia's borders, this perspective is just a one side of the story.

A balanced assessment requires evaluating multiple factors, including Russian actions, Ukrainian sovereignty, and western policies.

2- Mearsheimer's Argument on Ukraine War:

Mearsheimer opines that the

root cause of Ukraine conflict is the post-cold war expansion of NATO, which he views as a direct threat to Russian security. According to his realist framework, great powers react aggressively when their sphere of influence is threatened. He argues that by attempting to integrate Ukraine into Western institutions (NATO and the EU), the US and its allies provoked Russia's intervention. Mearsheimer's claim reflects the classical realist belief that international relations are driven by power dynamics and the desire for security.

3. Realism: The Dominant Lens for Understanding Ukraine Crisis

Realism explains the Ukraine crisis as a struggle for power and security between Russia and the West. Russia sees NATO's expansion as a threat to its safety and influence.

Date: _____

Day: _____

To protect its interests, Russia annexed Crimea and supported separatists in Eastern Ukraine. Realism argues that powerful countries act to defend their ~~rights~~ regions, even if it leads to conflict. The crisis reflect a larger competition between Russia and the U.S, showing how nations prioritize security and power in international politics.

Empirical Support for Mearsheim's View:

1) 2008 Nato Summit:

Nato's declaration that Ukraine and Georgia would eventually become members was met with strong opposition from Russia, which then invaded Georgia later that year.

2) 2014 Protests

Western support for pro-democracy movements in Ukraine contributed to the ousting of Russia-backed

Date: _____

Day: _____

President. This triggered Russia which then invaded Crimea.

4. Counterarguments to Mearsheimer's Narrative:

Critics argue that Mearsheimer's narrative disregard Russia's expansionist ambitions. This highlights Russia's actions are not solely defensive but tend to restore regional hegemony. This perspective emphasizes Ukraine's right to self-determination and rejects the notion that smaller states must conform to great-powers ~~the~~ sphere of influence.

Empirical evidence challenging Mearsheimer:

1) 1994 Budapest Memorandum:

In exchange for giving up its nuclear arsenal, Ukraine receives security assurances from Russia, the U.S., and the UK. Russia's annexation of Crimea violated these com-

commitments, suggesting expansionist tendencies beyond defensible defensive measures.

2) Internal Factors in Ukraine

The Ukrainian public has increasingly supported integration with the West, reflecting internal political agency rather than external imposition.

You have got potential
 Profound analysis is required here
 Emphasize and give more evidence
 Good luck!

3. Critical Analysis:

The crisis cannot be attributed solely to U.S. actions or Russian aggression; both actors have contributed to the escalation. A sustainable resolution requires Ukraine's acknowledgment, addressing legitimate Russian security concerns, and reinforcing the principles of international law and sovereignty.

4. Conclusion:

Realism offers the most compelling framework for analyzing

Date: _____

Day: _____

the Ukraine crisis, emphasizing power dynamics, security concerns, and the competition for influence. ~~It~~ Ultimately, while Measheimer's argument provides valuable insight into great power-politics, a comprehensive analysis must integrate multiple perspectives to understand the complexities of the Ukraine crisis.

Date: _____

Day: _____

the Ukraine crisis, emphasizing power dynamics, security concerns, and the competition for influence. ~~the~~ Ultimately, while Measheimer's argument provides valuable insight into great power-politics, a comprehensive analysis must integrate multiple perspectives to understand the complexities of the Ukraine crisis.

