

Question:-

Describe the evolutionary process through which International Relations acquired the status of academic discipline.

1) Introduction:-

International Relations emerged as a distinct academic discipline in the early 20th century, formalizing the study of interactions among states, international organizations, non-state actors and global systems. Its growth has been shaped by significant historical events and intellectual debates, which have expanded its scope and methodologies. Today, IR is a global field that examines the interactions of states, non-state actors, and international institutions, adapting to complexities of a rapidly changing world.

2) Defining the term "International Relations:-

P.T.

O

International Relations is defined as:-

"IR is the study of how states and non-state actors interact and influence each other in a globalized world, encompassing issues of power, cooperation, conflict and governance."

(Joseph Nye)

3) Defining the scope of IR:-

IR covers political, economic and social issues. It involves state to state, international organizations, non-state actors, global governance, security studies, IPE, foreign policy analysis, diplomacy, human rights etc.

Diplomacy

War & Peace

Globalization

Climate change

Migration

Cyber security

4) Evolution of IR as an academic discipline.

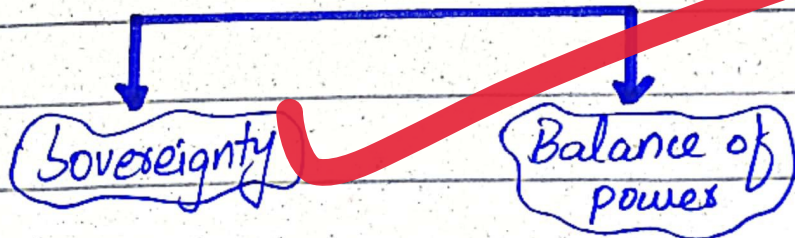
The evolution of International Relations as an academic discipline can be described as follows:-

4.1) Pre-Academic Foundations (Before 1919).

Early ideas of IR can be traced to ancient civilizations focusing on diplomacy, war and treaties.

e.g. The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) established the modern nation-state system, which became central to IR theory.

Key Idea



4.2) Birth of IR as a discipline (1919-1930s)

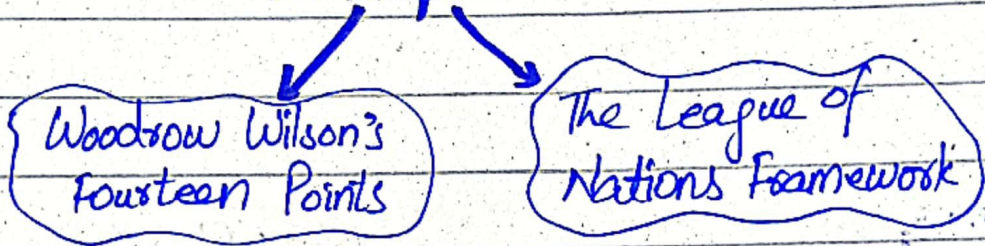
The first IR department was established at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth

in 1919.

Historical Context The devastation of World War I led to the League of Nations and interest in preventing future conflicts.

Key Theories Emergence of **Idealism**, emphasizing international cooperation, peace and organizations like the League.

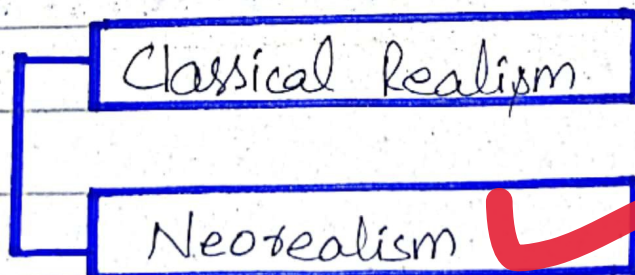
Example



4.3) Realism's Dominance:- (1940s - 1970s)

World War II and the Cold War emphasized the role of power and conflict in global politics.

The key theories involved are:-



Classical Realism focused on human nature as the cause of conflict e.g., Hans Morgenthau's *Politics Among Nations*.
Neorealism emphasized the anarchic system of the international system.
e.g., Kenneth Waltz's *Theory of International Politics*.

4.4) Behavioral Revolution and Interdisciplinary Growth:- (1950s - 1970s)

IR scholars adopted methods from economics, psychology, and sociology, emphasizing quantitative analysis.

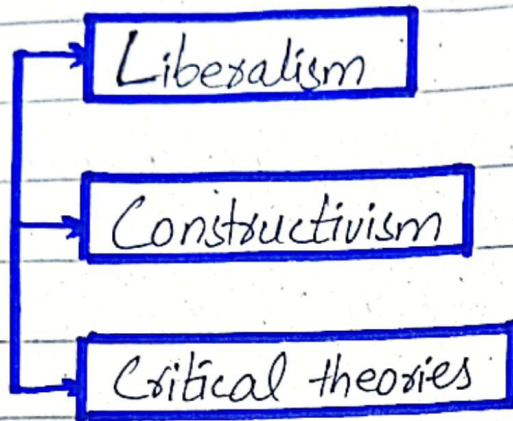
Example:-

Game theory's application to Cold War strategy (e.g., nuclear deterrence models).

4.5) Theoretical Pluralism and Critiques (1980s - 1990s) :-

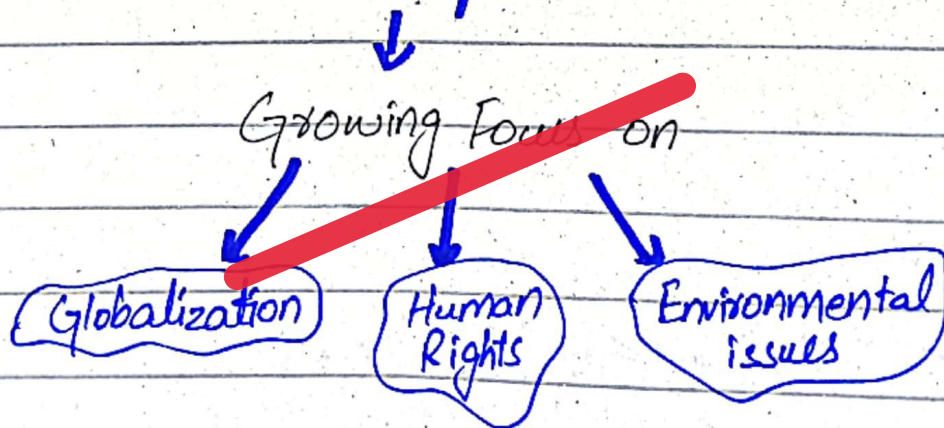
The end of Cold War raised questions about the relevance of traditional theories like realism. The key theories

involved are :-



Liberalism highlighted role of institutions, democracy and economic interdependence. Constructivism focused on social norms, identities and role of ideas. Feminism, Marxism, and Postcolonialism critiqued traditional Western-centric perspectives.

Example



4.6) Globalization and New Challenges (2000s - Present) :-

Events like 9/11, the Iraq war, the

2008 financial crisis and climate change shifted the focus of IR.

e.g., **The Paris Agreement** (2015) on climate change reflects IR's growing environmental focus.

5) Brief Summary of IR's evolution :-

Period	Key Events & Themes
Pre-1919	Treaty of Westphalia, early ideas of diplomacy and power
1919-1930s	Birth of IR (Idealism), League of Nations
1940-1970s	Realism's dominance, Cold War rivalry
1950s-1970s	Behavioral revolution, interdisciplinary approaches
1980s-1990s	Theoretical pluralism, rise of Constructivism and Critical Theories
2000s-Present	Focus on globalization, climate change, and non-state actors

6) Conclusion :-

The evolution of IR reflects the dynamic nature of global politics and the changing challenges faced by the international community. From Realism's focus on power politics to Constructivism's emphasis on ideas and norms, the discipline continues to adapt to new realities.



Add quotations
You have got potential
Good luck!

Good analysis