

Q #02

It is argued that democratic countries pursue peaceful foreign policy. Support your answer with concrete examples.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Democratic peace theory substantiates and empirically supports liberalist claims that the most powerful explanations lie at domestic level of analysis. This correlation of democracy and pacific foreign policy dates back to the Age of Enlightenment when Immanuel Kant claimed 'republic constitutionalism' as a passageway to acquiring 'perpetual peace.' Through historical accounts, this thesis is fairly buttressed as far as international relations between similarly governed republics are concerned. Beyond it lie trails of neo-colonialism, bounded morality and cold national interests.

## 2. DEMOCRATIC PEACE THESIS:

Argument that democracies tend to be peaceful and within and without their national boundaries was convincingly advanced by G. Kant. Although he has mentioned 'republic constitutionalism', this correlation was revived in the twilight years of Cold War. In a widely cited article by Michael Doyle in the 1980s, he wrote that liberal democracies had created a

'separate peace'. It was factually backed by Russell and O'Neal in their book, "Triangulating Peace" (2001). The authors statistically proved pacific disposition and dovish international conduct of democracies through history. Hence, there are a number of factors for the positive interconnection of peace and democracy.

### 3. REASONS DEMOCRATIC POLITIES TEND TO HAVE NON-VIOLENT APPROACH IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICY:

#### I. War is Zero-Sum Game For Their Inticcate Interdependence

One of the main reasons democracies prefer peace is due to intricate commercial interdependence that they foster with other states. Wars not only become costlier, but they are rendered obsolete. For instance, the United States - Mexico - Canada (USMCA), building on NAFTA pact, is the second largest free trade economic zone in the world, following the European Union. Post-second world war, the two blocs have been maintained peaceful foreign policies due expressly to their common domestic organizing principle: democracy, or *vox populi vox Dei*.

#### II. Public Legitimacy Tails Dovish INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT:

Kant reasoned that legislative branch will

serve the ~~people~~ purpose of checks and balances on war-mongering monarchs. While not every state decision is to be made and executed after popular plebiscite, democratic leaders understand lifeblood of public legitimacy which is lost in consequences of hawkish policies. Moreover, according to writings of Joshua Goldstein, people of one democracy have least chance of frowning or growling on sister democracy's people, notwithstanding any casus belli. Take, for example, the French and the British; or American or Canadian citizens.

### III. Liberal Democracies Are Wealthier

What is more, liberals like Robert Keohane believe in the democratic peace thesis because they tend to be wealthier in stark contrast to authoritarian states. While this may be debatable, it has been established and recorded that opportunity cost and comparative (dis)advantages for a democracy to wage a war are catastrophic.

### 4. REALIST PERSPECTIVE ON PEACE THEORY:

On the other hand, realists cannot overcome their state of paranoid. They claim that domestic organization does not impact or germinate peace which is eternally absent in an 'anarchic international'. Rather, peace is born of balance of powers, ~~of~~

Democracy merely being a cover. For example, consider the United States' global standing, a self-proclaimed paragon of political and economic liberalism. The US' Secretary of State Madeline Albright claimed in 1998 in the context of 'Disarming' Iraq, 'If we have to use force it is because we are America. We are the INDISPENSABLE NATION.' Notwithstanding the hubris, the fact that the US is a democracy does not help much in reconciling with argument that democracies are meek and sympathetic and peace-loving players on the world stage.

## 5. CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL THEORY'S PERSPECTIVE ON PEACE AND DEMOCRACY:

Except in realist tradition, democracy as a denotation of peace in domestic and foreign affairs is taken <sup>for</sup> granted now. Departing from positivist approaches, Critical International Theory, a post-modernist theorizing, views universal humanism, as a Rational Choice. It is a goal that aligns with peaceful foreign policies and democratic governance. One adage of Alexander Wendt holistically encapsulates this wisdom, who said 'Anarchy is what you make of it'. By extrapolation, peace is also what you make of it; it is there as long as it is believed to be there.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The position adopted heretofore in this discourse can be summed up as following: Democratic

peace thesis as viewed through their Jewish and peaceful foreign policy is a not only an empirical but a recognized, statistically-proven reality. Even though they may not be obliged to follow through the same with the Third-World countries, as A. Madeline's remarks reflect above, the world today is more peaceful than it was, for example, a century ago. And one, if not the sole, cause of this is none other than democracy being the dominant form of governance in the world today.