

(QUESTION 2)

Changing World order

1- Introduction

The world's political order does not remain the same. It changes with evolving trends in contemporary affairs across the globe. The year 2023 marked one of the important duration in which many events occurred to reshape and redefine world order. This shows how ~~fast~~ is the transitioning from 'moment of unipolarity' to multipolarity.

2- Gradual Transitioning from Unipolarity to multipolarity

The bipolar world order that was created after second world war was ended with

the fall of USSR. From that point, as the international relations scholars term, the 'moment of unipolar' order started. However, with the rise of China and resurgence of Russia, this order was challenged. Consequently, the previous decade witnessed the gradual transitioning. Nevertheless, many events happened in 2023 raise serious concerns for US-led world order.

Experts believe, the end of unipolar moment is imminent.

3- Analysing the major events in 2023 with the lens of IR theories

i) ~~Heightened tensions~~ and

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i) USA-China Heightened Tensions: The fear of Thucydides Trap

As Thucydides argued that number 2 position in international position is most unstable position. In the wake of this USA's concerns of rising China are manifested in its containment of China policy. Consequently, the year 2023 ~~was~~ has witnessed some conflict ~~on~~ between two rivals. Narratives against each other's Taiwan policy were harshly denounced as Chinese president announced Taiwan annexed by 2027. In addition to this, the ~~downing~~ of China's ~~balloon~~ also caused tensions.

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ii) Expansion of BRICS: Efforts of region internationalism and liberalism

The group of Global South countries, BRICS, announced its expansion. This group is seen as competitor to western-led world order, especially the G-20. These efforts of BRICS, to include 5 more countries in its fold, can be explained by the theory of internationalism. Not only this, this happening also illustrates the efforts to end the hegemony of west-led order.

iii) Middle East Reconciliation: A shock to realpolitik

A major development that surprised many countries was the Saudi-Iran reconciliation.

According to realism, the states always try to ~~negotiate~~ have hegemonic hand in relations, and the dispute could ~~to~~ not be solved by peaceful means. However, Iran-Saudi Arab patch up ushered in resolution of various issue such as Yemen war, although partially.

iv) China's engagement with Middle East: Economic liberalism

The economic liberalism theory of international political economy best explains the China engagement with the world, middle East in particular. China and Iran has signed \$400 billion trade agreements in 2023. Not only this, but China also extended economic ties with Saudi Arab, that would possibly antagonise USA.

v) Russia's feared aims to annex parts of eastern Europe : Irredentism

The resurgence of ~~the~~ Russia also disturbing the western led order.

In 2023, while fighting continued in Ukraine, Putin threatened countries like Poland. ~~Russia claims parts of Eastern Europe as its territory.~~

vi) Neo classical realism and expansionist Russia.

Neo classical realism claims that individual leader's ego lead to the tendency that a state aim to expand. 2023 witnessed such tendencies in Putin's Russia.

