

Examine the concept of National power and its essential ingredients. (2016)

Ans: Introduction

Power in International Relations may be defined as a state's tools to control or at least influence, other states or outcome of events (Griffith 2002). The tools include military power, economy, leadership, technology, diplomacy, ideology and others which cause one state to influence other state. For example, Pakistan joined the "War on Terrorism" due to force of United States. So, this is called National power. The essential ingredients of National power are classified into two parts: Tangible and intangible ingredients. Geography, raw material, natural resources, population and tangible are tangible elements of National power. On other hand, Ideology, mores, leaderships personality, organizations and diplomacy are the intangible elements. These both categories were defined by Palmer and Perkins, Charles of Texere, Abdul Said, Theodore A. Coulombis and James H. Wolfe.

2-

## Concept of Power

"The set or collection of all the particular classes of behaviour, relations and affairs that are effectively subjected to government power".

~ Karl Deutsch

National power consists of all the activities of government, internal as well as external. The external activities include the demonstration of power to keep others dependent for one thing or the other and to use the interdependence of relations for one's benefit. A nation with developed technology, surplus food, large industrial production, healthy and developed economy, good natural resources - particularly oil, uranium, natural gas etc can exercise more power over a scope of power of a nation. Karl Deutsch's attempt to measure power on the basis of their three variables can be of some help to the students of international politics. However, such a measurement can give us only some help to the students of international



### 3- State power

i. An ability to influence others  
Power is an ability or potential  
Others. It is depend on the  
specific characteristics of a level.  
For example, size of GDP  
and armed forces. United States  
uses India against Pakistan and  
China, which is an example of  
one's ability to influence others  
actions.

ii. Self sufficient in everything  
An important characteristic of  
power is self sufficiency in  
economy, military, resources and  
other things. Impacts other  
states by to develop relations  
with it to get help of  
its resources.

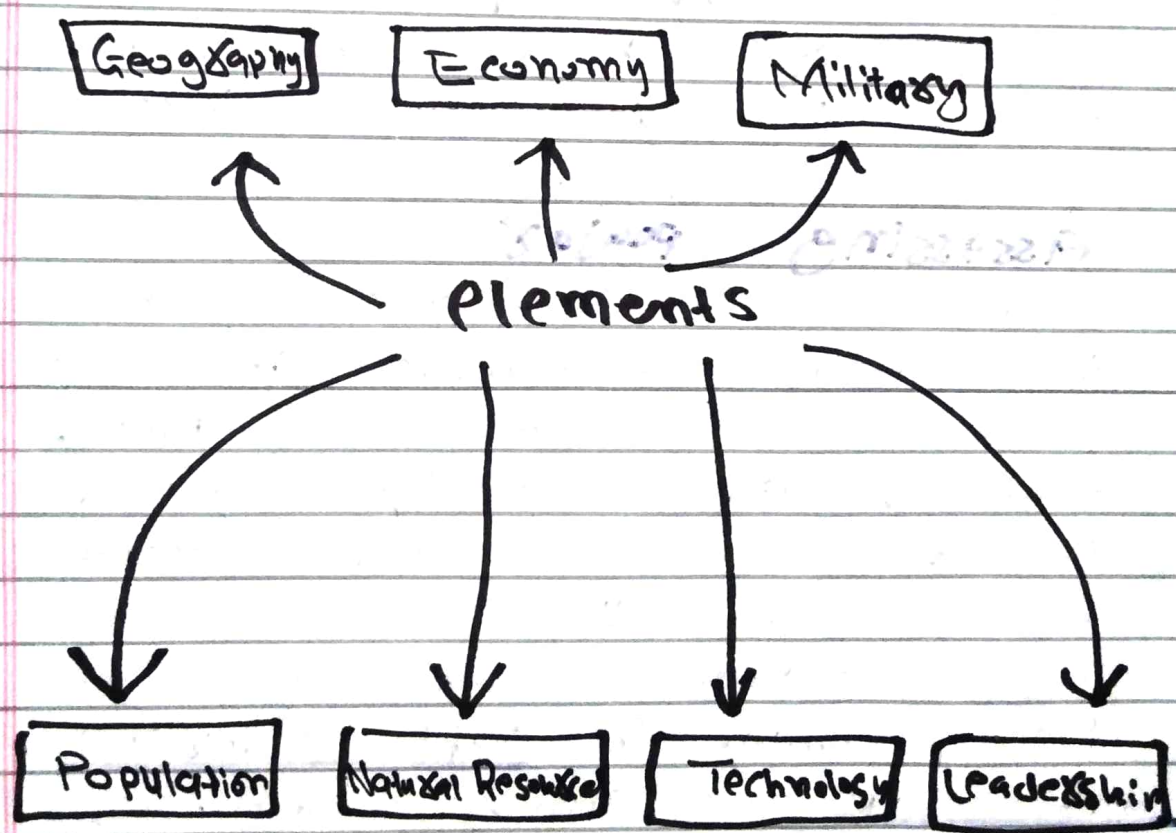
### 4- Assessing power

Power is State's capability  
to function independently in all  
spheres of state's activity.  
However, this capability needs  
to be assessed and calculated  
to forecast the result of  
two belligerent states in a war.  
For example, in Russia - Ukraine  
Russia's military capabilities  
outnumbered those of Ukraine as  
of 2024. The number of aircraft  
at the disposal of the Russian army  
exceeded 4200, while the

Likewise armed forces possessed 321 aircraft. These show that Russia can be the victor in war.

## 5- The essential ingredients of Power

State power is a combination of different elements such as natural resources, industrial capacity, moral legitimacy, military capability and popular support of government. All these substances make an actor's power.





## a. Geography

Geographic factors that influence a country's power status includes location, topography, size and climate.

Russia is generally considered a land power, while the United States is viewed as a sea power. According to Halford Mackinder, a Scottish geographer, whoever controlled the heartland of the Eurasian land mass could dominate the world.

Afghanistan contains a forbidding topography, which makes its conquest very difficult.

## b. Economic power

Economic power is a vitally important part of national power of a nation because it is the means for max military power and basis for Welfare, prosperity, and development of its people.

The United States of America is a North American nation that is the world's most dominant economic and military power.

## c. Military power

Military power is a vitally important part of national power of a state. The importance of military factor as an element of national power can be judged



From the fact that many persons regard these — synonyms. Military power is not national power, nevertheless it is an important part of national power which contributes to its strength and effectiveness.

#### d. Population

Population is also another important tangible element of national power.

A huge population if fed, educated, and possessing skills valued in an industrial society is an asset.

Deng Xiaoping took advantage of huge Chinese population, and he led the country toward prosperity.

#### e. Natural Resources

No nation can hope to be powerful nation if its territory is not adequately graced by natural resources. A self-sufficiency in

certain key resources can be a big source of power of a nation. The USA has been in a position to be a super power in the world mainly due to its self-sufficiency.

A powerful nation is an industrialized and possess natural resources, especially industrial materials and minerals.



## f. Technology

Technology is the application of knowledge of science for promoting human welfare. In fact the level of technological advancement determines the power status of a nation. The USA and other developed countries are technologically advanced nations. Now nuclear technology has emerged as an important source of power and influence in international relations.

After World War II, the both countries United States and USSR engaged themselves in competition of technology.

## g. Leadership

The utilization of man - power resources, natural resources, raw materials, technology, industrial capacity, military power and ideology for strengthening the national power of a state is dependent upon the qualities of the leadership.

For example, Pakistan, after the independence, couldn't see the quality of leadership, and fell into the trap of unending political crisis. India, on other hand, got

quality of leadership at early days, which resulted in its political stability and strong economy.

## 6- Conclusion

Power is a central concept in International Relations. According to Morgenthau, it is very difficult to give a workable definition of power. Power can be social, economic or political. There are two types of powers: tangible power and intangible power. Tangible power includes geography, raw materials, natural resources, population and technology, whereas intangible power includes ideology, morale, leadership, personality, organizational efficiency and quality of leadership. These are the intangible powers. These above-mentioned elements define the power of any nation.