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Q: Discuss the concept of "Idealism." Explain its core perceptions and define its agenda of peace for the stability of world.

### 1. Introduction:

Idealism emerged as a reaction to the realist theory. For realists global power politics is ~~at~~ all about power and interests. Whereas, the liberals argue that power politics is <sup>a</sup> vicious cycle, and international anarchic structure creates dilemma. Its core perceptions include human altruism and human development should be the ~~the~~ pursuit of politics.

### 2. What is 'idealism'?

Idealism is a reactionary theoretical perspective in international relations. It emerges in response to realist approach which states that power maximization is the ultimate tool for state's survival.

Whereas, the liberals argue that the pursuit of power should not be the main motive of states, rather human development and cooperation should be its end result. Thus:

"Idealism is a specific school of liberalism that stresses the need for states to pursue moral goals and to act ethically in the international arena."

As liberalism proposes solution of cooperative cooperation, proposed by Woodrow Wilson, thus it is also named as Wilsonianism.

Example of liberal in the international affairs:

The individual acts and conduct of the global leaders, i.e. Donald Trump towards the world affairs such as foreign policy relations with other leaders, climate debate and

dispute resolution in the world can be thought of as cooperative model and is term discussed under of the frame of action of liberalism.

### 3. Core Perceptions of Liberalists:

#### i. Altruistic Human nature:

Human nature is essentially good and capable of good deeds in international relations. The theory advocates that humans are altruistic, cooperative and moral in nature.

#### ii. Assumption on politics / power politics:

They argue that politics is for human welfare. It should be based on liberal approach and end result of politics should not be the pursuit of power rather than human development and cooperation.

#### iii. Use of Force: A competitive agenda

It implies that shortage of resources

make a man adopt competitive agenda, selfish, immoral side and power politics. Egoism isn't their innate ~~was~~ nature rather they are competitive.

#### iv. Perception of 'War':

Liberals state that war represents the worst feature of relations. They oppose war and emphasize the use of global concerted efforts to eliminate war.

#### v. Liberalist peace perspective:

According to liberalists: In order to achieve the dividends of peace, all humans in general and political leaders in particular need to follow the path of pluralism, diversity, acceptability and cooperation.

#### vi. Construction of 'institutions' as a pursuit of coordination:

They prefer the construction of institutions that protect individual freedom

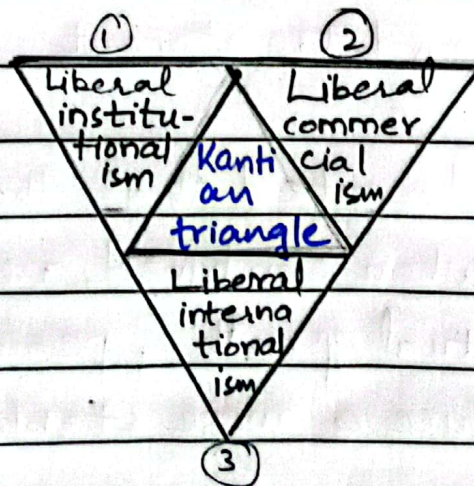
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by limiting and checking political powers. One such example is the construction of inter-regional alliances i.e SAARC, ECO; or international such as ICJ, BRICS etc.

#### 4. Agenda of peace for stability of world:

Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher ~~the~~ proposed Perpetual Peace, an essay in 1795. The Kantian Perpetual Peace Triangle elucidates the concept.



⇒ liberal institutionalism: puts faith in the construction of more and more multilateral organizations for cooperation, their forums. i.e OIC, African Union.

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2 ⇒ Liberal commercialism: more and more economic interdependence in these platforms, so that both parties can seek economic prosperity. The economic growth and trade ties between states can foster global security.

For examp: New Development Bank (BRICS, SCO), EU bank.

3 ⇒ Liberal Internationalism: propagates the idea of democratic norm in organisations, equity, equality. Their charters to democratise, equality of vote and treatment.

Kantha advocated that these three aspects when combined, are responsible for perpetual growth of peace and will produce a more stable, prosperous world.

5. Conclusion:

Liberalism, a prominent theory in IR is also termed as

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classical idealism. It advocates the power of cooperation, <sup>and</sup> institutions ~~and~~ building rather than weapon or maximization and power orientation.

It perpetuates the ideas of human, altruism, negating war and achieving peace through liberal perspective or Kantian triangle.

