

Essay #3

Moral Standards in International Relations

Outline

I- Introduction

Moral Standards are frequently compromised in International Relations, because nations prioritize their national interests to moral standards. The absence of global sovereign and drive for power maximization hinder the application of moral standards which undermine global stability and justice

II- What are moral standards in International relations?

III Proponents of different schools of thought believe that there are moral standards in International relations

A- International institutions provide foundations for human rights

(UDHR by UNO)

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B - Humanitarian aid initiatives by
International Institutions

(International Governmental Organizations)

C - Prevention of use of nuclear weapons
and promotion of disarmaments

(Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty)

IV - Moral Standards are frequently compromised
in International relations because :

A - Absence of global sovereign to
enforce moral guidelines in international
relations.

B - Primacy of national sovereignty to
international moral standards.

C - Focus on power maximization for
survival in geo-politics

D - Prevailing concept of nuclear deterrence
and mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

E - International response to different
conflicts based on political and economic
benefits.

F - Prioritising self-interest in humanitarian
interventions.

V- Ways forward to inculcate moral standards in ~~Int~~ International relations

A- Strengthening international institutions

(Reforms in P5 of UNSC)

B- Promoting diplomacy and dialogue in international relations

(Bilateral strategic dialogues)

C- Encouragement of commercialization among states

(Free trade agreements)

VI- Conclusion

"There must be not a balance of power, but a community of power; not organized rivalries, but organized common peace"

- Woodrow Wilson

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Moral Standards in International Relations

The ongoing genocide in Palestine, where almost forty three thousand of innocent people have been killed and thousands have lost their homes. Almost, ninety percent of Gaza is turned into rubble. In recent months, Israeli airstrikes have hit neighbourhoods such as Lebanon, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and loss of infrastructure.

Despite growing humanitarian crisis, many countries focus on their national interests instead of helping the poor Palestinians. US and western countries are endlessly supporting Israel with all means of assistance needed in war. Hans Morgenthau, a realist proponent of IR, argues that countries often put their survival and power first, leaving behind moral standards. This leads to an important concern: is it possible for countries to uphold moral standards when their own national interests are at stake? Ultimately, it seems to be unrealistic to push back national

interests aside in sake of moral standards.

This depicts that moral standards are frequently compromised in international relations because of prioritizing of national interests. The absence of global sovereign and drive for power maximization hinder the application of moral standards which undermines global stability and justice.

Moral standards in international relations means the use of ethical principles, ideals and values to guide the principles of interaction between states. It influences how nation negotiate treaties, engage in trade and resolve conflicts. Moral standards in international relations shape diplomatic practices and rule of engagement among nations. It shapes foreign policy of nations and alter their relations with other sovereign states. According to Immanuel Kant, moral standards in IR are universal principles like justice, human rights and mutual respect, ultimately fostering global peace.

The proponents of different schools of thought believe that there are

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moral standards in international relations. They believe that humans are altruistic in nature and they possess optimistic approach to political life. Moreover, peace and prosperity can be advanced when statesmen are rational and cooperate toward common goals.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is a foundation for human rights which was adopted by United Nations. It sets out fundamental rights that are universally recognized, such as, right to life, liberty and security. For example, UDHR fosters right to protection of blacks, and provides them platform to express their atrocities, mainly after the movement of **Blacks lives matter**. UDHR has proposed various human rights treaties which hold states to a common standard of rights, promoting ~~moral~~ morality in international relations.

Moreover, international institutions provide humanitarian aid initiatives to respond to global crises. It includes humanitarian assistance of natural disasters, famine and conflicts. **World Food Programme (WFP)**, intensified

It efforts to provide food assistance to millions of vulnerable people in **Yemen food crisis, 2030 2023**. Over Thirteen million people were ~~facilitated~~ facilitated due to ongoing conflict and economic collapse. International aids are provided irrespective of any political interest, it functions on moral standards in international relations.

Furthermore, States are committed to prevent use of nuclear weapons, promote disarmament and encourage peaceful use of nuclear energy under a bargaining accord, **Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty**. Under this treaty, nuclear states commit to gradually move towards disarmament and non-nuclear states should not pursue nuclear arms. **Permanent five (P5) members of UNSC** possess nuclear ~~an~~ weapons under NPT which undermines nuclear threat. It helps to uphold global moral standards with threatening any sovereign state.

Contrarily, to the perspective of opponent schools of thought, it can not be ignored that there are no moral standards in international relations. International relations

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are fundamentally conflictual and guided by national interests. The absence of global sovereign or central authority to enforce moral and ethical guidelines across nations lead to unresolved conflicts, power imbalance and exploitation: **UN is unable to intervene effectively in Gaza conflict.** The unresolved conflict tends to prevail because of division within UN. US holds veto power which often blocks resolution in favour to Palestinians. This leads to vicious cycle of condemnation and calls for peace, disturbing overall global stability.

National sovereignty takes precedence over international moral standards. States prioritize their national interests which collectively impact global trust and stability. US under **"America first"** policy withdrew from Paris climate Agreement in 2017. It impacted global climate efforts and showed that economic growth of a nation is more important to global environmental commitments. This led to weakened collective effort for betterment of global collective cause. Primarily, depicting that national sovereignty is more important.

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Furthermore, the pursuit of power has become a defining characteristic of state's behaviour. Countries prioritize their security and strive for stability through power maximization. US maintains its significant **naval fleet** in **Indo-Pacific region** to protect its interest in hydrocarbons and oil. Likewise, **China** tends to expand its political and economic power through economic integration under **BRI** in many regions.

The prevailing concept of nuclear deterrence relies on threatening whole humanity to total destruction. It serves as a strong indicator that moral standards often take a backseat in international relations. **US, India, China, Russia and Pakistan**, continue to see their **nuclear weapons essential** to deter aggression. **India and Pakistan** maintain nukes as deterrent. **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)** may contribute to prevent nuclear war, but it raises profound moral concerns. The willingness of states to maintain mass destruction reflects the absence of moral standards in international relations.

Global powers respond differently to conflicts based on their political and economic

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benefits. States often advocate human rights but overlook abuse when those tend to provide national benefits. Western countries response Russian's invasion in Ukraine as unlawful, implementing sanctions and widespread condemnation. Highlighting strategic importance of Ukraine to west. Whereas, lingering conflicts in Yemen, Palestine or Myanmar, receives less attention and global assistance because of less strategic significance to west.

Moreover, nations prioritize self-interest in humanitarian interventions. In 2011, NATO intervention in Libya was justified on humanitarian grounds, but strategic interest influenced west to intervene. It provided west a way to access Libya's oil reserves and to curb influence of Islamist groups. The complex interplay between humanitarian objectives and self-interest is driven by strategic advantages which risk moral standards in international relations.

Despite the complex web of international relations, it is important to inculcate moral standards in international relations to

foster peace and prosperity among nations.

Several strategies can be pursued to promote morality and ethical conduct in international relations.

First and foremost, certain reforms need to be processed ⁱⁿ international organizations to enhance their ability to uphold international law and humanitarian assistance. There should be reforms in **Permanent and non-permanent members of UNSC**. The inclusion of countries: Germany, India, Brazil and Japan as permanent member will foster better representation of contemporary geo-politics.

Secondly, countries should develop frameworks for ethical diplomacy and regulate diplomatic channels. It emphasizes to respect human rights and peaceful conflict resolutions.

Foreign policy of nations should advocate ethical diplomacy to prioritize humanitarian rights. moreover, **Bilateral strategic dialogues** between rivals enhances cooperation on global issues.

lastly, states should enhance their economic cooperation through **Bilateral and**

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Multilateral Trade Agreements. It fosters economic interdependence and cooperation promoting social equality and economic sustainability. Commercialization positively impacts global governance and international cooperation.

To sum up the discussion, it is evident that countries can not put their national interests and power maximization ability at stake in order to comply to moral standards. The drive for power and nationalism undermines global stability and justice. However, collective approach of all states to achieve moral standards can enhance global peace and security. **Woodrow Wilson** states that

"There must be not a balance of power, but a community of power; not organized rivalries, but organized common peace."

Wilson's vision emphasizes that moral standards in international relations come from cooperation rather than competition and the idea that peace must be collectively achieved.

Precis #03

Question

Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:

Those who regard - - - - -
- - - - - save us.

Revival of Civilization through Ethics

Many people falsely believe in emergence of new civilization by dissolution of old. The distinct future of earth could be determined through spiritual fate, but it prevails to be an ignorant factor. The longrun barbarism is interlinked with the perception of people about change, which is only possible when people seek to change themselves. Rebirth of civilization is one of the difficult things to attain, as it is not of single race, but whole mankind. Considering ethical domain as a vital component in civilization, fosters societal change through ethical practices. The notion to bring change can be possible through ethical activities conducted world wide with strong faith and spirit. The change of civilization is merely effected by experience of crowd. However, it can be majorly driven by any significant

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Individual who possess innovative independent mind. That person tends to overcome the influence of mass and determine his character. Highlighting the importance of ethical movement can eradicate barbarism. Furthermore, the future of a society depends upon the worthiness of its members. But, continuous change in individual dispositions make it difficult to trace out history and its prominent men. The dominance of collective being restrict and hinder the spiritual and moral worth of individuals, resulting in collapse of society. This ultimately limitizes the society to overcome its prevailing problems. Therefore, it is obligatory to individuals to explore their own capabilities to produce new spiritual and ethically driven ideas in order to change civilization.

Approx. words in Passage = 694

words in Precls = 235

Translation #3

Question

Translate the following urdu paragraph into English by keeping in view figurative / idiomatic expression

----- ک لوگوں کا
 ----- پوتا ہے

Common people believe that country's law and independency of a person are correlated. Apparently this stance is not wrong, as every law restricts citizens to a certain limit. If law prevails in a country it will ultimately result in increase of overall restrictions. Dominance of law undermines the independency of an individual. Contrarily, if restrictions of laws are limited it will eventually widen the sphere of independency.