

IR1 - 2022

Question Number 3

It is argued that democratic countries pursue peaceful foreign policies

Answer Number 3

1

INTRODUCTION

Democratic countries in today's world portray themselves to be an embodiment of liberty, justice, equality and peace. The theoretical paradigms of liberalism that serve as their guiding principles surely have these tenets, however, de facto practice of this is not visible. Democratic countries have had policy of interference and hegemony. At several occasions the foreign policy of these countries has even led to outbreak of war and brutal discourse. Despite the claim of pursuing peaceful foreign policies, democratic countries are unable to do so.

2

DILEMMA OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES FOREIGN POLICY BEING DIFFERENT THAN ITS IDEOLOGY

The media projection and the general perception about democratic countries appears to be peaceful.

Leaders of democratic countries have been often seen taking pride in the peace loving nature.

"Indias foreign policy and interactions are all about peace. India works on the principles of Panch-Sheel"

- Indias Premier

Narendra Modi

However the reality is often different. Democracy is socially approved system in today's world order, it is also the ideology of the global leaders. Hence, there is immense opportunity to play power politics and practically following the principles of Real Politics despite the theoretical variance.

3

DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES NOT FOLLOWING PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICIES

3.1 AMERICA'S DEFIANCE OF ICJ'S ARTICLE 51 TO LAUNCH IMMEDIATE

WAR

Despite being an ardent supporter of international law having part in foreign policy, America defied the article 51 and launched an all out war. USA's President took 17 minutes to pass the Bush doctrine in which he attributed his actions to missing of precedent. War on Terror was hence launched.

3.2 ATTACK ON IRAQ WITHOUT EVEN ASSURANCE OF WMD PRESENCE

USA launched a full fledge war on Iraq, ruined its cities. The social fabric of the country is distorted till date. Only under the false assumption of presence of 'Weapons of Mass Destruction'. Mechanisms

such as dialogue and negotiations were not even tried.

3.3 WEST CLAIMS TO BE FLAG BEARER OF HUMANITARIAN VALUES ; INCREASED AID FOR ONGOING GENOCIDE

The west claims its policy to reek of humanitarian values. However, despite this claim the western countries have been doing the quite opposite in the ongoing Israel - Palestine war. West has increased military aid for Israel as a part of its' foreign policy endeavour. All this done whilst Israel commits the worst crimes ever.

3.4 DEMOCRATIC INDIA ENFORCES HEGEMONY IN SOUTH ASIAN SPHERES AND ORGANIZATIONS

India's foreign policy surrounds the emerging concept and manifestation of Hindutva; the greater India. India is also enforcing its hegemony through regional institutions. Instead of practicing peace and

spreading it, the country has embarked on an expansionist foreign policy endeavour. Disrupting the peace of the nation.

3.5 INDIA'S HISTORIC ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF PAKISTAN, POSING A THREAT TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY

India has a long standing tradition of interfering foreign policy especially with respect to Pakistan. Despite democracy, the country thrives on chaotic foreign policy. Its support to the Bengalis in 1971 civil war and still date involvement of RAW in regions of KP and Baluchistan is alarming.

3.6 DEMOCRATIC HEGOMENS OVERSTEP SOVEREIGN BOUNDARIES

The current world order keeps the democratic countries at an elevated high which gives the position of privilege. Now leading the international world order boosts negative tendencies in them as they are answerable to one.

3.7 ECONOMIC COERCIVE DIPLOMACY USED AS A TOOL TO SUPPRESS COUNTRIES ; IMF CONDITIONALITIES DISRUPT PEACE

Disrupting peace is not just limited to war, instead the way democratic institutions create circumstances in other countries ; peace gets disrupted as a consequence. Economic coercion is very harmful for a developing countries peace. Conditionalities such as those of IMF disrupt the peace and make public repulsive.

3.8 USA'S LONG COLD WAR POLICY WAS FAR AWAY FROM PEACE: THE VIETNAM WAR

USA's entire policy during the cold war era was anything but peaceful. Whether it comes to arms race or the conflicts that were started as proxies. No consideration of peace was there and there was immense bloodshed and collateral damage.

3.9 QUAD MILITARY BUILDUP A DEFENSE ALLIANCE BY THE DEMOCRACIES

The recent creation and militarization of QUAD is an example of democratic countries disregarding peace inducing values. The QUAD countries have been militarizing the south china sea. US alone has 700+ naval and military bases outside US ; which undermines sovereignty and peace.

3.10 US INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST CLEARLY INDICATES ABSENCE OF PEACE IN FOREIGN POLICY

Multiple countries of middle east have been turned into ruin. Syria, Yemen, Lebanon all suffering due to invasive attacks in the regions. Democratic USA is a party to all the destruction being in clear support for all of it.

3.11 DEMOCRATIC ISRAEL COMMITTING HORRIFIC CRIMES

The state and actions of Israel are an antithesis of peace and democracy. Israel is a claimant of a great democracy. However since its advent, the state has been involved in anything but peace. Invading countries, attacking citizens, grabbing land, publically threatening other countries are only some attributes of the state of Israel.

4 CONCLUSION

Democratic countries ensure peace only for themselves and even though theoretically democracy should lead to peaceful foreign policy, such is not the case. Foreign policies are often influenced by aggressive leaders, aggressive biases or cognitive abilities of a nation. For a foreign policy does not survive if it is in the heart of a few.