

International Relations (IR-1)

Q: Examine the concept of National Power and its essential ingredients.

1. Introduction:

National power is the ability of one state to enforce and influence another state. It is a vital feature of state system in international politics. It is a mean by which states implement their foreign policy. It can be divided into two major types: hard power and soft power. The essential elements or ingredients of state power include the tangible elements, such as military, economy, population whereas the intangible elements include political culture, ideology and leadership.

2- Concept of National Power:

"National power is the ability of one state to coerce, enforce and influence another ~~is known as~~ state."

According to Morgenthau:

"National power is a psychological

relation
power between those ~~in~~ who exercise it and those over whom it is exercised. It gives the former control over certain actions of the latter, through the influence that the former exerts over the latter's mind."

• Realist view of Power:

Realists view power as an ultimate aim of a state to promote its national interests, and to dominate the global system.

• Neoliberal view of power:

Neoliberals believe that states should pursue power through cooperation to strengthen their capabilities.

Add Neorealist perspective as well

National Power

“ Hard power “ Soft power

It is the coercive power induced by threat. It is based on military intervention, coercive diplomacy and economic sanctions.

Examples: Israel in Gaza.

It is the persuasive power needed to convince other states for their actions. It emphasizes the importance of legitimacy in order to enhance it.

Example: Churchill in US

3. Elements or ingredients of National Power:

The elements of national power can be divided into two categories:

- Tangible elements and
- Intangible elements.

Tangible elements include:

1. Size of Economy:

Economic development accounts for an increase in national income or per capita income. It also influences the social, political, cultural and religious relations of a state. The economic factor plays a crucial role in increasing the national power, which would ultimately lead to ^{an} influential and hegemonic role in international politics.

Example: USA emerged as a powerful state of the world because of its developed economy and GDP rate.

2. Military Might:

Military advancement is a major factor for supporting the foreign policy and promoting national interest. It is a

way to achieve deterrence. ~~and~~ It is essential for state's survival and its success.

Example: The American response to 9/11 terrorist attack was possible due to its strong military.

3. Geographical position:

Geography plays pivotal role in enforcing power over the others. A small state cannot become powerful. Location also ~~accounts~~ ^{determines} a country's security and its spatial relationship with outside world.

Example: The oil rich ~~countries~~ countries of Middle East and Gulf states are the centre of importance due to their strategic significance.

4. Resource possession:

The material and human resources are required by the countries to implement their foreign policies in the light of power. It would support them with their maximum success.

Example: Russia possess the largest assets of gas. It holds a mighty importance

due to this resource asset and exerts power over other states.

Intangible elements include:

1. Political culture and values:

It is a set of values, ^{and} practices of people that shape their political behaviour.

Political cultures matter because they shape a population's political perceptions and actions.

Add human and geopolitical aspects as well

2. Ideology of the nations:

Ideology is an important element of national power because ideology creates unity among nations and builds ^a sense of common interest to people.

Pakistan came into being due to Islamic ideology.

3. Leadership:

Leadership is a core element of national power. It is the manifestation of a state's narrative and activities.

Great leaders always raise their nations to the top rung. i.e. Churchill raised the fate of America.

4. Educational Level:

The literacy level paves way for human resource ~~and~~, thus strengthening the nations internally. The research and development ~~of~~ enhances the nations to confront challenges and ~~secure~~ their national position in the international arena.

Concise your conclusion
Add views of theorists

4. Conclusion:

Power is a mean to influence one's control over the other. It establishes and maintain the control of a state over other states. It involves both the hard power; the ~~coercive~~ means, and the soft power; the persuasive means, to make an influence on other nations. Various vital elements are required to exert national power and dominate the global politics. They include tangible and ~~non~~ intangible components to enhance the power resource of nations.