

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

PAPER 1: 2021:

Question #1:

Define International Relations. Discuss its changing/ evolving scope.

"

International Relations is
not the science to solve all
the problems of International
life. But, the strategy, objective
approach to those problems."

- Palmer and Perkin.

1. INTRODUCTION:

International Relations has evolved into an academic discipline. The subject that took shape after World War 1, was in philosophy and discussions before that. The subject has gone under numerous phases to take the contemporary form of Post-positivism. The evolution of IR has also been from closed to broad scope.

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2-

The Evolution of International Relations :-

a, International Relations (Pre - 1919):

This phase is also termed as the philosophical phase. The key proponents in this time, the nation-state were Thucydides, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes and Kant. In this duration, IR was part of debates and discussions. Inculcated in Law, History, Philosophy but not an academic discipline.

Evolution of Society:

Claus → City - → Empires

States

↓
Treaty of Westphalia,
(1648) - Nation States.

b, International Relations in 1919:

It marked the end of World War 1. The politicians, state-actors came together to discuss the causes of the World War.

In the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK first chaired by Woodrow Wilson. This is the foundation of International Relations. The agenda was to prevent further wars.

IR was a narrow scope at this time.

The Motto was - No more wars and peace.

shall prevail.

c, Second phase of International Relations (1920-1939):

This is marked as the first great debate era of International Relations. This was the time when two classical theories of IR with individual level of analysis formulated: Idealism Vs Classical Realism. The League of Nations provided the idealistic framework to prevent wars. The main proponent of Idealism was John Locke. However, the critics termed the phenomenon as Utopian and called for a more realistic approach. The Idealism failed by the eruption of World War II. The realism dominated as according to realist Hans J. Morgenthau and Carr. It is power struggle and war is inevitable. Carr also wrote a book, 20 years of crisis, criticizing Idealism and calling for Realism.

d, Third phase of International Relations (1950's):

This era or phase is termed as the Behaviouralist era. In this no major theories emerged, but the approach and lens to study IR was transitioning from:

Philosophical

Scientific.

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The perspective to view IR changed in this phase.

IR "is the study of (P&P) - OSPL)
the world in transition".

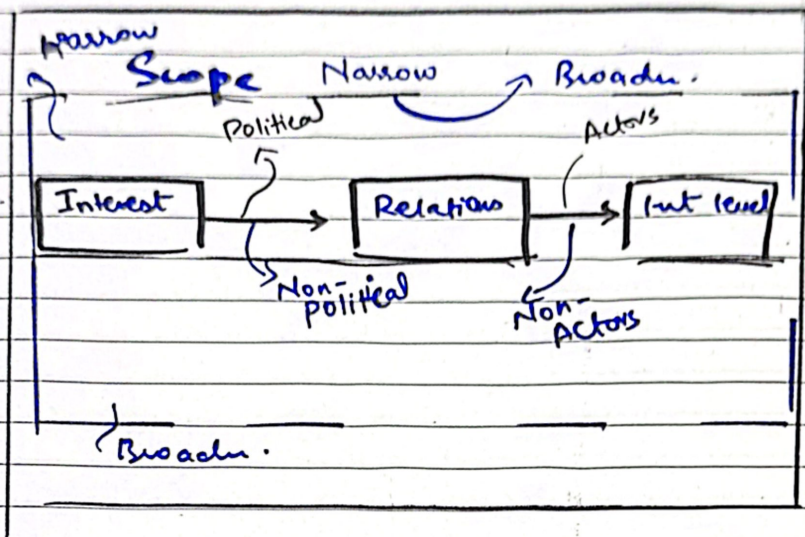
c, The era of 1960s - Third Great Debate and Structuralist, Positivist Approach:

The emergence of the Neo-Neo debate broke out in this era. The shift moved from individual level to state level. Majorly two debates ruled Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism. Neo-Realism focusing more on Power Politics and Neo-Liberalism on Co-operation and Peace. Immanuel Kant and Kenneth Waltz were the major proponents.

f, Current Era - Post Modernism

The current era focuses more on Globalization and the scope has broadened. The dominating theory is Constructivism, which states 'Anarchy is what states make of it'. The other three theories are Critical Theory, Feminism Theory, Post-modernism Theory.

4) BROADENING OF THE SCOPE OF IR:



Hans J. Morgenthau was the proponent of Narrow Scope. Globalization has widened the scope.

5- CONCLUSION:

The discipline of International Relations has gone through various phases. Each defined by respective ideologies and build up upon the new one. Realist and Neo-Realism has outweighed many. The scope has widened from narrow to broad.