

Q1 Analyze the cold war containment policy through the theoretical framework of IR, focusing on its strengths & limitations. How can this strategy be applied to US-China geopolitical tensions.

I- INTRODUCTION:-

The post WWII era was marked by two super powers i.e.: Soviet; which had the approach of communism centered around its ruling methodology and USA; that followed capitalism. However, USA started the policy of containment against Soviet during this era of cold-war. Main aim was the containment of the Soviet for which President Truman's doctrine of 1947 was the basic instrument. It would not be wrong to state that US was completely successful in its designs against communism which was evident after the disintegration of the Soviet Union around 1991. This was a story of the cold war, in the current era, the containment policy of US has raised its head once again but this time against China. Nevertheless, the actions taken for achieving containment come in the form of competing projects and plans.

II. CONTAINMENT; The Outcome of

REALISM:- The US's containment policy against USSR was a following of the doctrine of "Realism". It is further evident from the then "Presidential Doctrine" of "Truman" (1947) as per which it was taken upon by US to provide military, monetary and technological assistance to fight against communism.

The same was furthered by the next president in the form of "Eisenhower Doctrine" as per which the American policy was in its "NEW LOOK". As per which, communism was contained further in Middle East, as it posed a threat to America's middle eastern oil supplies, which was a direct threat to its security. Hence, the doctrine of "realism" was manifested through America's containment of communism.

1945 - 1991 → US's containment
COLD-WAR of USSR.

Containment of USSR aimed at → Containment of Communism.

III. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF US'S CONTAINMENT POLICY:-

The biggest power-point of containment is seen in the form of South-Korea.

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which is a living example of how the communism has destroyed its other part i.e: North Korea.

In "Why Nations Fail", Acemoglu and Robinson write: That despite being one at a certain point, today there is a huge difference between North and South Korea. South-Korea, which got under US's protection post world war II is ten folds better than North due to its democratic influence from US as per which South invested in education, healthcare and private ownerships and governmental investments in various projects. While their cousins in North suffered from poverty and isolationism due to their attachment with Soviet which led to dictatorial designs prevailing in the country.

The limitation of US's policy of containment manifests in the form of Eastern Europe, where US failed to protect against communism. All the efforts of US i.e: The development fund provided worth \$13 billion, was just for the Western Europe. Similarly, the "Organization of European Economic Cooperation" was also established for the Western European Nations. Another drawback of containment is evident even in the current times, that is use of Marshall Plan and the

Bretton Wood reforms by US to establish dollar as the "international currency". Hence, dollar was the standard for trade around the world.

IV. CONTAINMENT IN THE MULTIPOLAR WORLD OF 21st Century:- In the past, the containment against USSR was practiced in a bipolar world. The major powers were two, fighting against one another. But in the present times, the world is multipolar. Several powers exist, not only this but the states have also shifted in their tactics of confrontation. It is evident from the fact that even right now US is practicing containment but against a different state, in a different region and under a different strategy and that is counter projects.

i- Why US wants to "Contain" China:-

In the past, US wasn't as concerned about China as it is today. Nevertheless, there were some tensions and confusions due to the fact that China was "post-communist", but it was not considered a threat by US. Since, China was also implementing a system of economic model which was more or less similar to that of US, alongside a few modifications. China has become a real danger for US with the initiation of its "One Belt One

Road" initiative in the last decade of 21st century.

ii- What is OBOR Initiative and Why US views it as a threat:-

China "2013" → "ONE BELT ONE ROAD" with "6 Corridors"



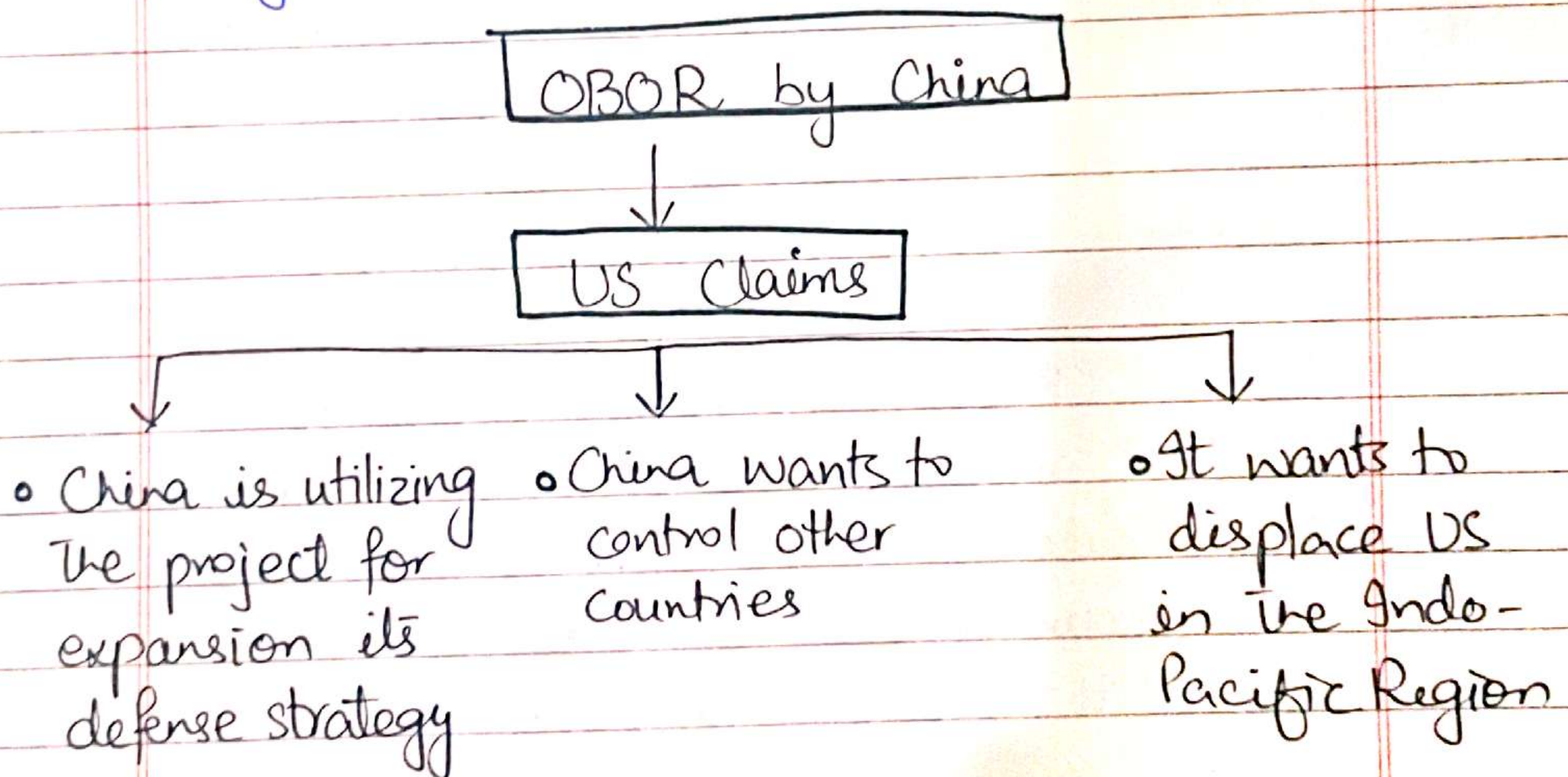
Focus is:-

- 1- Energy projects
- 2- Transportation
- 3- SEZ's
- 4- Financial Integration.
- 5- People-to-people connections.
- 6- Investments.

China's OBOR "One Belt" means "land routes" and "One Road" means "maritime Silk Routes". China aims to connect 140 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa through various projects. The special focus is on ports since China is surrounded by seas such as East China Sea, South China Sea, Yellow Sea. Hence China aims for the ports development in the "Indo-Pacific" and "South China Sea".

This is, however, unacceptable for US since it knows the capability these projects carry in the line

of making China a powerful and futuristic state. Hence, US alleges that through these projects China aims to further its "EXPANSIONIST" designs. US keeps protesting against the interest and loan schemes proposed by China under this project. US also claims that China wants to expand its military strategy and military capabilities in the project related countries. It even goes on to claim that China wants to displace US in the Indo-Pacific Region.



V- US's modern strategy of Containment; that is (B3W) "Build Back Better World" Against OBOR :- US has developed its new strategy by building anti-projects such as QUAD, AUKUS, B3W, Blue Dot Network. All these projects are built to counter the rise of China and to practice

containment against it through the "containment project"

CHINA
↓
PROJECT

1- ONE BELT ONE ROAD

[Cooperations with developing countries].

USA
↓
COUNTER PROJECTS

1- B3W

2- Blue Dot Network

3- AUKUS.

4- QUAD

[Cooperations with G7] and developed states.

VI- CHINA'S DENIAL OF EXPANIONIST DESIGNS:-

China, through its white papers continuously denies all allegations by US, and maintains it has no policy to control foreign states and simply wants peaceful cooperation and trade. In fact, it also shows interests in cooperating with other states in the anti-projects. This shows China's following of "liberal" ideology in its projects. In fact, the investments in China's project is by indigenous Resources such as:-

1- China Development Bank

2- Bank of China etc.

VII- CONCLUSION:- Hence, it could be concluded

That US's containment policy of supressing ~~any~~ ^{against any} rising power continues but it has worn a different skin keeping in view the changed paradigm of international relations. If US wants to further its containment goals, like it did against USSR, it might face some serious hurdles due to the sophistication developed in the international politics.

