IR-SPSC-P1-23-Q3 Date:

How does the rise of non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international organizations, challenge the traditional state-centric focus of international system?

Introduction:

The international order is a evolving system. Especially after second World war, the rise of non-state actors, such as multi-national corporations and international organizations provided a new dimension related to international political economy. Constantly changing situation also effected the traditional state-centric focus by undermining state sovereignity, security challenges beyond state control and fragmentation of economic powers are major challenges. Additionally, the rise of global governance is also challenging factor to traditional state-centric approach in international system.

1) Concept of Non-State actors in international relations:

Non-State actors are those individuals and organizations that holds political and economic influence but are not associated with any government or state. NSAs includes religious actors, intergovernmental organizations and multi-national corporations.

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1.1) Multinational corporations (MNCs):

Multinational corporations (MNCs) are mainly private companies that are envolve trade, production, research and development. Their operations and presence is expand in multiple countries. State and MNCs works under complex structure. According to liberalist theorists like **Robert Keohane**, MNCs brings foreign direct investment in the country and by time their dense network groups within states and they became influencial to influence state actions. On the other hand, realist scholars like **Robert Gilpin** consider MNCs as a tool of powerful to expand their political influence over underdeveloped nations to influence their role in international arena.

1.2) International Organizations:

After second world war the international organizations emerged as a neutral actors to assist nations regarding infrustructural, economic and security developments like UNO, WTO and IMF. According to Neo-liberalist scholar **Joseph Nye** international organizations play vital role to create interaction between rival states that constraint use of military. Conversly, Neo-Realist schalars like **John Mearsheimer** consider international organization as structural tool that only involves when the interests of powers are on stake otherwise, their role is limited with unreal authority.

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2) Non-State actors challenges state-centric approach in following ways:

2.1) Erosion of State sovereignty:

State sovereignty refers to the authority of state over all matters including politics and economy within its borders. However, the current international system disregards this factor. For example, international organization like World Trade Organization regulates the trade matters between states and enforce the concept of open markets. According to realist scholar **Kenneth Waltz** such organizations are product of international power structure and developed to favor developed nations because they ~~to~~ operational industry while underdeveloped nations are forced to develop their policies accordingly, that undermines the state-centric approach.

2.2) Security challenges beyond state control:

Current international system accepts the role of non-state actors like freedom fighters and terrorist organization, influencial enough to undermine the concept of "state as a sole actor". The security monopoly of state is secondry factor to counter these threats. Due to which states make alliances, like NATO. According to **Mearsheimer** state vulnerabilities makes "security" beyond state control and to counter them they have to rely on international cooperation. **Offensive realism** argues that cooperation comes with

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exchange like through NATO USA expand it's area of influence in Europe.

2.3) Fragmentation of economic power:

The current international system favors the multinational organizations to control global production supply chain. like NVIDIA and Apple control most of tech supply. This structure creates the concept of **merchantilism**, means economic nationalism in which states put tariffs on imports to protect their economy. It highlights that behaviour of state is also influenced by non-state actors and diminishing state centric focus of influencing their behaviour.

2.4) Global governance model supporting supranational authority:

Global governance model provides idea of collective development, where rules are made by international organizations. However, the theory of **structural realism by Kenneth waltz** negets this idea, because it is a structural way of powerful nations to expand influence. For example USA supports the judgements of International Court of Justice against Russian human rights violations, but negets the judgements against Israeli attrocities. USA supports embargoes against Russia, but velo against Israel in UNSC, showing that in current system authority is increasingly shared through international organizations, contradicting pure state-centric focus.

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Conclusion:

In a nutshell, non-state actors in current international system play vital role and challenging the concept of traditional state-centric focus by erosion of state sovereignty, new security challenges ~~be~~ and fragmented economic power that are beyond state control. Moreover, it supports supernational authority rejecting the state centric approach and empowers non-state actors.

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