

## The Crisis of Ethics and Morality in International Politics

(Note: Kindly give the marks of essay  
Also suggest some tips for  
beginners to improve expression  
and formation  
for outline)

### A- Introduction

### B- Dilemma of Morality and Ethics in International Politics

- ① The prevalent wars in the world depicts that morality has become only a theoretical principle in world politics. Actual behavior of state is demonstrated through practices based upon self interest.

Case in Point: Wars in Middle East, South China Sea and Russia-Ukraine

- ② Presence of fascist leaders within democratic states undermine moral principles.

Case in Point: Discriminatory practice against Muslims by Modi govt

- ③ Rhetorical opposition towards the human rights issue instead of taking collective action shows the double standards in world politics.

Case in Point: Response of OIC members toward the genocide in Gaza.

- ④ Ethnocentric policies of the leaders undermine peaceful coexistence

Case in Point: Trump's America First policy and crackdown against immigrants.

- ⑤ Protecting the narrow national interests (economic interests) over the collective interests (environmental interests) creates a moral dilemma in international politics.

Case in Point: USA withdrawal from Paris Agreement.

⑥ Attack on the states based on false propaganda on the behalf of powerful downplays the moral values  
Case in Point: Iraq's invasion of 2003 on the pretext of nuclear weapons.

⑦ The exploitative nature of relation between global north and south proves that only the interests of powerful are fulfilled  
Case in Point: Dependency Theory of Raul Prebisch

⑧ Violation of principles of UDHR by its founding members proves that end justify the means.  
Case in Point: USA and allies response towards genocide in Gaza.

⑨ Covert support towards war by the global powers to fulfill their economic interests.  
Case in Point: Military Industrial Complex of USA

⑩ States advocate for human right issues selectively, vocalizing concerns only when it suits their interests.  
Case in Point: Hypocritical response of west towards the Gaza War vs

Ukraine war.

- ⑪ Misuse of international law according to the situational context  
Case in Point: The revival of just war tradition by Bush post 9/11.
- ⑫ Acts of injustice are now promoted by the institutions that were made to uphold the principles of morality.  
Case in Point: The veto system in United Nations
- ⑬ Use of media as a tool of propaganda impacts the ethical concerns in world politics.  
Case in Point: Manufacturing Consent by Noam Chomsky.
- ⑭ Rise of nationalism and protectionism erodes the moral and ethical ~~erodes~~ ~~the~~ ethical basis of international relations by promoting exclusivity.  
Case in Point: US-China trade war and Brexit

C- Conclusion

"The strong do what they can and weak suffer what they must", Thucydides said on the account of Peloponnesian war in ancient Greece. It is unfortunate to note that human societies have moved from city states to modern states but the thirst for power still remains. The world politics still operate on the thoughts of Thucydides. It is always the weak who suffers and strong prevails. On contrary, the principles of morality advocated by the idealist seems to be a utopia in the current scenerio. Morality and ethics seems to be merely irrelevant in the conduct of states. Ongoing wars in the multiple regions of the world exemplify that world politics run on the principle of self interest. When it comes to uphold the moral and ethical considerations all are ready to talk about it without acting. Whenever, the question is to choose between two national interests or collective interests, states always opt for former. To add with, the economic relations between the actors depicts an exploitative nature. The interests of only one (Global North) prevails while the other (Global South) becomes a tool

Along with international political system, the economic order also

A.

B.

(1)

in their hands. For carrying out their interests they fuel the conflicts in the world instead of stopping them. Unfortunately, the institutional arrangements and codified laws become a catalyst for powerful to achieve their interests. The

(2)

exclusive policies and ethocentric opinions in the contemporary world proves that morality has become only a theoretical concept. It becomes evident that in the world politics ethics and morality are at a dilemma.

(3)

Wars in the world have become now a normal phenomenon demonstrating that only the interest matters in the politics. Interests here refers to the narrow and self fulfilling factors that guide the actors to pursue their interests. Whenever there is a conflict of interest, there are two options: to confront or to communicate.

(4)

Opting for second option shows a moral behavior. However, states now opt for confronting that shows that morality is eroding from world politics. It can be illustrated through the war in Gaza, South China sea and Russia-Ukraine. Thus, the ongoing wars show that moral principles are under crisis.

Another important concern is the presence of fascist leaders within democratic states that undermine the moral principles in the politics. It means those leaders that glorify their national identity and remain oppressive towards the minority.

The states that declare themselves as democratic and ensure they uphold democratic principles are having the lesser with fascist tendencies. In India, the discriminatory practices toward the Muslims by the Modi in his third term serve the best case study. His exclusive policies show that moral principles are not priority for state. Undoubtedly the presence of fascist leaders undermine morality in politics.

Equally important issue in the world politics is of deception.

When it comes to human rights violation all the actors are ready to condemn the violator. However, the practical steps are seldom taken. This shows the double standards and hypocrisy prevailing in the contemporary politics. The presence of such hypocritic practices makes the politics an unethical and a dirty game. Genocide in Gaza continued for more than one year but

Along with international political system

out of 58 members of OIC, none except South Africa made any effort for Palestinians. It proves that = only rhetorical opposition is present towards the injustice not a practical one.

To add with, ethnocentrism is the major issue in the current world politics that challenge moral principles. Ethnocentrism refers to a believe where one considers their own ethnicity superior and judge others according to their values. Ethnocentrism encourages the leader to make the policies that are harmful for the other groups and it challenge the peaceful coexistence in the world. Trump's policy of America First and subsequent crackdown against immigrants is rooted in his ethnocentric beliefs. Hence, ethnocentric policies further increase unethical practices in the world politics.

Not only this but protecting the narrow national interests over the collective interests is another major issue provoking immoral and unethical acts in the world politics. It means prioritizing the interest of state over the collective good.

This approach is associated with realpolitik model of international relations.

Many states in the modern world prioritize their economic gains while ignoring the climatic implications.

Climate change is a collective issue and according to moral considerations it should be collectively solved. However, the withdrawal of Trump from the Paris Agreement for the second time reinforces the notion that only self-interest matters in politics.

In addition, <sup>is</sup> sovereignty the basic principle of modern state system. Undermining the sovereignty of any state is not only an immoral but also an illegal act. The attack on any state's sovereignty by making a false propaganda by the powerful states put a question mark on morality and ethics in international politics and relations. In 2003, the Bush administration toppled the regime of Saddam Hussain on the pretext that regime of Saddam Hussain has nuclear weapons, which turned out to be false later. Hence the use of propaganda by the global powers put the ethical and moral principles under strain.



(2) Along with international political system, the economic order also downplays the importance of morality. On economic fronts world is divided between the Global North and Global South. Global North tends to hold a key position due to the control of international financial institutions and key resources. On the other hand, global south remains merely a tool within their hands. Raul Prebisch dependency theory explains how the core (global north) holds all the power and exploit the periphery (global south). Thus, the economic nature of relations between the powerful and weak makes morality further sidelined from politics.

(3) The international legal order, created by the victorious allies after World War II has remained ineffective to stop them from the immoral acts. In other words, those who have made the laws time and again have violated them. This violation of laws shows that sanctity of an agreement remains only a theoretical concept. Practically, the states always look at their ends and use any mean

available at their disposal to fulfill the goal. The support of western bloc (USA and allies) towards the genocide in Gaza shows that international legal order has not promoted equality of all but the survival of fittest.

Another misfortunate aspect is covert support of global powers towards the war. It means that the actors want war to continue so that their war runned economy operates. This support for war at their behalf proves that international politics is governed through interests rather than principles. For states, the suffering of humanity is acceptable but not an economic loss. The military industrial complex of USA proves that a significant portion of their economy operates on the manufacturing of weapons hence the war suit her interests.

Differential approach towards the humanitarian issues is another important issue. The suffering of white skin tone and blue colored eyes is not equal to the suffering of the one with tanned color. States remain silent on those humanitarian issues

that are against their interests and the interests of allies. While remaining vocal on humanitarian issues when it favors them. This selective advocacy depicts that morality seems to play less role in conduct of state affairs. The response of USA and its allies towards the war in Gaza and war in Ukraine illustrates that the difference of response towards both sides is due to vested interests.

Along with this, the misuse of international law according to situational context is prevailing issue that undermines legality and morality simultaneously. Situational context here refers to any issue that state faces. International law is properly codified with set of rules that needs to be followed. Altering the rules according to the situation, undermines the law. After 9/11 President Bush decided to revive the just war tradition. The attack does not fulfill the prerequisites of just war but it was revived which shows that the moral principles remain unchecked in conduct of statecraft.

The tragedy of current international system is promotion of injustice by those institutes who were supposed to uphold the justice.

The dictatorial powers within international institutes show that it is not the consent of majority that matters in the politics but the will of minority. Such practices promote exclusivity instead of inclusivity. In United Nations, the presence of veto system and its use especially to protect the oppressors show that institutions operate on realism rather than idealism.

Another important development in the century is advent of mass media.

The media has become a tool for carrying out propoganda. It undermines the right to get information. Propaganda carried out through media promotes the interests of powerful. It makes the public to consume the agenda driven information.

The propogation of such news further erodes the morality.

Noam Chomsky in the book "Manufacturing Consent" has explained that the media becomes only

tool in hands of powerful and exploiting the weaker. Hence, the propoganda through media further impacts the morality in politics.

At last, the resurgence of nationalism that drives not only political policies but economic policies erodes the morality. The protectionist policies implemented by number of states goes against the organizations like World Trade Organization. Following the protectionist policies by one of its founding member puts the applicability of treaty under the question. The trade war between USA and China serves as best case study to illustrate this. The trade war between both lead to revival of protectionist policies in the economic system. Thus, the resurgence of nationalism and protectionism are the key concerns in the way of morality

Undoubtedly, there is a dilemma in the world politics where the ethics and morality is compromised to fulfill the national interest.

The presence of fascist leaders in world operating under the cover of democracy shows that

is compromised. The ethnocentric policies practiced by leaders proves that ethical considerations ~~don't~~ matter in politics. Moreover, removing the regime of those who are unfavorable to the interests of superpower further downplays the morality. Along with this violation of humanitarian law and key documents - UDHR are a significant challenge. The selective advocacy of human right issues makes the situation more complex. The most unfortunate aspect is the response of international organizations that promotes the interests of only few states.

At last, nationalism and protectionism are the barriers in the way of free trade regime fueling moral concerns in this sphere too.

Maximizing national interest is the ultimate goal of any state. However, states should remain cautious while maximizing their interests. If the interests of states go against the collective good then being member of international society it is responsibility of states to follow the collective good.

By continuing the realistic approach the world will descent into anarchy. Hence, all the states should be responsive to make this world a better place to coexist.