

Proxy wars : Role of External elements

mention the full qs statement or the source of the qs for proper evaluation....

"The Supreme art of war is to subdue your enemy without fighting."
(The Art of War by Sun Tzu)

A proxy war is a war where powerful country encourages others to fight on its behalf. Instead of directly engaging in conflict, the major powers use other groups or countries as substitute to fight for them.

In this war, one party assumes material benefits, weapons, intelligence support and International backing from its principle state to conduct targeted, military, terrorist operations, against each other.

Background:

During Proxy wars have been common since the end of WWII and the rise of cold war. During the cold war,

there was a fear that direct conflicts between the USA and USSR would result in a nuclear war and total destruction of all the participants.

“Directing the use of force by a politically motivated, local actor to indirectly influence political affairs in the targeted state.”

By Tyrone Eboh → Specialists in strategy & unconventional warfare

“The cold war saw superpowers that financed, armed and aided proxies, without getting directly involved in the fighting, on a larger scale than any other in recorded history.”

By Dr. Philip Towle → an Emeritus Reader of I. Relations at University of Cambridge.

→ Philip Brewer sees this conflict type as hybrid — an inter state conflict fought through intra-state means.

Why Proxy wars?

→ Direct intervention requires a win to sustain an intervening state's reputation and position in the international system.

However, the main idea behind proxy wars is ~~to~~ not to win the war but just to ~~destabilize~~ the target state's system.

attempt by giving subheadings; not points.

→ Proxy wars reduce the risk of direct conflicts between two powers.

→ This type of war is comparatively cheap as the expense in arms, finances, and political standing was minimal in contrast of going to traditional war.

→ Proxy wars are sometimes fought alongside full-scale conflicts as well.

As in Ukraine - Russia full scale war, the proxy war is also going on b/w

Russia and Ukraine in the regions of Donbas and Luhansk, where separatists have controlled these Ukrainian regions and fighting against their own Army.
As per BBC.

Major Features of Proxy wars:

1. Indirect involvement of major powers:

→ During the cold war (1945-1991), the USA and Soviet union avoided direct conflict but were seen involve in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Instead of direct confrontation, they supplied financial, logistical and military support to local groups, insurgents and governments.

Reference: Cseriánt (2014), My Enemy's Enemy: Proxy wars in International Politics.

2. Use of local proxies :

In Syrian Civil war, the US allegedly supported Kurdish forces while Russia backed Assad Regime.

Reference: The Battle for Syria call on International rivalry in the middle east by Philip Brewster.

3. Geo Political motives :

Proxy wars are often fought to secure strategic goals, such as to access resources or ideological dominance and it may be for seeking influence in the region.

Eg: Angolan civil war - Proxy conflict.

In this conflict, Cuba and Soviet Union were supporting MPLA and the US & South Africa were supporting UNITA.

Reference: United Nations Peace Keeping.

4. Low risk for sponsors:
↓ they have no direct conflict.

minimum description under a heading should be 5 lines.

5. Prolonged Conflicts;

Such conflicts which reflect no ending, once they start.

"Wars in Afghanistan were like ghost wars."
Colin S. Gray.

6. Humanitarian consequences:

These type of wars result in unending perpetual humanitarian consequences.

→ Human casualties, displacement, destruction of infra structure.

And resultantly, all those losses and tribulations are bear by local population.

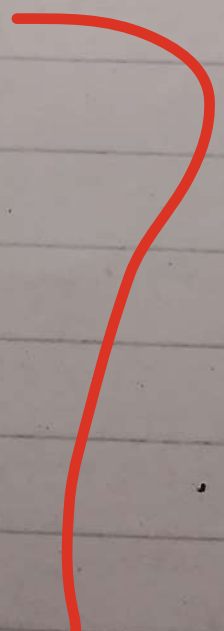
7. Coward operation and their denial

8. Regional destabilization

9. Ideology and sectarian differences.

→ Such as Saudi - Iran rivalry

→ Iraq - Yemen



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Types of Proxy wars

- the only aim is to win ⇒ "in it to win it"
- taking on the backfoot ⇒ Holding action
- involving in other state's matter ⇒ Meddling
- fueling the fire ⇒ Feeding the chaos

→ Requisites of Proxy wars :

Author William C. Hartman :

"The enemies of Pakistan knowing about the uncompromisable strength of military have started to ~~deplete~~ deplete their resolves by creating the situation of misery, and anti-state propaganda largely focused against the military for their nefarious design".

→ Problems / Intricacies of Proxy wars :

- PWs are also called Frozen conflicts

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→ How Pak can combat the on-going Proxy wars?

1. Modernization of the security forces to counter asymmetrical threats.
2. Improving the Intelligence sharing & co-ordination mechanism.
3. Securing the borders → as soon as, as much as we can.
4. Addressing the grievances in the war zones.
5. De-radicalization Programs
Single rational curriculum
Check & balances on Sectarian & radical religious groups.
6. Crack down on terror financing.
7. Expeditious trial ^{quick} trials of terrorist

UNDB Report 2012 → A trial take almost a decade to resolve in Pak.

8. Strong Civil-Military cooperation

9. International Advocacy & Step forward diplomacy.

⇒ Major Proxy elements active in Pakistan (2)

1. TTP: alleged connection with Afg and India

2. BLA, BLF, BRA: supported by India. Attacks on CPEC.

3. ~~LEI~~ LeJ (Lashkar-e-Jhangvi): it is a takfeeri group. They attack on minority Muslim sects. They are having links with Al-Qaida.

4. ISIS - Khorasan Province: links with international organization (Daesh) conduct to suicide bombing in urban areas.

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8. → they recruit distinguished member from TTP & LeJ.

9. 5. → Jamat-ul-Ahrar : a splinter group of TTP having links in Afghanistan.

6. Sindhu-desh Liberation Army :

→ Attacks on Govt buildings, railways

→ low intensity attacks

→ linked with anti-Pak elements internationally

Book

Pakistan; A hard country by Anatole Lieven

“Pakistan's internal complexities including tribal dynamics, ethnic division and religious overtures are exploited by her enemy in broader ~~conflicts~~ proxy conflicts against her.”