

ESSAY-1

Interdependence is a higher Value than independence

Outline

I- Introduction

Interdependence is of higher value than independence, because it increases awareness of fundamental human rights, reduces marginalization, provides platform for mediation of conflicts, enhances social welfare through advancement in education and technology, and stabilizes economic conditions globally.

II- Decoding the terms: "Interdependence" and "Independence"

III- Independence is more valuable than interdependency: A Counter Perspective

A- Enhances global position
(America first Policy)

B- Preservance of traditional standards and values

(Decolonization after WWII)

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IV- Interdependence is of higher value than independency because,

A- Increases awareness of fundamental human rights

(UDHR, USAID, UNITE, UNICEF)

B- Reduces marginalization and enhances acceptability

(Canada's Multiculturalism Policy)

(Rosa Park, Black Live Matter)

C- Mediation of global conflicts

(Gaza ceasefire, 2025)

(Iran and Saudi Arabia rapprochement)

D- Advancement of education and knowledge attainment

(World Bank Report on education

based dispora)

(Cambridge International Education)

E- Enhancement of technology and innovation

(Tech-run Report, 2022)

(Automation of industries, EV)

F- Attaining economic stability

(BRI)

G- Advancement of military and drive towards balance of power

(QuAD, Sino-Russia military alliance)

H- Strive to attain National Interest

(Abraham Accords)

I- Empowering weaker states

(Fall of Bashar-ul-Assad)

(Isolationist Policies of Taliban)

J- Aggravated global efforts to overcome environmental degradation

(COP-29, 2024)

V- Suggestions to overcome drawbacks of interdependence

A- Statism for survival through self help

(Iceland economic initiatives)

B- collective security among states

(NATO Article #5)

C- Enhancing state centric narrative

(ISPR films, Pakistan)

VI- Conclusion

Interdependency interconnects all states together, it is of higher value than independency.

9

Interdependence is a higher value than independence

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

- John Donne

The recent call for ceasefire in Gaza, in January 2025, not only paved ways for peace and prosperity in Palestine, but to the whole Middle-East and periphery regions. It called out a temporary relief to endless bloodsheds of innocent children and women of Gaza. Thereby, stabilizing global politics between the United States and Iran. This example fits well to emphasize the realm of interdependence in mayhem of twenty-first century. Every state in the world is interconnected to another which facilitates their interdependency in social, economical and political domains. Keeping the current geo-politics in view, is it even possible for any state to survive in independency? Are the states capable enough

to grow in isolation? Does independency
widen ways for marginalization or integration?

In respect to these concerns, it is becoming
impossible for any state to attain complete
independency and mark its rigid borders in
twenty-first century. Therefore, it is not wrong
to claim that interdependence is of higher
value than independence, because it increases
awareness of fundamental human rights,
reduces marginalization, provides platform for
mediation of conflicts, enhances social welfare
through advancement in education and
technology, and stabilizes economic conditions.

Before proceeding with discussion,
it is crucial to understand the terms: Interdependence
and independence. The word interdependence
sinks with connotation of globalization, it
highlights the phenomena of interconnectedness.
It focuses on international relations based
on common grounds to attain long-term
benefits. Interdependency is better explained
through **Liberal Theory of International Relations**,
it emphasizes on promotion of interconnected
world by enhancing cooperation through

6

collaboration and diplomacy which would lead to greater peace, cooperation, and stability.

In contrast, independence focuses on idea of nationalism and propagates the ~~idea~~ scheme of statism which overemphasizes on state centric narratives. **Nationalist Theory of Sociology**, explains independence as a desire for self-governance, identity preservation, and autonomy focused initiative.

Proponents of other school of thought believe that independence is more valuable than interdependence. Through independence states are able to maintain and strengthen their global position by focusing on state centric initiatives to maintain their sovereignty in geo-politics. For instance, Trump's **"America First Policy"** is a vivid example of interdependence which make the US, the only global power.

America first policy aims to not compromise on economic and political spheres of US. The protectionist trade policies and withdrawal from Paris Agreement have been proven beneficial for US in terms of economy of US. The US has the largest GDP of the world as claimed

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by world bank. Therefore, it is true that independence tends to be more valuable than interdependency for global powers.

Additionally, independency facilitates in preservation of traditional standards and values. Moreover, the drive for autonomy and self-determinism is strengthened by independency. It reliefs states from colonization and imperialism of dominating powers. For example, decolonization after WWII, in mid of twentieth century, resulted in around 54 independent nations. Decolonization in South Asia of Subcontinent resulted in two independent states: Pakistan and India. Thereby, putting an end to atrocities and injustice faced by Muslims in Subcontinent under British and Hindu rule. Hence, independency facilitates preservation of tradition standards and values.

In spite of these claims propagated by opponent school of thought, it cannot be overlooked that interdependence is of higher value than independence. Through ~~and~~ interdependency individuals have greater tendency to be aware of their basic fundamental rights. Platforms in

international level, such as the United Nations, ~~then~~ propose programs which have greater reach to all nations. **UDHR**, **USAID**, **UNICEF** and **UNICEF**, are strong global initiatives which merely enhance awareness of human rights, by providing humanitarian aid, awareness for gender equality, protection of children, and empowerment of all pupils. Hence, interdependence increases awareness of basic fundamental human rights.

Moreover, interdependency reduces marginalization by increasing acceptability among all cultures, castes and creeds. It promotes diversity by empowering all nations. For instance, **Canada's multicultural policy** provides equal opportunities to all foreign diasporas to attain idealist life in Canada without compromising on their culture and class. Through interdependency, the **Black Live Matter movement** initiated in South America by Rosa Park in 1958 reached to all nations to strive for their rights and overcome any kind of marginalization faced by Blacks. Therefore, it is evident that interdependency reduces marginalization by

increasing acceptability.

Additionally, interdependency also lean towards providing platform for mediation of lingering conflicts. The recent **Gaza ceasefire** proposed by the UN is a product of interdependency of states. The seventeen months long genocide in Gaza disturbed the geo-economy and geo-politics. Thereby, through interdependency the states were finally able to attain their initiative for Gaza ceasefire after endless vetos. Moreover, through interdependency China mediated **rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran** in March, 2023. It enhanced global peace by overcoming underlying grievances of middle East powers. Hence, mediation of conflicts is facilitated by interdependency thereby, enhancing peace.

Furthermore, interdependency fosters social welfare by advancement in Education and knowledge attainment in national and international level. According to **World Bank report on education based "diaspora"**, 48% of students in UAE and 21% students in US are the nationals of South Asian regions, significantly Pakistan and Bangladesh. Similarly, the

Standard of education in developing countries, like Pakistan and India is facilitated by **Cambridge International Education**. The schools based on CIE boards are directly affiliated to University of Cambridge, England. CIE board schools provide world-class educational facilities to students, thereby providing scholarship programs in many colleges and universities. Thus, interdependence brings advancement in education and knowledge attainment.

Interdependence paves way for enhancement of technology and innovation through interconnecting states and tech based global hubs. It helps in **automation of industries** by replacing hazardous jobs by Artificial Intelligence based machineries. According to **Tech-run Report, 2022**, Japan exports 64% of its AI operated machines globally to facilitate automation of industries. Additionally, China exports 58% of its **Electric vehicles** to Asian and EuroAsian countries, thereby promoting nearly all states to move ahead in enhancement of technology and innovation by collaborating to tech hubs through interdependency.

Moreover, economic conditions at national and international ^{level} are stabilized through interdependency among nations. China's flagship project, **Belt and Road Initiative** is a perfect example of economic integration through interdependency. It has six major corridors, connecting almost 151 members of the world. BRI aims to provide energy facilities, infrastructure advancement, and diversifies national trade to reduce balance of payment deficit. Commercialization in international level facilitate collaboration and diplomacy among states, thereby stabilizing geo-economic conditions of core and peripheral regions through interdependency.

Additionally, states are able to advance their military capabilities by exchange of weapons, training, and exercise. Interdependency helps the states to attain balance of power in international affairs. The military alliances, **QUAD**, based on military powers of US, India, Australia and Japan, **Russian-Iran-China trilateral military group**, and **Sino-Russian military alliance**, aims towards collaborative training and exercise to maintain balance of power in global

level, by preventing any conventional war. These alliances provide military tactics and defense aid to vulnerable nations to build proxies which in turn brings advancement in military on larger level through interdependency.

Furthermore, interdependency helps nations to gain their national interests through international level dealings with state and non-state actors. For instance, **Abraham Accords** between Saudi Arabia and Israel provided regional stability by diversifying their economic initiatives with western world, by changing Arab world narratives based on Israel and west. Through international level accords Arab world increases its GDP from 18% to 21% as per the report initiated by OIC. Hence, it is evident that interdependency fosters international relations based on national interests.

Interdependency strengthens weaker states by empowering them to coexist in global area. The states in isolation have difficulty to attain stability, thereby leading to long-term negligence. The **Fall of Bashar-ul-Asad regime in Syria** in December 2024, is an

evident example of weak states and regime collapsing in isolation. The exclusive nature of Bashar-ul-Asad regime with no commercialization and multilateralism resulted in fall of 56 year long rule of Asad family. Similarly, isolation results in compromise of human development and ~~eq~~ gender equality. The isolationist policies of **Taliban in Afghanistan**, gives no international recognition to Afghanistan. The Human Development Index rank of Afghanistan is 182/193 and 146/146 in Global Gender Gap Index. Thus, states in isolation have greater chances to collapse and increase vulnerabilities of such states.

In addition, ^{er}interdependency increases global efforts to overcome environmental degradation. **Antonio Guterres**, UN Secretary General, in his recent speech in November, 2024 on the platform of Conference of Parties clearly advocates that, "Climate change is a global menace which needs to be tackled by global efforts through interdependency." For instance, COP-29, held in Baku, attended by almost all nations and many young global climate

change advocates to increase awareness regarding climate change and its aftermaths. To enhance global efforts to overcome menace of climate change by providing mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Hence, interdependency is more valuable to overcome environmental degradation.

Regardless of ^{the} perpetual perks of interdependency over independency, there are few suggestions which need to be considered to overcome any drawback of interdependence.

States should move towards statism for survival through self help. It help nations to be independent of any suppression at global level. The nations should enhance its economical and political sphere to avoid economic imperialism. Henry Kissinger states that, "The one who holds the money, holds the power." In reference to the above quotation states should gain economic stability. **Iceland economic initiative in 2021** against IMF programs could be idealized which focused on ~~econ~~ increased exports, political stability and enhancing information ~~based~~ Technology based knowledge to overcome IMF loans in 2021.

Similarly, nations should move towards collective security to overcome any geo-political condition in international level. It prevents any type of global security related concerns which paves way towards peaceful international relations.

NATO's Article number 5, based on collected security can be idealized by other nations to minimize the drawback of interdependency among nations in international level.

Lastly, states should enhance their state centric narrative to attain protection against hybrid warfare which is easily propagated through interdependency. State centric narratives mainly through mass media can mitigate drawback of interdependence. **Pakistan's film industry** aims to direct movies and dramas initiated by **ISPR**, **Pakistan Army**. Through these initiatives the gap between youth and law enforcement agencies is minimized, thereby reducing chances of hybrid warfare.

To sum up, it is evident that interdependence is more valuable than independency. It aims to increase awareness regarding basic human rights through international forums.

Moreover, increases acceptability among people by reducing marginalization and promoting diversity. Interdependency facilitates mediation of lingering conflict and takes states towards peace and prosperity. Additionally, it also helps to enhance social welfare through advancement in education and technology. Through commercialization, states move towards economic stability which is only possible through interdependency. Therefore, it is not wrong to claim that states cannot survive in isolation in twenty-first century of global integration. Interdependency increases chances of exclusiveness and marginalizes which could be tackled through interdependency among states. The states should move towards social, economical and political interdependency which open ways for growth and development through integration with long-run benefits for all global actors.

"We are not only our brother's keeper; in countless large and small ways, we are our brother's maker."

- Bonaro Overstreet