

- No. 2.** What were the key driving forces behind the establishment of International Relations as an academic discipline? Provide an analysis of the major historical events and intellectual developments that contributed to its evolution and formal recognition in the world. (20)
- No. 3.** What are the key theoretical perspectives of non-Western approaches to understand the nature and evolution of world politics, and how do they compliment or challenge traditional Western paradigms? (20)
- No. 4.** How has minilateralism emerged as a modern approach to foreign policy in state relations? Provide a rational explanation of its development, highlighting the major factors driving its adoption and advantages over traditional multilateralism. (20)
- ... state actor to a formal state actor



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IR Past paper 2025 1+3

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Question 1:

Answer:

Introduction:

There are multiple key driving forces that helped in accepting international relations as an academic discipline globally. The traces of Classical inter-state relations, Treaty of Westphalia and WWI are driving forces for international relations to emerge globally. Also, the aftermath of WWI and the debates between realism and Liberal idealism culminated into further interest in the field and new analytical approaches emerged during 20th Century till the end of Cold war. These helped consolidate International relations as academic study.

**[A] Key Driving Forces Behind International Relations Acceptance as an Academic Discipline:**

① **The Failure of Political Science to Fully Comprehend State's Relations:**

Before the emergence of international relations, the focus was mainly on international politics under the subject of political science. It was a narrow approach,



Which focused mainly on the ideas of power and the focus on states. However, due to the complexities of inter-state relations, especially, during 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the focus shifted from studying individual states into the nature of overall global community as a whole.

## R. The Failure of Balance of Power Approach:

The Congress of Vienna, 1815 focused mainly on the balance of power approach, so to counter any future war. However, this approach failed due to the emergence of nationalism in the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

## (13) The Failures of Alliance System in Europe:

Before WWI, scholars were focused on alliance system to understand the rationale of state behavior. But due to the formation of counter alliances and the ultimate result of these alliances to culminate into WWI shifted scholars approach.



#### ④ The Widening of Global Trade and Diplomacy:

In later half of the 19th Century, trade relations grew among states as well as democratic diplomacy. This resulted in the public opinion under diplomacy and the growth of trade relations compelled scholars of IR to move beyond the traditional concepts of power and state-centricity.

#### ⑤ The Horrors of WWI:

The most important driving factor for the acceptance of IR as an academic discipline was the horrors caused during the first total war from 1914 till 1918. It led scholars to focus on new arenas of studies in order to comprehend the causes of war and the failure of inter-state relations. It is because nationalism, militarism, alliances and diplomacy all failed to prevent war in Europe. So, after WWI, the first department was made in the U.S on the name of Woodrow Wilson Chair to study IR as an academic discipline.



## [B] Analysis of Historical Events:

"IR is the study of the world in transition".

- Palmer and Perkins

International relations is not a new field of study, rather it existed in the form of inter-city and inter-state relations from the time human societies started interactions. However, its academic study emerged lately.

### ① City-state System and Athen-Sparta War:

During Greek times, inter-cities relations existed. These were based on power, diplomacy and military capabilities. After the Athen-Sparta War, scholars focused more on state power and made state as the centre of global politics which increases military and economic capabilities.

### ② The Treaty of Westphalia:

The treaty of Westphalia ended



the religious nature with secular character of the state in Europe.

It made state as a sovereign entity without foreign interference.

So, scholars saw state as the sole centre of authority which always try to advance its capabilities relative to the others.

### ③ WWI and WWII:

The first world war culminated in the League of Nations and it was perceived that states can cooperate collectively to prevent war unlike the Vienna Congress which kept tight control against an emerging power. Hence, states started to interact formally as against the concert diplomacy of 18th century.

### ④ WWII and Cold War:

The outbreak of WWII shattered hopes of collective security and the ideas of state centrality once again emerged due to the military capabilities of states in the long weekend. However, the United Nations



was perceived as a new tool to prevent war through collective action under the Security Council and also by promoting economic and social development through ECOSOC. Later on, the emergence of new strategic weapons and the fight bipolarity once again increased the debate about the nature of states' behavior and the possibility of another hot war, which wound up in USSR disintegration.

## [C] Intellectual Debates:

### ① Realism [Classical]:

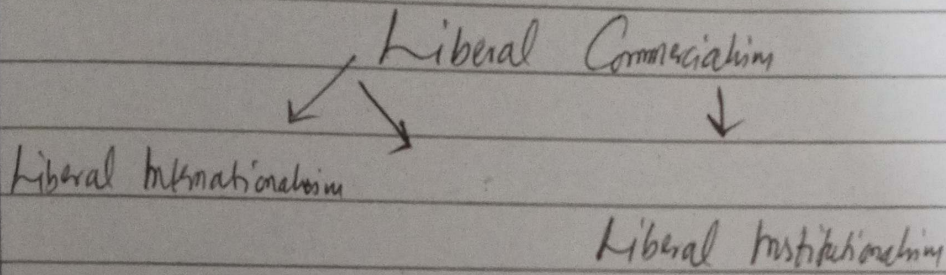
Scholars like <sup>E.H. Carr</sup> Thomas Hobbes and Hans Morgenthau saw the human futile nature as the cause of conflicts. These scholars also attributed the causes of war into the capabilities of states relative to those of others.

### ② Idealism:

Also called utopianism, the idealists like Woodrow Wilson focused on bringing peace via collective



association of states to work together for the mitigation of war. Also, I. Kant presented his model for bringing peace via cooperation in the below areas of inter-state relations;



### Norman Angell:

N. Angell gave his idea of increasing inter-state cooperation through commercial interdependence via promoting trade relations.

### ③ Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism (OR) Neo-Neo Debate:

After the failure of idealism, Joseph Nye and R. Neohame focused on the nature of global structure at the whole and gave the faults responsible for wars and states behavior as;

★ Anarchy → Power ↑ → Security Dilemma →



#### ④ Scientific and Behavioral Approaches:

During Cold War, Scientific and behavioral approaches made IR as a scientific field of study to focus on analysis of data through scientific scholarship. This resulted in game theory and the nature of inter-state relations through empirical data analysis.

#### ⑤ Critical Approaches:

After Scientific approaches, the focus shifted to critical approaches viz. Marxist Lines. It focused more on the historical interpretation of data and state's behavior.

Hence, these scholarly debates also contributed to the emergence of IR as an academic discipline, which is accepted globally in 21st Century.

**Conclusion:** International relations emerged as a world wide accepted academic discipline after the events that preceded and followed WWI. The Great debate between Realism and Liberalism also contributed to its scope as well as the subsequent intellectual debates and followed by multiple approaches made IR an academic discipline.