

Global Politics and International Relations

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The twenty-first century has undergone unprecedented transformation in global politics and international relations, reshaping the avenues that how states interact, coordinate, negotiate and pursue national interests. Global politics is a broad concept encompasses states' interactions, international governmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations as well as influence of non-state actors; on the other hand, international relation is the academic and practical field which studies the behavior of states, the nature of power, diplomacy, conflict, cooperation and the structures governing global affairs. International politics is a dynamic process, continue its path of growing by distribution of capabilities among units. Today, this distribution is rapidly changing, bringing new patterns of competition and cooperation that reshape the future of global order. The transformation of global politics from unipolarity to multipolarity, coupled with geoeconomic competition and institutional fragility, has reshaped international relations

in ways that intensify global inequalities, heighten security dilemmas, and challenge the effectiveness of humanitarian norms, thereby necessitating an urgent restructuring of international institutions and global governance framework.

Global politics and international relations are critical fields of study concerned with social, economic, political and security related areas among states. Transnational conflicts and cooperation are under-examination for both fields. International, a practical and academic discipline, which focuses balance of power, diplomacy, conflict^{and} cooperation between states. Contrary to this, global politics encircles broad area of life, states and non-state actors along with their interest. However, in IR states are main area of focus.

The contemporary global landscape is characterized by variety of shifts, one of them is transition of global politics from unipolarity to multipolarity. Once America was a dominant power, unipolarity was enforced throughout the world. However, advancement of technology and industry shifts this mode of power. As IMF asserted in 2023, China alone contributes 18.6% to the global economy, this challenges the US dominance. Hedley Bull arguments that a legitimate international order is

rarely unipolar for long. So, different countries are striving to gain power, leading to transition of global politics from unipolarity to multipolarity.

Accompanying this power transition is the move from geostrategic foreign policy to geoeconomic foreign policy. While traditional and conventional security concerns persist, trade agreements and economic leverage are continuously controlling the global power chain. Today, military capacity is not enough to measure national capacity but rather economic capacity is taking the highest position. In international politics, states have prestige according to how much they contribute to the world's economy. Recently, geoeconomics is promoting the use of economy to defend national interests, this focus manifests in battles over technology standards and control of critical resources.

Furthermore, climate politics has emerged as unconventional warfare, in order to address this issue, great powers ought to address the urgency of climate-induced disasters. The seriousness of climate change necessitates global cooperation and interconnectedness for global prosperity along with well-being. However, states' rivalries impede general consensus, this affects developing countries as well as.

exacerbates poverty and disruption of infrastructure. UNEP Emission Report 2024 asserts that global temperature is on track to rise $2.5-2.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ by century end. Climate politics demands effective and efficient coordination to promote proper management plans for existing climate-induced disasters.

International relations of states are surpassing traditional means, states are in war on infrastructure. Initiatives for building infrastructures are steps to gain global dominance in an other way. China's Belt and Road Initiative, U.S led B3W (Build Back Better World) and EU's Global Gateway are competing not just for economic influence, but for standard-setting and political alignment across the global network. Massive initiatives of BRI and counter-projects by the US and the allies are endeavoring to get power over under-developed countries.

Finally, the fragility of international organizations over global disputes is troubling, the deadlocked responses of UN Security Council on major conflicts is becoming painfully clear. UN, WTO, WHO, IMF and others has declined their legitimacy due to power politics, veto paralysis. These organizations whose agendas were to promote peace and equality for all, are failed to halt conflict

among states. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan rightly said, "The problem of security council is not the absence of power, but the absence of consensus." Many countries take initiative to mitigate these conflicts in the form of consensus but veto power of conflicting states hinder the process.

Moreover, these changing dynamics have tangible and detrimental impacts on international society. One of the most heart-breaking incident is the violation of human rights during ongoing wars. Violation of basic human rights has humanitarian crisis. Laws and regulations, which are designed to protect human rights, are eroding. Humanitarian regime such as Geneva Convention (1949) and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) both are failed to protect humans, now their all claims seem baseless. **As Noam Chomsky asserted,** "International law is invoked when convenient and dismissed when it threatens power." Similarly, in Gaza alone, 70% of civilian infrastructure has collapsed. Amnesty International describes it as the collapse of humanitarian space. Moreover, in Ukraine over 10 million people are internally displaced. Violation of human rights threatens the stability of international order.

income inequalities between global south and global north. Global north, economically, socially and militarily, considered as the center of power politics; contrary to this, global south is on the periphery of in the terms of power. Global north maintain control over global financial institutions and trade rules, which they shape according to their benefit. As a consequence, this hinders the financial stability of poor states. Developed states make such rules to force the poorest country remain in the cycle of debt, this impedes every step of underdeveloped country towards success and prosperity. Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report (2023) demonstrates that the richest 10% of the world controls 76% of global wealth, however, the poorest controls only 2% of global wealth. Similarly, underdeveloped countries are facing vicious cycle of climate disasters although they emit only 8% of global emissions. This leads global south's entrapment in the poverty, people of global south feel resentment towards western dominated policies and their wealth accumulation. Because the burden is on the shoulder of global south.

On the geopolitical front, we are witnessing the formation of alliances and counter alliances. In the cold war era, the US and allies made NATO to threaten Russia against its ideology of communism.

Nevertheless, in the response, Russia led to formation of Warsaw Pact. Recently, many countries are aligning together to challenge the U.S. dominance. BRIC+ is stepping forward towards multipolarity and dominance for economic order, as it is reported that 32% of global GDP is held by BRIC+ countries, surpassing G7. In the similar way, SCO led by China and Russia, focuses on regional security and power. **As realist theorist Hans Morgenthau asserted,** the struggle for power is universal in time and space. Power politics is always the center of international relation and global politics, the formation of alliances and counter alliances is a way to maintain the balance of power in global scenario.

Another major impact of global politics and international relations is the intensification of arms races. Outer space militarization, cyber warfare, space warfare, nuclear warfare, and AI warfare are taking place of conventional war perspectives. Recent states are fighting to increase their arms arsenals for national security. Realists theorist clearly explains that anarchy in the world leads to security threats. There's no way to go for protection, this implicates states to rely on their own resources. The sense of insecurity forces states policymakers to invest more in arms forces. **According to SIPRI (2023)** military spending reached an

unprecedented 2.44 Trillion, US spends nearly 40% of global expenditure to its arms race.

Coupling with these impacts, ongoing ethnic and religious disputes are adding more seriousness. These disputes question the role of humanitarian agendas, mottoes of INGOs, and IGOs. World is witnessing silently ethnic cleansing in Palestine, no one is questioning the atrocities over innocent people. Similarly, in Kashmir, religious rivalries cost lives of million people. The incident of **The Rohingya Muslim Minority** in Myanmar disturbingly shocked the world, demonstrating the cleaning of people from the book. These occurrences of exploitation and violence are shaking the foundation of global peace and well-being.

Aforementioned impacts need to be addressed through effective methodologies and efficient management. First and foremost way is to restrict IOs in order to strengthen to their power and function. IOs require to improve their management in the area of global conflicts. UN Security Council should make states and non-states actors accountable for their exploitation and violence without any kind of discrimination. Balance of power among states should be strengthened to bring development to all states.

Reforming Bodies should reflect the geopolitical realities of 21st century and providing IOs with the resources and mandates necessary for effective global crisis management. As former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated, "More than ever before, we need to strengthen our pools." Internal reform is required in IOs for proper accountability.

Similarly, negotiation, cooperation, settlements, agreements and signatories should be facilitated for pacific settlement of disputes between nations. For preventing conflicts, a greater emphasis should be on diplomacy, mediation and adherence to international law, utilizing regional bodies and the (ICJ) International Court of Justice. Furthermore, promoting socio-economic development among states is vital, as stability and wellbeing are intrinsically linked. Development aid, free trade policies, and technology transfer can help reduce the inequality that often acts as a breeding ground for conflict.

In a globalized world, the core strategy is to create interdependence, promoting liberal world order. Economic and social integration makes the cost of conflict prohibitive, encouraging peaceful relations. Free trade policies and information sharing lay an underlying ground for interconnectedness. This strategy aligns with

Liberal world order which focuses that liberal economy and shared social structure promote development and peace among states even in the face of anarchy.

At national level, policy makers should include social institution for better governance. Inclusiveness of society in policy formation or accountability will act as a bridge between development and conflict mitigation. Similarly, social inclusiveness of ethnic and religious groups could mitigate conflicts among these groups.

Finally, at national and international level, there should be capacity building of security institutions, because terrorism and violation are major security concerns for states. This improves capacity improvement, internal governance, adherence to human rights standards, and professionalism within security forces.

The current epoch of global politics is marked by a profound transition from a unipolar world to a more complex, multipolar and geoeconomically focused international system. These shifts have led to stark implications including HR violations and rising global inequalities, underscoring the severe limitations of existing international structure. Moving forward, the global community

must commit to collaborative approach and comprehensive agenda for improvement and development of underserved areas. Only through multidimensional and inclusive approach is required to stabilize the ongoing conflicts and problems. Cooperative spirit can lead to a better, holistic and developed future.