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Q1: In the era of unpredictability mainly ushered by Trump, China is trying to project itself as a reliable partner. Critically examine/evaluate the statement and China's capacity to a parallel world order.

Ans: **Introduction:**

For decades after the Cold War, the world looked to the United States as the center of stability and leadership. This sense of order began to crumble during Donald Trump's presidency, which brought unpredictability into global politics. His "America First" policy rejected multilateral commitments and focused on short-term national gains. The United States withdrawn from key agreements such as **Paris Climate Accord, WHO** and the **Iran Nuclear Deal**, creating a leadership vaccum in global governance. Trump's trade wars, sudden policy reversals, and confrontational rhetoric alarmed allies and competitors alike. During this time, China, under President Xi Jinping, saw an opening to present itself as a stable, reliable and forward looking partner. By promoting initiatives like **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and **Asian Infrastructure**

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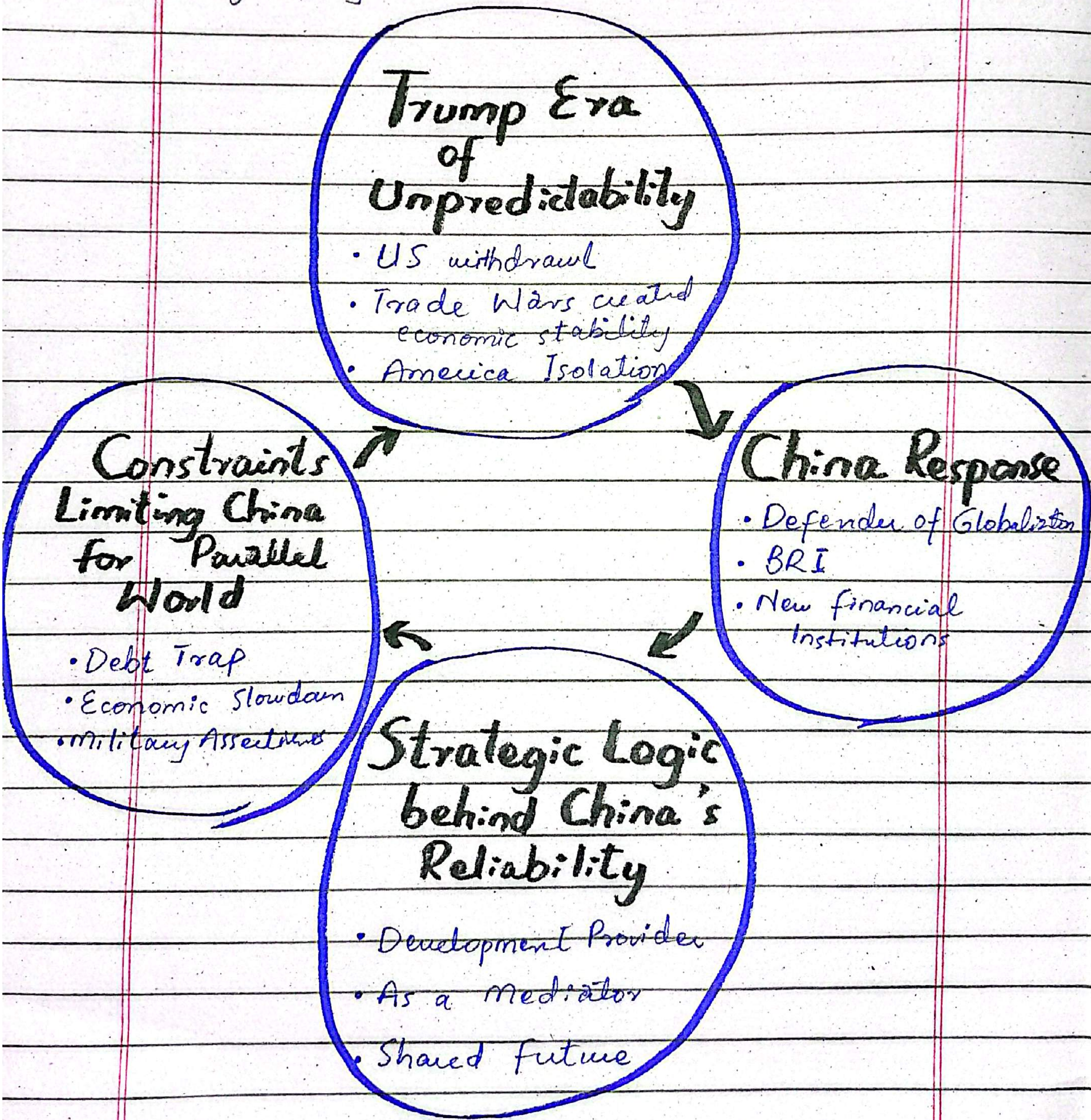
Investment Bank (AIIB), China offered an alternative model of cooperation based on economic development rather than political conditions. Xi's 2017 Davos Speech, where he defended globalization, symbolized China's intent to fill the gap left by the United States.



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1) Trump Era of Unpredictability Weakening Faith in US leadership :

a) US Withdrawl from Global Commitments Weakened Global Trust :

Trump's decision to exit international agreements like the **Paris Accord**, and **WHO** signaled that Washington was retreating from global responsibilities. Long-term allies such as **Germany** and **Japan** began to doubt America's commitment to collective leadership. This sudden policy shift damaged the credibility of the liberal world order that the US had built over decades and opened room for China to step in.

b) Trade Wars Created Global Economic Instability :

The 2018 trade war between the U.S and China imposed tariffs on over **$360 billion** worth of goods. The resulting disruption of global supply chains and investor uncertainty shook confidence in America's economic reliability. China, in contrast, maintained calm diplomacy and portrayed itself

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as a promoter of open trade and mutual growth, strengthening its reputation for steadiness.

c) America's Isolation during crises enhanced China's Visibility :

Trump's critical stance toward **NATO** and abrupt withdrawl from the **WHO** during the **COVID-19** pandemic isolated the U.S on the world stage. Meanwhile, China sent medical aid and vaccines to developing countries, highlighting itself as a ~~deceto~~ dependable partner in times of crisis. This contrast between U.S isolation and Chinese outreach transformed the global perception of leadership reliability.

2) CHINA'S RESPONSE - PROJECTING STABILITY AND PREDICTABLE COOPERATION :

a) China Presents Itself as Defender of Globalization :

While the U.S turned inward, China used every major forum to defend global economic integration. **Xi Jinping** speeches at **Davos** and **G-20 Summit**

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emphasized open markets and shared prosperity. His statement, "No one wins in a trade war," captured Beijing's attempt to portray itself as the voice of global reason and economic predictability.

b) Belt and Road Initiative as a Symbol of Long-term Partnership:

Launched in 2013, the BRI become the foundation of China's foreign outreach, linking Asia, Africa, and Europe through transport and energy projects. **CPEC**, as its flagship corridor, shows China's ability to maintain commitment over a decade, moving now into industrial and digital cooperation. For many developing states, **BRI** represents reliability based on tangible development, not political lectures.

c) New Financial Institutions Strengthened China's Credibility:

China established alternative institutions such as the **AIIB**, and a stronger **BRICS** alliance, and the **Silk Road Fund**, to reduce dependence on Western lenders.

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The **2014 BRICS expansion**, adding Iran, UAE, Egypt, and Ethiopia, showed China's capacity to unite the Global South. These institutions offer loans without strict governance conditions, making Beijing appear as a practical and consistent partner.

3) THE STRATEGIC LOGIC BEHIND CHINA'S RELIABILITY NARRATIVE:

a) Providing Development Instead of Political Interference:

China emphasizes partnership through construction, trade, and technology instead of pushing political reforms. Its approach of "development without interference" appeals strongly to countries in Africa and South Asia that often face Western conditionalities. By roads, ports, and power plants, China gains influence through economic results rather than ideological persuasion.

b) Acting as a Mediator in Regional Conflicts:

China has increasingly presented itself as a peace broker. The **Saudi-Iran Reconciliation (2023)**, facilitated in Beijing, was a landmark in Middle

East diplomacy. Similarly, China's balanced position on the **Ukraine War** projects calm neutrality. These efforts portray China as a nation that prefers negotiations over confrontation.

c) Promoting the Idea of a Shared Future for Mankind:

Through the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI), Beijing promotes cooperation and collective prosperity. Xi Jinping repeatedly stresses that "global problems require global solutions." This ideological framing strengthens China's soft image as a reliable actor advocating inclusive progress rather than dominance.

4) CONSTRAINTS LIMITING CHINA'S CAPACITY FOR A PARALLEL WORLD ORDER:

a) Debt-Trap Accusations Undermine Trust:

China's lending practices have been criticized for creating unsustainable debt in recipient countries. The Hanbantota Port in Sri Lanka and Zambia's debt crisis are cited as

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examples where infrastructure loans turned into political leverage. Such cases raise doubts about China's claim of mutual benefit and reduce global confidence in its long-term intentions.

b) Economic Slowdown Restricts its Global Ambitions :

China's slowing growth, youth unemployment, and property crisis have limited its ability to maintain large-scale overseas investments. Moreover, heavy dependence on exports to Western markets restricts Beijing's freedom to act independently. These internal pressures reduce the strength of its global leadership narrative

c) Military Assertiveness Contradicts its Peaceful Image :

China's growing military posture in the **South China Sea** and **Taiwan** contradicts its ~~conflict~~. diplomatic claims of peaceful coexistence. Such actions alarm neighbors and invite Western counter-alliances like **QUAD** and **AUKUS**. This ~~prog~~ aggressive perception weakens its message of reliability and peaceful rise.

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5) EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER — FROM U.S DOMINANCE TO CONTESTED MULTIPOLARITY :

The current world order is evolving into multipolar coexistence, not Chinese supremacy. China leads the Global South in trade and development, while the U.S continues to dominate in defense, technology, and alliances. The **BRICS 2024 Johannesburg Declaration** calling for de-dollarization indicates China's growing influence but also exposes divisions within the bloc. Thus, the future world will revolve around multiple centers of power, with China as one strong pole but not the sole architect of global governance.

CONCLUSION :

In a nutshell, the global order that once revolved around U.S leadership entered a phase of disruption during Donald Trump's presidency, creating a space that China quickly learned to occupy. By maintaining consistency in foreign

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policy and promoting connectivity through the **Belt and Road Initiative**, China presented itself as a steady and dependable partner when America appeared uncertain. **Xi** emphasis on multilateralism and shared growth allowed Beijing to project an image of calm leadership in turbulent times. However, China's path to global prominance is not without limitations. Economic slowdown, debt concerns, and regional assertiveness continues to restrict its acceptance as a truly global leader. While Beijing has become a symbol of reliability and stability, it has not yet replaced the liberal order led by the United States. The future, therefore, points towards a multipolar world where China stands as one of several influential poles.