

Evaluate the role of Iran-Israel conflict in shaping the strategic landscape of the Middle East.

QUESTION # 01

ANSWER

QUESTION 1

ATTEMPTED WELL

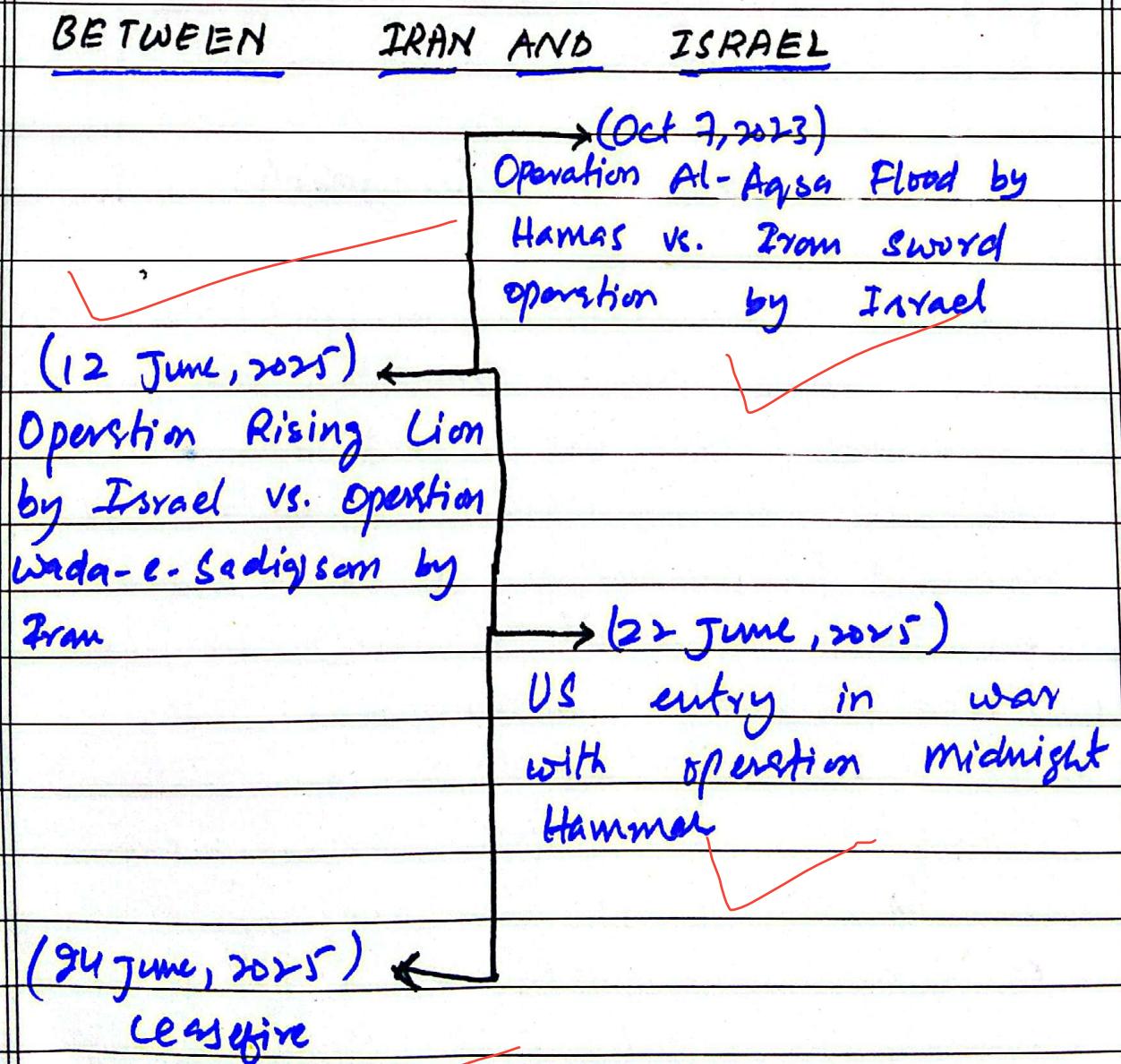
1) INTRODUCTION: Role of Iran-Israel conflict in shaping the strategic landscape of the Middle East

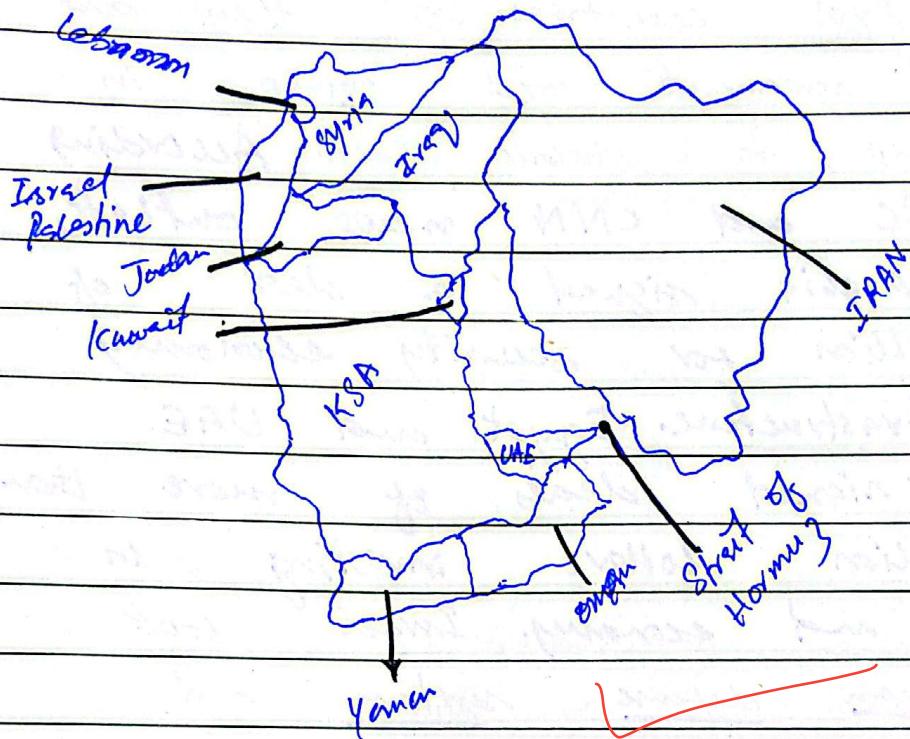
"The strong do what they have the power to do, and the weak accept what they have to accept." ~ Thucydides

The Iran-Israel stand-off presents a hollow picture of peace in Middle East. The conflict has resulted in open violation of international norms, security and humanitarian spirit. The region has witnessed global hegemony of the US and regional hegemony of Israel. Furthermore, the crisis has given an impetus to increasing arms race and aspirations for nuclear arsenals. Against the backdrop of the

conflict, non-proliferation regimes have been challenged. Deterrence, instability, threat on sovereignty, dwindling economic conditions of the region and geopolitical disparities have been worsened by the turbulence. Thus, Middle East has remained devoid of rule-based order.

2) TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR CONFLICTS





Map: Middle East

3) IRAN - ISRAEL CONFLICT SHAPING THE
STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE OF THE
MIDDLE EAST

3.1) Increasing Arms Race in THE
Middle East

The stand-off between
 Iran - Israel brought insecurities in

other Arab countries. So, they did multiple agreements with Trump in his trip to Middle East. According to BBC and CNN news outlets, Saudi Arabia signed a deal of \$ 600 million for security, economy and infrastructure. Egypt and UAE also signed deals of more than a billion dollars investing in security and economy. Israel took laser beam defense system and Iran purchased S-400 and multiple aircrafts (F-10C, F-16, etc.).

3.2) Challenges to Non-Proliferation

Regimes

Questions have been raised against the credibility of Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Trump's withdrawal of NPT regime and the US attack on nuclear sites of Iran, both violated the rules of NPT and IAEA.

8.3) Violation of state sovereignty

In Middle East

Despite seeking for diplomatic efforts, Israel attacked Iran along with the US. It is the clear violation of UN charter.

Article 2(1)-5 of the charter says that equal sovereignty should be promoted. Despite of this, Israel also launched attacks in Lebanon, Egypt and Syria.

3.4) Display of The US Hegemony

in The Region

Silence from US rivals draw the message that US is the sole hegemon of the region by attacking Iran's nuclear sites (Arfahan, Fordo, Natanz). China and Russia remained limited to mere condemnation remarks justified that the US held power in the region.

3.5) Israel as Regional Hegemon in Middle East

Middle East's strategic landscape comes under Israeli influence. Attacks on Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iran signifies that Israel is the all powerful in the region. Before it, Israel also dismantled Hezbollah, Hamas and Younis in the region.

3.6) Dwindling Economic conditions of the Region

The conflict's major influence on the "Strait of Hormuz" and "Suez Canal" destabilized the economic landscape of the region. The strait accounts for 90% of Oil and gas trade across the globe, and the canal also accounts for 60% of Egypt's economy reported by Bloomberg. So, conflicts over these regions will destabilize their economy.

World Bank reports that per barrel oil price may lead to \$150 from \$75.

2.7) The Conflict further Exacerbated
the Global Disparities

The US only supporting Israel along with few western countries worsened the global North-South disparities. All of the countries of the South such as China, Pakistan, Iran and others condemned the Israeli aggression against Iran. This led to the aspiration for multipolar world order.

3.8) Threatening the Deterrence
Stability in the Region

The US and countries from Europe supported Israeli aggression and funded weapons and daily supplies. This led

to the asymmetrical capabilities between Israel and other Arab countries. In this way more need of weapons has been witnessed. Israel seeking Arrow-3b4 missile systems, while Iran is also seeking Kheyber Shalam-9 missile system for security purpose. In this way other Arab countries are signing security deal with the US. These aspiration would further add fuel to the fire.

4) CONCLUSION

The Iran-Israel conflict has led the region to the brink of further escalation. Violation of international norms, compromised non-proliferation regimes and breach of state sovereignty are some grim outcomes of war. After all of the discussion, it can be said that Iran-Israel conflict has brought again the "No Rule Based world order".

The Middle East remains one of the most strategically important regions in the world." Critically analyze the factors; geographic, economic, religious, and geopolitical that contribute to its global significance.

QUESTION # 02

Energy Influence ?Global Oil & Gas Supply?

Strategic Geopolitics?Diplomatic Role in
Islamic World?Global Arms Trade Hub?

1) INTRODUCTION: Global Importance of middle East

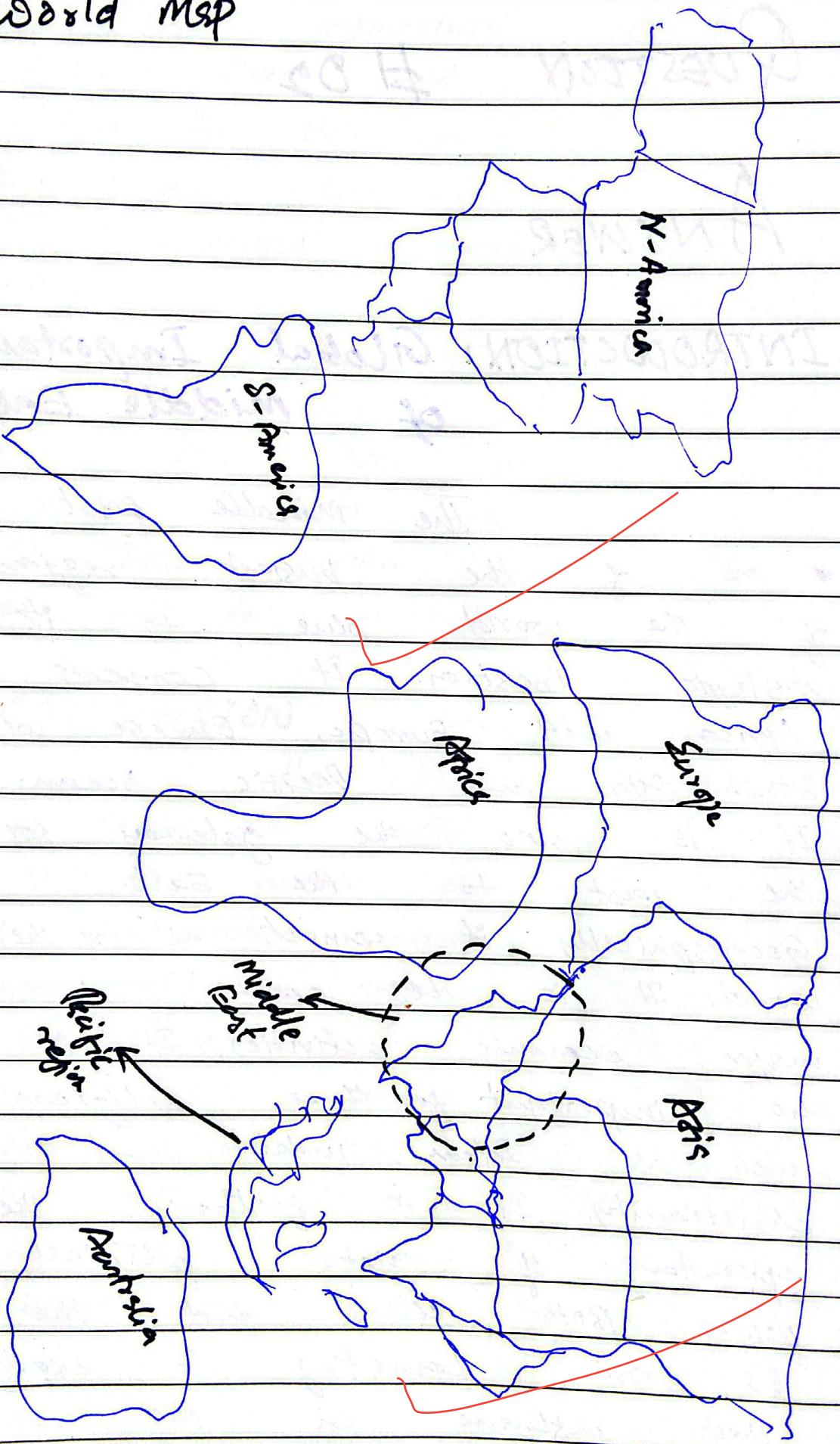
The Middle East is

* one of the busiest regions of the world due to its strategic location. It connects Africa with Europe, Europe with South Asia and Pacific Ocean.

It is also the gateway for the west to the East.

Geographically it connects all of the world. It is the center of major economic activities. It is also important for three religions such as Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. It is further the epicenter of global political power. Both China and the US are competing to exert their influence on the region.

World Map



GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MIDDLE EAST REGION

EAST REGION

1) Geographic Importance

A) Connecting Europe with Asia

Geography of the Middle East plays ~~pivotal role~~ connecting Europe with Asia. So much of the ~~trade~~ takes place through Middle East with Europe and Asia. Not only by sea or land, Middle East is also important in ~~space~~.

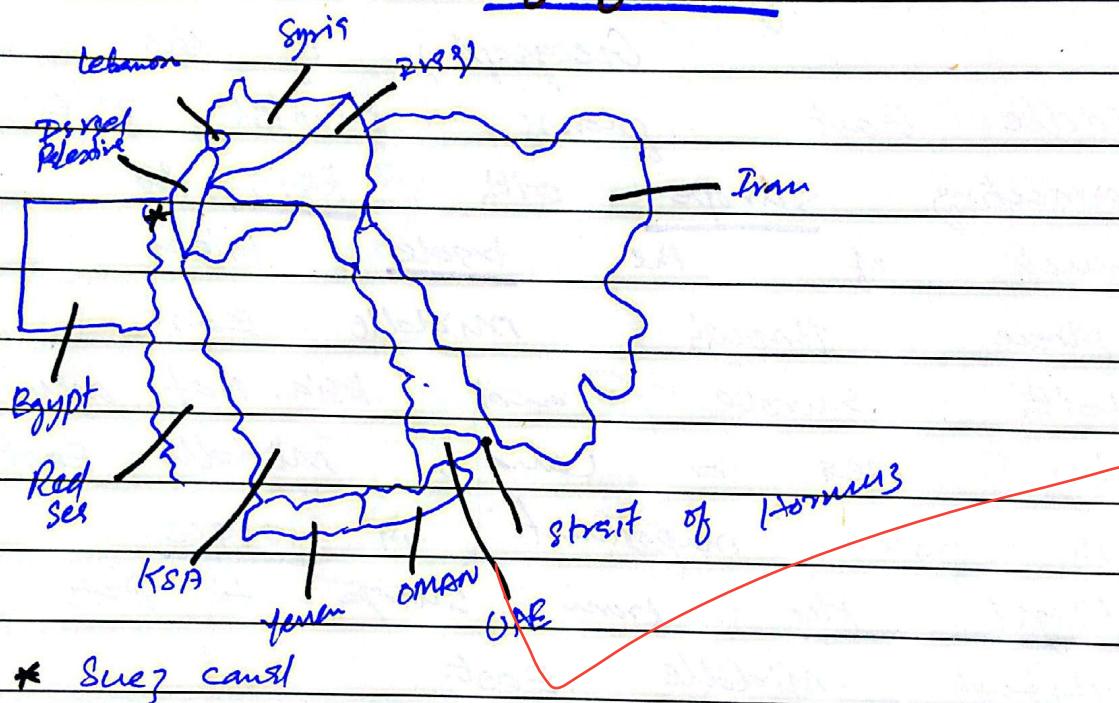
Flight ~~fly~~ from Europe to Asia through Middle East.

B) Connecting Africa, Europe and the Pacific Region

Middle East is also important for Europe-Africa-Pacific region because most of the trade of Australia and other Pacific countries ~~occur~~ with

help of middle East with the US and Canada. So, Middle East is the epicentre of the world connecting every region with one another.

2.2) Economic Significance



A) Strait of Hormuz

Strait of Hormuz is a small water way from which ships travel. Almost 20% of oil trade and 95% of LNG trade carried out from this narrow strait (Bloom Berg).

Control of this strait means control of one-fourth of global oil trade.

(B) Suez Canal

Suez canal 19

also a critical chokepoint which connects mediterranean sea with Indis ocean and pacific ocean. It cut huge logistics cost, because it is a short-cut to Indian ocean.

According CNN-based research, the suez canal gives a way to 12% of global trade and 20% world's containers traffic is also found at the canal. So, it is also important in trade and commerce.

Religious Importance of the Region

A) For Islam

In Islam, majority of prophets (P.B.U.T) came to this region and spread the word of God. The Jerusalem which is a city in disputed territory between Israel and Palestine is sacred for

Christian because it was the first Qibla of muslims. Prophet Muhammed (P.B.U.H) also went to ascension from this place. So, it the most sacred and important for ~~muslim~~.

b) For Judaism

The same place is also sacred for the Jews because in their scriptures, it is mentioned that the wall of Jerusalem which is "western wall" was constructed by Solomon (A.C.). They believe that ~~here~~ the third temple would also be constructed there. So, for them the region is important.

c) For Christianity

Middle East is also important for Christianity because they city Jerusalem has some history with them. They say that the Jesus (P.B.U.H) was crucified there, so the

placed is agreed for US.

Geopolitical significance

A) Right for control

From history till today world powers strive to control the region. It is because the region is engulfed with enormous oil, gold and gas. The fight also continue for the control of Suez canal and the Strait of Hormuz. Currently, the US possesses the power in the region but China is also making an effort in terms of its BRI project to influence the region.

B) Competition of Building Arab countries as allies

The region also has great importance because of allies making. Those who make good ties with Arab countries, leverage their socio-economic potential. It is because they now

own and control the natural resources. Especially Middle East holds 48% of global oil reserves. So, build ties with Arab countries can help world to get trade opportunities.

3) CONCLUSION

From above facts and figures, it can be inferred that Middle East possesses great importance across the globe due to its connectivity with across the world. However, conflicts haunt the ~~people~~ of Middle East which erodes the opportunity economic gains. Therefore, international community should help the Middle East gets its way.