

"THE CRISIS OF ETHICS AND MORALITY IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS"

A. Introduction

B. The Crisis of Ethics in International Politics:

(i) Ethnic nationalism is basis for massive destruction.

Case Study: Serbian Nationalism

in Bosnian Crisis 1995.

(ii) Principle of 'Might is Right' overshadows morality.

Case in Point: Rwandan Genocide

(iii) Economic beneficiaries of wars do not stop conflict escalation.

Case in Point: United State

Military supply to Israel against Gaza.

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(iv) Sanctity of pacts are compromised for partisan interests.

Case in Point: NPT was disregarded during Israel's attack on Iranian Nuclear Sites (2024) - JCPOA violated.

(v) Race superiority drives destructive wars.

Case in Point: Hitler conducted Holocaust against Jews (non-Aryan race) in WW-II.

(vi) No respect for Westphalian Principle of Territorial sovereignty when interests diverge.

Case in Point: US invasion of Iraq (2003).

(vii) Irrelevance of International Organisations during military interventions.

Case in Point: UN SC

bypassed when NATO
intervened in Kosovo.
(1999)

(viii) The right of self-determination
is not available in truest sense.

Case in Point: Modi's

Anschluss in Kashmir

Article
(35-A & 370 revocation)

(ix) Principles of International Law
are violated during conflicts.

Case in Point: 25,000

children killed in Gaza-

breach of IHL.

(Al-Jazeera)

(x) Slander and mud-slinging
in rallies is a common yet
unethical practice.

Case in Point: Trump's

allegations against

Kamala Harris during

US election stand-off

2024.

(xi) Absolute power is unjustly used to punish adversaries.

Case in Point: Guillotine was conducted against Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette post-French Revolution.

(xii) War criminals are executed based on their social status.

Case in Point: Putin's delayed trial under ICC.

(xiii) The interests of the powerful are secured at the cost of immorality.

Case in Point: Trump's annexation of Venezuela and kidnap of Petro in Jan 2026.

C. Conclusion

"The strong do what they have the power to do, and the weak accept what they have to accept", stated Thucydides. The fiasco of international politics is centred on the concept that power corrupts all: leaders and organisations.

In this display of power, execution of strength, mainly in form of military muscle, ethics and moral values are largely compromised. Human history is replete with instances where morals were disregarded and laws abandoned for self-interests.

The root of issues lie in nationalism and ethnic affinities. Moreover, military superiority compromises ethical values. The economic aspect of immorality also serves as hedonistic incentive against ethics.

Immorality breeds from the abandonment of respect for treaties and compliance to laws.

Racial disputes and irredentist ideas also corrupt morals. The inefficiency of global peace-keeping institutions are also stakeholders in the ignorance to morals. It is a pertinent fact that global power hierarchy, value of economy and strength of military muscle between states leads to the crisis of morality and ethics in International Politics.

The roots of immorality stem from extreme forms of ethnic nationalism. The affiliation towards one's ethnic identity is positive, but once it superseeds beyond a certain limit, it may prove devastating. Ethnic nationalism triggers revolt and infuses riot mentality. This proves harsh against minority population. The Bosnian Crisis of 1995, where a Serbian hypernationalist killed

-thousands of Bosniaks and Croats is an exemplary case study. Indeed, love for one's ethnicity surpasses all moral grounds.

International Politics is centred on tenets of power. As Hans J. Morgenthau would state that power is means to achieve all ends. The Principle of 'Might is Right' is extremely applicable to International Politics. No leader or organisation would question the mighty and their wrongful actions shall be justified. The Genocide in Rwanda, where Hutus killed over 100,000 Tutsis is a case study of how the powerful manipulate scenarios in their favor.

Economic Incentives are murderers of morality. In politics, where money is involved, ethics are long-forgotten. The evil nexus of wealth and power creates no

space for ethical values to exist. The M1-Complex faces huge backlash for providing weapons to violent aggressors in a quest to fund their industry. This hypocrisy was revised in recent Gaza genocide as well. Some analysts term them 'merchants of death' or 'business of war'.

Morals are corrupted when treaties are disregarded. International Arena operates on a set of treaties that are ratified by member states. Sometimes, biased opinions and personal vendetta's are prioritized above the legal values of such pacts. This causes huge toll on ethical values. In 2024, when Iran was attacked at its nuclear sites, despite signing of JCPOA, a joint-peace agreement, the sanctity of NPT and authority of

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IAEA lost its purpose. In future crises, it may prove lethal.

Global wars have been the centre of world attention when compromised ethics are concerned.

The Second War was extremely devastating for many. It was triggered by ideas of racial supremacy and Hitler's radical approach. Under such circumstances, legalities and moralities are ignored. The Holocaust that killed millions during WW-II was merely Hitler proving his idea of Aryan excellence. Such is the standard of ethics in international politics.

The respect for a sovereign state and its territory is overlooked posing serious dents to ethical norms. Even legally, Treaty of Westphalia (1648) equips states with this inherent right for territorial integrity. However, international politics, devoid of any

moral foundation has multiple instances where state boundaries have been abused. The United States invaded Iraq in 2003, under narrative of civilizing the Iraqis but it is an open secret, that that act was done in enmity against Saddam Hussain.

International organisations are merely symbolic proponents of ethical practices. In case of military expeditions, such organizations play no actual role to protect the sovereign entities. The United Nations has become irrelevant in managing crises like Kosovo intervention by NATO forces in 1999. UNSC passed Resolution 1244 but all in vain. Morals had already been compromised.

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Moral standings disregard inequalities, rules are for all and sundry. But in politics, the case

is reversed. The partisan interests of powerful are attained at the cost of injustice towards the weak.

In January 2026, the US Populist President Trump invaded Venezuelan capital and practically kidnapped President Maduro in NYC. Where do ethics and morals even exist in a world like that?

In a nutshell, the world faces extreme violations of moral and legal principles due to prevalent power structures and strength differences. Over the years, this has triggered an immorality crisis among states and rulers. The disregard towards right of self-determination is a threat to statehood. The ignorance towards Humanitarian Laws and fundamental Human Rights in war times further deteriorate moral standing. Political mud-slinging is an acutely common practise of immoral leadership crisis. The

issuance of disproportionate punishments to opponents is centred on unethical agendas. In addition, biased execution of criminals and immoral interests of the hegemon disrupt ethical basis of politics, if any exists! Let us all hope for a world where dirty games like politics are also ruled by justice. It is high-time to let go of past nuisance and learn from history in an attempt to save humanity. All states and their leaders must follow John F. Kennedy's advise, "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind." Indeed, war needs to halt, and so does the ideology behind it.