

QUESTION: 2

What are the key driving forces behind the establishment of IR as an academic discipline?

Provide an analysis of historical events & intellectual developments in its evolution.

ANSWER=1

IR: An Academic Discipline

Introduction:

"IR is the study of world community in Transition"

- Palmer and Perkins

Global politics, historical events like the Peace of Westphalia (1648), global wars and the cold war define the drivers of International Relations as an academic discipline. The tilt towards globalization, the role of non-state actors and relations of conflict and cooperation contribute to evolution of this field. Western philosophers like Hobbes, John Locke and

Rousseau have an intellectual contribution
The fields of Diplomacy and Law
are extremely relevant in present
times.

(1) Definition of International Relations:

"International Relations is the multidisciplinary study of ties between global actors (state and non-state actors) for the attainment of interests."

It is a vast discipline that covers multiple aspects. It is not just confined to wars and conflicts but contributes to maintaining global peace and order.

(2) IR as an Academic Field: The Evolution

Early philosophers like Barry Buzan believe that it began in early 3500 BC with

emergence of city states. We can elaborate it as follows:

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SUMERIAN CITY STATES (2500 BC)

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PEACE OF WESTPHALIA (1648)

↓
Congress of Vienna (1815)

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World War - I (1914-1918)

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Development of League

Nations

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World War - II (1939-1945)

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Establishment of UNO

and International Financial

Institutions (IMF, WB) (1945/46)

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Period of Cold War (1946-1991)

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Disintegration of USSR (1991)

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Globalization

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War on Terror

↓
Present-Day Multipolar
World.

The evolution of this academic discipline occurred with these events.

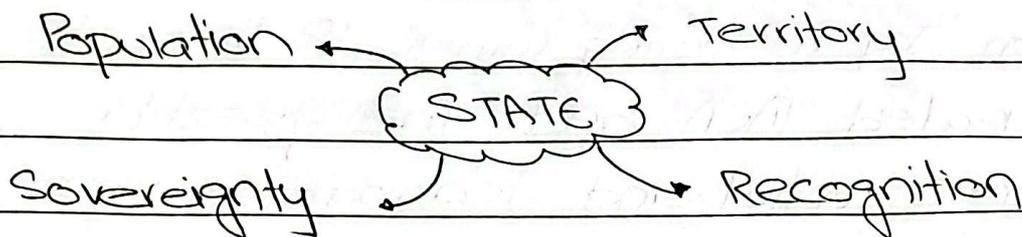
When nation-states were made to today where state borders are blurred; the world is a global village.

Leaders, state and the people have interacted and strengthen this area of study. Major diplomatic events, collective problem solving like Paris Agreement to tackle climate change, or fighting transnational terrorism; the world has come closer.

Global Financial Crisis (GFC 2008) and COVID-19 (pandemic) has tested this area of study as well.

(3) Emergence of Concept of State:

Ending the 30 year European war in 1648, Treaty of Westphalia established the concept of a nation-state



(4) Global Great Wars signify role of Alliances:

"The great alliances are major cause of great wars."

- Benjamin Disraeli

States allied on basis of shared ideologies or interests. This significantly contributed to the development of IR as an academic discipline.

(5) Establishment of Organizations proved stepping stone:

International organisations that

were set-up for peace maintenance" showed how the world understood that war was of no good.

(6) Creation of WMDs led to Establishment of IAEA:

US bombed nuclear weapons on Japan during ww-ii. IR theorists created IAEA and the quest for arms control and disarmament regime began.

(7) Cold War's ideological conflicts contributed to World Order:

As Henry Kissinger validates in his work, "World Order", the rift between capitalism and communism contributed to development of poles and competition for hegemony.

(8) War on Terror: a fight against Transnational Issues

Be it terrorism or climate change, International Relations paves way to collectively counter such cross-

border issues. The world after:
9/11 witnessed excessive focus
on military security.

The military collations
built back in 1990's came to good
use - NATO forces / Warsaw.

(9) Economic Liberalism - European Unity for Trade:

IR further advanced as an area
of study when the Realist world
shifted to economic liberalism and
EU was formed by Maastricht
Treaty 1992. It opened arenas of
Free Trade and open-borders.

(10) Post-Modernism - The rise of Media:

Present day, globalisation of
cultures and values is a by-product
of media's role. It has become a
propaganda tool in the hands of
the powerful as Critical Theorists
would argue. The present world
follows narratives and trusts ideas.

(ii) Intellectual Development of IR:

The following philosophers are few of many who helped in evolution of this discipline:

Thomas Hobbes	The Realist who thinks about power maximization is crucial.
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John Locke (Liberalist)	Liberty, Equality Principle Govern Lightly.
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Roussau	Republic Social Contract
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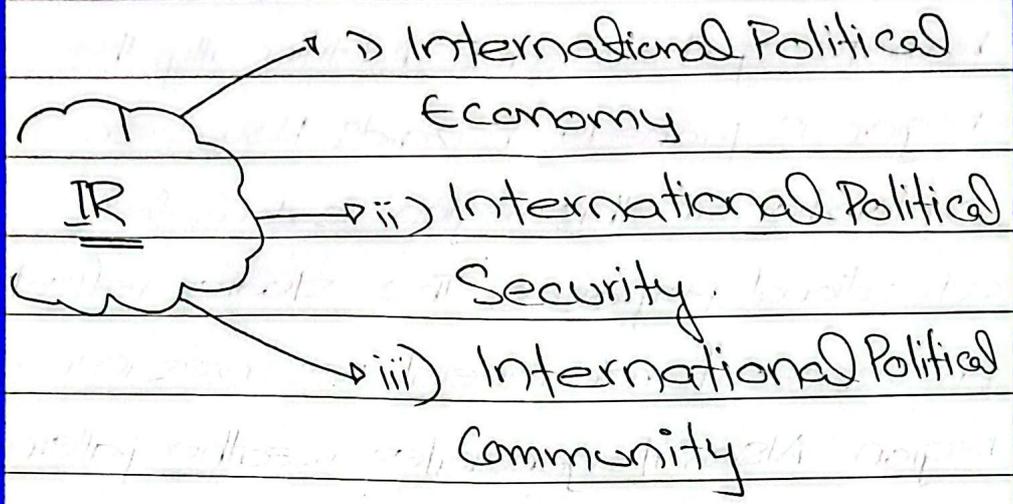
Barry Buzan	Concept of Non-Traditional Security.
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Raul Prebisch	IPE Theories on Dependency
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Alexander Wendt	Constructivist - The Iterative Loop.
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(2) IR - The Field in Motion:

IR truly is a field in motion, The works of these philosophers have led to formation of concepts like:



Conclusion:

In a nutshell the academic discipline of IR is very broad. It has been shaped by all the global major events that occurred since the beginning of times. The field is still growing and gaining new insights.