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Q No 31.

Neo-Neo debate and contrast with constructivism.

The neo-neo debate in the international relations is known as the debate between the scholars of Neo-Realistic international relations theory and Neo-Liberalist's institutionalism.

Debate:-

Neorealism and neo-liberalism are the two most contemporary approaches to IR theory and their debate has last for about a decade. Arguments on the consequence of both anarchy and gains and the prospect for peace form the basis of the neo-neo debate. They share a set of

assumptions about international politics and have both similarities and disparities between them.

Neorealism aims to resemble a more scientific framework which retains recognizable Realist features such as power and conflict and imperfect International environment. They believe that states operate in an International Anarchic structure and there is an environment of lack of trust in that structure due to the absence of an international sovereign and unequal capabilities of states. Politics is the struggle for pursuit of power for the attainment of National Interest.

Neoliberalism maintains that, in an Interdependent world, states will seek efficiency in managing collective problems presented by the international anarchy.

They accept the international anarchic structure but also believe that this power politics is the root problem of all the issues of international systems, so they proposed a liberal interdependency model. Politics is the struggle for the pursuit for cooperation for the attainment of some common and collective interests.

Despite some similarities present between neo-realism and neo-liberalism there are some assumptions that oppose each other, some are as follows:-

Anarchy:-

The notion of anarchy in international relations is the most significant part among these two schools. For Neorealists, anarchy is the organizing principle that makes states act the way they do. States

are supposed to be rational and unitary actors. In the world of anarchy, states have to use self-help as a predominant tool because they can only depend on itself for its survival. States are unable to control an anarchic environment so they should prepare to be challenged by opportunistic, stronger states. While Neoliberalist emphasize that neorealists have exaggerated the importance and effect of anarchy, though they do not deny the anarchic nature of the international relations. They rather think that anarchy can be mitigated by international regimes and institutions. Neoliberalist believes that the interstate cooperation could create institutions and organizations for the peaceful settlement of conflict.

Absolute and relative gains.-

Another core disparity within the neo-neo debate is the problem of absolute and relative gains. Neorealists think that all states must be concerned with the absolute and relative gains which are produced by international agreements and cooperative efforts. They believe that cooperation may cause the states a loss of power so, the states should only cooperate in agreements that they can dominate and have a relative gain. Neorealists consider conflicts as inevitable outcomes in the competition of gains. So, they place a higher emphasis on the power-maximization and security dilemma. On the other hand, Neoliberals are less concerned about the relative gains and considers that absolute gains

can benefit everyone. If states only pursue absolute gains, they can cooperate with each other and avoid conflict by maintaining the international principle of a "positive game".

Neoliberals support that international institutes can play an important role in resolving conflicts and it can make states cooperate and work toward long-term gains.

Foreign Policy approach:-

Neo-realists believes that the foreign policy should focus on the high politics and dominated by National security debates and militarization. It should be domestic agenda centric. While Neoliberalism believes that the foreign policy of states on International level should focus on

low politics about human right and economy. It should be Global agenda centric with the main focus on Interdependence (especially economic) and globalization. They believe in dialogue for the cooperation

Constructivism:-

Constructivism, in IR, is a social theory, that asserts that significant aspects of international relations are shaped by Ideational factors. The collectively held beliefs constructs the interests and identities of actors.

Construct theorists believe that state is the principle unit of analysis but it is not the only actor. A state operates under the constant influences of the supranational (international society) actors

as well as the sub state (domestic) actors.

So, Anarchy or cooperation are the effect of the prevalent constructs, where anarchy is the result of practices and identities are formed by the interactions and institutions.

Thus, the international system is shaped by the Iterative loop of state constructs.

Qno 51-

Hybrid warfare

Hybrid warfare is a theory of military strategy first proposed by Frank Hoffman, which employs political warfare and blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyber warfare with other influencing methods.

such as fake news, diplomacy, lawfare and foreign electoral intervention. By combining conventional and unconventional methods, kinetic operations with subversive efforts, the aggressor intends to avoid attribution or retribution.

Elements of Hybrid Warfare, -

Hybrid warfare is a warfare which includes some, parts, or all of the following aspects, -

A non-standard, complex and fluid adversary. A hybrid adversary can be state or non-state. The main adversaries can be non-state entities within the state system. The non-state actors can act as proxies for countries but have independent agendas as well.

Use of combination of conventional and irregular methods.

Methods and tactics may include conventional capabilities, irregular tactics, irregular formations, diplomacy, politics, terrorist acts, indiscriminate violence and criminal activity.

A hybrid adversary may also use clandestine actions to avoid attribution or retribution. The methods ^{are} used simultaneously across the spectrum of conflict with a unified strategy.

Flexible and quick response.

Hybrid warfare demands adaptations to rapidly changing scenarios and immediate responses to them. Quick reduction, quick dispersion and effective recruiting tools are used as strategy.

Use of advanced weapon systems and Technologies:-

Advanced weapon systems and modern Technologies are being adapted to the battlefields such as cellular networks, precision-guided weapons, aerial drones, encrypted intelligence channels and even thermal and night-vision equipments.

Use of mass communication for propaganda :-

The growth of mass communication networks and media offers a powerful propaganda and recruiting tools. The use of fake-news websites to spread false stories and cause chaos is a possible element of hybrid warfare. This includes agenda centric narrative formation.

Distinct battlefields,

The distinct battlefields of hybrid warfare are the conventional battlefield, the indigenous population of the conflict zone and the international community.

Remedies:-

Aggression is the effect of demonstrated weakness as per the realists and the world system runs on the philosophy of the survival of the fittest. So, a possible response to a hybrid warfare can be maximization of power.

A hybrid warfare can also be countered by a responded hybrid warfare in the aggressor state.

The agile approach to hybrid warfare is the

strategic response that emphasizes flexibility, adaptability and rapid decision-making in the face of complex and evolving threats. It is rooted in maneuver warfare principles, which emphasize speed, surprise and initiative to disrupt the enemy's decision-making process.

Strengthening International Cooperation with accordance to the Neo-liberal's approach can also be a possible carrier to hybrid threats. This include sharing intelligence, coordinating responses and developing joint strategies.

Building Resilience is critical to countering hybrid warfare, This includes social

resilience, such as public awareness and media literacy with accordance to the concept of post modernism in IR, to counter disinformation campaigns and institutional resilience, such as robust cyber defense and crisis management capabilities.

Technological advancement plays a significant role in hybrid warfare. Therefore, investing in research and development in artificial intelligence, cyber security, and advanced weaponry can provide a competitive edge.

Countering hybrid threats requires a coordinated approach involving all government sectors. This includes military and intelligence agencies and departments dealing with the

foreign affairs, domestic security, finance and infrastructure.

So, countering hybrid warfare requires a comprehensive and adaptive approach involving all societal sectors.
