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NO#02

## INTRODUCTION

International Relations is the study of the transition world. As the transition of the world is an important factor while looking for an approach to deal with ever-changing challenges and require new explanation or even blended with past experiences. IR is now used as a channel to comprehend these challenges. It helps us to come across to ascertain new approaches to the multidimensional problems such as 'Political Dimension', 'Economic Dimension', 'Security Dimension', 'Socio-cultural Dimension', 'Legal Dimension', etc. And these dimensions can be studied in different levels of analysis like Individual, Domestic, Interstate, Regional, and Global level. So, IR can be called as the study of interest based relations among states and non-states actors at international level. And these interests may vary from Political to economic or to security etc, and these interests can be studied at an individual, state or global level.

# MULTIDIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The multidimensional perspective in international relations is like wearing special glasses that allow us to see the complex interactions and interconnectedness of various aspects that determine how countries behave on the global stage. It's like watching a multi-layered movie with different plot lines happening simultaneously, revealing how political, economic, security and cultural and other dimensions influence state behavior and international cooperation and integration.

These multidimensional perspectives are explained below:

## (A) Political Dimension

It is about the impacts of political dogmas, ideologies, governmental policies, power sharing and structures, and process of decision-making on the countries' behaviour in international arena. It includes how states' domestic political system influence their foreign policy and interaction with other states. For instance, diplomacy and multilateralism might, most likely, be prioritized by a democratic governments along with seeking consensus and cooperation with other democratic states. Contrarily, authoritarian may resort to aggressive



factors and disregard international norms to protect its interests. Moreover, other ideologies like nationalism may also force a country to enforce protectionist policies. ~~Comprehending~~ the political dimension is very important in the ever-changing landscape of the IR.

### (B) Economic Dimension:

It plays a significant role that shape interaction between countries on the global stage. Study of trade policies, investment, economic systems and financial organisation that influence behavior of state and also international cooperation, are all incorporate in economic dimension. For example, economic interdependence between countries can foster diplomatic ties and promote peaceful relations. While, economic competition and disputes over trade imbalances or protectionist measures may strain relationships between nations. Moreover, it encompasses the influence of international organisations like WTO, ~~the~~ IMF, and ~~UN~~, which create frameworks for economic cooperations and negotiations. Therefore, economic dimension is crucial predicting broader impacts of economic policies/measures.

Switch examples with different pen



(C) Security Dimension:

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It deals with conflicts, alliances, military capabilities, nuclear, and broader security concerns that may help shape the behavior of states on the global arena. It involves analyzing the countries' perceived threats, seek security assurances, alliances and engage in diplomatic efforts to maintain peace. For instance, NATO is an alliance of western countries, which deter potential aggression and ensure collective defense. Conversely, security dilemmas may arise when one country's defense measures are considered as threatening by others, leading to escalation. So, it is vital dimension in understanding geopolitical complexities.

(D) Technological Dimension:

It refers to technologic impact on global stage; it analyzes how advancements in communication, transportation, cyberspace, and military technology shape state behavior. For example, digital communication influences information dissemination and mobilization of global movements. Space exploration, AI, and emerging technologies also affect the future of global politics. Understanding this dimension is crucial for the ever-evolving technological landscape in the international stage.



(E) Socio-cultural Dimension

The socio-cultural dimension of IR refers to the impact of socio and cultural factors ~~to~~ <sup>and</sup> impacts of it on global level. It encompasses beliefs, norms, values, and identity of states and non-state actors. Example includes diplomatic protocols influenced by cultural practices and societal values that help shaping a state's approach to human rights. Moreover, the influence of language, religions, and historical narratives can affect diplomatic relations between nations.

(F) Legal Dimension

This dimension includes treaties, conventions, MOUs, and even customary laws. For example, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes rules for maritime boundaries, resource management, and environmental protection. Compliance with international legal framework helps maintain stability and cooperation among nations, resolving disputes and promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts. So, it is the role of international law in the governing the interactions between states and other actors.



# MULTILEVEL PERSPECTIVE

Multilevel perspectives are like peering through a kaleidoscope (optical instrument) to analyze I.R. Instead of seeing the world as a single, uniform entity, this approach reveals a rich tapestry of interactions involving diverse actors at different levels. These levels supporting this perspective are the international / ~~global~~ global level, state level and individual levels.

## (A) INDIVIDUAL LEVEL:

In this level of analysis, characteristics of individuals such as personal traits, decision-making and beliefs are researched. These traits can have significant on foreign policy decisions. For example, the personal affinity between leader of two countries can influence the dynamics of I.R. A notable example is the meeting between US President Ronald Reagan and USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev during the Cold war. Their willingness to engage in personal diplomacy contributed to the the easing of tensions and led to the signing of arms control agreements. This shows how the actions and interactions of individual leaders can shape the course of international relations.



### (B) State Level

In this level, the focus is on understanding how domestic factors of the individual countries influence their foreign policy decisions and interactions with other states. The type of government, economic conditions, societal values, and leadership play crucial roles in the shaping of state behavior in the international arena. For example, democratic state like the USA often prioritizes promoting democracy and human rights. It may engage in diplomatic way and provide aid to support democratic movements in other countries. Conversely, in authoritarian state like the N. Korea tends to prioritize regime survival and national security. So, understanding the state level of analysis helps in shaping and comprehending the diverse motivation and constraints that guide states' behavior on the global level.

### (C) Global level.

In this level, the focus is on the examination of the overarching structure, interactions, and the dynamics of international system. This level looks at how states, international organisations and even non-state actors engage in the global politics and how they cooperate or compete on a global scale. It considers issues like distribution of power, the role of



international institutions and norms, global government systems and impacts of global issues like climate change, pandemics, and economic interdependence. For example, the rise of emerging powers like India and China challenges the traditional power dynamics dominated by western nations, leading to shifts in global power relations. The understanding of the global level analysis is essential for comprehending the complexities and interdependence that shape the behaviour of the states and non-state actors in the ever-changing global landscape.

## CONCLUSION

By employing multidimensional and multi-level perspectives, scholars and researchers, and policymakers can attain a comprehensive outlook on global relations, considering various actors and factors that influence the international scene. This shared comprehension aids in making more efficient decisions and diplomatic approaches to tackle complex global challenges.

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Q NO# 03

## INTRODUCTION

In the ever-evolving landscape of IR theory, a spirited debate known as the "neo-neo" debate has taken center stage, aiming to bridge the gap between two prominent paradigms: neorealism and neoliberalism. This clash of ideology, like oil and water, has captivated scholars and researchers, igniting intellectual sparks as they seek to find common ground and build a more comprehensive understanding of global dynamics. While neorealism hails the power and anarchy in shaping state behavior, neoliberalism extols the virtues of cooperation and international institutions. As these jugglers for dominance, constructivism also adds its flavour by underscoring the role of ideas and norms in shaping the international system. With each school of thought vying for supremacy, it becomes evident that this intellectual tussle is far from settled, and the world of international relations remains an intricate tapestry awaiting further unraveling.

Accommodate all part of question



## NEO-NEO Debate: CLASH OF BELIEFS

The neo-neo debate, a compelling discourse in IR theory, seeks to harmonise neo-realism and neo-liberalism, two prominent theories that offer distinct perspectives on the dynamics of the global arena. While in this debate, neo-realism underscores the pivotal role of power dynamics and an anarchic international system. And neo-liberalism emphasizes cooperation and the significance of international institutions. The proponents of the neo-neo debate (synthesis) contend that these theories need not be mutually exclusive; instead, amalgamating their strengths to create more holistic understanding of global affairs. States are perceived as rational actors who skillfully navigate their pursuit of interests, considering both security imperatives and the benefits of collaborative engagements. This combined approach offers unique insight into how international interactions unfolds, finding balance in addressing the complexities of the diplomacy and strategic manoeuvring. The neo-neo debate continues to enrich the IR, fostering deeper insights and refining the theoretical lenses through which we view the world's geopolitical landscape.



## CORE Outcomes of Neo-Neo Debate

### (A) ANARCHY:

#### (i) Points of Agreement:

In the neo-neo debate, both neo-realism and neo-liberalism agree on the existence of anarchy in the international system. Neo-realism see it as a condition of self-help, leading to competition and conflict. While neo-liberalism take a more optimistic approach, advocating for cooperation through international institutions to control and manage anarchy.

#### (ii) Points of Disagreement:

In the neo neo debate, both theories also diverge on the anarchy. As per neo-realism, anarchy leads to competition and conflicts, and cooperation leads to the loss of interests. While neo-liberalism accepts world as competitive, therefore cooperation in the areas of mutual interest may mitigate anarchy.

### (B) Focus of Study:

#### (i) Neo-Realism:

The primary focus is on the high politics such as power, and security issues in the international system. It argues that the distribution of power among states plays crucial



role in the shaping their behaviour and interaction.

### (ii) Neo-liberalism:

Its primary focus is on low politics such as human security issues, economic issues, political issues and on cooperation. It argues that there are ample of problems which needs forth with attention and cooperation. And these will affect the behavior of states in the international arena.

### (c) FOREIGN POLICY Approach:

#### (i) Neo-Realism:

Its approach is characterised by a focus on national security and the pursuit of power in the anarchic international system. For example, during the cold war, the US's containment policy against USSR exemplified neo-realism's emphasis on balancing power and containing potential threats to its security.

#### (ii) Neo-liberalism:

Its approach prioritises cooperation and the use of international institutions to address global challenges. The regional integration of European Union and establishment of of EP and ECB demonstrate how neoliberalism promotes collaboration and peaceful resolution of disputes.



## SUITABLE EXAMPLES OF NEO-NEO DEBATE

### (1) On Arms Control:

The neo-realist debate on arms control addresses the challenges of reducing the proliferation of weapons. Neo-realists focus on states' security concerns, while neo-liberalists might emphasize international treaties and institutions as tools for disarmament.

### (2) Global Economic Inequality:

The debate on the global economic inequality explores the impacts of economic policies on state behavior. Neo-realists may view economic disparities as inevitable consequences of an anarchic system, while neo-liberalists might advocate for international development initiatives to address inequality.

### (3) Soft power

The debate on soft power examines the uses of cultural and ideological influence in the international relations. Neo-realists may prioritize traditional power, while neo-liberals may emphasize the significance of public diplomacy and international cultural exchange.



## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEO-REALISM,

## NEO-LIBERALISM and CONSTRUCTIVISM:

### (A) VIEW ON CONFLICT:

Neo-realism sees conflict as inherent in the international systems due to competition for power and resources. Neo-liberalism views conflict as manageable through cooperation and institutions. Constructivism sees conflict as shaped by ideas and identities, with the potential for transformation through norm diffusion.

### (B) ALLIANCES and INSTITUTIONS:

Neo-realism views alliances as temporary and based on shifting power dynamics. Neo-liberalism views alliances as stable and long-term, supported by institutions. Constructivism emphasizes the role of norms and identity in forming alliances and institutions.

### (C) STATE INTERESTS:

Neo-realism perceives state as driven by material interests, including survival and relative gains. Neo-liberalism also considers material interest but stresses the importance of absolute gains through cooperation. Constructivism focuses on how shared ~~interests~~ ideas and values shape interests of states.



(D) Power Balancing:

Neorealism highlights the significance of power balancing (balance of power) among states to ensure security. Neoliberalism, while acknowledging power balancing, emphasizes the role of institutions and multilateral diplomacy in managing conflicts. Constructivism sees power balancing as reflective of changing norms and identities.

(E) Focus on Security:

New realists place security concerns at the forefront of its analysis, with states prioritizing their survival and protection. Neorealists consider security, but also emphasizes other issues like economic interdependence and global governance. Constructivism view security as socially constructed, influenced by shared beliefs about threats and safety.

(F) Perception of Cooperation:

Neorealism is skeptical about the potential for widespread cooperation among states due to anarchy and power-driven self-interests. Neoliberalism, however, believes in the possibility of extensive cooperation through institutions. Constructivism emphasizes the role of shared norms and identities in the shaping cooperative behavior.



General Instructions for attaining good marks in International Relations

Add IR theories and approaches as much as you can

use IR jargons to differentiate it from Current affairs paper

try reflecting IR concepts or words in your heading

no need to apply all theories in one question but one or two that may justify your arguments

Justify your arguments with at least 8-9 headings

Add current developments as an examples to support arguments

add IR philosophers e.g. Morgenthau, Mearcheimer etc and their philosophies

add graphs charts and critical analysis for bonus marks

each question has 2 or 3 parts, give equal weightage to a parts

Substantially low  
You need to add more references

DATE: / /

CONCLUSION:

In the ever-evolving tango of IR, the neo-realist debate dances like fire and ice, aiming to shed the wisdom of realism and liberalism. The heart of the matter lies in the tiger and lamb contrasts - namely, raw power versus institutions - as these theories jostle for the crown. This intellectual festival adds rich hues to the canvas of global affairs, unravelling intricate patterns of state behavior and world dynamics.

