

Q. No. 3

1) Introduction:

The US-China competition can repeat Cold War politics in the world. However, many liberal thinkers opine that branding the US-China competition as "Cold War 2.0" does not justify the facts which were present during the US-USSR Cold War policies. Yet, there are a number of developments which verify the notion that the US and China are increasingly on the cusp of cold war politics. The US containment policy against China, economic decoupling, military modernization, return of balance of power politics and emerging alliances clearly depict that the world is descending in another Cold War era.

2) The world is witnessing a repetition of Cold War tactics in different domains:

a) The US containment policy against China:

"Inter-state strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in US national security."

— US National Security Strategy, 2018

This statement verifies the notion that

the US has adopted a new national security policy which aims to manage great power competition. It can be visible under the US Indo-Pacific Policy 2018 that focuses on the containment of China. Similarly, the alliances in Asia-Pacific such as "QUAD", "AUKUS", and "Five Eye" make it clear that the US has adopted the same policy of containment against China as it did against the USSR by creating alliance NATO. Thus, the US containment policy against China is a clear evidence of the repetition of Cold War politics.

b) Growing Economic Decoupling:

The US appears to be transforming its economy. It blames China for "economic predatory practices" and causing huge loss to the US economy during past two decades. With growing economic tensions, the former President Donald Trump started "Trade War" against China. Now the Biden administration seems to be exploring ways to reduce its export dependency on China. Hence, it also justifies the thinking of repetition of Cold War tactics.

c) Balance of power politics:

The US-China competition seems to be sliding into balance of power politics. The US attempts to rally around democracies to

stand against autocrat regimes, particularly China. It can be justified through Biden administration's policies such as "Democracy Summit". The world is rapidly being divided in two blocs: the US bloc comprises of liberal democracies and some monarchies whereas China attaching alliances of different countries - through peace deal, economic development and mutual investments. Thus, it illustrates that Cold War tactics are repeating in the world.

d) Geoeconomic statecraft for geopolitical ends:

Another manifestation of Cold War tactics can be seen growing application of geoeconomic statecraft for geopolitical ends. China's Belt and Road Initiative is a vivid example of geoeconomic statecraft to attract alliances across the world. However, the US has also responded in the same way through "Blue Dots" and "B3W" to dilute the salience of Chinese-led geoeconomic ventures. It, thus, signifies that cold war tactics have returned in international politics.

e) Diplomatic Competition:

At diplomatic front, the Cold War tactics can be seen. China has greatly swelled its soft power through "Vaccine Diplomacy" and recent

peace negotiation between Iran and Saudi Arabia. "Saudi-Iran rapprochement" has given China diplomatic triumph in the Middle East. However, the US has also increased its diplomatic influence - through "Human Rights," "Democracy Summit," and "Abraham Accord." It seems diplomatic realm is also a geopolitical chessboard for the emerging Cold War tactics between China and the US.

3) Theoretical understanding of Cold War tactics between the US and China:

• Realist paradigm:

Growing military modernization, bloc politics, creation of alliances, balance of power tactics and containment policies illustrate the notion of repetition of Cold War tactics. The fear is that world is on the verge of direct military confrontation. Peter Frankopan writes in the book "New Silk Road" that the world has been in "hot peace" and now again will descend into "Cold War" as long as the US and China engage in competition. John Mearsheimer, an offensive realist, opines in an article for "The National Interest" under the title of "Can China rise peacefully?" predicts that the US-China Cold War can result in the Thucydide Trap, both states will confront in the future.

- Liberalism paradigm:

liberals are with the view that Cold War tactics is a myth as the US and China are deeply interconnected in commercial terms. The business community and alliance members — which has good relations ~~between~~ with both the US and China — prevent the repetition of cold war tactics. Francis Fukuyama writes in a research paper for "Washington Quarterly" under the title "The Fundamentals of US-China Relations", that business community and members of various alliances work as "buffer" between the US and China. It, thus, prevent the repetition of Cold War politics.

- Constructivist paradigm:

The constructivists opine that the "Cold War" tactics between the US and China is just a constructed notion by media to shape public opinion. If they explore the areas of engagement such as climate change, global economic stability and their role in the UN, the Cold War mentality would ~~be~~ end. However, these concepts are just constructed to manipulate public opinion in favour or against something.

4) Russia and the New Cold War tactics:

Although many scholars opine that the West is not sleepwalking into a Cold War against

China, Russia is directly engaged in Cold War. The Ukraine war illustrates this notion. "The Ukraine War is the US' proxy war" said to be a new Cold War against China. However, John Mearsheimer writes that "Russia is a declining great power" that has no potential to engage in a new Cold War.

5) Conclusion:

The US-China competition will replicate the cold war tactics in the world. It has been ^{understood} in the US containment policy against China, growing economic competition, bloc politics and others. "Is the cold war a reality?" also debated in theoretical framework. Finally, it has also been analysed that Russia is not in a position to engage in a new Cold War against the West.

Q. No. 8 :

1) Introduction:

Saudi Arabia and Iran restored their relations after seven years of estrangement in a deal brokered by China on 10 March 2023. This deal has eroded the prospects of the US great game in the Middle East to control its energy resources and important trade routes. This deal has also reduced the US diplomatic clout in the Middle Eastern countries' affairs. Hence, it becomes pertinent to analyse the normalization between the KSA and Iran through the lenses of theoretical frameworks and its impacts on the the US great game policy in the Middle East.

2) Chinese mediated normalization of KSA-Iran relations as a biggest blow to the US great game policy in the Middle East:

a) Diminish in the US diplomatic clout:

The KSA-Iran rapprochement will diminish the US diplomatic influence on the Middle Eastern countries affairs. The US has long maintained "divide and rule" policy in the Middle East to wield a great deal influence in the region. However, China mediated deal to normalize KSA-Iran relations

shattered the US diplomatic influence.

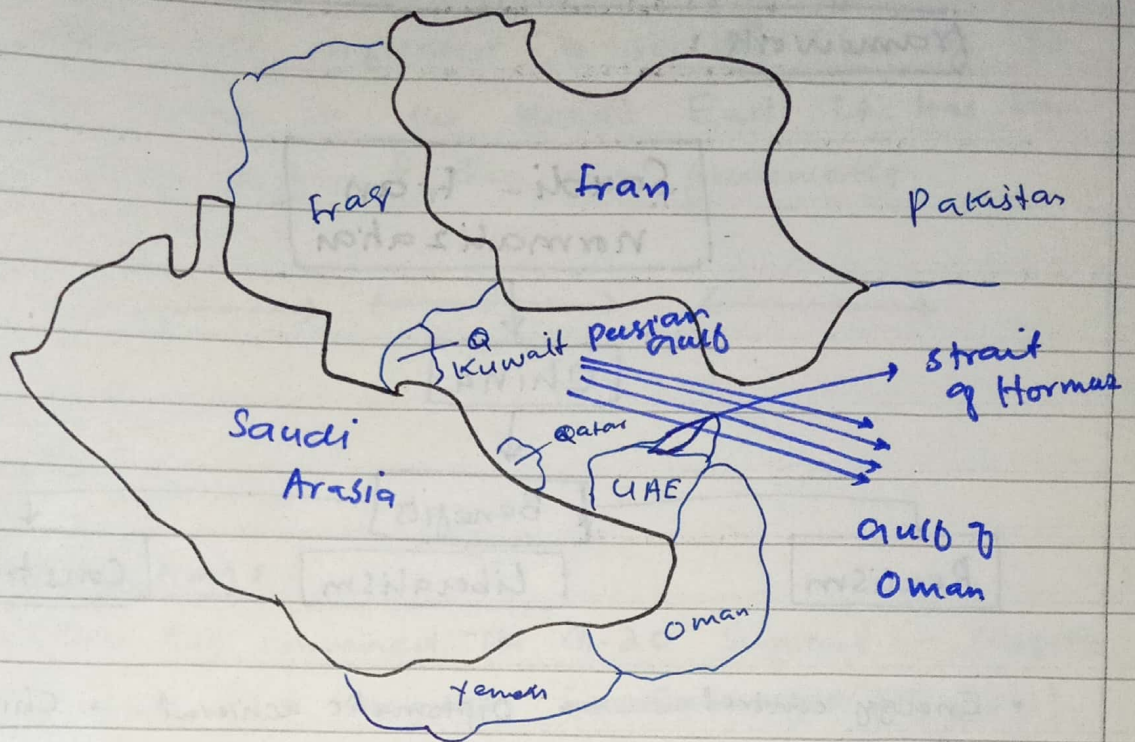
b) No control on energy geopolitics:

The US has played a great game in the geopolitical chessboard of the Middle East. It was aimed to control the energy of the region — it thus allows it to control the soul of global economy. For this, the US has fought several "proxy wars" and use the policy of "divide and rule" to control the resources rich region. Iran-Saudi rivalry provided numerous benefits to the US. However, Saudi-Iran deal shattered the hope of controlling the geopolitics of energy.

c) Diminish military influence at trade routes and chokepoints:

The US has made several military bases in the Middle East to control important trade routes and chokepoints. The most important chokepoint is the "Strait of Hormuz". The US tried to control this region through military ~~bases~~ bases, divide and rule policy and proxy wars. However, after the normalization of Saudi-Iran relations, it poses a serious threat to its influence in the region. On the contrary, it provides China leverage in the Middle East.

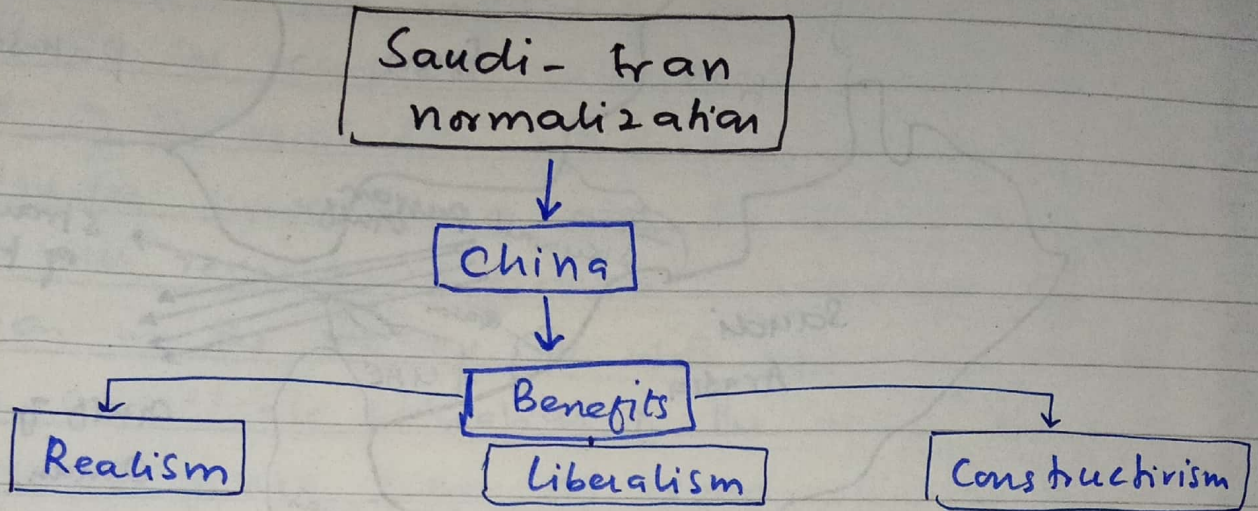
Saudi Arabia and Iran in the Middle East Map



d) Growth in China's influence:

This deal not only shattered the great game of the US in the Middle East, but it provided impetus to its competitor: China. China appears to be the main beneficiary of this deal. It not only guarantees its energy supply, but it also helps in China's rise to global supremacy. The politics of the Saudi-Iran creates a great impact on the future balance of power politics between great powers. It increases China's soft power and its economic development. Thus, Saudi-Iran normalization creates a huge repercussion on US great game in the Middle East.

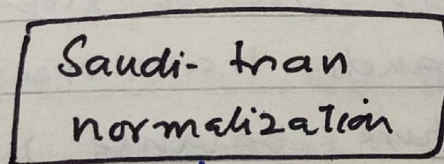
3) Saudi-Iran normalization and its impacts on great policy of US under theoretical framework:



- Energy control
- Industrialization
- Military modernization
- Creation of alliances
- Balance of power
- Reduction in the rival influence
- SCO strengthens

- Diplomatic achievement
- China's economic connectivity
- Increase in Trade
- Regionalism

- China as a peace-loving country
- The US is a destructor
- China as a world leader



- Influence of China
- Diminish in the US military influence

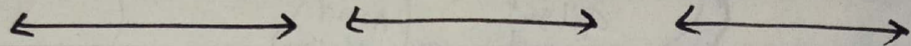
Impacts

- Failure of US diplomacy
- Lack of credibility

- Anti-US sentiment

4) Conclusion:

Saudi-Iran normalization of relations under China's mediation inflicted a serious blow to the US great game in the Middle East. It has been analysed under different theoretical frameworks.

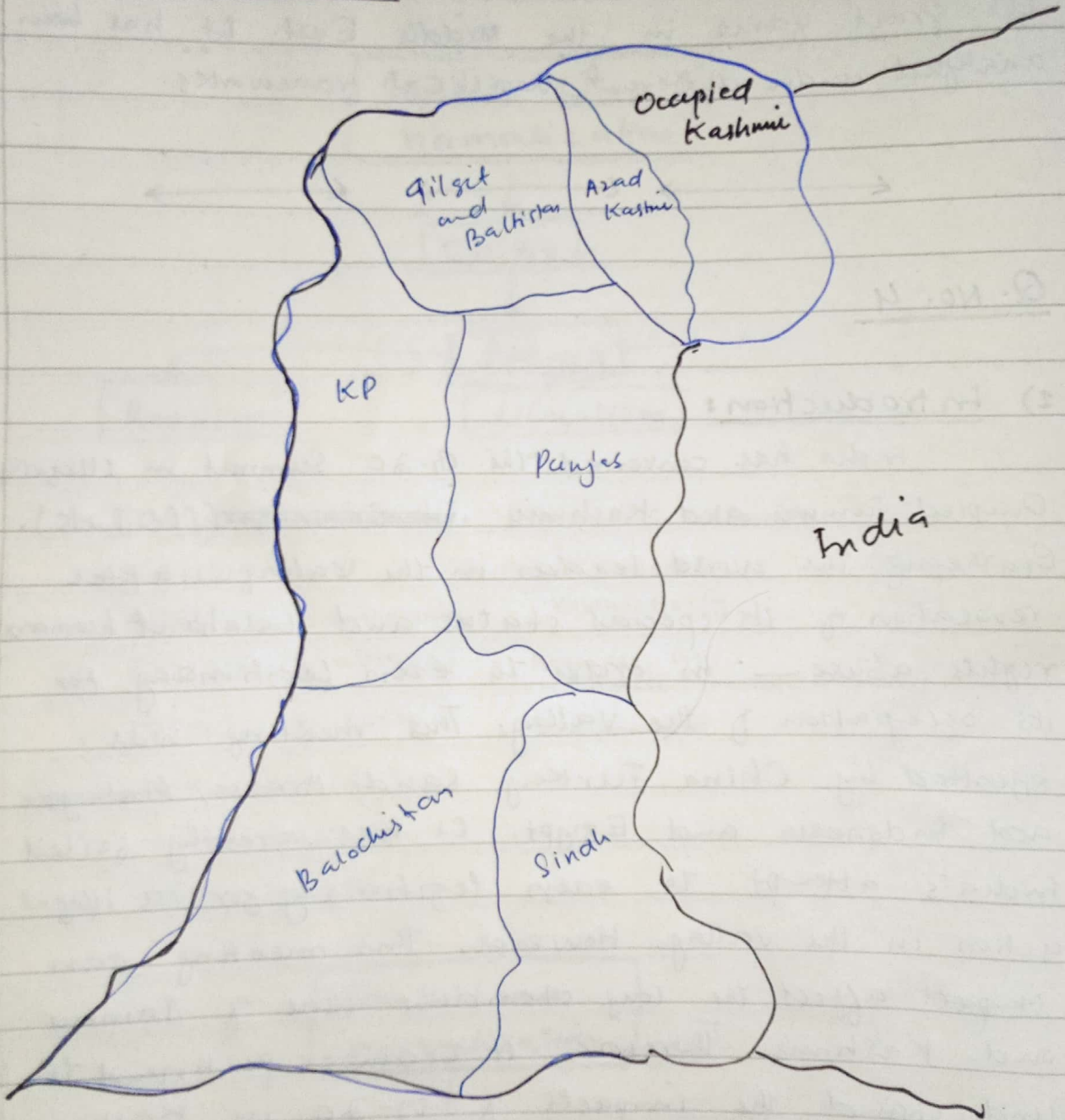


Q. No. 4

1) Introduction:

India has convened the G-20 Summit in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir ~~in Srinagar~~ (ILOJsk). Gathering the world leaders in the valley — after revocation of its special status and blatant human rights abuse — in order to earn legitimacy for its occupation of the valley. This meeting was boycotted by China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, ~~Malaysia~~ and Indonesia and Egypt. It has greatly foiled India's attempt to earn legitimacy for its illegal action in the valley. However, this meeting can ~~impact~~ affect the long-standing issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, it becomes pertinent to understand the impacts of G-20 in Kashmir through the lenses of theories of International Relations' discipline.

a) The impacts of G-20 summit in Kashmir on the protracted dispute between India and Pakistan:



a) Reducing the prospect of the resolution of Kashmir dispute :

The main impact of convening the G20 Summit in the occupied valley will reduce the prospect of the resolution of the dispute. As long as world leader keeps silence over the issue of Kashmir, India will receive confidence to increase its oppression in the valley. It will certainly result in the complicated situation of the issue. India faces no pressure from the world community as the leaders of the G20 - with the except of a few - that reduces the hope for the resolution of the dispute.

b) Violation of the UN resolutions :

As the UN resolutions bar both parties from bringing in any material change in the disputed region. However, India has taken unilateral action in the valley despite the presence of the resolution. It received impetus when the ~~was~~ G20 countries leaders visited the valley; without any condemnation, they kept silence on India's unilateral action. It clearly violates the UN resolutions. The violation of UN resolutions will reduce the prospect of the resolution of the issue of Kashmir.

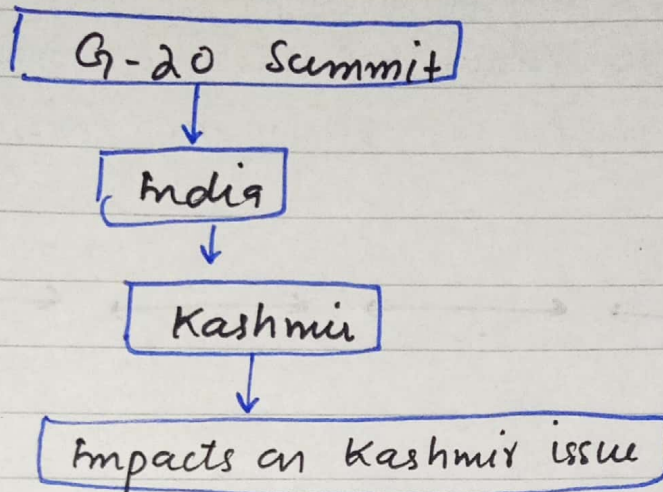
c) Increase in Indian oppression:

As the G20 countries' leaders gathered in Kashmir, they did not condemn India's oppression against the Kashmiris. Nor^{did} any leader ~~asked~~ about the situation of human rights under Narendra Modi government. It gives India an impetus to increase its oppression against Kashmiris. This certainly creates a wide gulf between India and Pakistan.

d) India's increased hostility against Pakistan:

The G20 Summit in Kashmir prompted Pakistan to respond India as the valley is a disputed territory. Instead of reversing the ~~autonomous~~ revocation of autonomous status of Kashmir, India's Defence Minister threatened to capture the Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. These actions would not only create hurdle for the resolution of Kashmir issue, but it also bring Pakistan and India on the verge of direct confrontation. The meeting of G20 in Kashmir has added into the confidence of India and it can go any length to promote its nefarious design. Thus, the G20 summit in Kashmir will increase India's hostility against Pakistan.

3) Theoretical understanding of the impacts of G20 on protracted dispute between India and Pakistan.



Realism

- Geopolitical influence of India
- Alliance's support for India
- War

Liberalism

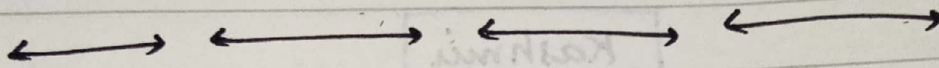
- Failure of UN resolutions
- Failure of diplomacy
- Human rights abuse

Constructivism

- Constructing opinion Kashmir is safe
- De jure recognition from G20 countries
- Favour of India
- Opinion of world community about Kashmir

4) Conclusion:

India has convened the G20 Summit in disputed region of Kashmir. It has a number of effects on the issue of Kashmir. Therefore, it has been debated through theoretical framework to assess the future of Kashmir issue after the G-20 summit in Srinagar, Kashmir.



Q. No. 5

1) Introduction: