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Q2

Ans:

Concept of Fascism

It is one of the political belief in the 20th century. Before the world war one, this concept of fascism was seen in the form of the 'Italian Fascist Party', and the ideological basis of politics of Nazi Party was Fascism. Both came to power in 1922 and 1933. ~~After~~ During the WW-II, Fascism movement too undergirds with the Nazi Germany's support. Such a movement was, in the past, led by charismatic and popular leaders, no matter how destructive they were, and converted the state into a totalitarian state. They were mostly adherence to the ethnocentric nationalism, considering their own language, flag, country, values, norms and history, as the most suitable thing in their history. This, often times, resulted into xenophobic behaviour towards other races, leading to racism, and discrimination. Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, and others were the top ~~top~~ Fascist ideologists. Italy and Germany were the foremost followers of this ideology, and it is certainly, in Germany, resulted from the defeat Germany faced in WW-1 which germinated into nationalistic waves of anger led by the Hitler, and yet again caused another world war, which not devastated Germany, but also the Europe.

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There are certain fundamentals that the leaders of Fascist movement follows:

Firstly, they try to gather people under the flag of nationalism, and lead them there. This, they do by promoting their identity (Prayers of Germans), values and consider themselves to be superior than any other nation.

Secondly, they adopt the totalitarian approach so as to regulate every aspect of the society, and try to create all-together kind of society and subdues any dissenting voice.

Thirdly, they always try to increase their military capabilities and expand them selves, even if they have to use force, and this way they try to dominate other countries and supervise them.

Fourthly, popularity is yet another characteristic, and generate a cult following, who think that their leader is the only one who can take care of us and all others are of no use. And this may result into a perniciously polarized society.

Lastly, they usually use propaganda, like Hitler had his associates who use to look after the negative news published against his leader and he then used propaganda to mitigate its effect.

Modi in the garments of German and Italian Fascist Leaders.

Modi, the most popular leader in India and also around the world, has also similarities with respect to the popular leaders of the past. He is categorised as a fascist leader due to his policies, actions and adherence to certain characteristics of fascist leaders, like that of authoritarianism, supremacist Hindu nationalistic ideology, Populism, and subduing dissenting voices and minority. Following are ways he's similar to past German and Italian leaders.

① Authoritarian Leadership - ~~Examining~~ Examining style:

Fascist leaders are usually the populist, who try to hold as much power as possible, and use their cult following for this purpose. Both Hitler and Mussolini had authoritarian approaches and centralised decision-making. Modi too has same type of tendencies to govern using centralised power of BJP and cult following. He, too is considered as charismatic leader as from the past like Hitler and Mussolini, who were able to galvanise a large support.

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① Modi's Nationalistic Approach:

In the past, fascist leaders, endeavored to create a collective society, based on single ideology of national identity. Modi is emphasizing on his Hindu nationalism approach, just as Hitler did using Aryan identity, and in this way create a pernicious society-polarized. In this way, ~~Modi~~ Modi has been marginalising the Muslim minorities especially, and Sikh too are being catapulted by the Modi fascist regime.

② Populist Appeal of Modi

Fascists, historically, relied upon mass mobilization. Modi's regime in India has garnered substantial support from a significant portion of population, particularly by appealing to Hindu sentiments, especially at the time of elections, and this help him to garner votes. Hitler too used his populist appeal to exterminate the Jews.

③ Propaganda and Control of Media:

Fascist use every mean possible to earn support and in this way, start propaganda and controlling the media. Modi regime has been accused of controlling the media, and that's why, ever since he came to power, media freedom ranking lowered from 150 to 161. But he uses propaganda and this way we have turned a blind eyes towards his aggressive policies.

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Q3

Ans:

Introduction:

The current state of global world has led some analysts to suggest that the world is witnessing a repetition of cold war tactics. By drawing upon the theory of ^{realism} ~~realism~~, one can examine the power struggles among states and pursuit for national interests, which were key to cold war epoch. The power blocs, proxy wars, and arms race were fundamentals during the cold war era and now one can easily see the same thing repeating itself. Neorealism which focuses on international system, suggests the shift from uni-polar to multipolar, the presence of security dilemma among major poles, ideological competition. These changes suggest the recurrence of some old cold war tactics, but in new dynamics. It is, however, important to analyze this with understanding of contemporary context and the unique geopolitical landscape of today.

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Power Blocs or Haunting ghost of Realism

Formation of power blocks, one of the significant feature, led by US and USSR - Nato and Warsaw Pact respectively. Today, we can see the emergence of new alliances: Chinese increasing influence through BRI initiative and US-led alliance in the Indo-Pacific region.

Proxy Wars or Another Genre of Realism

Cold war era was full of proxy wars in Vietnam, Korean peninsula, Cuba and also in Latin America, by US led alliances - Nato and USSR-led alliance - Warsaw. Similarly, these days, we have seen proxy conflicts in Yemen, Syria and now in Ukraine, here major powers are backing the opposite sides and reminiscencing the old cold war.

Arms Race: Manifestation of Realism

Arms race had been a major factor in old cold war, competing forces were USA and USSR. Proliferation of nuclear weapons and industrialisation of conventional had become norms. Today, it alternatively, changed into modernisation of weapons, build-up of arms in case of USA, China, Russia and others as well, which has turned into a lethal competition.

Realism posits that international politics is driven by power competition among states to maximize their interests. The cold war of 20th century was a rivalry between USA and USSR, two super powers, fighting for dominance. Similarly, from above discussion, we can see power competition between different states, leading to the recurrence of cold war tactics.

Neorealism, an offshoot of classical realism, examines the role of the international system's structure in shaping state behavior. Aspects of cold war are reflected in current dynamics of world, supporting the notion of a recurrence of cold war ~~tactics~~ tactics again, from the following discussion.

Self Help:

States primarily rely on self-help strategies to ensure their security. This shows that states prioritize their own interests and are prepared to act independently to guard their national security. States' pursuit of military capabilities, investment in defense and emphasis on national security measures.

Relative Gains:

Neorealism highlights the concerns of states about relative gains of power and security. States are cautious about engaging or even cooperating if they perceive that others may

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benefit more than them. This can lead to a competitive environment and reluctance to fully cooperate, which may lead to yet another cold war.

Balance of Powers:

Neorealism defines the concept of balance of power among states to maintain stability. States seek to ^{counter} the power of dominant actors by forming the alliances. This can be seen through the efforts of states to align themselves to Chinese BRI and Indo-Pacific alliance by USA to counter the influence of rising power.

Conclusion:

The world is witnessing the emergence of yet another cold war, through tactics of old, is justified through the lens of IR theories. Realism highlights the power struggle and the neo-realism, balance of powers, self-help and relative gains and others as well.

Q8

Ans:

Introduction

The rapprochement between KSA and Iran, mediated by China is believed to be significant for USA's 'the great game' in the middle east. This development has got attention due to its potential impact on the US's influence in the region. China's involvement in mediating the normalization is ~~driven~~ driven by its economic interests and averse to secure energy resources of central Asia, Iran, KSA and Gulf. It provides an opportunity to China to influence and challenge the USA's might in the middle east. The improved relations ~~will~~ between KSA and Iran could contribute to stability in the region and also cooperation. However, this turn may strain US-led alliances like Gulf states, and may force the US to look into ~~its~~ its commitments to human rights. In this way, the implications of the Chinese-mediated rapprochement between KSA and Iran extend beyond regional geopolitics and raise important questions for US tactical interest in the middle east.

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Economical Implication of Reapproachment of USA :-

China is the world's largest importer of oil and it relies on countries of middle east heavily for its imports. The normalization of ties between KSA and Iran may secure China's imports and it may have greater influence over regional energy markets, challenging the US's control over these markets. As per the theory of realism, China is driven by its self-interest and pursuit of influence and that is why it is challenging the US's influence.

Impact on US-led Alliances:

The rapprochement could strain the US-led alliances, especially GCC countries. Historically, the US has maintained close ties with the GCC, including the KSA. If KSA turns towards Iran then it may divide the alliances, and pose challenge to US efforts to maintain cohesion and influence among its member states.

Human Rights:

US has been critical of Iran's human rights situation and supported KSA, even though concerns are there too. The normalization may turn US to look for a balanced strategic interest and its commitments to promote human rights and democratic values in the region.

Counterbalancing the Influence of US

China's meddling in the middle east, including its mediation efforts resulting into rapprochement between KSA and Iran, allows it to mitigate the influence US has in this region. By creating closer ties between the erstwhile two rivals, China can expand its economic, diplomatic, and strategic presence, challenging the US hegemony and diminishing the effectiveness of US decisions and alliances in the middle east.

Conclusion:

Chinese mediation resulted into normalization of ties between two arch rivals, which had tremendous impacts on US great game in the middle east. It becomes evident that normalization challenges the cohesion of these alliance of all, threatening US dominance and influence in the region, which in turn strengthens the presence and influence of China there in the region.