

Q 2)

Introduction

Kantian notions of economic interdependence that once characterized the liberal world order is on the retreat. The rise of China, revival of Russian power and a fearful U.S. are the three main actors driving this trend. The efforts to constrain the rise of other powers by the U.S. is contributing to this interdependence decline in various ways that can threaten peace.

1) US Containment Strategies

a) Revival of Bloc Politics

The US is reviving the tools that characterized containment in the Cold War. Despite Xi's desire to see 'a world where both powers can

achieve 'Success Peacefully' (2022)
the U.S has persisted in containing
China through deepening patrols
in the South China Sea with
allies such as the Philippines.
The formation of old style
blocs such as AUKUS, Quad
are also indicative of this
strategy. In light of this
aggressive posturing China is
left with little option but to
seek different economic
partners for strategic and
vital resources, which lowers
interdependency.

b) The Use of Sanctions
limiting trade.

The U.S and NATO Sanctions
on Chinese firms such as
Huawei and policies to
restrict the transfer of
technologies such as microchips

is attacking economic interdependency. China in 2023 imported \$20 billion more Micro Chips than Crude oil. Thus such policies directly attack the Chinese economy.

C) The isolation of Russia

Post 2014, Russia has increasingly become the target of U.S Sanctions. Post 2022, the EU announced Sweeping Sanctions despite depending on Russia for 40% of their Gas Needs. The bombing of Nord Stream was another indicator of the end of trade.

D) Tariffs and Trade Wars

John Mear Shiemer in his book 'The tragedy of great Power Politics' dedicated the final

Chapter to US-China rivalry. He elaborated in 2015 that under realist logic, a US-China trade war is inevitable. Trump's aggressive policies were maintained by the Biden administration which increased limitations. Trump is currently advocating for a 200% tariff on Chinese EVs while Europe is contemplating tariffs of 30% on EVs. Such is unsurprising given how NATO labelled China a "Threat" in 2022.

2 The Decline of Globalization

End of interdependency

L> Growing Bloc Politics

L> Growing inter bloc trade

L> De linking of Supply Chains

L> Strategic OffShoring

India is an example of how the U.S wishes to offShore trade.

Apple factories, encouraging the movement of American firms and investment highlight how the U.S seems to divert trade from China. This flies in the face of economic sense of comparative advantage and globalization.

- The U.S Chips Act

3 Why This Prevents Peace

The liberal interdependency theory rests on a few key assumptions

1) Growing trade between States raises the Cost of Conflict

2) In Computing Cost - Benefit of Conflict more interdependence increases Costs

3) Thus States are less likely to go to war

4) Interdependency in the international Community makes the Collective unite against Conflict.

Thus war and Conflict goes against the "Enlightened Long term interests" of the Collective.

Rational actors will therefore avoid Conflict.

- A world with less trade has less cost of conflict which makes war more palpable.

4) US China Strategy

a) China's Growth Driven Strategy

According to Senator Musshahid China is currently following the geo economic model of increasing influence. This increases Chinese power while also promoting the "Enlightened Self interest"

b) US Bloc Politics

The US on the other hand aims to economically and strategically isolate China to maintain the status quo to ensure its hegemony.

5) Conclusion

Thus increasing rivalry driven by the U.S policy of containment to ensure hegemony is resulting in increased rivalry between the great powers that is extending into the economic domain. This is resulting in the lowering of economic interdependency which according to Neo-liberal theory increases the chances of conflict by lowering the cost associated with it.

Q 4)

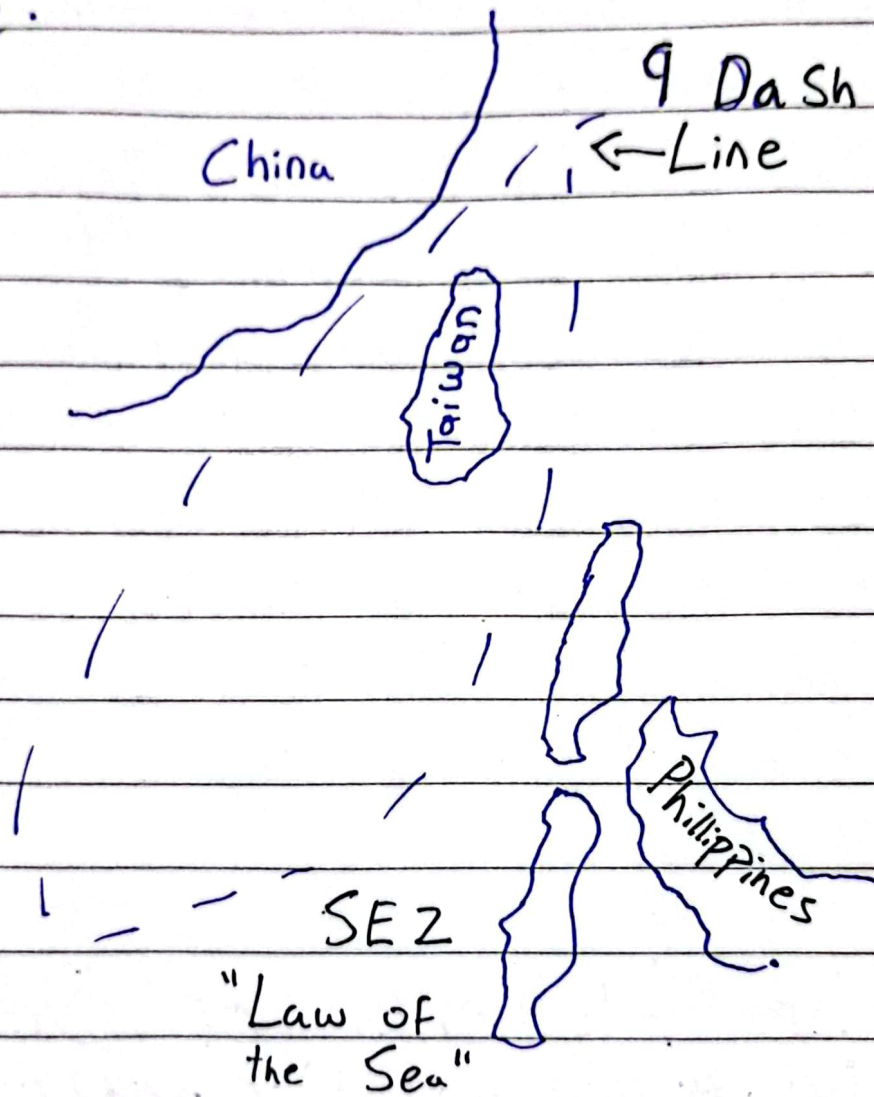
Introduction

Multipolarity is growing stronger as the world transitions away from the 'Unipolar Moment' of the 1990s. A weakened U.S. post War on Terror, the rise of China, Resurgence of Russia and growing Middle powers all indicate the power shift. However as power transitions, the intensity of conflicts are rising as the Status Quo is challenged.

2 The Elements of Growing Multipolar Disorder

a) Growing Chinese Ambitions
China's rise since the 1990s has shaken the foundations of Pax Americana and the

Status quo. While deng xiao Ping advocated for China 'biding its time', xi Jinping has been more willing to exert Chinese power on the world stage.



China has become more forceful over its claims to Taiwan and its "9 Dash line" which impinges on the Special Economic Zones

of its South East neighbours.

b) Resurgent Russia

Continued NATO expansion into Russian Spheres of influence led to the Crimean reaction in 2014. Failure to understand Russian red lines thus led to the 2022 invasion furthering the disconnect, economic ties between Europe and Russia. Russia has also been forceful in defending her interest in Syria, clashing with U.S interests while furthering relations with states such as Iran.

c) Weakening U.S Power

The US post failure in the war on terror has weakened relative to others growing powers. With over 20 trillion USD in debt and failure

Day: _____

Date: _____

in the Middle East Policy, the US ~~may~~ is losing ground to other great powers in the Global South, and in Central Asia post Afghanistan pull out.

D) Disorder in Western Democracy

The rise of Donald Trump led to the rise of the far right, and protectionist politics. The recent EU elections, rise of the Reform Party in the UK, and growing Euro-Skepticism has led to growing disunity and disillusionment in the West. If Trumpian politics was to again take hold, the US and EU relationship may be ~~irreparably~~ ^{irreparably} damaged.

Day: _____

Date: _____

E) Decline in the Liberal Rule Based Order

The war in Gaza post October 7th has highlighted the hypocrisy of human rights, the questioning of Western designs, and log jam in the UNSC as a result of U.S protection of Israel.

The inability of the UN to perform its role, Conservative Britain questioning the ICC's Mandate, and alienation of the General Assembly, Multi-lateral Co-operation is on the decline.

F) Growing North South Divide.

In light of the rise in other Great powers, the Global South is increasingly turning away from the West

- The establishment of new forums such as BRICS
- New funding channels such as AIIB
- New security partners e.g., Russian Wagner replaces French in the Sahel
- Growing public pressure in light of Western hypocrisy e.g., Gaza, ICJ.

G) US attempts to limit other Great Powers

- i) The rise in bloc politics through AUKUS, Quad
- ii) The application of sanctions and trade limits on Russia, China
- iii) US pressure making NATO label China as a "Threat"
- iii) US alliances in South Asia to contain China e.g. Philippines under Marcos

3) The Disorder in Light of Power Transition Theory

- Power transition theory states that whenever another power rises that may threaten the existing hegemon, conflict is most likely i.e. Thucydides Trap.
- The challenger may spark conflict or the hegemon may start a "Pre-emptive war."
- The U.S. has decided that a "Pre-emptive" economic war is necessary to prevent China's rise. Alliances are being made by both sides to balance against each other.

- China is looking to alter the balance of power through 'geo economic Strategy' example OBOR, BRI over \$1 trillion invested

3 Conclusion

Thus the Multipolar world today is largely in disorder as a result of the U.S aiming to stop a hegemon from being created. The rising power of China, Russia has allowed for a coalition of nations who wish to change the status quo to ally against the Western desire to maintain it.

Given growing power of the East this disorder is likely to rise as the new 'Cold War' takes place.

Q6

Introduction

The post Cold War world left the U.S as the Sole Superpower in a world without a Nemesis. This striking change of the world order led to many different theories to analyse what the world of the future may look like. The End of History and the Last Man and The Clash of Civilization were two such works that predicted the world of the future.

1) The End of History Francis Fukuyama

Fukuyama in an article, later published into a book in the early 1990s foresaw a number of changes.

i) The end of ideological war with liberalism overcoming facism and Communism

ii) The Spread of liberalism as now proven as the most Successful Model around the World

iii) The growth of interdependence and democracy therefore ushering in World peace according to democratic peace theory.

¶ Fukuyama believed the Struggle of thesis and anti-thesis was now Concluded and that a world of liberal, democratic, globalized peace would now occur, led by U.S hegemony

2) Huntington's Clash of Civilizations

Samuel P. Huntington published the Clash of Civilizations as a rebuttal to his former student Fukuyama.

The theory believes:

i) The end of ideological clash will now revert man to his previous differences.

ii) Predicted 'Civilizations' based on culture, history will now become the focus for conflict.

iii) Categorized the world into several civilizations predicting US conflict with the Sino-Islamic alliance.

Francis Fukuyama

i) Liberalism and Peace

ii) End to war

iii) U.S hegemony

Huntington

ii) Civilizational Conflict

ii) Increase in war

iii) Rise of East

Huntington believed that 'Clashes' between civilizations shall become common and that push back against US export of culture will be most pronounced in the Islamic world.

3) Application of Both Theories to the Modern World

a) The End of History: Today

Francis Fukuyama's "Liberal Paradise" has not come to fruition due to a variety of developments

i) The rise of illiberal Orders

The rise of China is one of the largest questions that defeats the end of the 'ideological clash'. The dialectic history and clash of thesis and anti-thesis lives on today.

ii) Democratic illiberalism in the West

The rise of illiberal and/or right wing movements in the West has destabilized the very concept of liberal supremacy. Ideological clashes live on

11) • Trump in the U.S

12) • Le Pen in France

• AfD in Germany

• Reform Party in the U.K

iii) World - Wide Democracy Slowdown

According to the Economist 2023 Democracy Index, the proportion of people living in non-democratic and flawed states has risen above 50%. Democracy has failed to spread.

b) The Clash of Civilizations : Today.

i) Increase in Civilizational Conflict from Within

Inter - Civilizational Conflict is not as pronounced as Intra - Civilizational Conflict.

- Civil Wars : Burma, Syria
- Iran - Saudi Dispute
- Civil Wars in Africa and State Conflict : Ethiopia vs Egypt

ii) The rise of Great Power Conflict

China and the U.S according to many are once again in a New Cold War.

This conflict according to realists such as Mearsheimer is driven by power and not culture or civilizations.

4) The Most Relevant Today.

While both theories do not adequately define the events of the Modern World, the Clash of Civilizations in Modern Times is more relevant in describing conflicts.

- The Israel-Palestine Conflict
- Islamic world's reaction against the West
- Civilizational fault lines
e.g. Nagorno-Karabakh

5) Conclusion

Therefore in the Modern age the Clash of Civilizations may be able to describe some conflicts. However, the rise in intra - Civilizational conflicts and realist great power clashes are still detracting from both the 'Clash of Civilizations' and 'the End of history'.

Q8

B) Russia - NATO

NATO, established in 1949 was created to ensure the collective security of Western Europe against the USSR. However post World Cold War the alliance has increasingly pivoted towards the containment of Russia leading to confrontation.

1) Elements of the Confrontation

a) NATO Enlargement

During German Unification, Assistant Secretary of State for the U.S. gave verbal assurances that NATO would not "Expand an inch Eastward".

However post collapse, and the weak state of Russia under Boris Yeltsin allowed for the incorporation of former Soviet Satellite States.

- The Baltics 2004
- Poland
- The Balkans, particularly Romania

The inclusion of Finland in 2022 furthered Russian fears of encirclement

b) Democratic expansion or Realist Power Play?

The European powers and US justify NATO expansion on grounds of democratic peace.

This was the argument espoused to break the verbal agreement and expand NATO borders.

Russia however sees this as moves to weaken her standing. These fears are accentuated by the trauma of WW2.

C) Rise of Russia Under Putin

With Putin at the helm, Russia made it clear that further NATO enlargement would be resisted. This security dilemma was visible in Georgia in 2008 and Crimea 2014, which concluded with the Minsk Agreement.

D) Ukrainian Protest Movement

By 2020, the Russian favourable government which once ruled Kiev was long

gone. Russia accused the U.S of backing anti-Russian Sentiments in Ukraine. Given the election of Zelensky, and repeated European advocacy for Ukraine to join NATO and the EU, Putin made Ultimatums, such as his January letter of 2022. Nevertheless, NATO did not let go of the possibility leading to an invasion in 2022.

E) Post Ukraine

NATO - Russian relations are at their lowest point since 1991. Both are locked into a Security Dilemma where the increase in power in one party, directly affects the other. Relations in the future cannot improve unless NATO accepts no further expansion.

Q 8

c) Pak - Afghan Relations

Since Taliban takeover in 2021 Pakistan - Afghan relations have deteriorated sharply as a result of Afghan sheltering of TTP fighters.

1. Dynamics

a) Afghan Refusal To Accept the Obvious

Pakistan's efforts at stemming the TTP have been stonewalled by the Afghan refusal to accept what the UN report on terrorism in Afghanistan has verified. TTP terrorist receiving funding and training from Al Qaida, while the Afghan Taliban provides sanctuary.

b) Pakistan Bombing in 2022

Pakistan responded by aeri ally bombing targets in Afghanistan to Send a Clear Message.

The Afghan response however Stayed the Same with interior Minister Haqqani Saying

"The TIP is Pakistan's internal affair"

c) Pakistan Limiting Trade

In order to get the Taliban to acknowledge the issue Pakistan has resorted to limiting trade and imposing restrictions of the movement of Afghans in Pakistan.

d) Afghan Repatriation Efforts

While Pakistan repatriated many Afghans under the Care taker government, Pakistan Paused the program in 2024 for one year at

the request of the UN and Taliban. This was a way of extending an olive branch.

E) Pakistan Support of Engaging the Taliban

Pakistan actively supported efforts to engage with the Taliban urging the international community to look at the humanitarian side. This was instrumental in the 2024 Taliban talks in Doha.

Yet Pakistan is also urging the international community to pressurize Taliban support for the TTP.

F) Border Clashes and Fencing

The Taliban refuse to accept the Durand line and thus are impeding Pakistani efforts to seal the borders. Numerous cross-border attacks

have taken place due to
Afghan intransigence

G) Dynamics in Light of Events

Pakistan and Afghanistan are today in a quagmire. The Taliban refuses to act against the TTP while not accepting the Durand Line. Pakistan wants the Taliban in power but wishes it to respect Pakistan's security. More efforts to improve relations will likely come through economic redressal. There is an understanding that a more stable, recognized Taliban regime would be more able to act against the TTP. Pakistan aims to improve the situation through economics, and recognition.