

# IR-1 MOCK-4 22/08/24 QUESTION NO-2

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## INTRODUCTION

The post-structuralist school of thought finds its roots in the post-Soviet Union era. This school is also referred to as the post-modernist and post-functional school of thought. This school challenges the notion of the relevance and assumptions of the traditional schools of IR (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, English School). This school consists of the following theoretical frameworks

- a) Post-modernism
- b) Critical Theory
- c) Constructivism
- d) Feminism

Try to make flow chart

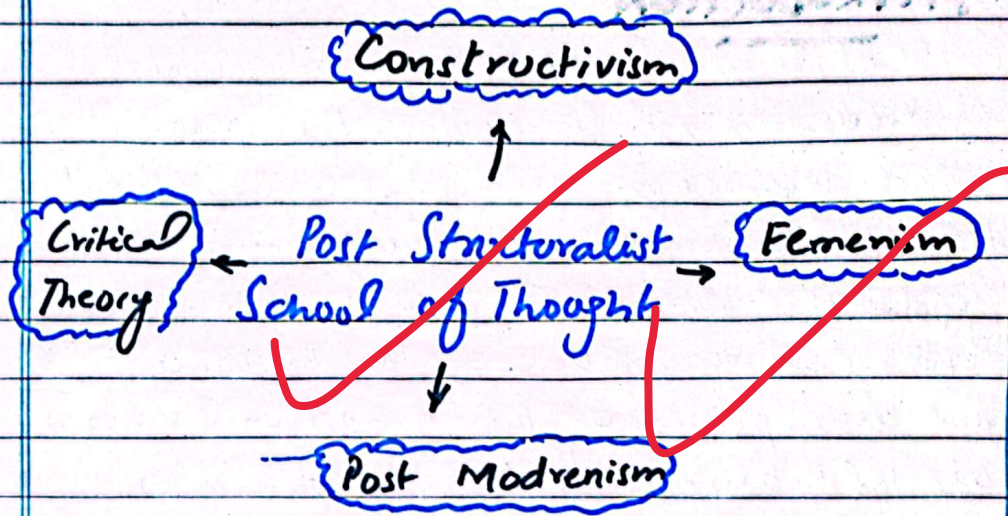
These theories challenge the basic perception of global events and advocate for deeper social understanding of the issue.

## ASSUMPTIONS OF POST-STRUCTURALIST SCHOOL

Discuss first part that how it has eroded

As mentioned above, this school consists of the following four theoretical frameworks.

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## Constructivism

Founder / Prominent Thinker: Alexander Wendt

Definition/Assumptions:

A theory adopted from sociology. Alexander Wendt emphasized the utility of norms and identities in the international sphere. Moreover, he took a closer look at the interactions between actors.

Constructivists view the interactions and the norms and identities as important play makers in IR.

## Post Modernism

Prominent Thinker: - Richard Ashley

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Definition/assumptions:

Post-Modernism, a theory adopted from journalism, questions the very essence of the state-centric decision making apparatus. Moreover, it criticizes the policy tools provided by the traditional schools and emphasizes society as a whole.

## Critical Theory

Prominent Thinkers: Andrew Linklater and Robert Cox.

Definition/Assumptions:

This School of thought originated in Frankfurt after prominent thinkers from the East German/Soviet side fled the school. It is grounded in Marxist theory.

It advocates for societal change through mass movements and replacing the status-quo, who the school views as those who run the present system to benefit themselves.

## Feminism

Prominent Thinkers: Cynthia Enloe.

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### Definition/Assumptions:

This theory was injected into IR circles and aimed to draw attention to women's role in the global arena. It takes a sociological approach and approaches gender as an identity and analyzes how it influences decision-making in the international sphere.

## RELEVANCE OF POST-STRUCT. SCHOOL

### Constructivism and its Relevance

Constructivism takes a deep dive into the role of actor's identity and their interactions between others. This can be best illustrated by an example. Constructivists view Donald Trump's identity as an important factor in the US-China trade war during his term. The issue of tariffs was discussed with Obama too but it was Trump and his hawkish trade policies that put/levied tariffs on Chinese aluminum and steel.

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## Critical Theory and its Relevance

Critical theory takes a hit at the current international political system. It criticizes that the current system is rigged in favour of the status quo who use it to consolidate more influence.

For example, while realists might argue <sup>about</sup> the efficacy of war and its types, critical theorists argue that war is only a ploy that the military industrial complex uses to consolidate its hegemony.

## Post-Modernism and its Relevance

Post-modernism is highly relevant in today's post truth world. It emphasizes on a flexible approach towards the international system and emphasizes the diversity of human experience and subjectivity of human thought.

For post modernists, the way Israel uses the Holocaust and antisemitism banner is <sup>one</sup> a way that it consolidates power and <sup>if which</sup> influences its policies around the world and towards the Palestinian population.

**EXPLANATORY  
VARIABLES  
ASSUMPTIONS OF THIS  
SCHOOL**

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## Emphasis Role of Norms and Identities

Constructivism and allied school put more attention on the norms and identities of actors in the international sphere. Where the traditional school takes them for granted, this school puts a spotlight on them.

Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan can be viewed through this. With KSA the country has a long standing rivalry while Pakistan it doesn't. Its hostile posturing is more explained by these variables.

## Narratives shape Interactions between actors

Post modernism, emphasizes that narratives are of the utmost importance. They shape the interactions between actors.

Modi's narrative of 'Love Jihad' and other hate filled narratives against ultimately shape the interactions between India and Pakistan. These are used to explain the intense posturing by both sides.

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## Actors are not only states

Critical theory and <sup>post modernism</sup> ~~as others~~ argues that the actors are not only states in the international area. For critical theory, actors include mass social movements and those who challenge the status quo through movements. Greta Thunberg, for critical theory, is an actor in the international sphere as she is challenging those in power to take action to prevent/slow down climate change.

## Flexible approach towards the global paradigm

Post-modernism advocates for flexible approach towards the global system. It is against the rational, objective view of the traditional <sup>is</sup>, it believes nothing is truly objective and everything is subjective. The war in Gaza, for post modernists, it considers social media and its influence as an actor in this, too. The traditional media usually sides with Israel while Gen-2 led social media is showing the plight of the Gazans.

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You have good command over the topic yet you have missed the first part of the question

## CONCLUSION

Post modernists/structuralist school has challenged the traditional school of IR, as it's providing a better explanation for the current. The analysis it provides incorporates various variables and gives an indepth approach to the global events.

## QUESTION 5

### INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION OF STRATEGIC CULTURE

Strategic culture is a word that widely comes up when <sup>someone</sup> the debate of <sup>on</sup> a <sup>a</sup> country's military. Strategic culture can be best defined as

(The set of attitudes and beliefs held within a military establishment concerning the political objective of war and most effective



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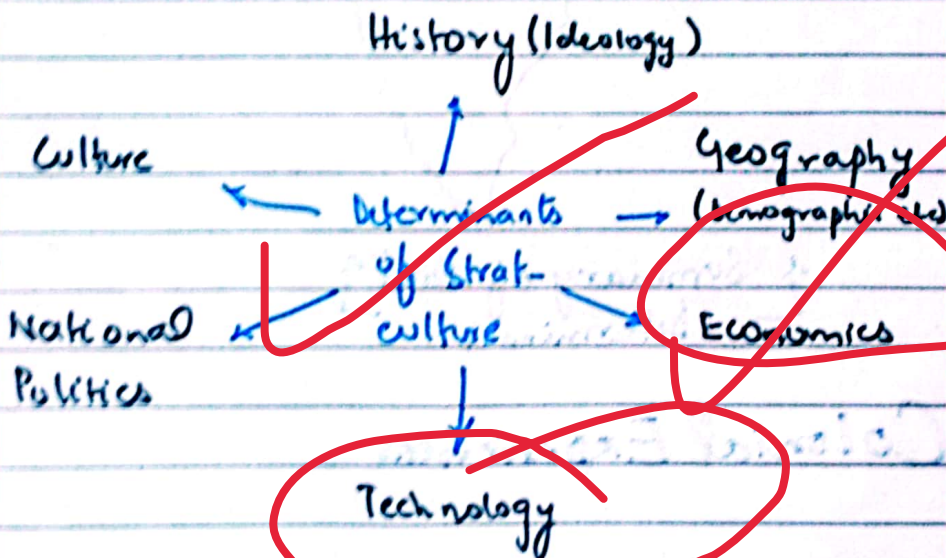
strategy and operational  
methods of achieving

The picture is too blur

Strategic culture focuses on primarily  
three things:

- a) Establishment of military power
- b) where military power can be used to achieve political goals in a war
- c) Where war can be a continuation of politics

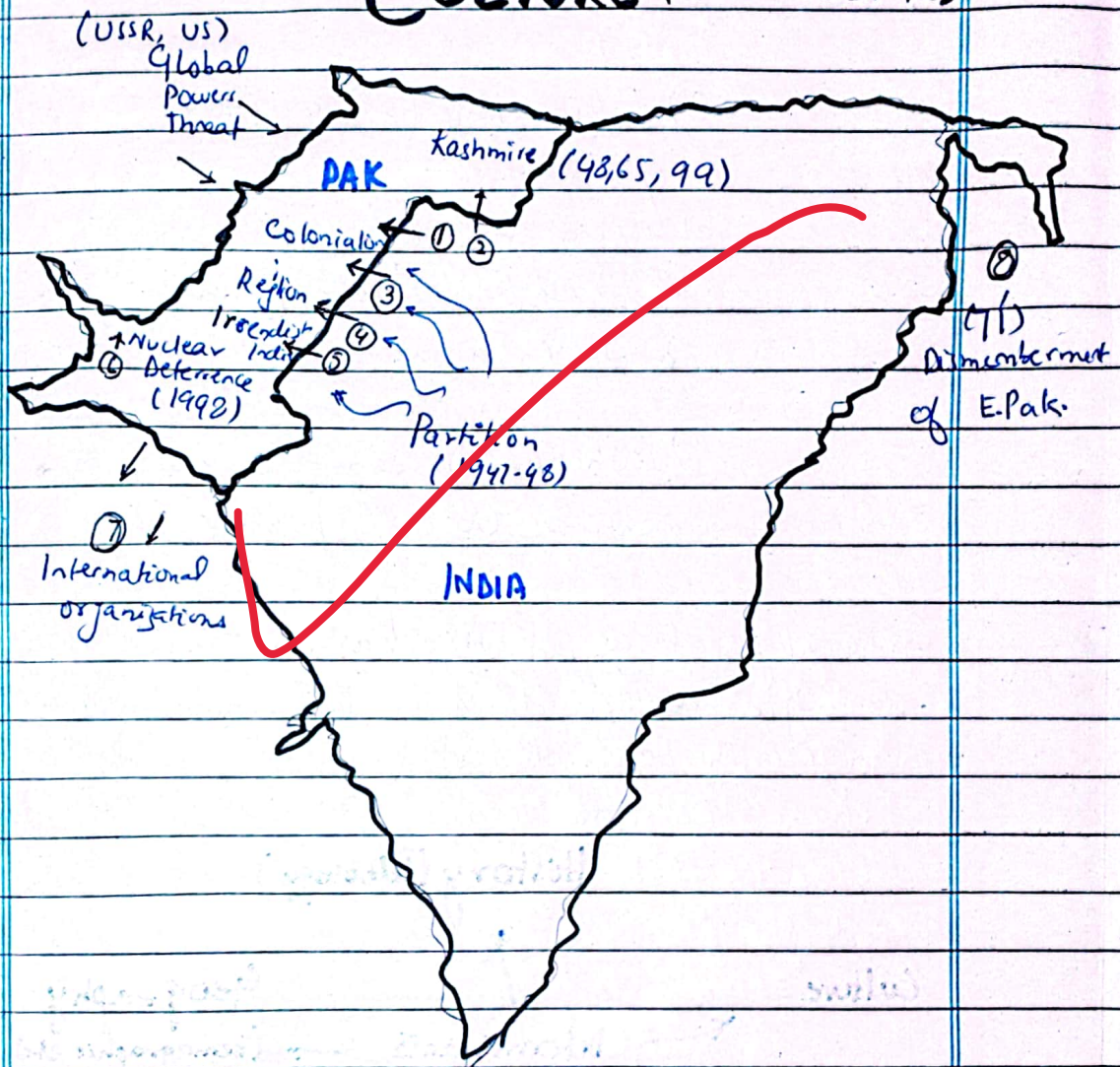
Generally, every country has its own strategic culture, however the commonalities might be as follows:



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# MAJOR DETERMINANTS OF PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC

## CULTURE (STRATCULTURE)



Summary of Pak's  
Determinant

Rephrase it

Colonial Experiences

Mark Binskey notes in his paper

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of Pakistan's strategic culture that colonialism shaped the present thinking of military. After WW2, the majority of the manpower was taken from either NWFP or Punjab; it is no wonder that they played a vital role and were nicknamed 'the sword <sup>arm</sup> of the Raj'. In his paper, he found that the British deliberately recruited soldiers from these areas over the rest of the subcontinent. Mountbatten's actions were aggravated there. A sense of superiority and was inculcated by the Brits, <sup>in officers</sup> from these parts.

## Partition - A major Reset

However, the biggest blow to the British and the military was given during partition. When Muslim officers saw the carnage and the death & destruction during <sup>the</sup> migration. It inculcated <sup>in</sup> British a sense of vengeance and betrayal by the <sup>in</sup> the new state's officer. The officers, realised in <sup>constructivist terms</sup> realist terms, that to fend for themselves they need to reorient their thinking.

## Religion - major Basis of the Culture

The country was formed on the basis of religion. It was to be a safe haven for Muslims in the subcontinent. However, the carnage

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made it clear that the ambitions of  
irrecondist India were not till the border.  
In true realistic terms, the country and the  
straw military realised the anarchic situation.  
They gathered under the banner of religion and  
a doctrine of 'Islam in danger' was born.

## Kashmir - A major cause of the current strat culture

### Link with opposing Indian Hegemony

During the 1948 Kashmir, the failure of  
the military chief (then a British officer)  
to mobilise troops to support the tribals,  
in time made the leader of the nation realise  
the importance of an all muslim army. A similarly  
Kashmir played vital role in shaping the  
country's goals and ambition.

Prevention of Indian Expansionism  
and the retaking of Kashmir from them was  
a cornerstone of the strat culture.

## Fall of Dhaka - A major Strategic Shock

Ideological Expansionism truly came to play  
when Indian supported policies fought  
along the Indian led military in East  
Pakistan. The result was the dismemberment  
of the country. The country bowed to itself  
'Never again' and in true realistic terms

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crafted its policy on the lines of Escalation, Dominations, and Balance of Power.

## International Power Game to Ensure Balance of Power

The country was an active partner in SEATO, CENTO both (US led blocs) in order to balance the power dynamics in the region. The country allied with the west to ensure its survivability and ensure balance through international blocs and partnerships.

## Indian Expansionism - Building Block of Stratculture

An Imperialist India has always been the worry and fear of Pakistan. As Mountbatten is said to have remarked

"Pakistan was not economically viable and would come begging to rejoin India within six months - it would fall like a house of cards."  
(Lord Mountbatten)

Indian expansionism and its threat of destabilizing the country was always there.

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## Nuclear Deterrence achieved for Balance of Power in the region

Balance of Power and to offset the numerical balance in asymmetrical warfare was done through achieving nuclear capability. The doctrine that Pakistan follows is India-centric and the only reason for their existence is counter the balance of power is India's favour.

## Influence of Terrorism and war on Terror

The country paid a heavy price during the counter insurgency operations in the west of the country. Fatigal reorganization and complete revamp of the doctrine was to combat asymmetrical threat. In terms of posturing, the country adopted a policy of offensive realism against the western border while defensive with the Eastern.

Link your each heading to strategic culture

## CONCLUSION

Pakistan's strategic culture is made up of the experience, as constructivism, would argue, of partition, colonialism

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Indian hegemony in the region, existential threats and the desire to maintain the balance of power within the region. Moreover, Kashmir, Islam and terrorism also played a big role in defining the culture, the country has today.

Search for the topic, you haven't related much argument with actual definition of strategic culture

## QUESTION 7

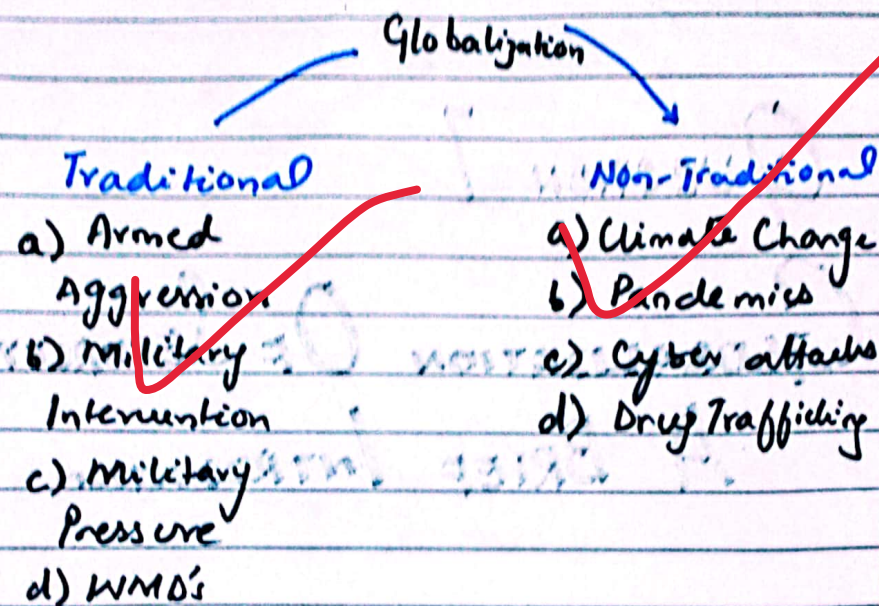
# GLOBALIZATION OF SECURITY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Barry Buzan in his book *People, States and Fear* contended that the concept of security was too narrowly founded. In an attempt to redefine security he defined it as the following:

'Security is to be taken as the pursuit of freedom from the threat and the ability of states/societies to maintain their independent and their individual functional integrity against forces of change which they see as hostile' - (Barry Buzan)

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Buzan argued that the era of globalization has created a shift from traditional security threats to non-traditional security threats.



## AFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION SECURITY IN 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

### a) Cyber Attacks and Security Threats

The cyber world has connected every single country together but has also brought forth a panoply of new problems. States are waging cyber attacks to cripple vital infrastructure.



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This has led to a cyber arms race; as realism suggests, states are now working to bolster their cyber capabilities. Israel's Stuxnet virus led <sup>to the</sup> nuclear program of Iran being pushed back by years as it had damaged their nuclear centrifuges.

## Climate change and new security threats

Green theory, contends that climate change is a direct consequence of human activities. The rise of climate refugees have caused nations states to grapple with the issue in different ways. States are resorting to internationalism and somewhat regionalism to protect themselves and the region.

## International/Global Terrorist Networks and Radicalization

Neo realism, contends that terrorists/violent non state actors are a global threat that needs global efforts to counter them. ISIS was a global actor and undermined security in the region. It required global action to push the group to its demise.

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## Privatization of world Security

Critical Theory and post modernism argue that security has become highly privatized in the world. Private military contractors (PMCs) like Blackwater, Wagner group are at the forefront of global conflicts. The Wagner group played a major role in the initial offensive against Ukraine. Similarly, the group Blackwater, played a major role in Iraq during the US invasion.

## Economic Interdependence has challenged Economic Security

Theory of interdependency has allowed IR circles to explore the effects of economic interdependence on one another. It has brought the prospects of Liberal Internationalism envisaged. However, this interdependency has come at a cost of economic sovereignty, which according to realism is a major factor in a state's survival.

US - Turkey trade war led the US sanctioning <sup>the</sup> Turkish currency. This in turn resulted in record high inflation. This was done in retaliation of Turkey's S-400 deal with Russia.

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## War of Narratives and Disinformation

Constructivism and Post-modernism, contend that in this globalized world a war of disinformation and narrative building is being waged. Actors are using the media to influence perceptions and identities of other actors. Hamas and Palestine has successfully used social media to show the real side of the war in Gaza. While Israel has used traditional media outlets to influence western perceptions.

## Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Globalization has allowed the spread of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world. As neo-realism contends, today WMDs are not an isolated issue and every actor who afford it can buy it off the black market. Fissile material & radioactive material is being sold on the black market in India. Similarly, chemical and biological weapons in Syria have also changed the paradigm of security.

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## CONCLUSION

With globalization, a deluge of issues and problems have impacted global security. Some require cooperation while some require

a self-centred approach. states must walk on a tight rope to balance their needs and the world's needs.

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 all parts

Add first traditional Barry Buzan concept to make it IR specific