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## Q2) Introduction

In December 2024, a former wing of IS-K, "Hayat Tahir al Sham" toppled the government of Bashar Al Assad in very short span of time i.e. 8 days. The rebels started their movement from North-west of the Syria and came to Damascus through Aleppo and Hama.

This development was observed recently because of different reasons, for instance, weak position of Hezbollah, Russia's indulgence in war with Ukraine and obviously because of support by the Turkiye to the rebels.

Similarly, it will be having implications as well.

The HTS will get power manifolds and may promote extremist policies in the country.

Along with this Turkiye's position in the region got stronger.

## Reasons of Unprecedented Change in Syria

i) weak position of Hezbollah

Hezbollah, a jihadist organization, backed by

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Iran got weaker and weaker due to its recent clashes with the Israel. The Hezbollah was fighting with Israel in support of Palestine, and for this reason they got serious attacks from the US backed Israel. This made Hezbollah weak. Their leadership also got crushed, for instance killing of Hassan Nasrallah was a major setback for it.

With this kind of setbacks, Hezbollah which usually helped Syria in similar rebellion attacks, was absent from the overall scene, which ultimately gave an edge to the HTS to topple down the government of Syria.

## ii) Russia and Ukraine War

Russia is busy in war with Ukraine since 2022. It was the biggest supporter of Syria against the rebels. Russia proved itself as supporter of Syria at various instances, eg in 2012 rebellion against Bashar ul Assad. Also, it countered attacks of HTS in Syria through continuous aerial strikes on the rebels.

But, as already mentioned, Russia is busy in war with Ukraine, hence its attention got diverted towards Ukraine. This helped the rebels to get the reins of Syria easily.

iii) Support of Turkiye to Rebels

HTS rebels started the movement from North-west of Syria, or we can say from the South-west of Turkey. Turkiye was the biggest supporter of HTS just because of its strategic interests.

This made rebels to gain the control of Syria in few days.

Implications of the Unprecedented Change in Syria

i) Banned Outfit Got Power

Hayat Tahrir al Sham and its leader Abu-Muhammad al Gholani are banned by the United States as they were part of IS-K. The outfit was banned due to its terrorist activities in the region posing risks to the people. Similarly, the leader of HTS was

in the most wanted list of USA and was having bounty on his head, which clearly depicts the views of USA against that group.

Now the situation got changed a little bit as that banned outfit got the power and reins of Syria in hand. The leader of HTS has made many appearances and defended himself as the reformed personality. Hence, through this kind of development one may expect a new kind of authoritarian rule after Bashar-Al Assad.

ii) HTS May Promote Extremist Policies

HTS can be compared with the Afghan Taliban. Both have many similarities, that how they toppled the governments in their respective countries. Although Afghan Taliban, when got power, told the world about the democratic values which they will preserve but recently, one can see their policies against the Fundamental Human rights, for instance ban on women to get medical education.

Similar policies can be expected by the HTS and these may prove very fatal for the public at large in Syria.

iii) Influence of Turkiye Got Stronger

As already mentioned, Turkiye was supporter of the HTS. Hence the Turkiye will be having an influence over the rebels in the decision making and other affairs. A small glimpse can be seen <sup>in</sup> the recent visit of Turkiye's intelligence chief to Syria where he met the leader of HTS and roamed around the city of Damascus. Similarly, Turkiye also announced a gas ~~pipe~~ pipe line which was delayed due to presence of the government of Bashar al Assad. This pipeline will cross the whole Syria and then it will reach Turkiye.

So, in many instances the Turkiye got stronger in the region.

Conclusion

The recent development in the middle east

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had numerous reasons and surely it will pose some implications as well in the region. Role of Iran and Russia in the region got minimized while the Israel and Turkiye got even more stronger. ~~for~~ the banned outfits wants to be unbanned and accepted it must hold up the democratic values in the country.

#### Q4) Introduction

Over the time, it can be observed that the Russia-China collaboration in terms of economy, strategy and geo-politics have emerged over the horizon. The major factor pushing the Russia and China into collaboration is none other than the hegemony of USA in the world. Because of this hegemony, both countries got badly effected and paved a way to increase their bi-lateral ties.

Russia-China collaboration can be seen in the import and export, increasing ties through the forum of BRICS and BRT.

as well in order to minimize the US hegemony in the region.

## Russia-China Collaboration Against Hegemon

### i) Russia's Oil Exports to China

Russia is in war with Ukraine since 2022.

When the war was started, Russia faced many sanctions from the western world.

Among these sanctions, the Europe the largest importer of oil from the Russia was stopped from the import to give a set back to Russia and its economy. West thought, as result of the sanctions, the Russia will be weaker and will end the war. The Europe shifted its imports to the Gulf countries and Russia was left behind.

China came to rescue the Russian economy and signed the agreement with it regarding the import of oil. This agreement saved Russia from a major hurdle. These kind of Russia-China collaboration challenged the US led world order as both

of the countries got benefit from each other as China is also a largest consumer of Hydro Carbons in the world due to its population and development projects. This not only marks the economic collaboration but strategic and geopolitical collaboration as well against the US hegemon.

ii) Russia's Export of Arms to China

Russia is very much advanced in the development of advanced arms and ammunitions.

This can be proved by the development of its Oreshnik hypersonic missile system, which it also tested on Ukraine in recent attack.

The hypersonic missile has the unique factors of speed, range and non-detection by the radars.

Russia exported the missiles and fighter jets to China recently and strengthened China further in the areas in which it was weak. This kind of collaboration and sharing of technology between two nuclear states is of strategic nature to minimize



the US hegemony in the region.

iii) Collaboration of Russia-China through BRICS

Russia and China are part of the forum known as BRICS. Both of the countries are the key countries in this organization due to their size and economy.

The collaboration of Russia and China is so much significant in BRICS that it has irked the newly elected president of USA, who has given a threat to the BRICS countries about 100% tariff imposition over their exports.

Through BRICS both of the countries are aspiring to make a similar banking system like the IMF and the SWIFT.

The idea of New Development Bank has surfaced along with introduction of a new currency "BRICS PAY" as well.

Similarly, through this forum, agreements are being done to swap the currencies, for instance trade between China and Russia should not be in dollars but

in Yuan and Rubble.

These kind of collaborations are significant to avoid the sanctions from the west. This also minimizes the influence of US over the world.

#### iv) Collaboration Through BRI

Just like CPEC in Pakistan, under the Belt and Road Initiative, the China has the project of making trade routes to Russia through China, Mongolia and Russia Corridor. This corridor will foster the trade between the two countries and the import, exports will be high, contributing significantly to their economies. This kind of collaboration is strategic, economical and geo-political as well as this will counter the hegemony of US through its large economy over the world.

#### Conclusion

Russia and China have a very significant agenda i.e. to curb the USA hegemony

not from the region but from the world in general and because of this they have collaborated with each other in different spheres which have strengthened both of the countries. Russia's economy did not failed because of China's support and China also got stronger in its defence and economy as well through trade and currency swap agreements.

(Q5) Introduction

There is no doubt that the USA has used the dollar and the SWIFT system against the countries which it deemed as deviants from its policies. Recent example of this can be the seen in the situation of Russia and Ukraine war, where USA froze the assets of Russia in the world or the banks linked with the system of SWIFT. And those frozen assets were granted as an aid to Ukraine to be used against the Russia. Similarly, sanctioning of Russia also

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stopped its interaction with many countries especially the countries of Europe and the flow of Dollar was stopped in the country.

In order to get rid of the US exploitation of the system, the Global South wanted a permanent solution for it and as a result BRICS came into being.

### How BRICS can Counter Dollar and SWIFT

#### i) Introduction of New Currency

In a recent meeting of BRICS held in Kazan, Russia a new currency was introduced to minimize the dollarisation. A currency similar to the currency used in Europe for trade "Euro" was aspired. Through this move the dollar will face a major setback.

It has been ~~repeated~~ reported that till 2040, when many other countries will join the BRICS the GDP of the BRICS countries will make 46% of world's overall GDP.

This means that the 46% of the world GDP will move towards an era of dedollarization. And the trades will be done in the currency called as "BRICS PAY". This currency can be in digital form as well as the world is constantly evolving to advancement.

ii) Currency Swap Agreements and Dedollarization

The BRICS members especially the China and Russia are promoting trade to be done in the currency of that respective country. This is a move towards the dedollarization. For instance, if the idea is properly materialised so the trade between Russia and India will be done in Rubble, INR not in dollar. Similarly, trade between India and China will be done in INR, Yuan and trade between China and Russia will be in Yuan and Rubble. This will create a huge problem for the USA as the importance of the dollar will be <sup>not</sup> like before.

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The mentioned economies are the largest in Asia, when these will do currency swap agreements so the US will not be able to use Dollar as the weapon.

### iii) New Development Bank

The BRICS countries are also having an agenda to make a New Development Bank that will not only give loans but will support the countries in their development projects as well.

The reserves of the New Development Bank can be in the form of a centralised currency, accepted to all of the countries. At this time when the global south is dependent on the loans from the IMF and development funds from the World Bank in the form of dollars will be able to ~~support~~ get the loans and funds in the other form of currency.

This system will be totally different from the prevailing system, hence curbing the US hegemony and its exploitation of the

system.

iv) Centralised Banking System

when Russia started war with Ukraine, the 7 biggest banks of the Russia were delinked from the SWIFT which controls the transaction system of the banking world. In order to curb the US led world order and SWIFT transaction system, BRICS also aspires to make a centralised banking system which will do the same work as SWIFT does. This will be a huge success in the Global South. With this system the US exploitation will be minimised which it does through the SWIFT system.

Although India and China do have this alternative but that is on a smaller scale as compared to the SWIFT as ~~at~~ almost 100 banks of the world are linked with the SWIFT and India and China collectively have almost 50 banks linked with their respective systems, while Russia

lacks this system, if the idea is materialised so it will pave the way for new world order.

### Conclusion

Global South has experienced a lot over the past as the USA has sometime exploited the system of dollar and SWIFT against them. Because of this reason, efforts were in place and the BRICS is the start of that efforts.

If the ideas get materialised so almost half of the world will leave the traditional monetary system and will enter into new era where each country will be having its say through its vote not GDP size.



Q7) Introduction

The recent conflicts in the middle east has been started since 2023 after the start of clashes between the Israel and Palastine.

This fire of conflicts have reached different parts of middle east, for instance, Lebanon, Syria etc. In this situation of war and conflicts, there are many losers and many winners as there are many stakeholders.

USA and Israel are the biggest beneficiaries while China and other Muslim countries are losers. If we observe Russia, it enjoys a unique position of a beneficiary and a loser at the same time.

Beneficiaries of Ongoing Conflicts in Middle East

i) Israel and its Expansion

In the war like situation in the middle east, Israel is the biggest beneficiary as it is slowly moving towards its aim of single state, erasing the palastine from the world map, which was also shown by the

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Benjamin Netanyahu in its speech in UN General Assembly.

Similarly, Israel has neutralised the threats to it like the Hamas, Hezbollah and the Iran as well, which was threatening Israel with the help of Hezbollah.

Israel has also been able to capture some parts of Syria after the fall of Bashar ul Assad government.

All of these abovementioned developments have made Israel much stronger.

## ii) Increase in the USA's Influence Over Middle-East

In overall situation of war and conflicts, the USA was a strong supporter of Israel throughout. which means that, the stronger the Israel, the powerful the USA.

USA also got presence in the Syria when the rebels toppled the government of Bashar ul Assad. US secretary of State also acknowledged the talks with the banned

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outfit Hayat Tahrir al sham, directly, which proves the presence of Americans on the Syrian soil.

### iii) Benefit of Russia

America was not only supporting the Israel in its war but it was also a supporter of Ukraine as well against Russia and it is always difficult for a country, no matter how powerful it is, to engage in war on two different fronts. This factor gave Russia a benefit to engage with Ukraine in more effective manner than before.

## Losses of Ongoing Conflicts in the Middle East

### i) Muslim Countries in the Region

Israel started the conflict from the Palestine and then moved towards Lebanon after that it turned towards Syria as well, this was a major setback for the Muslim countries in the region.

The Palestine lost its almost 43000 people including 13000 children and 13000 women, while the Lebanon's strongest jihadist army known as the Hezbollah got crushed badly. Similarly, almost 450 bombs were dropped on Syria to destroy the important assets in it like the depots of ammunitions and chemical weapons.

Similarly, the western countries including USA, Germany, UK, France were openly supporting the Israel in terms of finances and weapons while the Muslim countries in the world were only doing condemnation of the events.

ii) Diplomacy of China Got Failed

China was trying to get influence over the middle east by resolving the ongoing conflicts in the middle east. For instance, China was trying to settle the differences between Houthis and the government in Yemen, also it was trying to settle the disputes between the rebels and

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government of Bashar al Assad in Syria through diplomacy. But the recent events in the middle east in context of fall of Syria seriously depicted the failure of China in the diplomacy, resulting in less influence over the region.

### iii) Loss of Russia

Russia was an strong ally of Syria in the Middle East. Strategically, Russia was trying to influence over the Middle East through its presence on the syrian soil but the fall of the Syria was fall of Russia in the Middle East and it got effected badly. Its military had to move out of Syria which was settled in Syria from a long time. Hence, it portrayed the loss of Russia.

### Conclusion

There were and there are so many actors in the middle east, these actors can be state actors or non state actors. Both of them somehow got the benefit and

loss as well. These factors change as the events take a change. For instance, previously Russia was in win win situation, then the win win situation got changed with happening of a single event.

Similarly, the situation in middle east changes and the beneficiaries and losers also change, but if we think prudently, there is no winner and loser in war or conflict as the humanity pays the highest cost.