

Section - A

Q. No. 2

a) Introduction: The U.S. President and the U.K.

prime minister are both very powerful leaders, but the nature and scope of their powers differ because of the different nature of political systems in which they operate.

b) Nature and extent of Powers of the U.S. President:

The United States operates a presidential system in which the office of head of government and head of state is united in the office of the presidency. The executive, legislative and judicial powers of the U.S. President are as follows.

1)

Executive Powers: The president is the chief executive and all executive authority has been vested in him. He also has the authority to appoint key state officials such as judges to the federal court and ambassadors to various countries. He is solely responsible for his cabinet and directs administrative agencies.

2)

Legislative Powers: The president can veto legislation by the congress and can only be over ridden by two-thirds majority in both houses. He also influences congress by setting the legislative agenda.

3)

Judicial Powers: The president grants pardons and reprieves for federal offences. Presidents often use this authority to grant pardon to other presidents and other people as well as evident in Joe Biden's pardon of his own son against federal offences.

3. Commander-in-chief: The president has broad authority over military operations. However, congress has the authority to declare war formally.

4. Foreign Affairs: The president represents the country on international forums and can sign treaties subject to senate approval. Woodrow Wilson's league of nations: imagined after versailles treaty failed to materialize as the treaty wasn't ratified in the summit!!

5. Emergency powers: The president also has emergency powers in which executive orders can be issued with immediate effect.

(C) Nature and Extent of Powers of the U.K Prime minister:

The U.K employs a parliamentary system in which prime minister is the head of the government whereas the monarch is the head of the state. The prime minister is the leader of majority party in the parliament.

1) Executive powers: The prime minister is the head of the government and directs policy-making, oversees the civil service and ensures implementation of laws. He can appoint his cabinet members, senior civil servants, and nominate peers to the house of lords.

2) Legislative Powers: Since the prime minister is the leader of the majority party in the house of commons, he influences the

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legislative agenda. There is also a practice of prime minister's questions during which he justifies policies in the parliament, ensuring accountability.

3) Foreign Affairs: The prime minister represents U.K.

internationally although the monarch formally signs treaties. The deployment of the armed forces require parliamentary approval.

(d) What makes U.S. President more Powerful?

(1) Separation of Powers vs Fusion of Powers

(i) The principle of separation of powers grant significant autonomy to the U.S. President in decision-making. The president is immune from the congress. An activist supreme court can, however, declare executive actions as unconstitutional.

(i) The fusion of powers in the parliamentary system mean that the parliament can use a vote of no-confidence or internal party mechanisms to ensure that the prime minister is removed from office.

(2) Security of Tenures: The U.S. president has a fixed tenure of 4 years whereas the prime minister can be removed at any time through a vote of no-confidence or internal party challenges.

(3) Legislative Authority: The president's veto and executive orders allow him unilateral action, whereas the prime-minister must navigate parliamentary debates and approval.

(4) Commander-in-chief powers: The president has direct control over military operations whereas the prime minister must navigate

debates and approval.

Due to all these factors, the U.S. president is more powerful than the U.K. prime minister. Another factor is that the U.S. enjoys global influence and presidential authority not only works inside the country but also influences decision-making elsewhere.

Section-B

Q NO. 4:

(a) Introduction:

Due to its continuous improvement, today China is a regional hegemon, and is already challenging the U.S. for its role as a global hegemon. This challenge is posed as a competition in across economic, political, military and diplomatic fronts. But

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(2) China is not a liberal democracy. It is a one party state ruled by the Chinese communist party. Has it seen this growth because of its political system or economic growth?

To determine which factor played a more significant role, both dimensions need to be analyzed.

(3) (b) Role of China's Political System:

(1) Centralized leadership and long-term planning:

The one party system allows centralized disposition of authority. This enables the Chinese CCP to focus on long term projects like BRI. There is continuity of policy as indicated by the long term of Xi Jinping.

(2) Political Stability: The CCP's tight control of all aspects of governance and politics create a politically stable environment. It also controls information to prevent social unrest from spreading.

(3) Innovation: The CCP uses advanced monitoring tools to remain aware of the social trends in the society. This awareness is then translated to policies and programs that fit the demands of the public.

(c) Role of China's economy

(1) Global Integration and economic growth:

After Deng Xiaoping's reforms, the Chinese economy has sustained steady economic growth. China's joining of

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WTO increased its reach and it was able to target more markets across the world for trade.

(2) Manufacturing Strength:

Due to lost manufacturing base, China occupies an important position in the global supply chain. Most countries outsource manufacturing to China because it is cheaper to import from China. This has led to the outsourcing of major corporations into China.

(3) Trade Supremacy: China conducts trade

with everyone and this has allowed it to form trade relationships with both countries of global north and south. This has allowed it to position itself as a key player.

(4) Economic Complexity: China's

today's advanced departments like A.I., robotics, electric vehicles, has allowed

it to compete directly with U.S. based companies.

(d) Interdependence of economy and politics

The Chinese miracle is a consequence of both its economic achievements and its political system.

- (1) Its political system has allowed the economy to be used for political goals.
- (2) Its economy has allowed it to conduct diplomacy through trade. Its political system ensures that profits from trade are used in important areas like military modernization.
- (3) Its political system has created stability but it derives its legitimacy from functional aspects such as economic growth.

Ultimately it's the interplay between both factors which has allowed China to challenge U.S. for the status of the global hegemon.

Q. No. 5:

(a)

Introduction:

History can be viewed through several different concepts. To regard, socioeconomic or other environmental factors as the sole cause of political change, would be viewing history as an automatic process with thesis, antithesis and synthesis. This view however neglects the role of human agency in dictating the course of events.

In the context of the subcontinent, the separation of muslims from hindus was the result of muslim nationalism. The debate is whether muslim nationalism was influenced by external factors or agents such as environmental constraints or by deliberate muslim leadership.

Although the specific socioeconomic conditions of the subcontinent did give rise to muslim nationalism, it was muslim

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leadership which directed that nationalism towards a fixed goal. Without the leadership, separation wouldn't have been possible. Arguments in favour are followed given below:

(b) Arguments emphasizing central role of muslim leadership

(1) The Reformers: Before there was consciousness of muslim nationalism, the reforms such as shiekh Ahmed Raza Khan, Shah Waliullah, and syed Ahmed Barelvi emphasized the distinct nature of muslim identity. They criticized the fusion of cultures and religions by Akbar; more specifically, shiekh Ahmed did. They criticized sectarianism, and wanted to unify muslims under one basic core idea — their muslim identity.

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The religious reforms came at a time when the mughal empire was on the verge of collapse or getting to its demise. In those circumstances they organized muslim community to recognize its distinctiveness. They put the foundation of muslim nationalism.

(2) The religious reforms followed by educational reforms:

At each stage of the muslim nationalism, the socioeconomic factors were present, but it was leadership which took advantage of the str conditions. At the time of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, muslims were being left behind by hindus in education and in other important areas of political participation. It was Sir Syed's vision that rebelling against Britain's power did more harm than good, and the path to independence lay in compliance not rebellion. He educated the muslims and more importantly,

changed muslim thinking regarding how to proceed.

3) Jinnah and Independence:

Nowhere is the importance of leadership more evident than in Jinnah's role in negotiating with congress and the british from 1940-onwards.

(i) Stubbornness and

Resilience: - Jinnah.

rejected the cripp's mission because it promised dominion status without mentioning a separate homeland for muslims. Similarly he rejected the cabinet mission plan. He showed remarkable resilience as giving in would have meant no separation.

(ii) Constitutionalism and tolerance: While gandhi used unpolitical and ill-advised ways to mobilize the masses, Jinnah held onto the path of constitutional politics. He systematically

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beat the british at their own game. At that point of the independence movement, socioeconomic conditions had no role to play as it was muslim leadership that ultimately determined the separation of hindus and muslims.

Conclusion:

At each point of the independence movement, socioeconomic conditions existed to remind everyone why they were doing what they were doing; but ultimately it was leadership and ideology that played a key role. In other words, the separation of hindus and muslims was not an automatic process. There were several important moments at which separation was avoidable and some moments made it inevitable. The results of the 1945 elections reaffirmed the muslim demands but it was Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had reorganized the ~~congress~~ muslim league following its dismal performance in 1935 provincial elections. Hence, it was leadership, not conditions which played the central role.

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Q NO. 7.

a) Introduction :

The recent wave of populism has swept countries belonging both to the global north and south. These populist leaders got into a power by essentially playing by the same rules.

This is to say that although populism doesn't represent a movement in one specific country and there is no uniformity or similarity in their claims; yet, the way populist leaders came to power is similar in most cases. All of them created grand narratives, criticised the existing order of things, portrayed themselves as representatives of the "common man", and presented simple solutions to complex problems.

To analyze what and who of populism's rise, arguments are given below:

b) Role of Media and propaganda:

Media has played the biggest role due to the following reasons:

(1) Disproportionate attention:

It has been very clearly observable that countries where populist leaders come to power had a media that gave disproportionate attention to the populist leader or party. In U.K. e.g., Post-Brexit results showed the media's portrayal and attention given to the pro-Brexit populist party was more than attention given to conservatives who wanted to maintain the status quo. Similarly, in the U.S. election president Trump received way more attention from the media than the other candidates. This disproportionate attention distorts ground realities and makes the incumbent government panic for no apparent reason.

(2) Exaggeration and

Hypertbole :

Media has the capability to present small gains made by a populist party as significant. This distorts voter perception and the 'herd effect' ensures that people do what is being done by the majority.

Media also exaggerates the consequences of a populist leader's winning or losing. This plays right in the hand of the populist leader, as political uncertainty and fears can be exploited by populist leaders using simplistic narratives to rally public support.

(3) Reach:

Media and propoganda has been the main reason because of its global reach. People from across the world know populist leaders because the media successfully frame them in such a light.

(C) Role of political parties and

its leaders :

The second most important role has been played by the

political parties and its leaders for the following reasons :

(1) Institutionalization of populism :

Political parties, noticing the growing

power of populist narratives have institutionalized populism. This has been done by adopting the same techniques as populist leaders. They have made populism a feature of their functioning. So often, populism is just one of the many ways in which the same people present themselves in a new light.

(2) Failure to provide effective opposition

Populist parties always exist but

must be opposed by strong coalitions.

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In Sweden e.g., the social democratic party has been consistently denied a government by a delicate coalition of all the other players.

(d) Role of Interest groups and lobbies:

Interest groups and lobbies are usually gathered around a specific policy issue such as labor rights, or climate change. They do not have mass appeal but can influence populist leaders by contributing to their election campaign and solidifying their access to the halls of power.

Interest groups and lobbies cannot directly participate in electoral politics and hence their connection to populism is remote and indirect.

