

Question No. 02

Introduction:

In an era marked by globalization and interconnected challenges, supra-national actors have emerged as central players in shaping international relations and global politics. These entities transcend national boundaries and operate, independently or semi-independently, from nation-states to address issues such as trade disputes, climate change, international security and human rights. Their influence is evident in fostering global governance, mediating conflicts and addressing crises that no single state can resolve alone. It is important to understand and analyse the decisive roles of supra-national actors in contemporary global politics, underscoring their growing importance in a multi-polar world order.

Concept of Supra-national Actors

Organizations or entities that exist above the authority of individual nation-states. They derive their legitimacy from agreements or treaties signed by sovereign states, granting them power to influence or enforce policies beyond national jurisdictions. Their existence challenges the traditional concept of state sovereignty, especially in matters requiring collective action or enforcement of international norms.

Key features of Supra national actors

1. Transnational scope:

Supra-national actors operate across the global borders and deal with global issues such as climate change, trade, and, human rights.

2. Autonomous Authority:

They can act independently from member states, often holding the power to enforce binding agreements.

3. Focus on Multilateralism:

Supra-national entities emphasize collective decision-making and cooperation among states.

4. Legally binding decisions:

Some actors, like the European Union, have legal mechanisms to ensure compliance among member states.

Types of Supra-national Actors

Supra-national actors can be categorized based on their functions and areas of influence including economic, social, judicial, and regional organizations.

1. Economic Organizations:

Economic Supra-national actors play a vital role in regulating global trade, addressing financial crises, and fostering economic development.

World Trade Organization (WTO):

Responsible for establishing global trade norms, resolving trade disputes, and ensuring fair practices among nations.

⇒ International Monetary Fund (IMF):
Provides financial assistance to the developing and underdeveloped countries which are facing economic instability and facilitates global financial cooperation.

⇒ World Bank:

Focuses on long-term economic development by funding infrastructure, healthcare, and education projects in developing nations.

2. Security Alliances:

These supra-national actors aim to maintain peace and stability by promoting collective defense and mediating international conflicts.

a. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):

A military alliance that ensures collective defence against external threats, as seen its role during Ukraine - Russia conflict.

b. United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

A body tasked with maintaining peace and security through peacekeeping missions, sanctions, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

3. Judicial Bodies:

Judicial supra-national actors ensures the enforcement of international law and address issues such as war crimes and territorial disputes.

⇒ International Court of Justice (ICJ):

Resolves disputes between states, such as border disputes, disagreements, violations based on international law.

⇒ International Criminal Court (ICC):
Prosecutes individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, as seen in cases involving leaders from Sudan and Uganda.

4. Regional Organizations:

These actors focuses on economic and political integration within specific geographic areas.

⇒ European Union (EU):

A unique example of deep regional integration, with policies that bind the member states in areas such as trade, immigration, and environmental regulation.

⇒ Association of Southeast Asian Nation organization (ASEAN):

Promotes economic growth, political stability and cultural exchange among Southeast Asian Nations.

Role of Supra-national Actors in Global Politics:

The influence of supra-national actors facilitate cooperation among nations by creating a platform for dialogue and negotiations. They provide framework for addressing transnational issues such as, climate change, pandemic issues and cybersecurity threats. For example: United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) has played a critical role in convening global efforts

to combat climate change, as seen in Paris agreement and COP 29.

2. Mediating International Conflicts:

Supra-national actors play a crucial role in conflict resolution by providing neutral platforms for negotiation and peacebuilding efforts. For example: UN's mediation efforts in Yemen and Syria in the past have highlighted its ability to bring conflicting parties to the negotiations table. Similarly the African Union has led peace talks in Ethiopia's conflict.

3. Regulating International Trade:

Economic supra-national actors like WTO and IMF ensure that global trade operates smoothly and fairly. Addressing disputes and fostering economic stability. e.g: The WTO's dispute resolution mechanisms has been instrumental in resolving trade conflicts between major powers, such as US-China tariff disputes.

4. Addressing Climate Change:

Supra-national actors are at forefront of tackling environmental issues, promoting sustainability and enforcing climate related commitments. For example: The EU has been a leader in implementing green energy policies and setting ambitious carbon neutrality goals, influencing global climate policy.

5. Protecting human rights:

Judicial bodies such as ICC and regional organizations like

the European Court of human rights ensure accountability for human rights violations. For instance, The ICC's Prosecution of war criminals in Palestine-Israeli war, as call for the arrest of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leadership demonstrates its role in the upholding international Justice.

Challenges faced by supra-national actors: Despite their growing influence, supra-national actors face significant challenges in their operations.

a. Sovereignty vs multilateralism:

States often resist interventions perceived as undermining their sovereignty.

Power struggles among major states, such as the US and China can limit the effectiveness of supra-national bodies.

Many supra-national actors lack the means to enforce their decisions, relying on voluntary compliance by member states.

Limited financial resources hinder the operations of organizations like the UN and WHO.

Conclusion:

Supra-national actors have become indispensable in contemporary global politics, addressing issues that transcend national borders.

and promoting cooperation among States. While challenges persist, their ability to mediate conflicts, regulate trade, and tackle global crises underscores their relevance in increasingly interconnected world. Their role is likely to grow as nations continue to face complex, shared challenges that demand collective actions.

Question No. 04

Introduction:

IR theories provide frameworks to understand and analyze the behavior of states, international institutions, and non-state actors in the global system. The three dominant paradigms, Realism, Liberalism, and constructivism offer differing perspectives on how states interact, why conflicts arise and how cooperation is achieved. While Realism emphasizes power and security, Liberalism focuses on institutions and cooperation and constructivism highlights the role of norms and identities.

Realism: The Power Politics Paradigm
Core Assumptions of Realism:

1. Anarchy:

The international system is anarchic with no overarching authority.

2. State-centrism:

States are the primary actors in IR.

3. Survival and Power:

States prioritize survival through power accumulation.

Application in Conflict and Cooperation Scenarios:

1. Ukraine War:

Realism explains Russia's aggression as a pursuit of regional hegemony and NATO's collective response as a balance of Power Strategy.

2. US-China Rivalry:

The competition over dominance in the Indo-Pacific aligns with realist notions of Power transitions and Security dilemmas.

3. Arms Race:

Realism accounts for nuclear proliferation and military build-ups, such as India and Pakistan's deterrence strategies.

Liberalism: The Cooperation Paradigm:

Assumptions of Liberalism

⇒ Cooperation is Possible:

States can achieve mutual benefits through cooperation and institutions.

⇒ Role of Institutions:

Organization like UN, WTO and EU mitigate anarchy and foster global stability.

⇒ Democratic Peace theory:

Democracies are less likely to engage in war with each other due to shared values and norms.

Explaining Cooperation through Liberalism

1. Paris Climate Agreement:

Liberalism highlights how multilateral institutions like the UNFCCC

Facilitate collective action on climate change.
⇒ cooperation **despite** differing national interests.
reflects interdependence in addressing global issues.

2. Global Trade via WTO:

WTO mediates disputes and ensures compliance with trade norms, promoting mutual gains through economic interdependence. For example, Resolution of US-EU trade disputes over **subsidies**.

3. European Union:

The EU embodies liberal ideals for regional integration **where** economic interdependence prevents conflicts.
⇒ Its success demonstrates how shared institutions can **create** stability among member states.

Liberalism in Conflict Scenarios

⇒ Liberalism explains peacekeeping efforts like the UN's mediation in Syria and Yemen aiming for long-term conflict resolution through dialogue and rebuilding efforts.

Constructivism: Role of Norms and Identities

Core assumptions:

⇒ Social Constructivism:

International politics is **shaped** by **shaped** ideas, beliefs, and norms rather than material power alone.

⇒ Role of Identity:

State actions are influenced by their identities and how they perceive others.

⇒ Norms and Changes

Norms evolve

Interaction and can reshape international behavior.

Explaining Conflict Through Constructivism:

1. Ukraine Conflict:

⇒ Constructivism explains Russia's actions as rooted in historical identity and its view of Ukraine as part of its cultural sphere.

⇒ Ukraine's alignment with western norms, (e.g.: democracy) creates identity-based tensions with Russia.

2. Middle east Rivalries:

Sectarian identities (e.g.: Sunni-shia divisions) explain conflicts like Saudi-Iran rivalry, which go beyond mere Power Politics.

Explaining Cooperation through Constructivism

1. Global norms on Climate Change:

The of norms surrounding sustainability and Green energy transitions is a Constructivist Phenomenon.

⇒ Countries adopting Carbon-neutral pledges (e.g.: the EU) reflect shift in collective values.

2. Human Rights Advocacy:

Norms of accountability, as seen in the ICC's Prosecutions highlight the role of shared ideas in shaping state behavior.

Conclusion:

Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism offer complementary Perspectives on global politics while Realism explains Power Struggles and

security concerns, Liberalism highlights cooperation through institutions, and constructivism underscores the role of shared norms and identities. Together, these paradigms provide a comprehensive framework for understanding contemporary conflict and cooperation, making them indispensable in the study of IR.

Question No. 06

Introduction:

Protectionism, a policy framework aimed at shielding domestic industries from foreign competition is regaining prominence in the global economic policies. Rooted in the principles of tariff, quotas, and subsidies, it often resurges during periods of economic uncertainty and rising nationalism. Recent trade wars such as US-China tariffs battle illustrate its re-emergence in the international political economy. This has several implications for trade war scenarios, exploring whether it signifies a shift away from globalization.

Concepts and Principles of Protectionism

Protectionism encompasses various strategies designed to shield domestic industries:

⇒ Tariffs:

Imposing taxes on imported goods to make them more expensive than domestic products.

⇒ Quotas:

Setting limit on the quantity of specific goods that can be imported, thereby controlling market saturation.

Subsidies:

Providing financial assistance to local businesses to enhance the competitiveness against foreign imports.

=> Import Bans:

Prohibiting the importation of certain goods must meet, often making it difficult for them to enter domestic market.

Resurgence of Protectionism in global politics:

The early 21st century witnessed a strong push towards globalization and free trade. However, recent developments indicate a shift towards protectionist policies:

=> United States: Under Trump Administration the U.S adopted significant protectionist measures including imposing tariffs on Chinese goods, leading to a trade between two largest economies.

=> European Union:

The EU has expressed concerns over potential surges of cheap imports particularly from China and is seeking new powers to combat such threats.

=> Global Trends:

There is a growing sentiment worldwide favoring the protection of domestic industries, especially in the wake of economic challenges posed by events like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prospective Trade War Scenarios:

The resurgence of protectionism increases the likelihood of trade wars, where countries retaliate each other's trade restrictions.

⇒ US-China Trade War:

The imposition of tariffs by the U.S. on Chinese goods led to retaliatory measures from China, disrupting global supply chains and affecting international markets.

⇒ EU's Defense Measures:

The European Union is considering stronger defensive mechanisms to protect its manufacturing industries from potential global trade wars, especially in light of possible U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports.

⇒ Global Economic Impact:

Protectionist policies can lead to reduced flows, disrupted supply chains, and slowed economic growth as countries impose tariffs and other trade barriers in retaliation.

Implications for the International Political Economy:

The shift towards protectionism has several implications:

⇒ Economic Growth: While protectionist policies may offer short-term benefits to certain industries, they can hinder overall economic growth by reducing trade efficiency and increasing costs for consumers.

⇒ Global Trade Relations:

Increased protectionism can strain diplomatic relations, leading to conflicts and a breakdown of international cooperation.

Supply Chain disruptions:

Trade Wars can disrupt global supply chains, affecting industries worldwide and leading to economic instability.

Conclusion:

The resurgence of protectionism in global politics signals a significant shift in the international political economy. While aimed at protecting domestic industries, such policies can lead to trade wars with far-reaching economic and political consequences. It is crucial for policymakers to balance national interests with the benefits of international trade to maintain global economic stability.

Question No: 07

Introduction:

China's rapid ascent as a global economic and political powerhouse has precipitated significant transformations within the international system. This development has sparked extensive discourse among scholars and policymakers, particularly concerning the ramifications to the emergent liberal international order. China's trajectory from a peripheral player to a central figure in global affairs necessitates a comprehensive analysis of its impact on geopolitical dynamics, economic paradigms, and security architectures. China's evolution into a global powerhouse is deeply rooted in its historical context. The post-Mao era, marked by Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms initiated in 1978, catalyzed

China's transition from a command economy to a socialist market economy. These reforms, encapsulated in the policy of "Reform and Opening Up", facilitated unprecedented economic growth propelling China into the echelons of major global economies. This period also witnessed China's integration into the international community culminating in its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, which further accelerated its economic integration and influence.

Economic Implications:

1. Global Trade Dynamics:

China's emergence as world's second largest economy has reconfigured global trade patterns. Its role as a manufacturing hub and a leading exporter has established intricate interdependencies within global supply chains. This economic entanglement has afforded China significant leverage in international trade organizations, enabling it to assert its interests more effectively on the global stage.

2. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

Launched in 2013, the BRI epitomizes China's strategy to augment its economic and geopolitical influence through extensive infrastructure investments across Asia, Africa, Europe. This initiative aims to create a vast network of trade routes, enhancing connectivity and fostering economic integration. However, it has also elicited concerns regarding debt sustainability and the potential for

noncolonial dependencies among participating nations.

3. Technological Advancements:

China's substantial investments in research and development have positioned it at the forefront of technological innovation. In sectors such as Artificial intelligence, 5G telecommunications, and renewable energy, Chinese enterprises has emerged as formidable competitors to western counterparts. This Technological ascendancy not only bolsters china's economic prowess but also enhances its Strategic capabilities, particularly in the realm of cyber and information warfare.

Political Implications

1. Global Governance Participation:

China's proactive engagement in international institutions reflects its ambition to reshape global governance structures. By advocating for reforms that align with its interests, China seeks to rebalance the international order to better accommodate its rise. This is exemplified by its leadership in establishing alternative institutions such as, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which serve as platforms to project its influence and promote its development paradigm.

Soft Power Expansion:

Through cultural diplomacy, educational exchanges, and media proliferation China endeavors to enhance its soft power and project a favorable image internationally. Initiatives like the Confucius Institutes disseminate Chinese language

and culture, while state-owned media outlets expanded China's narrative reach. This strategic cultivation of soft power aims to bolster China's global standing and counteract negative perceptions stemming from its assertive foreign policies.

Security implications:

1. Military Modernization:

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has undergone extensive modernization, focusing on enhancing power projection capabilities and achieving parity with advanced military forces. This includes the development of anti-access systems, advancements in cyber and space warfare capabilities, and the expansion of naval assets to assert China's presence in contested regions. Such developments have significant implications for regional security dynamics and global strategic stability.

2. Regional Tensions:

China's assertiveness in territorial disputes, particularly in the South China Sea along Sino-Indian border has exacerbated regional tensions. Its construction of artificial islands and militarization of contested areas challenge international maritime norms and provoke concerns among neighboring states and external powers committed to upholding freedom of navigation and overflight.

Implications for the Global Order:

1. Shift in Power Dynamics:

China's rise signifies

a transition from a unipolar to a multipolar world order, challenging the hegemony of the United States and promoting a reevaluation of existing alliances and partnerships. This shift necessitates adaptations in global governance mechanisms to accommodate the interests of emerging powers and mitigate the potential for great power conflicts.

2. Challenges to the liberal international order:

China's state-centric development model and its emphasis on sovereignty and non-interference present an alternative to the liberal democratic values underpinning the current international order. This ideological divergence raises questions about the universality of liberal norms and the potential for normative fragmentation within the global system.

3. Economic coercion and trade practices:

China's utilization of economic statecraft, including the imposition of trade restrictions and the leveraging of economic dependencies, has been perceived as coercive. Such practices challenge the principles of free trade and open markets, prompting calls for the establishment of mechanisms to counteract economic coercion and ensure their trading practices.

⇒ Strategic Alliances and Partnerships:

China's deepening ties with countries such as Russia and its outreach to the global South through initiatives like BRICS expansion as IRAN, Ethiopia, UAE joins, reflect its strategy to construct a coalition that challenges

Western dominance. These alliances serve to legitimize China's vision of a multipolar world order and provide a platform to advocate for reforms that diminishes the influence of traditional Western powers.

The international relations community is currently engaged in vigorous debates regarding the implications of China's rise.

Conclusion:

China's ascent represents a transformative force reshaping the global order. Its economic dynamism, strategic initiatives like the Belt and Road initiative, and assertive geopolitical stance challenge the established norms of international relations. This revelation prompts a reevaluation of existing alliances and necessitates adaptive strategies to address emerging challenges. The international community must navigate this complex landscape with a nuanced approach, balancing engagement with vigilance to ensure a stable and equitable global order. As China's influence continues to expand, its integration into the global system and will significantly impact the future trajectory of international affairs.