

Mock # 06 - CSS - 2025

December - 2024

GR - Part II Subjective

Question # 02

- (ii). From the Cold War in ideological settings to the Cold War of economic fronts.

Introduction:

⇒ The cold war was historically a struggle between the capitalist and communist blocs, led by the USA and USSR, respectively. While the bipolar ideological conflict ended with the dissolution of Soviet Union in 1991, the 21st

century global landscape suggests a shift from ideological battles to economic competition, primarily involving the USA, China and Russia.

Historical Context of

Cold War (1947-1991)

The cold war represented:

(1)- Ideological Rivalry:

Capitalism versus Communism shaped global alliances, exemplified by NATO and the Warsaw Pact...

(2)- Proxy Wars:

Conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan reflected this ideological contest.

(3)- Arms Race and Space Race:

Competition extended into

military and technological domains.

(4). Economic Competition:

The Marshall plan and Soviet economic assistance illustrated efforts to win influence.

Transition to economic fronts

(i). Collapse of the USSR:

The end of bipolarity ushered in U.S. unipolar dominance. However, globalization and technological advancements shifted the focus from ideological expression to economic power.

(ii). Rise of China:

As an economic powerhouse,

China reframed the global competition in terms of trade, technology, and infrastructure.

Continuity: "The story remains the same"

(i) Geopolitical Rivalry:

- US containment strategies during the cold war mirror today's measures against China, such as trade tariffs and restrictions on technology exports.
- Russia's assertiveness in Eastern Europe (e.g: Crimea) echoes Soviet efforts to maintain a sphere of influence.

(II) Alliance Building:

- The US continues to strengthen alliances (e.g., **QUAD**, **AUKUS**) to counter balance China in the Indo-Pacific.
- China's Belt and Road Initiative (**BRI**) resembles Cold-War Era economic alliances but focuses on infrastructure and trade-connectivity.

Transformation:

(i) Economic Battlefield

- ⊙ Trade Wars: The U.S.-China trade war exemplifies economic rivalry as tariffs and countermeasures replace military confrontation.
- ⊙ Technological Competition: Control over 5G, AI and semi-conductor

technologies defines the "modern arms race".

(2) Multilateral Dynamics

Unlike the binary Cold War, today's competition includes non-state actors (e.g., multi-national corporations) and other rising powers (e.g., India, E.U.).

(3) Soft Power and Influence

China leverages soft power through cultural diplomacy (e.g., Confucius Institutes), contrasting the ideological propaganda of the Soviet Union.

Theoretical Framework

(i) Realism

States prioritize survival

and power accumulation, evident in both Cold War and Contemporary Strategies.

(II) Liberalism

Global Institutions like The WTO play a significant role in mediating conflicts but are increasingly contested.

(III) Constructivism

The perception of threats (e.g., "China as a revisionist power") shapes U.S. policies.

Case Studies

- i. Huawei Controversy: US efforts to block Huawei's 5G networks highlights economic and technological containment strategies.

(II) Ukraine Crisis: Russia's Actions reflect Cold War-Era geopolitical maneuvering.

Conclusion:

While the cold war's ideological underpinnings have given way to economic rivalries, the presence of competition for global dominance persists. The transition underscores the evolving nature of power and influence in the international system.

