

## SUBJECTIVE

### PART-II

#### ANSWER-7

## NUCLEAR DETERRANCE IN SOUTH ASIA

South Asia is a significant region in global politics. However, the region is marked by wars, interventions and conflicts. India and Pakistan; the two larger states of the region are arch rivals with a disturbing history of independence from British and four wars afterwards. Their border skirmishes are a norm for the region. Another element of instability has been Afghanistan, a country invaded by two most powerful states to pursue their own agendas propagating it as the emancipation of the Afghans as critical theorists argue.

Tim New Marshall, in his book, "Prisoners of Geography" rightly declares that the geography of India and Pakistan is the driving factor behind their existence. Geographies are dual-edged swords; a blessing or a liability!

## Balance of Terror ~ a myth or a reality?

Regional security balance is not maintained, in both conventional and nuclear arenas. Bangladesh remains comparatively reversed on the arms race scenario. Afghanistan - weapons lie in the hands of children but no military command or strategy.

Pakistan has been a front-line state both for USSR in 1979 invasion of Afghanistan and for USA during its war on terror. The state is still fighting the menace of terror and burying bodies everyday. Recently launched **Operation Azm-e-Istehkam** is one of the many military launched operations. But the bomb was still made. Back in 1998, when we replied to India on 28 May in Chagai, the region became nuclear deterrantly. Rightly so, in the words of Mr. Bhutto:

" We will feed on grass  
but make the bomb."

In terms of nuclear deterrence, the region



is stable. Conventional capabilities vary. With the launch of "Chandrayan 3" India market its presence on the moon in 2023. This has now created a "security dilemma" in field of Space Technology for Pakistan. The region is also highly vulnerable to threat of VNSAs with a strong nexus between RAW (India), Taliban (Afghanistan), and BLA (Pakistan). This has significantly led to rise in terror-related deaths.

### **NUCLEAR DOCTRINES:**

Both Pakistan and India are nuclear weapon states who abide by the principles of IAEA but are not signatories of NPT.

### **Target State:**

Pakistan's doctrine clearly mentions India to be its target state.

India, however, declares China to be a target.

### **Stockpiling Philosophy:**

Pakistan is clear to avoid nuclear arms race in the region and so is India.

## Range of Weapons:

Both states possess tactical and strategic military/ nuclear arsenals. Recently, (2015-16) Pakistan has launched short-ranged **SLBMs** to become a **full-scale spectrum country**. India already possesses **SILOS, Bombers** and **SLBMs**.

## Non-Proliferation Regime:

Pakistan's nuclear doctrine is centred on "**credible-minimum deterrence**" towards India. It does not want to escalate a nuclear conflict. However, it has a **pre-emptive approach - First Use Policy** in case of a nuclear warning from India.

Both nations are not signatories of Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

## Conditions for non-Proliferation:

Pakistan has a clear stance on signing NPT. It shall sign the treaty once India signs it. India, on contrary, wants Pakistan to sign the

**NFU - No First Use Policy** first to sign the NPT later. This is the



heightened distrust between both countries that causes a stalemate on NPT ratification.

As a response, Pakistan demands India to sign the **No War Pact** and it shall sign the NPT.

Both the nations remain in a deadlock, none ready to initiate. Pakistan claims to be fearful of India's ~~esp~~ conventional capability that is **seven times greater** than Pakistan.

### **Deterrant Stability:**

In lieu of NPT's dilemma, a classical realist deterrence prevails in the region. Small skirmishes are a common scenario like the

**Balakot Airstrikes (2020)** that were responded by **Operation Swift Retort**.

New means of warfare, proxies are guerrillas' also play a part in creating instability in the region. The **RAW and TTP** nexus elaborated in **Maulvi Mansoor's confessional statement** are threatening.

In a nutshell, the terror is



not balanced. Pakistan is vulnerable in security because of a blooming internal insurgency, India's hegemonic regional aims and the destabilised Afghanistan operating under a Non-State Group. It is highly prone to terror incidents through porous borders with Afghanistan and even Iran.

Afghanistan



**ANSWER: 4**

## **"REVIVAL OF MULTI-POLARITY"**

### **Introduction:**

The alliances and nexus of states determine poles or pole in the world. Post ww-II, the world remained largely bipolar only to become unipolar after Cold War and disintegration of USSR.

**BIPOLAR → UNIPOLAR -----> MULTIPOLAR**

(1950s)

(1990s)

(... 2000s)

The global hegemony of America is greatly challenged by the



rise of China (mainly economic) and **Revisionist Russia** (energy sector) in the early decades of 21<sup>st</sup> century. **Putins' Expansionist Policy** lies at the centre of Russian agenda.

**War in Ukraine ~ Challenging the status quo:**

Russia in an attempt to revive its lost glory and super-power status after dis-mantling into 11 states, annexed **Crimea in 2014**. This was a shocking move because it was sudden and unforeseen. On the same pattern,

it invaded Ukraine in 2021 as a reaction to **NATO's Expansion in Eastern Europe**. Russia could not tolerate US presence on its backyard.

The US has heavily sanctioned Russia; President Vladimir Putin has been declared a war criminal by the ICC but the war is still on. The agenda on imposing import ban to Europe was **economic crippling of Russia** so it couldn't fund war in

Ukraine but thanks to China, USA failed. **Arctic Region** is also a competition zone between the two. Both of them want to rule the ice-mass for vested interests.

**Space Technology** is an arena of challenge. The Russian **SPUTNIK** to **GLASNOT** are all attempts to challenge US hegemony.

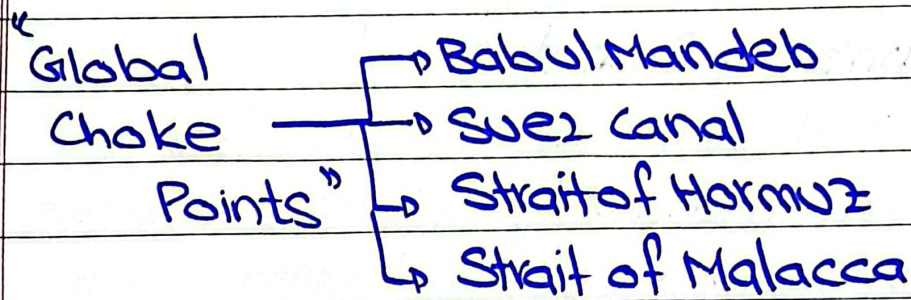
USA leads the world with its influence, Russia needs to pitch in serious efforts to meet it on that end!

### **Chinese Foreign Policy ~ Vision of Xi's Chinese Dragon:**

China has risen, it is the **World's largest GDP** at present. Economically it has challenged USA but there is more. Chinese plan and execute long-term agenda's. One such agenda is the **Belt Road Initiative (BRI)**, also called **OBOR** under the greater idea of Chinese Dragon. The BRI remains pivot of Chinese Foreign Policy because it is not just a transport route



but centre of energy, infrastructure Economic Zones and global trade routes. One project, **six economic corridors**, multiple industrial zones and much more is the agenda of China. There are **seven** global choke points. 4 of them are highly significant:



China has a port on each one of these. It has connected the seven choke points together forming **Ring of Energy** or **String of Pearls in Asia-Pacific**. This is the challenge to US Military Presence in these waters. The region is ground of US Military power competing with Chinese Economic Powers. The core of agenda is to revive **Great Silk Route** and takeover global trade. This also challenges

US global influence because China is forming bilateral ties with all countries part of BRI.

## **BRICS+ an existential threat to G-7 Countries:**

Another idea is the emergence of BRICS + that is strong (economically and diplomatically) and threatens the US-led world order.

## **Currency Debates:**

Debates are underway to form a common currency for BRICS countries inspired by EU. It will threaten Dollar Hegemony.

## **New Development Bank:**

A New Development Bank is created to challenge western-led economic order. Loans will be provided on easier conditions.

The aim is to end the North-South Divide by South-South Cooperation.

## **World System Theory a new perspective:**

This east Russo-Sino collaboration challenges the North-South Divide and Core-Periphery difference as explained by Wallerstein.



The convergence of Capitalist interests will be replaced by collective economic growth.

### **CONCLUSION:**

With BRICS+ representing 47% of global population, the United States unipolarity is severely threatened. Both China (in South-China Sea) and Russia in Ukraine are militarily engaging with the US. Economically, Russian weapons have found market in China, its gas too, China is already ahead - seems like multipolarity is the only choice left!

### **ANSWER: 8**

### **"Realpolitik Framework in IR"**

#### **Introduction:**

International Relations of today are highly characterized by Realist agendas and not liberal Internationalism-wilsonianism

The major regions of the world like Asia-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic are prone to conflicts of varying degrees. Middle-East is burning



with conflict: Syria, Houthis in Yemen, Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq - you name them. This can be explained by The Heartland Theory proposed by Mackinder. He believed whoever controls Heartland, controls the rest of the world. MENA Region is the present-day heartland of global politics.

Other significant conflicts include Russian invasion of Ukraine, Armenia Azerbaijan dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh and Chinese dominance over Taiwan and South-China Region.

### Failure of Liberal Internationalism:

Liberal Internationalism refers to an International community that operates on cooperation for pursuit of common interests. Various institutions are set-up to promote collective ideas.

But certain actors are part of it only at the receiving end. They take **free rides** - not pitching in enough (economically or strategically) but expecting outcomes. This eventually exhausts the giving end and



the idea of collectivism fails. It strengthens the realist concept of an anarchic international environment.

### Hegemonic Aims:

Certain states desire superior status regardless of an equality set-up. This is the greatest critique on the veto power in UN Security Council.

It grants five countries to eradicate the consensus on an important issue. This is some well-versed version of elite capture or Pareto rule on decision-making. This leads to distrust and failure.

The NPT failed, if so practically, based on the same notion.

The agenda of India in SAARC and the Brandt Line all led to the failure of the Regional Organisation.

### Conflicts and Invasions:

A security paradox has also been inbuilt due to such Wilsonian Organisations. The UN allowed US invasion of Iraq, Just War Tradition was reinvoked to

intervene in Afghanistan while the US vetoed the Resolution on Gaza by the South Africa. This "selective applicability" of international norms fail to protect the state sovereignty of many.

### Crash of Regulative Order:

States essentially operate on a Regulative Order. Guided by norms, values or law. All three are crushed in Gaza and deflected in Afghanistan. Faith is lost and damage is done.

### Real Politic Framework:

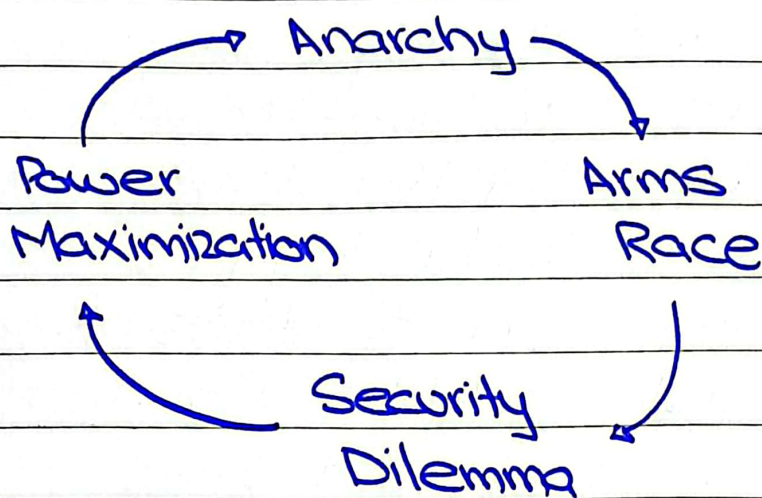
The core of this idea lies in the human egoistic nature and man's love for power.

"Realism is the pursuit of power for the attainment of national interests."

States are selfish to pursue their goals. Russia desires its lost glory back while Israel wants the Zionist Land to live on Herzels'



ideology. They enter into an arms race and fight for it. It is indeed a bad game - **Conflict Model of International Relations** - where states and leaders go to all ends for pursuit of goal.



→ **Real Politik Cycle**

## **Contemporary Developments:**

Wars are now economically fought. But you need to engage in a race. That is what China is doing and US using all means it can imposes Sanctions on Russia, China: one way or the other. China has deployed forces in the East and

South China Sea. Russia uses its military muscles to counter NATO troops in Eastern Europe. The sale of strategic weapons is on-going. S-400, U-35, fighter jets (JF-Thunder), Ballistic Missiles, ACBMs, SLBMs and UAVs are all being used. New versions of chemical bombs used by a NSA like Hamas and the tunnel technology is adopted all justify Hobbes ideas of a realist world. His Leviathan is still relevant and so is Hans J. Morgenthau's "Politics among Nations" and its key ideas. Despite 193 UN members, perpetual peace indeed remains a utopia. The world is shadowed with war and no concept of **Jus en bello** seems applicable.



## ANSWER: 6

# "Regional Dynamics of Middle East"

### Introduction:

Middle East is the hub of all global news and progress. It is a perplexed region involved at various fronts. The West Asian lands are seeking external aid to counter the evils that engulf them from within. Mearshemier presented an analysis:

"19<sup>th</sup> century will be Europe's,  
20<sup>th</sup> century belongs to  
Americas while the 21<sup>st</sup>  
will be for Asia."

The world is viewing it to validate itself as a new event unfolds in West Asia everyday.

### Cause-Effect Analysis of the Syrian Crisis:

In the first week of December, the HTS- Hayat Tahrir-e-Sham declared its takeover of Damascus, Syria.

The root-cause was the vacuum created by major players so that a

non-state actor could takeover. Russia the long-lost friend of Assad regime was quick to offer exile to him, looking out for its unattended bases in Syria.

It's all a social construct as Wendt would describe it. When Syrian soil was needed, it was manipulated and left as soon as it became irrelevant.

### **War in Gaza ~ Realist aims:**

The war in Gaza has underlying realpolitik agendas. The genocidal attack on Palestinians can not be justified under any **Liber Rule of Morality in Warfare**. It is acute violation of Human Rights, IHL, UDHR and Geneva Conventions.