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Subject : I R - 1

Q No 4 :- Foreign policy, its determinants and analysis criteria :-

Foreign policy is the collection of strategies a country uses to guide its relationship with other countries. The foreign policy of a nation is formulated and implemented by its policy makers.

Determinants of Foreign policy:

All those factors which are brought under consideration in order to reach any foreign policy decision would be termed as determinants of foreign policy.

These are two major factors

which shape foreign policy of a country or state

- 1) External factors
- 2) Internal factors

External Factors:-

The international determinants or the environmental factors are the external factor of foreign policy. It covers the International order and the international society's environment.

- Geo-Politics
- International Organisations
- World Public Opinion
- Polar Structure

Internal Factors:-

All the domestic issues or elements of national power are categorized under the internal factors.

- Military Capabilities
- Economic Capabilities
- Technology
- National Capacity

- Type of Government (leader's Perception)

- Size of a state & Geography

- Culture and History

- Social Structure • Leadership

- Public Mood and Role of Media

- Political Accountability

⇒ size influences the psychological and operational environment. Suitable geographical factors can help and encourage the nation to adopt and pursue higher goals. The decision makers are always governed by their cultural links, historical traditions and experiences. National capacity of a state depends on its military preparedness, its technological advancement and economic development and all these affect the foreign policy.

⇒ Comparison of both states on basis of elements of national

Power as well as Environmental consideration serves as determinants of foreign policy between those two states.

Decision - Making in F.P.:-

The study of foreign policy decision making seeks to understand how states formulate and enact foreign policy. IT views foreign policy as a series of decisions made by particular actors using specific decision making process.

Analysis of F.P.:-

Foreign policy analysis applies theories and methods to understand how states make a foreign policy and how these policies translates into ~~geog~~ geopolitical outcomes.

Graham Allison's Model:-

Graham Allison gave 3 Models of Foreign policy analysis

a) Rational Actor Model

b) Bureaucratic Politics Model

c) Bargaining Model

Rational Actor Model:-

The state acts as a unitary rational actor to make "decisions". The main actor in foreign policy is a rational individual who can be relied on to make informed, calculated decisions that maximize value and perceived benefits of the state. There are four main steps in the rational actor's decision-making process: identify the problem, define desired outcomes, evaluate the consequences of potential

policy choices and finally make the most rational decision to maximize beneficial outcomes.

Bureaucratic Politics Model:

The subunits of the state act according to pre-determined procedure to produce an "output".

The bureaucratic politics model analyzes decision on the premise that actions are taken by a number of independent competing entities within a particular state. Each of these separate entities bring values to the decision-making process. Each party attempts to satisfy its goals, meaning any collective action is contingent of successful negotiations.

Bargaining Model:-

Policy outcomes are the result of negotiations among

the leaders, so politics in a sense emphasizes bargaining and the presence of various power centers seeking to achieve their respective goals

Conclusion-

Foreign policy analysis is necessary to improve our states overall understanding of the government, the political decision-making processes that play out on the world stage and the diplomatic process. Each approach to diplomacy offers a unique set of potential drawbacks and benefits and how it is used to achieve maximum national interest that is the end ~~of~~ goal of the whole diplomatic process

Qno 81- Israel-Hamas conflict and international law

Since 2006, Hamas and Israel have fought and the conflict's casualties have not been restricted to combatants, with a large number of civilian fatalities on both sides, mostly Palestinians. The most recent degree of the conflict on the escalation ladder is so high that it has raised questions about the feasibility of the international law.

Rules of War:-

The rules of armed conflict are governed by a set of internationally recognized laws and resolutions, international treaties, humanitarian law and

customary laws, including the United Nations charter, which prohibits aggressive wars but allows countries the right to self defense.

Battlefield behaviour has international humanitarian laws including the Geneva Conventions, drawn up after world war II and agreed on by almost every nation.

War Crimes:-

There are multiple allegations made against Israeli combatants.

Israeli Military Tactics:

Criticism has mounted against Israel for tactics that appear to subject the civilian population of Gaza to collective punishment. The protracted blockade and recurrent airstrikes, which have led to high civilian casualties

have prompted calls for investigations by international society. This is against the **IHL** International Humanitarian Law, which prohibits indiscriminate attacks, targeting civilians and collective punishment, regardless of reciprocal actions or military disparities.

Use of Prohibited Weapons.

There are also serious allegations that Israel has employed white phosphorus, a substance with devastating effect on human tissues in densely populated areas of Gaza. Such use in civilian areas could contravene IHL due to indiscriminate suffering it causes.

Attacks on civilian installations

Israeli combatant have

Date: ___/___/20___

Day: _____

Specifically Targeted the civilian installations such as shops, hospitals, schools and places of worships through air strikes which is normally prohibited by the IHL.

Starvation as weapon of war.

The Geneva Convention's 1977 protocols prohibits the use of starvation as a weapon of war. It is forbidden to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, the objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

While the Israel's combatants are reported to have withheld the essential supplies such as food, water, electricity and medicine from Gaza, which is a war crime.

Occupation and settlement issues:-

The UN report also reiterates the long-standing international law that Israel's settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the displacement of civilians, potentially constitutes war crime. Despite Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, the UN maintains that Israel's effective control over the area continues, with obligations under IHL to provide for the basic needs of the population.

ICC role:-

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has been a potential avenue for prosecuting severe violations like war crime and genocide but how has been unresponsive.

Realpolitik and National Interest dominance in the Israel-Hamas Conflict:-

Realpolitik is the politics based on practical objectives rather than on Ideals. Realpolitik suggest a pragmatic, ~~non-nonsense~~ view and disregard for ethical consideration, focus only on the pursuit of national Interest.

Hamas-Israel conflict has been going on for many decades and still has not come to any concrete solutions due to the practicality of realpolitik dominance in the international community. Even with all the war crimes committed by Israel, neither IHL or ICC or UN has

Taken any strict actions to stop the violations of the war laws.

All the international superpowers are pursuing their own national interest as according to **Neorealism**. USA the global superpower has multiple national interests with Israel. Due to which it had continued to support Israel on all forums even though USA has always presented itself as the guardian of human rights. It is because, according to Neorealism, only national interest is of absolute importance and if a state's national interests are against human rights, it should pursue national interest.

Similarly, Israel is going on the expansionist policies of a true realist who believe that 'where diplomacy fails, war is the continuity of politics'. So, for Israel, the conflict is just and they are pursuing their national interest. Because for realist it is the survival of the fittest.

Ben Gurion summarises the essential problem in conflict "we and they want the same thing: we both want Palestine. And that is the fundamental national conflict".

It does appear that a major factor in accumulation of national power for a state is access to resources (geographical resources).

While international law
are mechanism that define
and maintain basic right
at international level, it
is only where there exist
basic agreement between the
actor and is not oppose to
their national interest.

All actors are engaged
in maximizing power
and absolute gains like
Israel and USA, which has
proved the practicality
of real politik.