

International Relations

Paper - II

Q# 02: 2023 and the changing world order

• Introduction

The turn of year brought with it new challenges and opportunities for different entities within the international system. There has been a growing shift away from the traditional hierarchies towards a new world order. The following analysis comments on the veracity of such claims.

=> Russia - China - North Korea Axis

There has emerged an increasingly strong axis of anti-US forces. China is growing economically, Russia is working on resurgence through consolidation of territories starting invasion of Ukraine to impose force and North Korea is fastly marching towards nuclear prowess. All have not only bolstered individual forces to challenge US and the west but have also joined forces to combat a rules-based international order.

=> The emergent East

Forums like BRICS, India's hosting of the G-20 Summit and the climate accountability through COP 28's Loss and Damage Fund; all are

shifting the tides of times towards an erstwhile invisible East. The post-colonial consciousness of the world beyond West is shunning its orientalist labels of subjugation to claim with dignity, its place in the world.

⇒ Declining US popularity

There has been an uptick in criticism of US worldwide. It has been demonized by the Arabs particularly ever since the Israel's aggression on Gaza. The US vetoed a UN resolution asking for immediate ceasefire between Hamas and Tel Aviv. This further degraded its image as a global guarantor of peace and reinstated its hypocrisy of picking and choosing humanitarian battles to fit interests at home.

⇒ Technology: Window to modern power

Another key reason for changing world order is the could-be equalizers that technology is. Cyber attacks have replaced sophisticated military operations. States are now at start line of a brand new race that anyone with the right strategy could win. Small and low military budget states also stand a chance in face of world powers in their human resources and engineers training is spot on.

Date: _____

⇒ Climate disasters: transcending borders

The nature of issues faced by the world today also put a lot of pressure on the previous world order. Pandemics and climate emergencies make states seek greater collaboration and makes them explore options beyond the US. China has been enjoying the role of a new support system for the world decoupling from the West. Economic interdependence has overtaken insecurity and skepticism.

Conclusion: New World Order on the Horizon

The world is reeling from one crisis to another. States are desperate to feel safe and are pouncing upon any opportunity to redefine their place in the world. US is neither the sole military and economic might nor the sole guarantor of peace of the world.

From the mistakes of the hegemon and the chaos of the world, there will emerge a new order with new winners and leaders. Multipolarity seems to be the most probable outcome of the current scattering of power nodes.

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Q#04. Paradigm shift in Indian Statecraft and changing nature of global great game.

Introduction

India with its populous, rich and exquisite demography has always been under spotlight of policy circles. On top of everything, it is the top US pawn against China in the region. But India has never been like how it is now.

⇒ Break off from Nehruvian secularism.

Pages of history register India as a beacon of mutiny against hegemony. From the Non-Alignment Movement to its chronicles of secular democracy, people looked up to it as the gold standard of decolonization and multiethnic co-existence.

Everything, however, changed. The seeds sown by RSS have sprouted to bear the most poisonous fruits making India not only unsafe for its own religious minorities but also a receiver of backlash from the world community. From the birthplace of Gandhi, it turned into an assassin of Najaf on foreign soils.

⇒ Hindutva and expansionism

The revocation of article 370 and 35-A and the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act, India, powered by its Hindutva helms seals to revert to the fictitious glory of "Akhand Bharat".

Its foreign policy comprises major border clashes with most of its neighbours and it utilizes all its economic and neoliberal prowess to mark its dark side.

⇒ Game of narratives

India's foreign policy is also a power show of narratives with a paradigm shift toward jingoism, rising from domestic politics and spreading throughout the region.

Its state media machinery and repression system have made it look like the mission of Modi is divine. A major and decisive chunk of Indian population is blinded by Hindutva enough to bring down mosques and undertake mob lynchings of Muslims and other minorities.

Date: _____

⇒ Power play of populism

Populism has become a force to be reckoned with throughout the globe. Trump, Orban and Bolsonaro have all joined forces across the globe creating chess board of overlapping ideologies.

Power is accumulated on the basis of exploitation of the desperation in the masses, only to serve personal designs and not for the service of the electoral bases. This has substantially reduced accountability in the Indian Foreign policy.

• Conclusion: India playing its utility right?

India, with an influx of unstopping military aid from US to balance Chinese power, has powered the Modi cult. This has negative implications not only for the democracy of India and its minority, but also for the greater security of the region. Modi's war mongering could land him in a face-off with the nuclear neighbour Pakistan, resulting in mutually assured destruction.