

DATE: 11/01/2024

Mock

International Relations Paper 1

Q2 Nation-state system is constantly under pressure owing to multiple contemporary challenges of the global politics. Discuss in detail.

Introduction

The Nation State System is the dominant organizational principle of global politics since the emergence of the Modern State System in the 17th Century, particularly after the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. A nation denotes a common ethnic and cultural identity shared by a single people, while a state is a political unit with a governance system controlling a territory and its inhabitants. The nation promotes emotional relationship amongst its members, while states provide political and legal foundation for the identity of its citizens.

The modern nation state system is characterized by

i) Sovereignty of states

Each state has its independent political system with defined borders, exclusive authority over its people and territory, as a right to use force within its boundaries.

ii) Nation-States

The connection between state and nation provides legitimacy for the state's rule; This happens ~~with~~ when the political entity

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entity (state) and the cultural identity (nation) overlap. A national identity is created with factors like common language, history, culture and ethnicity taking place.

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However, the 21st century presents a unique challenge to this system, with a multitude of contemporary global issues exerting immense pressure on the traditional framework of national sovereignty and control.

Add main heading of challenges

1) Global Capitalism and neo liberalism

The globalization of production, consumption, and finance in the late 20th century and the concurrent growth of rich and powerful MNCs has reduced the capacity of states to impose national protectionist policies and limit their ability to restrict the movement of information, goods and people across their borders.

This global spread under neoliberalism backed by international institutions like WTO, IMF have also curtailed state capacities to regulate and enforce domestic macro-economic strategies.

2) Immigration

The influx of migrant workers and refugees to nation states has tended to increase cultural and ideological fragmentation

especially in cases where the immigrant religion and culture are very different from those of the host country. It has been seen that tensions emerge between the majority and minority groups and intergroup violence became prevalent. e.g. Islamophobia in Western countries. In the majority groups, the presence of increasing minorities creates a crisis of national identity and gradual shift in ideology.

3) National disintegration

Increasing economic inequality b/w regions within nation states and the rise of identity politics since the late 20th century have increased the likelihood of national disintegration in some countries through the development of secessionist aspirations among some ethnic groups, a phenomenon called "Balkanization". Evidence of Balkanization can be observed both in relatively young nation states in the postcolonial developing world and in established Western nation states with long traditions of republicanism (Scotland in UK and Catalonia in Spain).

4) Global Civil Society

New social movements and NGOs highlight issues such as rights of minorities, indigenous people and environment degradation, which

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directly challenges the ability to use force in state territories for nation states. These organizations demand that politics be expanded from basic issues of economics, security and legislation, to include key issues such as rights of ethnic groups, religious inclusivity as well as environment protection. The tools used by these groups such as social media, allow them to be heard worldwide and therefore gain supporters internationally.

5) Religious Extremism

Nation-states are ~~being~~ facing threats from religious extremist groups that target religious minorities within states. The victims are usually minority groups with little political support. eg (RSS in India). Another religious threat is seen from external actors which aim to replace the governing bodies with theocracies. eg [Taliban and ISIL].

6) Erosion of Trust in Institutions.

~~Citizens are increasingly disillusioned~~ with traditional political institutions, which they perceive as failing to address their concerns. This can lead to populism, extremism, and a general weakening of the social contract b/w states. eg

General Instructions for attaining good marks in International Relations

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Add IR theories and approaches as much as you can

use IR jargons to differentiate it from Current affairs paper.

try reflecting IR concepts or words in your heading

no need to apply all theories in one question but one or two that may justify your arguments

Justify your arguments with at least 8-9 headings

Add current developments as an examples to support arguments

add IR philosophers e.g. Morgenthau, Mearcheimer etc and their philosophies

add graphs charts and critical analysis for bonus marks

each question has 2 or 3 parts, give equal weightage to all parts

You have missed so many important points and phenomena
Add IR perspectives