

Mock 3-July 2024

## Current Affairs

Q.2)

Silent Spectator: The West's Stance on Gaza Crisis

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has long been a contentious issue, marked by allegations of war crimes committed by Israel. However, the self-proclaimed champion of human rights, mainly the US, appears silent or dismissive on this issue. This silence is rooted in a complex web of political, strategic, and economic factors.

Five Reasons Why the US is Silent

① Strategic Alliance with Israel

Israel is one of United States's closest allies in the Middle East, a relationship resting on shared strategic interests such as counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and technological innovation. This alliance is seen as a cornerstone of US foreign policy in the region, making any public condemnation of Israel's actions politically sensitive and diplomatically complex.

Impact on US Relations:

This unwavering support for Israel fosters a perception of bias and double standards in the US approach to human rights, potentially eroding trust and cooperation with Muslim-majority countries. It also complicates the US role as a mediator in Middle East Conflicts

② Domestic Political Influence

Pro-Israel lobbying groups, such as AIPAC, wield significant influence in US politics. These groups contribute

to campaigns and lobby aggressively to ensure continued US support for Israel. Politicians, therefore, may hesitate to criticize Israel for fear of political or financial repercussions.

Impact on US Relations = this dynamic can alienate Muslim-American communities and Muslim-majority countries, who view this influence as undermining a balanced and fair foreign policy. It can also fuel anti-American sentiment and contribute to radicalization in some regions.

### ③ Media Narrative and Public Perception

Mainstream media in the US often portray the Gaza conflict through a lens that emphasizes Israel's right to self-defense and security concerns, sometimes downplaying the humanitarian plight of Palestinians. This framing influences public opinion and policy decisions.

Impact on US Relations = a media narrative perceived as biased can lead to disillusionment and frustration among Muslims globally. It can also weaken the credibility of US human rights advocacy, as inconsistencies between stated values and actions become more apparent.

### ④ Economic Interests

Military Industrial Complex → the US defense industry benefits significantly from arm sales to Israel. This economic interest creates a powerful incentive to maintain a strong alliance, regardless of the humanitarian implications.

Impact on US Relations = prioritizing economic benefits over human rights concerns can damage the US's moral

authority and leadership on the global stage. It may also prompt Muslim-majority countries to seek alliances elsewhere, undermining US influence in the region.

### ⑤ Fear of Destabilization

The US often views Israel as a stabilizing force in a volatile region. Any actions that could weaken Israel might be seen as risking further instability, which could have broader implications for regional and global security.

Impact on US Relations = However, this approach can backfire by perpetuating cycles of violence and instability.

It may also drive Muslim-majority countries to question the US's commitment to peace and justice, leading to strained diplomatic relations and increased geopolitical tension.

### Conclusion: The Cost of Silence

The US silence on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, driven by strategic alliances, domestic politics, media influence, economic interests, and fears of destabilization has far-reaching implications. It risks alienating Muslim-majority countries, undermining trust, and compromising America's role as a global advocate for human rights. To foster better relations with the Muslim world, the US must strive for a more balanced and principled approach that aligns its actions with its professed values of justice and human dignity.

Q.4)

## The Final Act: Analyzing the Drop Scene of the Russia-Ukraine War

The Russia-Ukraine war has dramatically reshaped the geopolitical landscape, with far-reaching consequences for global power dynamics. As the conflict moves toward a potential resolution, it's crucial to evaluate the causes, impacts, and likely outcomes. Will NATO or Russia dominate Ukraine in the end? Here, we critically examine this scenario with 5 key reasons and counterarguments.

### ① Strategic Objectives and Military Capabilities

Reason: NATO's Superior Military Strength

NATO, with its collective defense agreement and advanced military technology, presents a formidable force. The alliance's support to Ukraine, including arms, training, and intelligence, has significantly bolstered Ukraine's defensive and offensive capabilities.

Counterargument - Russia's Regional Proximity and Persistence

Despite NATO's superiority, Russia's geographic proximity to Ukraine provides logistical and strategic advantages. Additionally, Russia's determination to assert its influence in its perceived sphere of influence cannot be underestimated. Prolonged conflict and asymmetric warfare could exhaust NATO's resolve.

Impact

A drawn-out conflict may lead to a war of attrition, where local advantages and long-term endurance play critical roles. NATO's involvement risks escalating into a broader conflict, testing the alliance's unity and resources.

## ② Economic Sanctions and Financial Welfare

Reason: Western Economic Sanctions Crippling Russia

Severe economic sanctions imposed by Western countries have significantly weakened Russia's economy, limiting its ability to sustain prolonged military operations. The isolation from global financial systems and loss of revenue from energy exports have strained Russia's war efforts.

Counterargument: Russia's Adaptation and Resilience

Russia has shown resilience by pivoting its trade towards non-Western countries, particularly China and India.

Moreover, the Russian economy's adaptation to a wartime footing and domestic production of essential goods mitigate some effects of the sanctions.

Impact: While sanctions have immediate effects, their long-term success depends on global enforcement and Russia's ability to adapt. Economic pressure could either force Russia to negotiate or push it towards more aggressive tactics to secure quick victories.

## ③ Political Will and Public Opinion

Reason: Strong NATO Unity and Public Support

The invasion of Ukraine has galvanized NATO members and bolstered public support for the alliance's actions. The unity among member states in supporting Ukraine showcases a collective commitment to counter Russian aggression and uphold international law.

Counterargument: War Fatigue and Divisions Within NATO  
Prolonged conflict may lead to war fatigue among NATO populations, pressuring governments to seek diplomatic solutions.

Divergent interests and priorities among NATO members could lead to fractures within the alliance, weakening its overall resolve.

Impact = Sustained unity within NATO is crucial for maintaining pressure on Russia. However, internal divisions and public opinion shifts could force NATO to reconsider its level of involvement and support for Ukraine