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'Great Nations win without fighting

Brainstorming

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- Use of Soft power → U.S. Hollywood → India's propaganda against Pak
- BRI → Economic power/influence → Hitler's propaganda ministry.
- India-China trade → Bollywood
- Diplomacy → US-Soviet's cold war.
- Counter-argument → French revolution
- Bangladesh.

Outline :

1 - Introduction

While military has played a key role historically, truly great nations achieve lasting success through efficient diplomacy, economic influence and use of soft war, rather than engaging in fighting.

2 - Use of Soft power

- a) In the post-truth era, the use of social media as a strategic tool to gain influence.

Evidence: → Impact of India's disinformation campaign against Pakistan.

→ Hitler's Propaganda ministry.

- b) Controlling cultural and ideological beliefs through movies.

Evidence: The role of Hollywood and Bollywood in portraying their ideologies as superior.

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c) Raising awareness and shaping perceptions through social media, an effective strategy

Evidence: → Protests in Bangladesh fueled by social media

→ Protests in Pakistan facilitated through effective campaigning on social media.

3- Economic influence.

a) Economic strength can be more powerful than military might

Evidence: → China's BRI project expanding their global influence.

→ Economic sanctions by the US to stop Russia's incursions in Ukraine.

→ China becoming influential in middle east because of economic policies rather than engaging in fighting.

4. Diplomacy as a strategic tool

Evidence: → The European Union achieved as a result of diplomacy.

→ US-Soviet Cold war ended due to

diplomatic means rather military fighting.

→ Economic regionalism leading to organizations such as ASEAN and SCO benefitting all members.

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5. Counter Arguments: The role of military might

military power necessary for global security

Evidence: → The British empire expanded through conquest
→ French revolution helped their nation achieve independence

6. Winning without military might: way forward for nations today.

a) Modern nations have recognized the need for non-military actions to achieve true success.

b) Military power is not effective in today's globalized world.

Case Study. → The case of Gaza conflict
→ Russia-Ukraine War

7. Conclusion.

The Essay

'war is too serious a matter to be left to the Generals' Winston Churchill

This quote reflects the need for political oversight and a comprehensive strategy in decision-making

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Rather than reliance on military strength for a nation to prosper. History sheds light on important conquests that would not have been possible without fighting, however, the evolving landscape of international relations and politics does not allow for such an approach anymore. The success of great nations is not shouldered on fighting but rather has become dependent on other factors including strategic softening, use of soft power and most importantly economic influence. This is evident from the fact that the world's most successful hegemonies; US and China are engaged in economic war rather than traditional warfare to become the greatest nations.

In world war II, Hitler established a propaganda ministry to gain strategic influence over its rivals. Dr Goebbels the incharge of this ministry once remarked

'If big lies are told to people, they start believing in them'

This state exemplifies the use of soft power by nations to win. They do not engage in traditional warfare but simply launch a full scale propaganda campaign to win a competitive advantage over its rivals. This tactic has been actively used in today's contemporary world. An example of such can be India's alleged anti-Pakistan campaign.

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In 1971 that ultimately led to separation of the eastern wing. This proved to be favourable to India as Pakistan faced a huge blow.

In 2020, an EU NGO exposed another such campaign by India to spread disinformation in Pakistan threatening its political stability and intensifying its security situation. This was a 5 year old operation which was based on thousands of fake accounts undermining the situation in Pakistan. India is still allegedly operating these campaigns. As a result of ^{one} such campaign, Pakistan was also placed on the FATF's grey list. This indeed gives India a competitive advantage and highlights how a state can win a war even without fighting. In this post-truth world era, feted in social media, it has become easier to win using such tactics.

Another way that countries adopt today to achieve success without warfare is using its cinema services to impose its cultural and ideological views on others. A prime example is that of Hollywood which have a history of trying to impose its imperialist views on people. The concept of 'white supremacy' or 'superiority of democracy' has ^{been} showcased too often in Hollywood. This has been immensely beneficial for the US to convey its message and establish ~~exte~~ itself as a global super power as people increasingly recognize democracy as the only viable option. A similar approach has been taken

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by India to effectively communicate its ideals. This illustrates that nations can achieve success without military confrontations, through simply influencing the minds of people around the world.

Economic influence serves as a powerful tool for nations to achieve their success without resorting to ~~economic~~ military conflict. A major example is that of the rise of China. Instead of military expansions, China focused on initiatives like the BRI (Belt and Road initiative) through which it has strengthened ties with various countries. This has helped China to become the second largest economy in the world. The United States, despite being a superpower due to its military strength is also trying to focus on global partnerships and trade agreements. Both nations demonstrate that they can achieve their objectives and enhance their influence without engaging in warfare, as the world has become increasingly geo-economic rather than geo-political. Contemporary disputes such as US-China trade war which has also become a currency war highlights this fact.