

DATE: 11.12.25

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Mock Exam (VIII)

International

Relations (Part-I)

Q NO. 2

Discuss the evolution of the nation state system from its inception to its current global form. How does the rationale behind this model explain the root causes of Pakistan's issues? How has globalization challenged core principles of this system?

Introduction

a

The national state system is the dominant model of global politics where sovereign states with defined territorial boundaries and political authority interact in an anarchical international system. Its evolution reflects the changing nature of sovereignty, legitimacy and global governance from early European state formation to today's multipolar and globalized world.

b Inception of the Nation-State System

The treaty of Westphalia

(1648) is considered the foundation, establishing sovereign states with territorial integrity and non-interference in domestic affairs.

European monarchies consolidated power, linking nation identity with territorial control.

Early nation state balanced internal governance and external diplomacy creating the basis of modern international law.

C Evaluation through Industrialization and Imperialism

The 18th - 19th centuries
saw industrialization and

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Colonial expansion, spreading the nation-state model globally.

Nationalism became a key driver, linking culture, language and political legitimacy. Wars and revolutions

(e.g. French, American)

reinforced the sovereignty principle, emphasizing citizen-state loyalty.

d Post World War Development

20th Century: Nation state system spread to Asia, Africa and Latin America after decolonization.

International institutions like the UN codified principles of sovereignty, human rights and collective

Security.

The Cold War illustrated ideological polarization where the state system functioned under competing superpower structure.

e Rationale Behind the Nation-State Model and Pakistan's issues

The Rationale: A state exists to protect sovereignty, secure citizens, and manage resources.

Pakistan's issues stem partly from this model. Territorial disputes (Kashmir) challenge sovereignty. Ethnic, linguistic and

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religious diversity create internal cohesion problems.

The nation state system model assumes a homogeneous political identity whereas Pakistan is multi-ethnic and federated leading to governance and security dilemmas.

f Globalization and Challenges to the Nation State System.

Globalization has weakened traditional state monopoly.

Transnational actors (MNCs, NGOs, terrorist networks) bypass state authority.

Economic interdependence limits policy autonomy, states cannot act in isolation.

Information flow and social media challenge state narratives and sovereignty.

For Pakistan globalization has exposed economic vulnerability, dependency on foreign aid, and difficulty managing cross-border terrorism, testing the nation state model's core principles.

9 Conclusion

The nation state system, built on sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political authority remains the backbone of global politics. However, Pakistan's challenges ethnic diversity, territorial disputes and governance issues, highlighting the **Limitations** of

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applying a Eurocentric state model to a multi ethnic **post-colonial** country.

Meanwhile globalization has transformed traditional notions of sovereignty forcing states like Pakistan to adapt to interdependence, transnational pressures and economic integration redefining the rationale of statehood in the 21st century.

Q NO. 3
Theories and
Approaches in international
Relations: Epistemology
and Ontology

a Introduction:

International relation is the study of interactions among states and other global actors, but its interpretation depends on underlying epistemological (knowledge) and Ontological (existence) assumptions.

The classification of theories from realism to critical approaches reveal profound differences in how scholars view the causes of conflict, cooperation and global order.

b Narrow vs. Broad Views of IR

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Narrow definition of IR

Interest based political as well as non political relations at international level between states is called IR.

Broad definition of IR

Interest based political as well as non political relations at international level among state and non-state actors is called IR.

Narrow View:

Focuses primarily on state behaviour, diplomacy, war, and power politics. Traditional theories such as realism and liberalism dominate.

Broad View:

Expands to

to include non state actors
global institutions transnational
issues (terrorism,
environment, trade human
rights) reflecting contemporary
global complexity.

The classification of
theories reflects these
epistemological boundaries
what counts as valid knowledge
and ontological assumptions
what entities are considered
real actors.

C Epistemological Perspectives

Realism: knowledge is derived
from observing power struggles
among self interested states.
Focus on empirical evidence
rational calculations and
survival.

Liberalism: Emphasizes institutions Cooperation and interdependence as source of knowledge.

Constructivism: Knowledge is socially constructed, identities norms, and ideas shape reality.

Critical theory: Knowledge is tied to power structures and emancipation questioning whose interests dominate global politics.

Key point: Epistemology in IR determines how we know the world and what counts as valid explanation.

Ontological Perspectives

Realist ontology: States are primary actors

anarchical system, survival focused.

Liberal Ontology: States plus international institutions, NCIOs and MNCs are real actors shaping outcomes.

Constructivist Ontology: Social reality is constructed through ideas norms and identities actors interests are not fixed.

Critical/Marxist Ontology: inequality and capitalist structures are real determinants of conflict.

Ontology in IR defines what exists and matters in the international system, shaping theory and policy prescriptions.

Narrow vs. Broad

Epistemology / Ontology

Epistemology Focus on state behaviour, military power.

includes economic, environmental
normatives transnational factors

Ontology states as sole actors
states + non-state actors +
global norms.

f Best Theory for Explaining Current Global Politics

Current global politics is
multipolar, interdependent
and **ideologically** complex.

Realism explains power
rivalry (US - China, india-pak)
but fails on transnational
threats (climate change,
cyber warfare).

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Liberalism capture cooperation through institutions (UN, WTO, climate accords).

Constructivism explains influence of norms identity and ideas on state behaviour.

A hybrid approach combining realism (power politics) liberalism (institutions) and constructivism (norms/identity) best explains today's global dynamics. States still compete for power, but cooperation ideas and norms shape outcomes in a globalized world.

9 Conclusion:

The classification of IR theories highlights fundamental differences in epistemology and ontology what we know and what

exists. Narrow views emphasize states and power while broad views recognize diverse actors and transnational issues. In contemporary global politics, no single theory suffices, a combined realist-liberal constructivist framework offers the most comprehensive explanation of conflict, cooperation and change.

Q NO. 4

Globalization and
Security in IR

a Introduction

Globalization
refers to the increasing

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interconnectedness of states economies, societies and cultures through trade, communication technology and migration. This interdependence has transformed security dynamics influencing both traditional (military) and non traditional (economic), environmental human threats. Understanding this relationship is crucial for contemporary IR analysis.

b Globalization and Traditional security Threats.

Traditional security focuses on state survival military power and territorial integrity.

Globalization has altered military strategies; advanced technology, cyber, warfare and intelligence sharing have increased the reach and speed of conflicts.

Example: US-China Strategic rivalry is influenced by economic interdependence and global supply chains. States now consider economic and technological vulnerabilities as part of national defence, not just conventional armies.

Globalization and Non-Traditional Security Threats

Globalization has expanded the scope of security to include terrorism, pandemics, climate change, cyber threats and organized crime.

Transnational threats move rapidly across borders due to air travel, digital networks and global trade.

Example: Covid-19

Pandemic highlighted how global interconnectedness can transform a health crisis into global security concern.

States now cooperate through international institutions to mitigate these threats reflecting the interdependent nature of modern security.

d Interconnection of

Traditional and Non-Traditional Threats.

Globalization links military economic and ^{social} security.

Economic interdependence can reduce some conflicts

(liberal peace theory) but also create vulnerabilities

Example : supply chain disruptions can weaken military readiness.

Non-state actors like terrorist networks and cyber criminals

exploit globalization, challenging state-centric security models.

Security is no longer just about territory it includes energy, food environmental and technological dimensions.

e Policy Implications for States

States must adopt comprehensive security strategies integrating both traditional and non traditional threats.

Regional cooperation and multilateralism are essential as no state can address transnational threats alone.

Technology, intelligence sharing and global governance frameworks become tools for safeguarding national and human security.

For Pakistan, managing terrorism cyber threats and climate induced challenges requires balancing sovereignty with cooperation.

Conclusion

Globalization has fundamentally reshaped security in international relations. While it increases interdependence and opportunities for cooperation, it also magnifies vulnerabilities creating hybrid threats that transcend borders. Contemporary security strategies must therefore be multidimensional, proactive and cooperative, recognizing that the stability of one state increasingly depends on the security of the global system.



Q NO. 5

Pakistan's achievements
and Opportunities post -
May 2025 india Tension?

a Introduction

The May 2025 india-pakistan 4-day confrontation ended in de escalation, signaling strategic restraint and crisis management. This period provided Pakistan with an opportunity to consolidate its national security posture strengthen its international credibility and explores new avenues for alliances and economic Partnerships.

b Strategic and Security Achievements

Pakistan demonstrated controlled use of military force, reinforcing deterrence credibility without escalating into full scale war.

Successful crisis management improved domestic and international confidence in Pakistan's strategic decision-making.

Reinforced border security and defense readiness, while maintaining restraint to avoid global censure.

Enhanced regional stability narrative projecting Pakistan as a responsible nuclear

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State in the eyes of the international community.

c Effect on Global Standing

Improved diplomatic credibility with major powers (US, China, Saudi Arabia) due to measured response.

Enhanced role in international conflict resolution positioning Pakistan as a moderate, stabilizing actor in South Asia.

Strengthened Pakistan's image in multilateral forums (UN, OIC), demonstrating adherence to international norms.

Increased investor and

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trade confidence, signaling
political stability and
strategic prudence.

d Opportunities for Alliances and Economic Partnerships

Potential bilateral and
regional economic cooperation
(CPEC expansion regional)
opportunity to engage in
security partnerships to
combat terrorism cyber
threats and border management.
Scope for multilateral
collaborations in climate,
infrastructure and energy
projects through ASEAN,
SCO and OIC.

Strengthened diplomatic leverage for defence cooperation joint exercises and intelligence sharing with friendly states.

e Framework for Leveraging the Situation

i Strategic diplomacy:

Maintain balanced foreign relations with india, US, China, and Gulf states.

Use de-escalation credibility to mediate regional conflicts positioning Pakistan as a responsible actor.

(ii) Economic Engagement

Expand FDI and trade agreements leveraging political stability.

Promote regional connectivity through infrastructure and energy partnerships.

(iii) Security and Defense

Cooperation:

Strengthen joint counterterrorism and cyber defense initiative with allies.

Continue strategic signaling to ensure deterrence
Credibility is maintained.

iv International Image management

Actively participate in multilateral forums

highlighting Pakistan's commitment to peace stability and sustainable development.

promote soft power initiatives; culture, education and humanitarian diplomacy.

f Conclusion

The de-escalation May 2025 has positioned Pakistan as a strategically responsible and diplomatically credible actor. By leveraging its military restraint diplomatic engagement and economic opportunities, Pakistan can enhance its global standing

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forge new alliances and pursue sustainable economic partnerships. A comprehensive foreign policy integrating security, diplomacy and economic strategy will ensure Pakistan converts this crisis into a long-term strategic advantage.

