

International Relations.

Question no 2:

Evolution of the Nation-State system:

The nation-state system emerged in Europe during the 17th century, formalized by the treaty of Westphalia (1648), which ended the thirty years war.

This treaty established key principles: sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in domestic affairs.

Over time, the model spread globally, shaping modern international relations.

Key ~~stages~~ Stages of evolution:

(1) Westphalian Sovereignty (17th-18th century):

States became the primary actors in global politics, with clear territorial boundaries and legal recognition.

(2) Colonial Expansion (18th-20th century):

European powers exported the nation-state model globally, often creating artificial borders in colonized regions.

(3) Post - world War Era (20th century):

Emergence of the United Nations, decolonization, and rise of international law reinforced the nation-state as a global norm.

(4) Contemporary Global System:

Nation-states remain central, but their sovereignty is increasingly challenged by supranational organizations, global markets, transnational networks, and international norms.

Rationale and Pakistan's Issues:

The nation-state model assumes that a state is a unitary entity with a single identity, stable institutions, and defined territory. However, Pakistan's problems highlight the limitations of this model when applied to heterogeneous societies.

1) Ethnic and linguistic diversity:

Pakistan has multiple ethnic groups (Punjabi, Sindhi, Baloch, Pashtun), which sometimes feel marginalized by the central state.

2) Colonial legacies:

Borders drawn during partition ignored historical, cultural, and economic realities, contributing to internal conflicts.

3) State-society mismatch:

The nation-state model presumes a strong bond between state and citizen but weak governance and political instability in Pakistan have undermined this.

4) Security-centric priorities:

The state's focus on military and defense, partly due to Westphalian idea of protecting sovereignty, has sometimes marginalized social and economic development.

Globalization's Challenges

Globalization limits state control over economies, spreads global culture, and demands cooperation on issues like terrorism, pandemics and climate change, undermining traditional sovereignty. For Pakistan, this creates tension between maintaining autonomy and engaging internationally.

Conclusion:

The Nation - State model's assumptions and the pressures of globalization help explain Pakistan's governance, identity, and development challenges.