

Part II

Q. No 6

Ans: 1. Introduction:

The U.S Supreme Court, created under the Judiciary Act of 1789, began as a modest institution with limited influence. Over time, it evolved into the most powerful judicial body in the world, shaping American democracy through landmark rulings. Its trajectory reflects enduring constitutional debates over federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights. From *Marbury v. Madison* to *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the Court has remained central to defining liberty and governance in U.S. history.

2. Judicial Review (1803):

In *Marbury v. Madison*, Chief Justice John Marshall established the principle of judicial review, empowering the Court to strike down laws inconsistent with the constitution. This ruling transformed the judiciary from a passive institution into a co-equal branch of

government, laying the foundation for its future authority.

3. Federal vs. State Power (1819):

The case of *McCulloch v. Maryland* reinforced federal supremacy by upholding Congress's implied powers under the Necessary and Proper Clause. This decision clarified the balance between states' sovereignty and federal authority, a debate that continues in modern rulings on healthcare, immigration, and voting rights.

4. Slavery and Civil rights (1857):

The infamous *Dred Scott v. Sandford* ruling denied citizenship to African Americans and invalidated congressional authority to regulate slavery in territories. It deepened sectional tensions, contributing to the Civil War, and highlighted how the Court could entrench injustice when aligned with political pressure.

5. Progressive Era and Economic Regulation (1900 - 1930s):

During the Progressive Era, the Court often resisted economic reforms, striking down labor laws and regulations. However, by the New Deal period, it shifted to uphold Roosevelt's legislation, reflecting the tension between the judicial conservatism and democratic demands for social justice.

6. Civil Liberties Expansion (1919):

In *Schenk v. United States*, the Court tested the limits of free speech during wartime, introducing the "clear and present danger" test. This marked the beginning of a long struggle to balance national security with civil liberties, a theme echoed in post-9/11 rulings.

7. Civil Rights Revolution (1954):

The Warren Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* declared racial segregation unconstitutional, overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*. This landmark ruling catalyzed the Civil Rights Movement, demonstrating the Court's role as a driver of social change and equality.

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8. Due Process Expansion (1960s):

Cases like *Miranda v. Arizona* expanded protection for the accused, requiring police to inform suspects of their rights. These rulings strengthened due process and reflected the Court's commitment to safeguarding individual liberties against state power.

9. Abortion Rights (1973-2022):

Roe v. Wade recognized a woman's right to privacy in reproductive decisions, symbolizing judicial activism in personal liberties. Its overturning in *Dobbs v. Jackson* (2022) reignited debates over federalism, judicial restraint, and moral values showing the Court's enduring role in cultural conflicts.

10. Immigration Authority:

Recent rulings have upheld broad executive discretion in immigration enforcement, including border security and deportation policies. These decisions reflect historical debates over national

sovereignty, executive power, and the rights of non-citizens.

11. Executive Power (1974-Present):

In *U.S. v. Nixon*, the Court limited presidential privilege, reinforcing accountability. Modern cases revisit executive emergency powers, highlighting the tension between strong leadership and constitutional checks.

12. Gun Rights (2008):

District of Columbia v. Heller affirmed the individual right to bear arms under the Second Amendment. This ruling reflected the Court's shift toward originalist interpretations, ~~renewing~~ reviving debates on liberty versus public safety.

13. Same-Sex Marriage (2015)

Obergefell v. Hodges legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, expanding equality under the Fourteenth Amendment. It demonstrated the Court's evolving role in recognizing civil rights in line with societal change.

14. Health Care and Federalism (2012):

In *NFIB v. Sebelius*, the Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, balancing federal authority with state autonomy. This ruling echoed earlier debates on federalism from *McCulloch v. Maryland* to modern disputes over healthcare policy.

15. Voting Rights (2013):

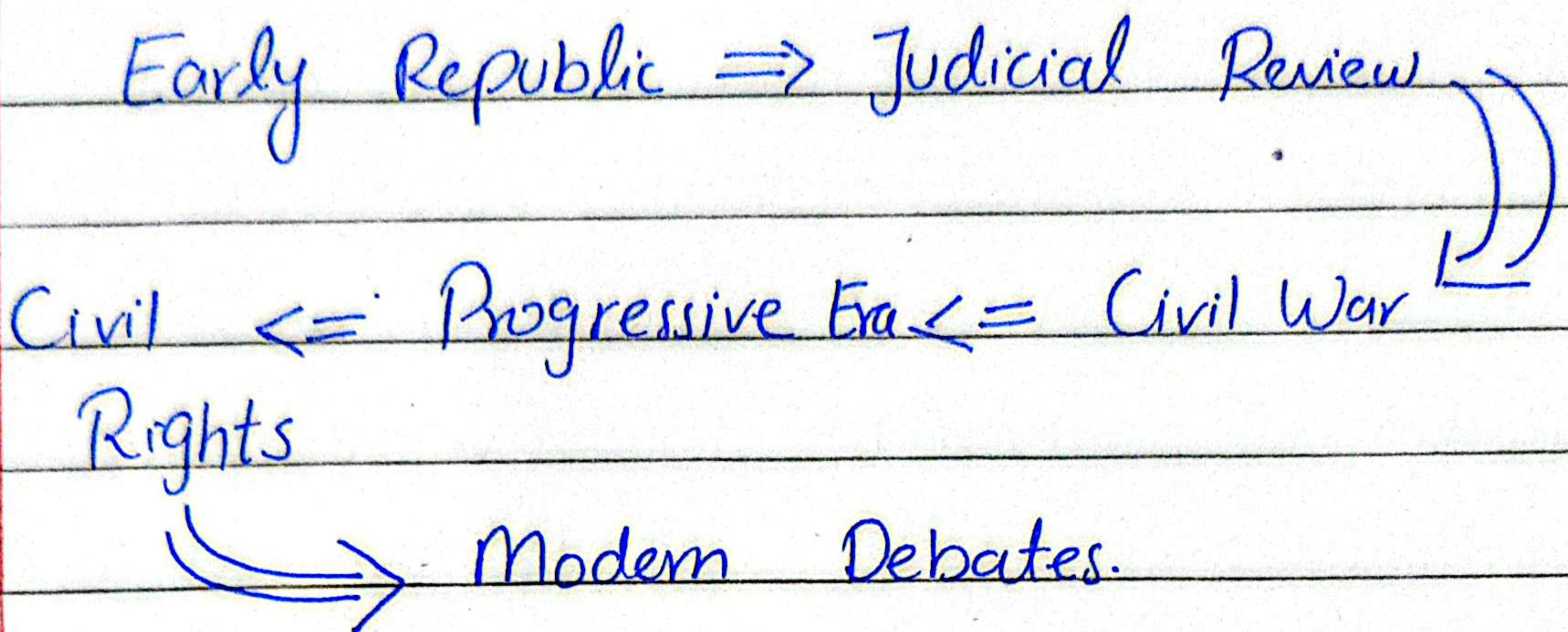
Shelby County v. Holder weakened federal oversight of state voting laws, reigniting disputes over racial discrimination and electoral fairness. It reflected the Court's ongoing struggle to balance states' rights with democratic equality.

16. Recent Immigration Rulings:

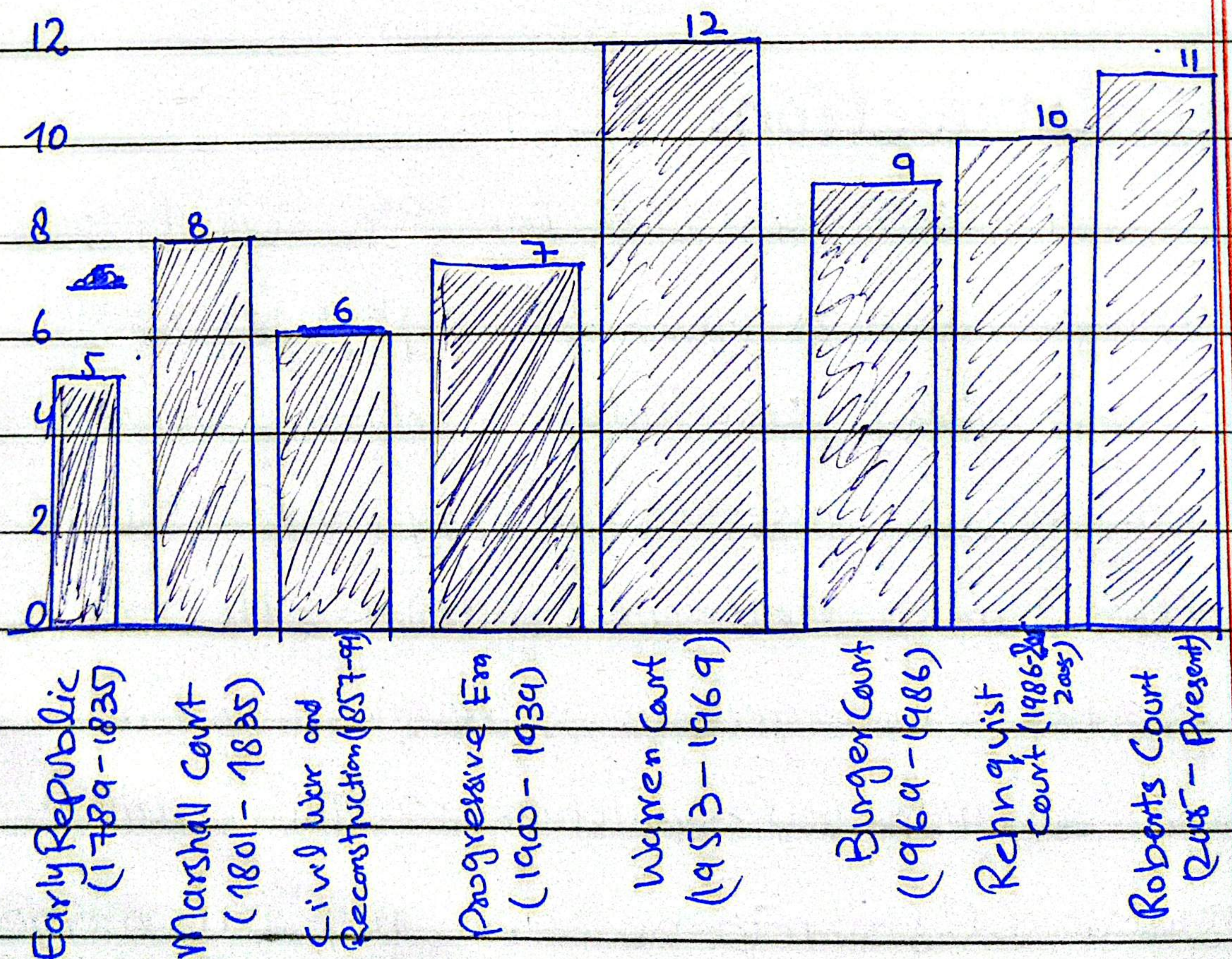
The Court continues to adjudicate cases on asylum, deportations, and executive discretion. These rulings highlight the enduring constitutional debate over who defines national identity and how far executive power extends in shaping

immigration *Redeem* policy.

17. Flow Chart: Evolution of Judicial Power:



Frequency of Major U.S Supreme Court Landmark Ruling by Era.



18. Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's evolution reflects America's constitutional struggles: liberty vs. order, federal vs. State, and shifting ~~and~~ notions of rights. Recent rulings on abortion, immigration, and executive authority are not isolated events but echoes of debates stretching back to *Marbury v. Madison* to *Brown vs Board of education*, showing continuity in constitutional contestation.

Q No. 7

Ans: Introduction:

After the Cold War, the United States emerged ~~em~~ as the sole superpower. Its foreign policy oscillated between interventionism such as as assertive military and diplomatic actions and strategic restraint ~~such~~ such as selective engagement, reliance on allies, and multi-lateral institutions. This duality shaped U.S. responses in the Balkan 1990s.

Iraq in 2003, Afghanistan from 2001 - 2021, and continues in debates about global leadership in the 21st century.

2. Unipolar Moment (1991-2001):

The collapse of the Soviet Union left the United States as the sole superpower, a period often described as the "unipolar moment" by Charles Krauthammer. This dominance gave Washington unprecedented freedom to shape global affairs, but it also created dilemmas of overextension. The U.S. sought to project power while avoiding the costs of global policing, setting the stage for alternating cycles of intervention and restraint.

3. Humanitarian Intervention in Balkans:

In the 1990s, ethnic conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo tested U.S. resolve. Washington led to NATO airstrikes in Bosnia (1995) and Kosovo (1999), justifying intervention on humanitarian grounds. These actions reflected America's willingness to use force to prevent

genocide and ethnic cleansing, reinforcing its image as the "indispensable" nation."

4. Strategic Restraints in Balkans:

Despite military activism, the U.S. avoided unilateral ground invasions. Instead, it relied on NATO coalitions and UN legitimacy to share burdens. This demonstrated restraint, as Washington balanced humanitarian imperatives with the risk of entanglement in Europe's complex ethnic disputes.

5. Iraq War (2003) - Interventionism:

The Iraq War epitomized unilateral interventionism. Guided by the Bush Doctrine of preemptive war, the U.S. invaded Iraq to eliminate alleged weapons of mass destruction and topple Saddam Hussein. This reflected assertive use of military power, but it also exposed America to accusations of imperial overreach.

6. Iraq War - Strategic Restraint Failure:

The absence of UN approval and

Weak coalition support undermined legitimacy. The war drained US resources and credibility, showing the dangers of ignoring restraint. The failure to stabilize Iraq highlighted the limits of unilateralism in a multipolar world.

7. Afghanistan (2001) - Interventionism:

After 9/11, the US launched Operation Enduring Freedom, swiftly dismantling Taliban rule. This intervention was framed as self-defense and counterterrorism, marking America's most decisive military action since Vietnam. It reflected the willingness to use overwhelming force to secure national interests.

8. Afghanistan - Strategic Restraint:

Yet the long war revealed restraint in practice. Washington relied heavily on NATO allies, avoided permanent occupation, and eventually withdrew in 2021. The withdrawal symbolized fatigue with "forever war" and a pivot toward selective engagement.

9. Global Leadership Debate:

Post-Cold War debates questioned whether the U.S. should remain the "world policeman" or adopt a restrained role. Scholars like Francis Fukuyama argue America oscillates between hegemon and reluctant sheriff. This tension continues to shape policy toward the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

10. Selective Engagement:

Obama's "leading from behind" in Libya (2011) reflected selective engagement. The U.S. supported NATO airstrikes but avoided deep involvement. This approach balanced interventionist impulses with caution, signaling a shift toward burden-sharing.

11. Economic Restraints:

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan cost over \$6 trillion, straining U.S. finances. Economic realities forced Washington to reconsider interventionist policies. Fiscal caution became a driver of restraint, especially amid domestic priorities like

healthcare and infrastructure.

12. Domestic Opinion:

Public disillusionment with prolonged wars shaped restraint in Syria and Afghanistan. Opinion polls revealed declining support for military interventions, compelling policymakers to adopt cautious strategies. Domestic politics thus reinforced restraint in foreign policy.

13. Multilateralism vs Unilateralism:

The Balkans illustrated successful multilateralism, while Iraq exposed the perils of unilateralism. This contrast underscores the recurring pattern: U.S. leaders oscillate between coalition-building and unilateral action depending on circumstances.

14. Great Power Rivalries:

The rise of China and resurgence of Russia forced Washington to balance intervention with ~~restraint~~ restraint. Confronting great powers requires caution, as reckless

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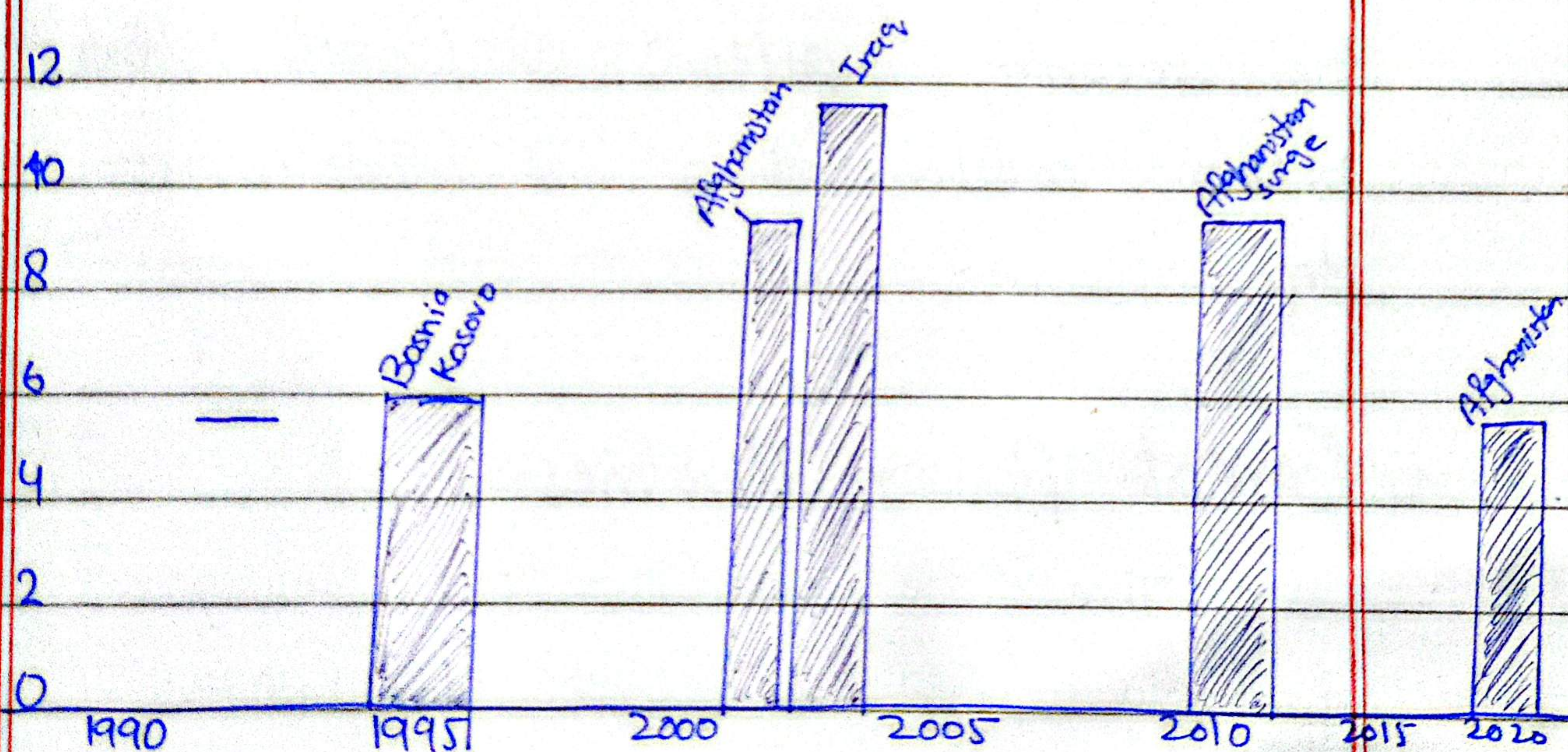
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intervention could escalate into global conflict. Strategic restraint thus became essential in managing multipolarity.

15. Global Leadership Crisis:

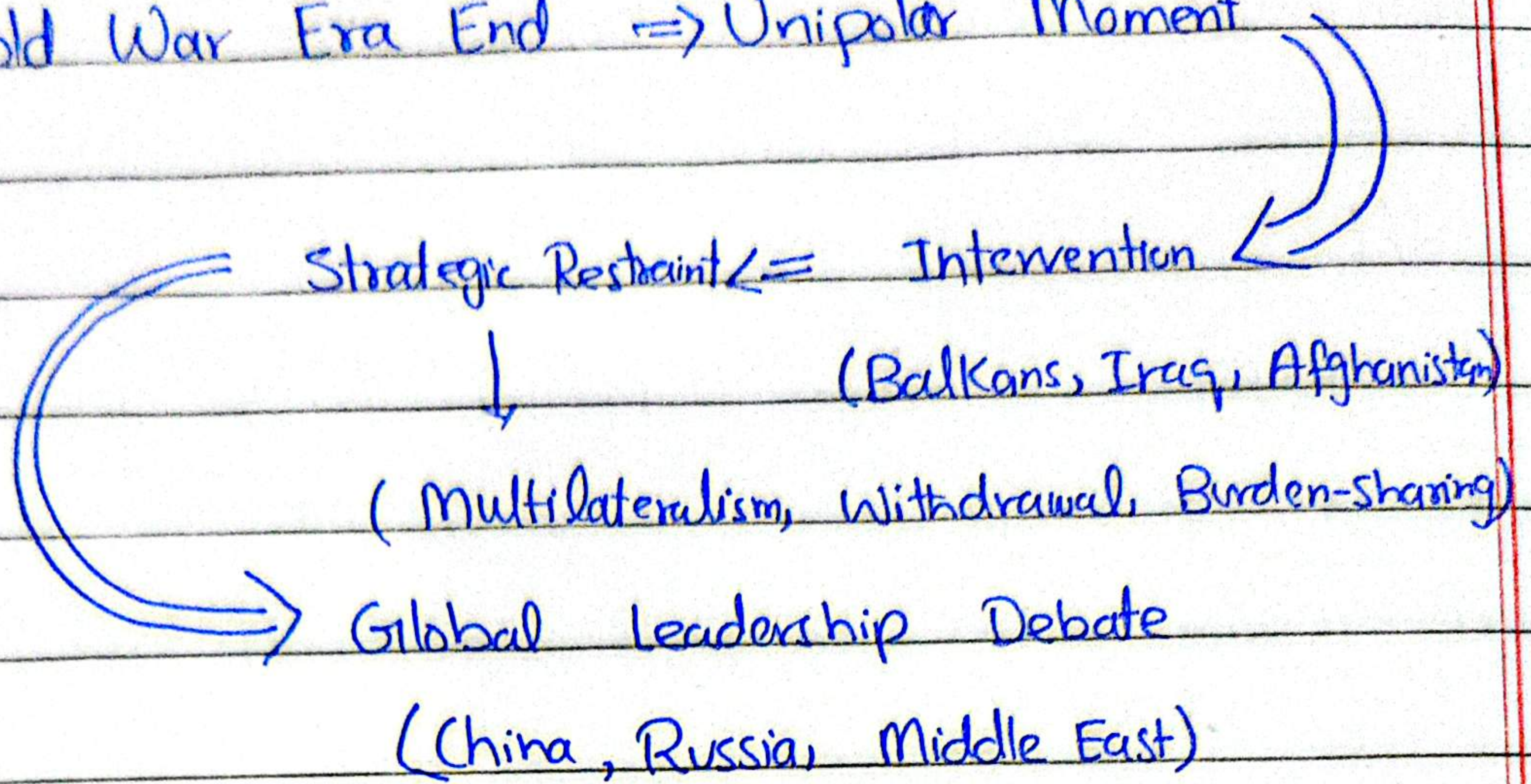
Today, debates about U.S. leadership center on whether America should remain the "indispensable nation" or embrace multipolarity. Some argue for continued activism to uphold liberal order, while others advocate restraint to avoid overextension.

U.S. Interventionism Intensity by Country (1990-2020):



16. FlowChart: U.S Foreign Policy Pattern:

Cold War Era End $\Rightarrow$ Unipolar Moment



17. Conclusion:

Post-Cold War U.S foreign policy reveals a recurring cycle of interventionism and restraint. In the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan, America oscillated between assertive unilateralism and cautious multilateralism.

Q No. 3

Ans: 1 Introduction:

The American Civil War (1861-65) was a watershed in U.S history, fought primarily

over slavery, federalism, and sectional identity. While it abolished slavery and reinforced federal authority, the deeper debates about race and identity were left unresolved. These legacies continue to shape American politics today, especially in voting rights controversies, racial justice movements, and disputes over federal versus state power.

2. Causes of the Civil War:

a. Slavery as Core Issue:

Slavery was the central cause of the Civil War. The Southern economy depended on enslaved labor, while Northern abolitionist movements increasingly challenged its morality and legality. This irreconcilable difference made compromise impossible.

b. Federalism Dispute:

Southern states argued for sovereignty to protect slavery, claiming the right to secede. The Union, however, insisted on federal supremacy, making the war a

test of constitutional federalism.

c. Economic divide and Sectional identity:

The industrial North promoted modernization and free labor, while the agrarian South relied on plantation slavery. These competing economic visions sharpened sectional antagonism. Distinct cultural identities — Southern honor and agrarian tradition versus Northern progress and reform — hardened into political divisions, fueling secessionist sentiment.

d. Political Polarization:

Repeated failures of compromise, such as the Missouri Compromise and Kansas-Nebraska Act, deepened mistrust between the North and South leaving war as the only resolution.

3. Consequences of Civil War

a. Abolition of Slavery:

The 13th Amendment in 1865 legally

ended slavery, marking a revolutionary change in American society. Yet abolition did not guarantee equality, as freed slaves faced systemic discrimination and economic marginalization.

b. Reconstruction Era:

Reconstruction (1865-77) sought to integrate freed slaves into American society through civil rights legislation and federal oversight. However, violent resistance from groups like the Klu Klux Klan and restrictive Black Codes undermined progress, leaving African Americans vulnerable to exploitation.

c. Federal Authority Strengthened:

The Union victory reinforced federal supremacy over states, establishing a precedent for centralized authority in national crises. This shift in power laid the foundation for later federal intervention in civil rights, economic regulation, and social policy.

d. Racial Segregation:

Despite emancipation, Jim Crow laws institutionalized racial hierarchies, enforcing segregation and disenfranchisement. This system perpetuated inequality for nearly a century, demonstrating that legal freedom did not translate into social justice.

e. Identity Politics Entrenched:

Regional and racial identities became enduring features of American politics. The South developed a "Lost Cause" narrative that glorified its past, while African American mobilized around civil rights, shaping debates over citizenship and belonging.

4. Modern Implications

a. Voting Rights Debates:

Contemporary disputes over voter ID laws, gerrymandering, and disenfranchisement echo Reconstruction-era struggles. Efforts to restrict minority voting rights reflects

the persistence of Civil War-era conflicts over political participation.

b. Civil Rights Movement Legacy:

From Martin Luther King Jr. to Black Lives Matter, racial justice movements highlight the unfinished business of Civil War reforms. These movements demand equality and accountability, continuing the struggle for civil rights begun during Reconstruction.

c. Federalism in Policy:

Modern disputes over healthcare, immigration, and policing reflect the same tensions between state autonomy and federal oversight that fueled secession. The question of how much power states should wield remains unresolved.

d. Polarization in Identity Politics:

~~Persistent~~ Race, ethnicity, and regional identity continues to polarize American society. Debates over immigration, Policing and cultural representation mirror the sectional

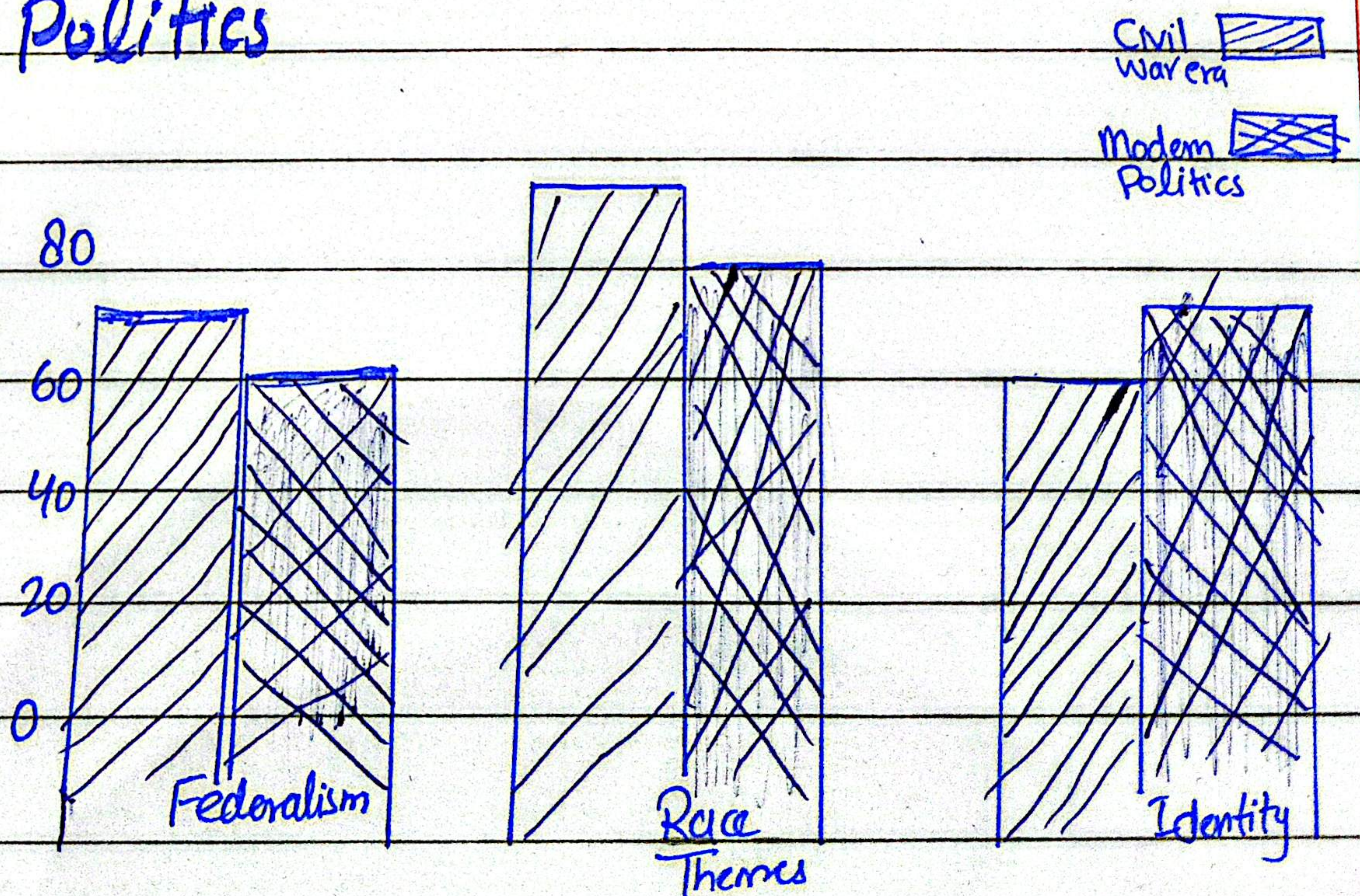
clivides of the 19th century, showing how the identity politics remain central to American democracy.

e. Persistent inequality:

Economic and social ^{disparities} among racial groups demonstrate that the promise of emancipation remain incomplete. Structural inequalities in education, housing, and employment highlight the enduring legacy of slavery and segregation.

5. Comparison of Key

Themes: Civil War Era vs Modern Politics



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6. Conclusion:

The Civil War abolished slavery and strengthened federal authority, but unresolved debates over race, federalism, and identity continue to shape American politics. From voting rights controversies to racial justice movements, the echoes of Civil War remind us that history is not merely past — it is a living force in the present.
