

International Relations.

Part - II.

Question no 8:

Expansion of BRICS and SCO in IR:

From an international relations perspective, the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can be analyzed through realist and institutionalist lenses:

1) Realist Lens:

- States seek power, security, and influence. BRICS and SCO are platforms for emerging powers to counterbalance U.S. dominance and increase regional and global leverage.

- Russia and China use these institutions to assert influence in Eurasia and globally, challenging the unipolarity of the post-cold war era.

2) Institutionalist Lens:

- These organizations represent cooperative multilateralism, enabling states to coordinate on economic, security, and political issues without conflict.

- SCO and BRICS promote norms of non-interference and multipolar governance, offering an alternative to Western-dominated institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and NATO.

Old vs New Multilateralism:

- Old Multilateralism:

Dominated by Western powers (e.g., UN, NATO), where rules and norms reflect Western Liberal values and the post-WWII order.

- New Multilateralism:

Characterized by emerging powers shaping rules that prioritize sovereignty, non-interference, and economic cooperation outside Western dominance. BRICS and SCO exemplify this approach.

Challenge to US-led Order:

- BRICS and SCO do not directly confront the U.S. militarily, but they challenge the Western-led economic and political order by:

- 1) creating alternative financial mechanisms (e.g., New Development Bank by BRICS).
- 2) Promoting multipolarity, reducing the influence of the dollar and IMF.
- 3) Coordinating security strategies in Eurasia (SCO).

→ This reflects a gradual shift toward a multipolar world, where US primacy is no longer uncontested.

Assessment in the Changing Global Order:

The debate centers on whether multipolarity undermines global stability or enhances

cooperative governance:

- supporters argue it democratizes global governance and allows emerging economies a voice.
- critics warn it may fragment international norms and create regional blocs competing with each other, increasing geopolitical tensions.

→ In conclusion, the expansion of BRICS and SCO illustrates the transition from old to new multilateralism, signaling a shift in global power that challenges U.S. led structures while promoting alternative cooperative frameworks.

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Question no 5:

Potential for Normalization of Pakistan-Bangladesh Relations:

The normalization of Pakistan-Bangladesh relations has been gradual and cautious, shaped by historical, political, and economic factors. While full reconciliation remains complex, there is potential for improvement through sustained diplomacy and confidence-building measures.

Key Factors Influencing Reconciliation:

1. Historical legacy:

The 1971 Liberation war and associated Human rights violations remain the central obstacle. Addressing

war crimes and acknowledging past grievances is crucial.

2. Political Will:

Leadership on both sides must prioritize bilateral cooperation over domestic political gains or nationalist sentiments.

3. Economic Cooperation:

Trade, investment, and connectivity projects can create mutual benefits, fostering interdependence and trust.

4. Regional and Global Context:

Bangladesh's relationships with India and China, and Pakistan's regional strategy, influence the scope for dialogue and collaboration.

5. People to People Engagement:

Cultural exchanges, educational cooperation, and tourism can soften perceptions shaped by historical ~~concerns~~ issues.

Addressing Historical Issues:

1. Acknowledgment and Dialogue:

Pakistan and Bangladesh could engage in structured dialogues about historical grievances.

2. Legal and Moral Accountability:

Supporting reconciliation through acknowledgment of past injustices can build trust.

3. Joint Commemorations and Initiatives:

Shared platforms to promote peace and historical understanding can reduce tensions.

Conclusion:

While historical wounds complicate Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, pragmatic diplomacy, economic collaboration, and people to people initiatives can gradually foster normalization. A forward-looking approach that balances historical accountability with mutual interests offers the best path toward improved bilateral ties.