

# International Relations - Paper II

## Subjective Part

- Answer no. 8 B -

-(A)-

### Introduction

Russia-Ukraine war started in 2021, when Vladimir Zelenski - Ukraine's President - started to adopt a pro west stance. He wanted Ukraine to not only join EU but also become a member of NATO, this drift towards Europe and west trigger insecurity in Russia. Therefore, Vladimir Putin launched full scale war against Ukraine.

### Causes of Russian - Ukraine War under the light of IR Theory

Causes of Russian Ukraine war are as follows;

- a. Offensive Realism and Russian Invasion of Ukraine



According to John Mearsheimer, States try to seize every opportunity to seize the influence and power over others. This is exactly what Russia did by annexing Crimea in 2014 and their full invasion in Ukraine 2021. As Thucydides says,

"Powerful do what they can and weak suffer what they must"

### b. Defensive Realism and Ukraine acting in self-defense

According to former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, "State's continuation is its ultimate interest, which cannot be compromised"

Therefore, to defend territorial integrity of Ukraine, Zelensky also declared war on Russia.

### c. Ukraine's drift towards NATO triggered insecurity in Russia

When Ukraine started to look westward, it made war inevitable, as both the Russia and



Ukraine (supported by its western allies) looked themselves in Thucydides Trap  
"When one entity try to rise, the other feels insecure, and thus both states end up getting more insecure"

#### d. Putin's reliance on status

Survival and self-help triggered Russian-Ukraine War

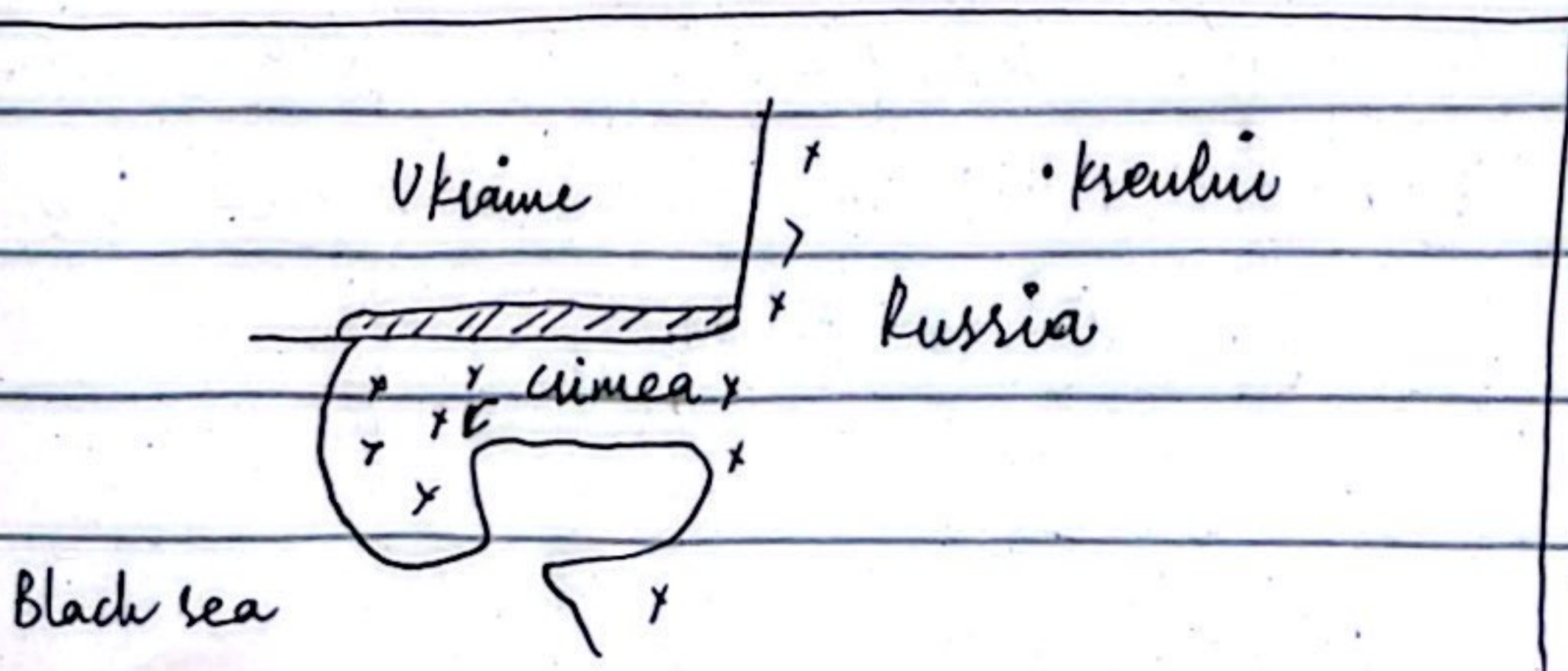
Putin was sheptical about the intention of NATO, and he had to rely on self-help even it comes at the cost of other lives as

Machiavelli suggested in 'The Prince'

"State's survival is the utmost priority even if it comes at the expense of others"

#### e. Economic Interest in the Black Sea

Moreover, Russia had economic interest in the Black Sea which also made war more likely as "Economy is linked to the National Power"





f. JJ Rousseau "Parable of Stag Hunt" and Russian Relative

Gains; Russia looked for Relative Gains

According to Rousseau's state, always

go for relative gains, i.e. if  $\frac{1}{5}^{\text{th}}$  of

a stag suffice hunger of every one,

than if a hare appears, the five

members will run to catch hare and

let the stag escape in pursuit of

relative gains rather than Absolute gains.

g. Security Dilemma created  
by western support for  
Ukraine

Increased military and economic

aid for Ukraine; created

a security dilemma for Russia.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Russian-Ukraine war is the perfect example of how power-politics is still prevailing over any other theory in Geo-political arena.



- (B) -

## Introduction

After the Hamas Attack on Israel which nearly killed 1200 Israelis, Israel launched a deadly assault on the people of Gaza killing more than 43000 civilians including women and more than half of the children. IR theory could be employed to identify the causes of Israel - Hamas war which started on Oct 7, 2023.

## Causes of Israel-Hamas War under the light of IR Theory

Causes are as follows;

### a. Lack of Effective Central Authority over Israel and Hamas

As realist / neo-realist;

Due to lack of central authority over Israel or Hamas, the conflict triggered in first place.



## b. Israel's security maximizing tendencies

As Kenneth Waltz argue that states are security maximizers, so Israel did every thing including killing innocents to maximize security of its borders and prevent against future conflict.

## c. Israel's Struggle for Power

Israel worked under three principle for struggle for power;

- i. To maintain Power
- ii. To increase Power
- iii. To show Power

## d. Hamas acted in self-help

(3S of realism, Statism, Survival and Self help)

Hamas knew that despite numerous calls for two state solution, the IOs are ineffective



therefore they have to act in self-help as realist posits.

### e. Ineffectiveness of International Institutions

Argument of Neo-realist, Epiphenomenalism

Moreover, IIs reflected that they do not hold any actual power but actually work on the whim of states which are powerful, which let the war to happen.

### f. Western hypocrisy and supported genocide in Gaza

Despite clear picture of US support for bloody campaign, it showed that "Powerful do what they can, and weak suffer what they must"

### Conclusion,

In conclusion, Israel blood thirsty campaign has finally put in abeyance by the recent ceasefire-deal between Hamas and Israel, but it brings our attention to the fact that only the weak suffers in the war.



(Answer no. 7) B

## Introduction

UN - United Nations was created in 1945 after the world war 2, with a vision to create a peaceful world where there is no war, but UN has largely failed to live upto its mandate for a number of reasons such as tight budgets, misuse of vetopower and lack of enforcement mechanism.

### An Overview of UN's historical failure

An overview of UN's historical failures is as follows;

#### a. Rwandan Genocide - 1994

The biggest failure of UN to this date is Rwandan Genocide of 1994, when 800000 moderate-hutus and tutsi were killed by Hutus in just 100 days.



## b. Human Rights abuses in Iraq and Afghanistan

Similarly, UN could not stop US unilateral invasion in Iraq-2003 and then blatant human rights abuses by NATO soldiers such as rape of women in Iraq etc.

## c. Failure to prevent countless civil wars

Moreover, has also been unable to prevent Syrian-Civil, Yemen-Civil war which took many lives. UN failed to do it because it challenged the Article 2(7) of sovereignty in internal affairs.

## An overview of UN's failure in Gaza

An overview of UN's latest failure in Gaza is as follows;

### a. Gaza as an open air prison

"We are fighting human animals"  
(A statement by Ex DM  
Yusef Gallant)



This shows how deplorable is the condition of the people of Gaza as they live in biggest prison.

### b. Violation of Human Rights with Impunity

"There are no innocents in Gaza" (An Israel Official statement Israel gave collective punishment to Gaza people with complete impunity and UN could do nothing.

### c. Failure to reach an Effective UNSC Resolution

Similarly, despite many calls for ceasefire from the international community UNSC was unable to reach to ceasefire resolution.

## Reason for UN Failure in Gaza

Are as follows;

### a. Veto Power Misuse

US has prove to be the biggest culprit in misusing veto power. Whenever, other



members tried to bring resolution, it was vetoed by the US.

### b. Lack of Enforcement Mechanism

Even if the ceasefire resolution would have reached in time, its enforcement was still dependent on the Security Council.

### c. Budgetary Constraints

Moreover, Military spending of UN is mere \$ 8 billion dollars whereas US alone spends \$ 900 billion dollars and China spends \$ 300 billion.

## Recommendations for necessary reforms in United Nations.

Recommendations for necessary reforms are as follows;

### 1. Rethinking Veto Power

First of all, we need to rethink whether veto power is actually fruitful or just a road block, it can be done through historical analysis



of last events.

## 2. Working towards democratization of High-level UN positions.

Many states feel that they do not want to give too much power to undemocratic officers in the UN.

Therefore, there needs to be direct elections on a grand scale for high officials of UN.

## 3. Taking insights from Razali Plan - 2004

Razali Plan was proposed by Kofi Annan in 2004;

According to which, the total number of members should be increased from 15 to 24.

(i). Increase in Permanent members

From 5 to 10

(ii). Increase in Non-Permanent members

From 10 to 14



#### 4. Alternative Models supported by different countries

Different countries around the globe also support different alternatives for UN reforms.

##### a. Model - A

This model is supported by the India and Germany which calls for increase in non-permanent members from (10 to 13) and Permanent members reaching upto (9 or 11)

##### b. Model - B

This model is supported by Pakistan, Argentina and Turkey etc who gather in "Uniting for consensus" also known as Paris Coffee Club. They call for retaining the existing members and creation of 9 semi-permanent members with renewable term.



## 5. Restratigizing The UN role in Contemporary World

lastly, it is also vital to restratigies the UN's role as it should be merely restricted to Humanitarian Assistance or reformed enough to become Global institution for Governance in true sense.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, despite many failures of UN such as Rwanda genocide or genocide in Gaza, some of the achievement of UN could not be understated. Therefore, if UN reforms are done then this institution can play key role in Global Governance.



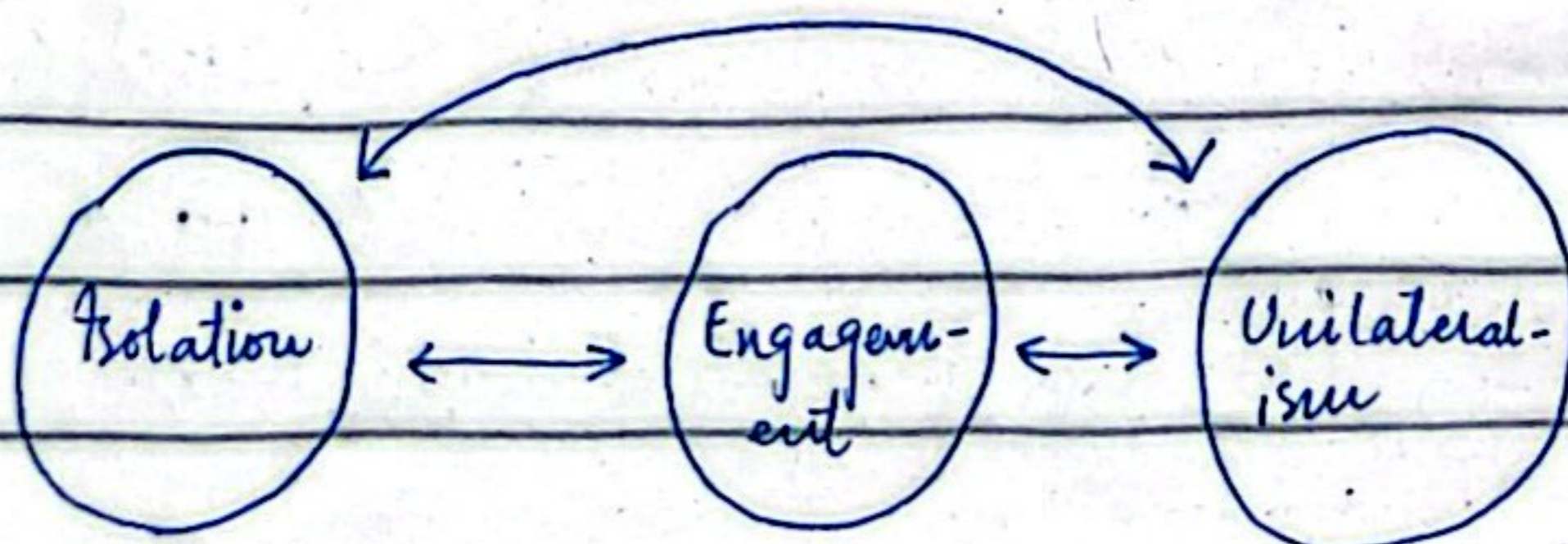
— Answer no. 6 B —

## Introduction

US foreign policy is among those foreign policies where the whole world keeps a close eye on it. United States being the world largest economy of \$26 trillion and with the strongest military of the world hold significant influence over Geo-politics. Therefore any change in US foreign policy can impact the the Geopolitics of the world

## An overview of key themes in American foreign policy

“Strategies or set of strategies US decision makers apply to advance and achieve their national interests constitute American foreign policy”



(Common themes of US foreign policy)



## Expected Changes in American Foreign Policy after the Trump's reentry in White House

Expected changes after Trump's return to White House are as follows,

### a. Madman's Foreign Policy

Trump is likely to employ Madman Approach which posits that in order to achieve something Donald Trump can do anything even wage war if somebody does not align.

### b. Unpredictability

Moreover, as its previous term suggest, the American F.P is likely to be very unpredictable, as the closest of Trump's colleague could not predict Trump's Next Move.



### c. Inward and America First Foreign Policy

Trump contested 2024 Elections on the premise of "Make America Great Again". Therefore, it is highly anticipated that Trump policy would to look inward and consolidate.

### d. Anti-Global Foreign Policy

Trump being the biggest threat to multi-lateralism, is likely to pursue anti-globalist foreign policy, as he also withdrew from Trans Pacific Partnership.

### e. Reliance on Bilateral Dialogue

Trump being a wealthy businessman rely on bilateral dialogue behind closed doors, therefore it is more likely that Trump will look for Bilateral Agreements with states.



## Global Implications of Trump's Foreign Policy

Global implications of Trump's Return are as follows;

### a. Withdrawal from Global Climate Agreements

Trump has previously declared climate change as a Hoax, therefore US is likely to withdraw from all the climate commitments.

### b. Potential withdrawal from WTO

Donald Trump feels that WTO is an ineffective organization which favours Chinese and EU, so has shown willingness to withdraw from WTO.

### c. Donald Trump and Rise of Populist Nationalism

Another impact will be the rise



of populist nationalist movements around the globe as many states will start to look inward.

#### d. Trade War with China, EU and rest of the world

Before coming to office Trump choosed to have a trade war with China and EU.

Trump having natural inclination for tariffs said to impose 60% tariffs on Chinese products.

#### f. Withdrawal from WHO

On the very first day of his coming to presidential office, Donald Trump signed an Executive order to withdraw from World Health Organization, leaving most of the world in lurch.



### g. US might side line Pakistan to appease India

For half of Trump's previous Term, there was no US ambassador to Pakistan, which shows the irrelevance of Pakistan for Donald Trump. Pakistan must find space for US-Pak relationships.

### h. Impacts on Global Wars

Before coming to white house, he said ; "it will be a hell to pay for hawas, and a ceasefire agreement has been reached before it came to office."

### i. Great Power Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific and East-Asia

Similarly, Trump is likely to test China and Russia and North Korea in the Indo-Pacific region.

### h. Threat to Multiculturalism

Trump's critics call him; "The biggest threat to multiculturalism", which reflects in its strict immigration stance.



## Conclusion

In conclusion, the change of President of United States is likely to bring some changes in the foreign policy of the nation but the key themes of US foreign policy are likely to remain same.

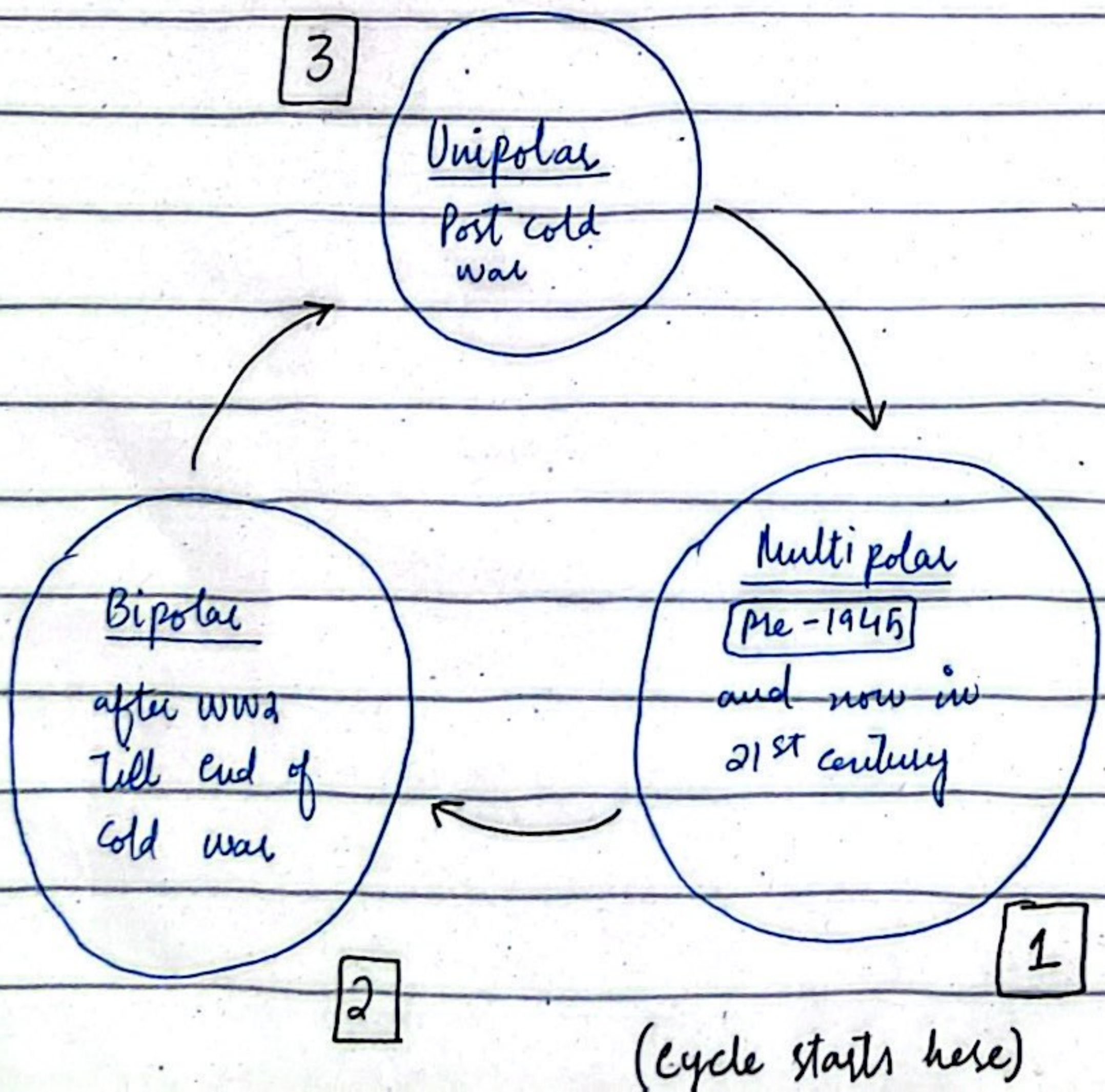


—Answer no. 4B—

## Introduction

Our globe is now moving towards multipolarity, which means there will be not one, not two but many poles of power each having unique capabilities. Different poles in different regions have started to emerge i.e. in Asia (China, India), in East Asia (Japan), and other poles such as Russia, US etc.

## An Overview of the cycle of world order and revival of Multipolarity





Prior to WWI, the world was multipolar largely, then war happened, but the global structure despite reshift in power balance remained multipolar. Then WW2 took place, which led to the bipolar world order, as there were two hegemonies: US and Russia. Then after the period of cold war, unipolarity prevailed. But in 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is a drift towards multipolarity and it is highly likely that a great war will once again push us in new stage.

## Main Triggers of Revival of Multipolar World Order

Main triggers of revival of Multipolar world order are as follows

### a. Inequal distribution of wealth

The world wealth is unequally divided between Global South and Global North. For instance, 1% of elites hold 45% of wealth, whereas 50% of bottom holds only 1% of the wealth.



b. The monopoly of international financial institutions

Institutions like IMF trap countries like Pakistan into a never ending cycle of debt. i.e. Pakistan has taken a loan of 203\$ billion, but has paid 135\$ billion in just interest.

c. The Monopoly of US dollar and Intellectual Property

Donald Trump has warned BRICS Nations against any step taken to degrade dollar, which shows that west has been deliberately pushing its agenda making drift towards multipolarity more likely.

d. The Monopoly of Core-Periphery Pattern

Economy of the Periphery (developing



or underdeveloped) countries are structured in such a way that they will always remain dependent on Core (developed) countries

e. Globalization has generated unprecedented wealth for Multiple poles

Another reason for the revival of multipolarity is that Globalization has generated unprecedented wealth for countries like China having GDP of 18\$ Trillion which is like to succeed the US economy in coming years.

f. Recurring Conflicts and disagreements in IOs.

Similarly, liberal institutionalist order has failed and its support is declining because it could not prevent Global conflict.

"The support for liberal order is declining" Yuval Noah Harari



## Commenting on whether the revival of multipolarity is a myth or reality?

As follows:

### a. John Miershienue's Article 'Back To Future'

He wrote an article 'Back to future' where J.M said that end of cold war will eventually see the rise of multipolarity, which has become true now.

### b. John Akenberry's view on multipolarity

Similarly, John Akenberry being optimistic about future of liberal order said, the states will move towards Global Governance.

### c. Samuel P. Huntington Thesis 'Clash of Civilization'



Samuel P. in his book highlighted fault lines between different civilizations, as he said it could be the next theatres of war, in this multipolar it is playing out exactly.

#### d. Amitav Acharya - The Multiplex Order

Amitav Acharya believed that the next order will be diverse, which means there will be no single hegemon and pluralistic (involving non-state actors) and Chinese in favour.

#### f. Final Comment on Multipolar World order

Multipolar world order is no more a myth but a fact as dollar is declining. For example, "Reserves in dollars have declined to 58pc from 67pc"

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, while the US has been trying to maintain status quo, it has become a reality as many revisionist states are unsatisfied with the current liberal world order.