

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PAPER II

Question 8

(A) Ukraine-Russia War

The Ukraine Russia conflict started back in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea in response to the toppling of Russian-backed government in Ukraine. The conflict erupted into a full scale war in 2022 when Ukraine expressed its desire to join NATO. The war will be discussed below using different lenses of IR.

1. Through the lens of Realism

(a) Realistic approach of NATO

After the fall of Soviet Union in 1991, NATO had agreed not to expand eastward. Despite this promise, NATO continued its expansion toward east, invading the sphere of influence of Russia. The realistic approach of NATO to maximize its power by providing memberships to countries that were once part of Soviet Union, compelled Russia to take coercive action to protect its territory.

(b) Realistic Mindset of Putin

Putin considering all the countries, that were once part of Soviet Union, within its sphere of influence depicts a realistic mindset. It compels him to take coercive measures to maintain the hegemony of Russia.

(c) Security Dilemma

~~NATO~~ Ukraine joining NATO posed a security dilemma for Russia and created an imbalance of power in the region. This security dilemma led Russia to attack Ukraine in order to refrain it from joining NATO.

(d) Conflict of Great Powers

The war has now become the conflict of great powers. Both Russia and US are using their full force by dominating the other. US is extensively aiding Ukraine while Russia is attacking back with equal force. This perpetual pursuit to maximize their power and ensure their influence has led to a war that has been going on for more than two years now.

2. Through the lens of liberalism

(a) Economic Interdependence

The theory of liberalism posits that countries with economic interdependence refrain from conflicts. But despite the fact that Russia and Ukraine were economically interdependent, it did not stop them from engaging in war.

(b) Failure of International Institutions

The international institutions have failed to ensure peace by stopping the war.

(c) Democratic Theory

According to liberalism, the system of democracy prevents conflicts, ensuring peace. Some people suggest that the authoritarian regime in Russia and the absence of democracy has compelled Russia to engage in war.

3. Through the lens of Constructivism

(a) Media Propaganda

The media propaganda of Russia

depicting Ukraine as a western ally has led to the continuation of war.

(b) Ethnic Identities

The eastern Ukraine share deep ethnic values with the Russian whereas the western Ukraine is more aligned towards European countries. This bifurcation of ideas has led to internal conflicts, fueling the war.

(B) Israel - Hamas War

The Israel - Hamas war started on October 7, 2023 when Hamas attacked Israel. Since then Israel has been committing genocides and unimaginable war crimes in Gaza. It has resulted into complete destruction of Gaza with more than 47,000 casualties. Recently, Israel and Hamas have signed a ceasefire deal which consists of three phases of execution. But whether the deal will be executed in all three phases, remains to be seen. In the following passages, the Israel - Hamas ~~war~~ war will be analyzed using different ~~phase~~ lenses of International Relations.

1. Through the lens of Realism

(a) Realist Mindset of Netanyahu

The power hungry and realist mindset of Netanyahu has compelled him to commit genocide in Gaza, resulting into the death of thousands of innocent children.

(b) Expansionist Ideology of Israel

The expansionist ideology of Israel aimed at achieving "greater Israel" has led them to continue war to increase their area and influence.

2. Through the lens of Liberalism

(a) Failure of International Institutions

The International Institutions have failed to broker peace between Israel and Hamas. It has failed to prevent Israel from committing genocide in Gaza.

(b) Lack of Democracy

Authoritarian regimes are prevalent in most of the countries of Middle East. This lack of democracy has and

Diplomacy has led to war.

3. Through the lens of Constructivism

(a) Construction of hatred

Through generations hatred has been ingrained into the minds of Israelis against Muslims. As a result, they have become so sick that they feel no shame in murdering innocent children.

Question no. 6

(A) INTRODUCTION

More countries are at war today than any since WWII. Conflicts such as Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Hamas war, Sudan war, etc have depicted the failure of international institutions to broker peace deals. Such environment of uncertainty has compelled countries to make them self-sufficient instead of relying on joint security. This can further lead countries to resort to nuclear proliferation to attain ultimate deterrence capabilities.

(B) How Nuclear Non-Proliferation is Under Stress?

(1) Ongoing Conflicts

The ongoing conflicts create an environment of insecurity, where states feel compelled to engage in arms race to maintain balance of power.

(2) Need for Nuclear Deterrence

Ukraine is among the few countries that gave up its nukes as part of NPT agreement. Had Ukraine not given up its nuclear arsenal, Russia would not have dared to attack Ukraine due to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) theory. The need for nuclear deterrence is becoming increasingly important with growing conflicts to ensure security. Therefore, the countries would certainly resort to increasing their nuclear capabilities to ensure deterrence.

(3) Growing Influence of Israel

The growing influence of Israel is threatening the survival of other countries in Middle East. Its arch-rival Iran is increasingly trying to maintain balance

of power. It has again started working on its nuclear programs to create weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Once Iran successfully achieves nuclear capabilities, its rival Saudi Arabia would also start its nuclear program which would result into further proliferation of nuclear arms.

(4) Failure of International Institutions

The International Institutions such as United Nations (UN), International Law, International Court of Justice, etc. have failure to stop conflicts and ensure peace. This has reduced confidence of people in the international system, compelling the countries to work on maximizing the own power.

(5) Failure of Joint Military Programs

The joint military system of NATO has failed to contain war in Ukraine. Had Ukraine worked on its nuclear capabilities without relying on NATO, it would have been in much better place today. This failure has compelled countries ~~from~~ to refrain from joint military system.

and work instead in increasing and strengthening their own military.

(b) Revival of Multipolarity

The revival of multipolarity has threatened US-led world order. Now the countries would not feel compelled to obey the order of US and would be able to work more independently. As a result, they would resort to nuclear capabilities to strengthen their military.

(c) CONCLUSION

The ongoing wars and the revival of multipolarity are changing the dynamics of global politics. The states are resorting towards nationalism instead of globalization. As a result, the nuclear non-proliferation regime is under massive threat today.

Question no. 5

(A) INTRODUCTION

Trump has regained presidential office once again in America. His second term is expected to bring significant changes in America's foreign policy.

and would have considerable global implications.

(B) EXPECTED American Foreign Policy after TRUMP

(1) "America First" Policy

The "America First" policy promoted by Trump depicts protectionist approach. Trump will impose protectionist policies in order to protect the local American products and businesses.

(2) High Tariffs on Imports

Trump has promised to impose high tariffs on imports, especially on goods coming from China, Canada and Mexico, with highest tax on Chinese products. This would exceptionally increase the prices of imported goods, making them unaffordable to general public. As a result, they would be compelled to buy locally produced items.

(3) Massive Immigrant Deportation

Trump has promised to carry out the biggest deportation of illegal immigrants residing in America, causing great tension among the immigrant community.

(4) Reduced War Funding

Trump has promised to end all wars for good. For this purpose, he would reduce the funding of wars and would compel the countries to broker peace deals.

(5) Withdrawal from WHO

Trump has withdrawn America from World Health Organization. Further such agreements/withdrawals are expected to follow during his term.

(6) Climate Change Policies

During his first term, Trump had called climate change a hoax and had withdrawn America from Paris Agreement. He considered mitigation measures equivalent to economic regression. He is expected to take similar approach during his second term as well.

(6) Implications of Second Term of TRUMP

(1) Isolation of America

The protectionist approach adopted by Trump will isolate America on the international stage.

(2) Trade War

The protectionist policies of Trump are likely to give rise to trade war also known as Cold War 2.0. Both countries would resort to maximizing their economic capabilities.

(3) Revival of Multipolarity

The isolation of America would allow other countries to rise, resulting into revival of multipolarity.

(4) Decreased Popularity of America

Most of the immigrants residing in America came as refugees as a result of war or natural disasters. Their deportation would fuel resentment against America, decreasing its popularity.

(5) Resolution of Conflicts

Trump is likely to withdraw American funding from NATO and broker peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, which will bring an end to war that has been going on since 2022. Moreover, Trump had also warned Netanyahu to stop war. As a result, a ceasefire

deal has been signed by Israel and Hamas that will be executed in three phases.

(6) Global Climate Change Policies

America, being the super power, will likely set a precedent for other countries by adopting policies for or against climate change mitigation.

(D) CONCLUSION

The second term of Trump is likely to bring positive changes including the end of wars in Gaza and Russia-Ukraine. His climate change policies may prove detrimental for environment. Nonetheless, the full effect of his term is yet to be seen.

Question no. 4

(A) INTRODUCTION

Multipolar world order existed before WWII with multiple power centres. After WWII, bipolar world order emerged with Soviet Union and US being the major powers. After fall of Soviet Union in 1991, US

emerged as sole power, given rise to unipolar world order. Now the world is witnessing revival of multipolarity with Russia, China, etc emerging as great powers.

(B) Main Triggers of Revival of Multipolarity

(1) Military-Industrial Complex of America

According to the speech of Eisenhower in 1965, America is involved in military-industrial complex. Its excessive focus on improving military capabilities is causing it to ignore other aspects of state including political, economic, technological, etc. This imbalance is resulting into its decline. Resultantly, the US-led world order is slowly shifting towards multipolarity.

(2) Russia - China Alliance

The growing alliance of Russia and China is expediting the revival of multipolarity. The liberalist approach adopted by the two countries is improving their economic collaboration. For example, when Russia attacked

Ukraine, US imposed sanctions on Russia which prevented ~~the~~ European countries from buying its hydrocarbons. At that time, China ignored the sanctions and bought hydrocarbons from Russia at reduced prices. This saved the economy of Russia in times of war. Similarly, Russia and China have improved their strategic collaborations by signing multiple arms deals.

(3) Emergence of BRICS+

BRICS+ is the fastest growing organization today which consists of major growing economies including Russia, China and India. The emergence of BRICS+ is threatening the hegemony of US in the global South.

(4) BRICS+ Currency vs. Dollar

America has maintained its monopoly of international trade through dollarization. The BRICS+ countries are ~~are~~ working on introducing a BRICS+ currency which would ~~reverse~~ dedollarization of international market.

(5) BRICS+ Banks vs SWISS

BRICS+ countries would also introduce BRICS+ Banks which would work in parallel to SWISS banks.

(6) Emergence of Global South

The decolonisation of international market and BRICS+ banks would prevent US to ~~exp~~ exploit countries by imposing trade bans and sanctions. This would give a chance to global south countries to emerge and improve their economies.

(7) Reputation of US

The US has tarnished its reputation on international stage by inflicting several wars including Iraq war, Afghan war, Korean war, etc.

Moreover, it has funded Israel to ~~to~~ conduct unimaginable war crimes in Gaza. As a result,

it has lost its glory and respect.

This has led to isolation of US, prompting other countries to rise.