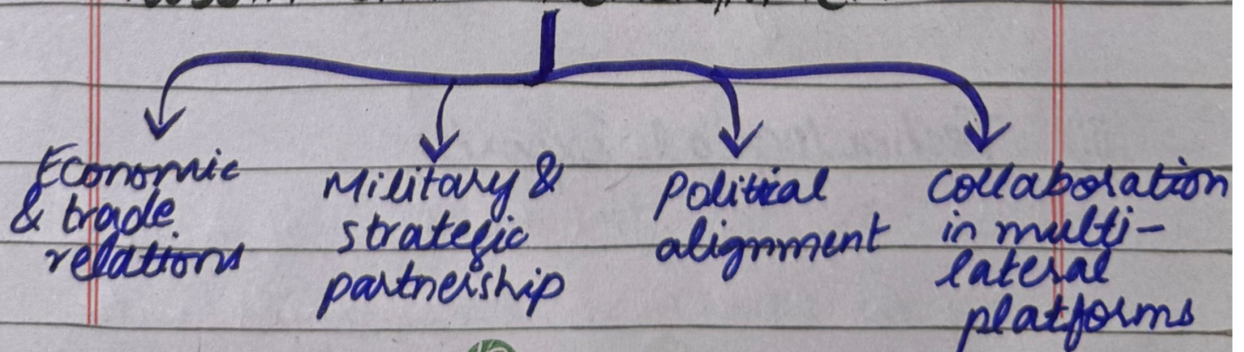


Q8) A) INTRODUCTION:-

After the disintegration of USSR in 1991 post-Cold war, the US emerged as a sole global power. To counterbalance this US-hegemony, China and Russia, representing Global South, have strategically aligned to preserve their national interests and project their power. The Russia-China partnership is rooted in economic, military, political, trade and strategic interests. Despite their limitations, the revivalists - Russia and China - are emerging as formidable challenges to the western-led global political order.

B) FOUNDATIONS OF THE GROWING RUSSIA-CHINA REALIGNMENT:-



① ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS :-

i) Energy Exports:

After the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the west imposed sanctions on Russian hydrocarbons. In such situation, Russia reduced the prices by 35% and China tripled its import of hydrocarbons from Russia.

ii) Weaponized Dollar Response:

In response to the weaponized US-led financial Brettonwood institutions like the IMF and World Bank, China and Russia have started Yuan-Ruble based bilateral trade bypassing the US-dollar.

iii) Technological Exports:

After the ban of trade by the East-Asian economies with

Russia, China became the largest exporter of electronics and semi-conductors to the Russia.

② MILITARY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:-

i) Weapons Trade:

China has purchased the S-400 ballistic missiles system to strengthen its air defence. China bought a worth of \$2.5 billion SU-25 fighter jets in 2015 from Russia.

ii) Joint military drills:

China and Russia perform joint military drills in the South China sea and the Indo-Pacific region.

③ POLITICAL ALIGNMENT:-

i) Shared Rivalry with US:

Russia perceives the US-led NATO in the Eastern Europe

as a security threat; whereas, China have concerns regarding the operating of US-led organizations like AUKUS in the Indo-Pacific region.

ii) Support on core interests:

China supports Russia on Ukraine, while Russia supports One-China Policy regarding Taiwan.

④ COLLABORATION IN MULTILATERAL PLATFORMS:-

Russia and China mutually cooperate in organizations like BRICS and SCO to overcome the US-led unipolarity.

C) IMPLICATIONS OF RUSSIA-CHINA GROWING RELATIONS ON GLOBAL POWER POLITICS:-

i) COUNTER-BALANCING US-HEGEMONY:-

US rules the

world as a sole superpower and threatens its opponents with economic and political sanctions. So, in order to balance the power in the world, Russia and China have aligned to secure their common interests.

2) DE-DOLLARIZATION AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL ORDER:-

Utilizing the platform of BRICS, the Asian countries have developed a strategy to overcome the reliance on dollar. CIPS have been established to bypass SWIFT banking system of the Brettonwood institutions. BRICS countries have recently added Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia in 2024, further boosting their strength. The aim is to have their own currency for international trade; however, it still has a long

way to achieve it.

3) MILITARIZATION AND REGIONAL INSTABILITY:-

The growing rivalry between the west and the emerging Global South is not good for the world peace. Russia and China are performing joint military drills in Indo-Pacific region and the East Asia. Some East Asian countries like Japan and Korea have strong bonds with NATO. This partnership could allow NATO to militarily intervene in the region, signalling future disorder in the region.

4) RISE OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH:-

In the recent years, the US under Trump 2.0 has proved to be an unreliable partner. Therefore, many developing countries have turned to China and Russia for infrastructure,

investments and political backing without conditionalities.

5) TECHNOLOGICAL AND CYBERPOWER REALIGNMENT:-

Where once the US was the sole tech-boss, now many countries are relying on the Chinese technology. For example, Russia heavily relies on the Chinese 5G, Artificial Intelligence and its cloud infrastructure.

D) CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS TO THE RUSSIA-CHINA AXIS:-

1) ASYMMETRY IN POWER:-

China is way more influential and technologically advanced than Russia. This imbalance creates insecurity in Russia regarding their over-reliance on China.

2) DIFFERENT GLOBAL AMBITIONS:

Russia's interests lie in the Eastern Europe; whereas, China is concerned with the ^{influence in the} Indo-Pacific region.

3) CHINA'S CAUTIOUS DIPLOMACY:

Even though China supports Russian stance in the Russia-Ukraine war, still it remains cautious and don't get directly involved or direct help to Russia.

E) CONCLUSION :-

In a nutshell, the strengthening Russian-Chinese alliance is a growing threat to the current global order. Both the countries collaborate in different spheres of trade and economy. Despite the challenges, they have the potential to play major role in the power politics.