

Question : 2

Ans :

1. Introduction :

The joint strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities has dramatically altered the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, with consequences that extend well beyond the region. While Israel has long considered a nuclear-capable Iran an existential threat and the United States has consistently pursued policies to contain Tehran's regional influence, the coordinated military intervention marks a dangerous escalation. The incident is not merely a bilateral confrontation, rather, it reveals the increasingly complex rivalries among global powers, particularly the United States, China and Russia, who are competing for influence in a shifting international order.

2. Background of the Attack :

In a highly coordinated operation, Israel and the United States launched a surprise airstrike on multiple Iranian nuclear facilities. Key sites such as the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant, the Fordow underground nuclear site were targeted.

The United States deployed B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, while Israeli F-35I Adir jets used precision-guided munitions. The operation reportedly caused significant damage and resulted in dozens of casualties, including nuclear scientists and IRGC personnel. The move was immediately condemned by Iran and triggered a global wave of concern.

3. Implication for Global Power Politics

3.1 The United States: Projecting Power or Strategic Overstretch?

The U.S. participation in the strike is a calculated attempt to project power, reaffirm commitments to its Middle Eastern allies, and contain Iran's growing influence. Following criticism for its withdrawal from Afghanistan and cautious approach in Ukraine, the USA may have sought to restore its credibility. However, military involvement risks entanglement in another protracted conflict, draining resources needed for its primary strategic competition with China. The

3.2 China's Strategic Response:

For China, the strike presents a dual opportunity. Beijing has cultivated strong diplomatic and economic relations with Iran, most notably through a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement that includes infrastructure investment and energy imports. China is likely to frame the US-Israel intervention as a manifestation of Western imperialism and position itself as a champion of sovereignty and peaceful diplomacy. At the same time, Beijing may increase its arms, technology and energy collaboration with Tehran, further anchoring Iran within the China-led economic orbit. Importantly, the US dislocation in the Middle East grants China greater strategic space in the South China Sea and allows it to consolidate influence in Asia and the Global South.

3.3 Russia's Opportunistic Gains:

Russia, too, stands to gain from this development. A long-time ally of Iran in Syria and a partner in arms and energy, Moscow will likely to use this crisis to deepen its cooperation

with Tehran. As global condemnation of the strike grows, Russia may exploit the situation to bolster anti-US sentiment, reinforce its geopolitical narrative and strengthen alternative political alliances such as BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Additionally, any rise in oil prices due to instability in the Persian Gulf would directly benefit Russia's sanctions-hit economy.

4. Realignment of Global Blocs:

These shifts suggest the emergence of increasingly rigid geopolitical blocs. On one side stands the US, Israel and several Gulf monarchies who see Iran's regional ambitions as a threat. On the other side are Iran, China and Russia, whose strategic interests converge around opposition to Western dominance. This realignment is indicative of a broader trend towards multipolarity, where power is distributed across multiple centres rather than concentrated in Washington. The decline of international consensus, particularly through institutions like the United Nations, is accelerating as major powers bypass

diplomacy in favor of unilateral action.

5. Global Repercussions

Iran is expected to abandon any remaining commitments under the JCPOA and Non-Proliferation Treaty, possibly accelerating efforts toward nuclear weaponization. This would trigger heightened insecurity in the region, prompting states like Saudi Arabia and Turkey to explore nuclear options. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital global energy chokepoint, may become unstable, spiking oil prices and disrupting global supply chains. Meanwhile, the erosion of norms against unilateral military strikes could embolden other regional powers to act without international consensus.

6. Pakistan's Strategic Challenge

For Pakistan, the situation is complex. Islamabad shares borders and religious-cultural ties with Iran, but also relies heavily on Gulf economies and ~~its~~ is strategically aligned with China. It must walk a diplomatic tightrope, avoiding taking sides while reinforcing its commitment to

regional peace. If handled wisely, Pakistan could position itself as a neutral voice in regional diplomacy, but any misstep could damage relationships vital to its economic and security interests.

Conclusion

The US-Israel strike on Iran's nuclear sites is more than a regional security incident but it marks a significant moment in the evolution of global power politics. As Washington seeks to reassert its dominance, China and Russia are already capitalizing on the instability to expand their strategic footprint. The repercussions range from the revival of global bloc politics to the risk of nuclear proliferation and economic disruption. Without swift diplomatic efforts and renewed commitment to multilateralism, the world risks entering a new era of great-power rivalry marked not by diplomacy, but by confrontation and chaos.

Question : 8

Ans.

1.

Introduction:

In recent years, the strategic partnership between Russia and China has transformed from a tactical alliance into a potentially disruptive force in global geopolitics. Driven by shared resentment toward US global dominance and overlapping economic and strategic interests, both countries have deepened their cooperation in energy, defense, trade and diplomacy. The evolving Russia-China relationship is not a traditionally military alliance, but a flexible and pragmatic partnership aimed at reshaping the rules of global power in a multipolar direction. Its implications are far-reaching, particularly for the balance of power in Eurasia, the future of multilateralism and stability of the liberal international order.

2.

Foundation of Russia-China Convergence

The relationship between Russia and China was historically defined by Cold War rivalries and ideological competition. However, the post-2014 Western sanctions on Russia

following its annexation of Crimea served as a turning point. Isolated from the West, Russia began pivoting eastward, while China, embroiled in trade wars and strategic competition with the United States, sought new partners to hedge against economic and military containment. This convergence is grounded not in mutual trust but in mutual need and a shared vision of a world less dominated by the United States and Western institutions.

3. Dimensions of Russia-China Cooperation

3.1 Strategic and Military Cooperation:

Russia and China have significantly expanded military coordination through joint exercises such as "Vostok" and "Peace Mission", often conducted near flashpoints like the Indo-Pacific or NATO borders. Russia has sold advanced defense systems to China, including S-400 air defense system and Su-35 fighter jets. Both countries have also held joint naval patrols in the Pacific, signaling their growing interoperability and strategic alignment, especially against US-led alliances like NATO and

3.2

Economic and Energy Interdependence:

China has become Russia's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade surpassing USD 240 billion in 2023. Russia supplies China with vital energy resources through projects like Power of Siberia gas pipeline and long-term oil contracts, especially as Moscow faces Western sanctions. This growing dependence, however, has created an ~~asymme~~ asymmetry where Russia increasingly acts as a junior partner in the economic relationship. Still, the partnership benefits both: China secures energy and Russia gains an alternative to the Western financial system.

3.3

Diplomatic and Multilateral Alignment:

Both countries have coordinated positions in the United Nations, frequently using their veto power to block US-backed resolutions, particularly on Syria, Iran and North Korea. They also cooperate within platforms such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aligned frameworks.

These multilateral venues provide both states with mechanisms to challenge Western-dominated institutions like the IMF, World Bank and NATO.

4. Implication for Global Power Politics

4.1. Weakening of the Liberal International Order:

The Russia-China axis represents an ideological challenge to liberal democratic norms, rule-based international order and U.S. hegemony. Their model emphasizes state sovereignty, non-intervention and authoritarian governance, contrasting with Western liberal values. This alignment is increasingly appealing to regimes in Africa, Central Asia and even parts of Latin America, weakening the moral and political authority of the West.

4.2 Reinforcement of Multipolarity

The deepening partnership accelerates the global shift from unipolarity to multipolarity. Together, Russia and China challenge the United States on multiple fronts; militarily in

Ukraine and Taiwan, economically, through de-dollarization and alternative financial system and diplomatically by promoting alternative governance models. Their cooperation emboldens other regional powers to assert independence from Western influence.

4.3 Pressure on US Alliances and Indo-Pacific Strategy:

U.S. strategic focus has been on countering China in the Indo-Pacific and Russia in Europe. A coordinated front between the two threatens to stretch American resources and test the resilience of its alliance system. The growing collaboration may prompt US to strengthen partnerships through NATO expansion, AUKUS, QUAD and strategic deals with India and ASEAN, fueling further bloc polarization.

4.4 Disruption of Global Economic System:

Efforts by Russia and China to de-dollarize trade and create parallel financial structures, such as China's Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS), undermine the

dominance of Western-led systems like SWIFT. This creates a fragmented global economy, where countries may increasingly choose between two economic orders, one led by the US and the other by China-Russia. This fragmentation poses risks to global financial stability.

5. Challenges within the Russia-China Axis

Despite their alignment, the Russia-China relationship is not without friction. Historically, mutual distrust exists, especially over border issues and regional influence in Central Asia. China's rise as a superpower may make Moscow uncomfortable with being the junior partner. Moreover, in case of a direct conflict involving one party, such as, Taiwan or NATO, the other may hesitate to provide open military support. This suggests that alliance is strategically aligned but not yet institutionalized.

Conclusion

The growing Russia-China relationship marks a defining feature of 21st-century geopolitics. While not a formal alliance, their pragmatic and multidimensional partnership is reshaping the balance of power in favor of multipolarity. The implications are profound: a divided global economy, weakened ~~multidimensional~~ multilateralism and intensified strategic rivalries. Though not without internal contradictions, the Russia-China axis represents a serious challenge to US-led global governance and signal the beginning of a more contested, decentralized world order. The choices made by other global and regional players in response to this shift will determine the future, stability or volatility of international relations.