

Qot

In an era of unpredictably mainly ushered by Trump, China is trying to project itself as a reliable partner. Critically evaluate the statement and China's capacities to a parallel world order.

(A) Introduction

In recent years, the global has been undergoing a phase of flux due to Trump's unpredictability administration. There is growing uncertainty in the international politics. Trump administration's unpredictable policies such as exit from Climate Change Agreement, trade wars, Exit from Iran nuclear deal, withdraw from Trans Pacific Partnership, contradictory statements on NATO and specifically "America First doctrine" created strategic vacuum across institutions of global governance. Against this backdrop, China has sought to present itself a reliable and strategic partner of providing, economic, diplomatic and institutional alternatives to the US-led order. China is trying to project itself a reliable partner by proving itself champion of

globalization, builder of global infrastructure such as BRI, Multilateral leadership active role in UN, WTO, WHO and climate negotiations. Creation of BRICS, AIIB to reduce the economic hegemony of USA.

(B) Critical Evaluation of unpredictability ushered by Trump:

1. Withdraw from Multilateral Commitments:

Trump's abruptly withdraw from major international agreements such as **Paris climate accord** and lack of participation in the **COP30**.

Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), goal was to create a free trade zone area,

Iran Nuclear deal

(JCPOA) Joint comprehensive plan of Action; between Iran and P5+1 to limit Iran's nuclear capacity in return with Sanction relief. Moreover, US

ended all fundings **UNRWA** (UN relief and work agency),

INF Treaty (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces), indicating a break from long-standing US commitment.

2. Reversible of foreign policy Decisions.

Frequent policy shifts and reversal, such as announcing troops withdrawal from Syria and then partly reversing them, created a confusion between allies and adversaries regarding US intentions.

(The Economist),
2024

3. Rise of America first protectionism:

The "America First doctrine" led to tariffs on Steel, Aluminium, imports from allies including the EU, Canada and Mexico

25% tariffs on Steel, 10% on Aluminium, launched a trade war with China, targeting goods over **\$370B**, prioritized domestic industries.

4. Strained Relations with Traditional allies.

Trump repeatedly criticized the NATO members for not "paying the fair share", threatened to withdraw troops from South Korea and Japan if the allies did not increase defense

Spending. Moreover, public condemnation of European Union policies and imposition of tariffs on EU goods including air crafts. ~ Council of Foreign Relations

5) Sudden unilateral Trade Wars and Tariff Escalation:

In 2018, 2025, U.S imposed unilateral tariffs on major economies. USA imposed **10%** baseline tariff on most imports from almost all countries.

China _____ **34%**

Vietnam _____ **46%**

Japan _____ **24%**

India _____ **26%**

EU _____ **20%** ~ Aljazeera

6) Institutional Disengagement from global governance:

In 2020, the Trump administration announced the withdrawal of the US from the World Health Organization (WHO) during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Moreover,

USA blocked appointments to the **WTO Appellate Body**. In addition, Trump administration blocked funding and engagement with **UN Agencies** including **UNICEF** and **UNRWA**. Also, Criticized NATO and UN framework.

~ WTO Secretariat Annual Report

(B) China Trying to project as a reliable partner:

1. China as a champion of globalization and Multilateralism:

Chinese leaders have consistently spoken in favour of an open world economy and reaffirmed commitment to **Paris Accord, UN, WTO**. China filled the power vacuum created by USA while withdrawing from these global Multilateral Organizations. ~CRF

2. Establishing partnerships With EU and Asia via BRI:

China's Belt and Road initiative is connecting the 3 main continents which are Asia, EU and Africa bypassing the USA hegemony in South China Sea. Security concerns. BRI spans **150+** countries with investment over **\$1 trillion** in infrastructure, energy and transport. (~WB Report, 2021)

3. Establishment of Alternative Multilateral institutions:

China is establishing Alternative multilateral institutions such as **BRICS** which is expanded

to **BRICS+** by involving 6 more countries. China established **NDB** (New development Bank), **SCO** and **AIIB** as an alternative to WB and other western led institutions. Moreover, China's trade with other countries is in its local currency bypassing **US dollar**.

4- Technology and Economic influence: Investment in Clean energy:

China is providing compensation of **\$100B** as USA withdrawal from clean energy investment. Moreover, China is leading in 5G, AI, EVs, exporting via digital Silk Roads. China is shaping global economic and technological dependence, reinforcing a parallel order. ~ **Brooking Institution Report**

5- China a reliable partner regarding military, weaponry trade:

China is the World's fifth largest arm exporter, supplying weapons to Pakistan, Africa and Myanmar. Fighter Jets, Missiles, Naval vessels, Air defense systems, Surveillance drones and missile systems.

China's arms export account for **5-6%** of global arms export according to **SIPRI**. Arms exports strengthen China's strategic footprint in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, complementing economic initiatives like BRI.

China's Capacity in Parallel World

1- Strengths Order

Economic Power

Second largest Economy
Largest trading Partners 120+ Countries
BRI invests over \$1 trillion

Technological Power

Lead in 5G
Renewable Energy
Digital Silk Road

Institutional Alternative

AIIB
New Development Bank
SCO
BRICS

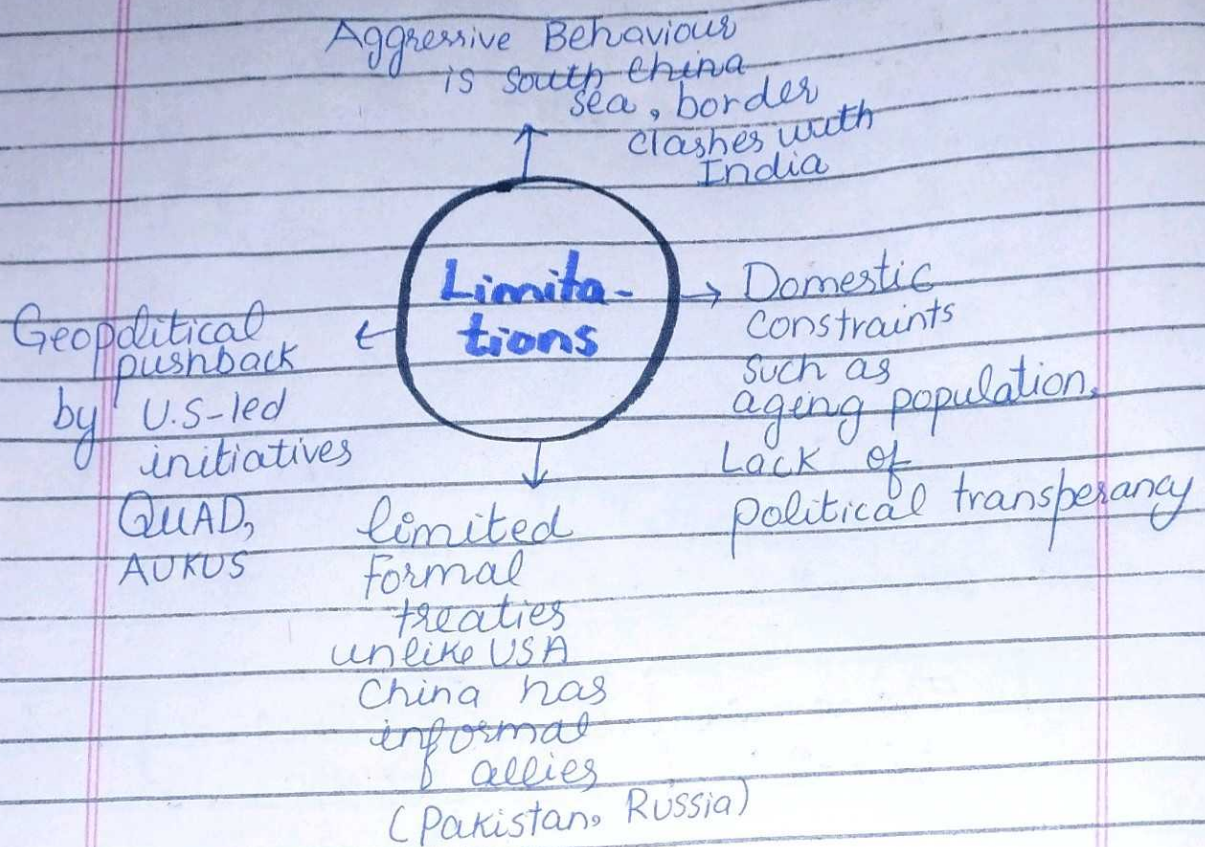
Military Modernization

PLA Navy
Largest in the ship counter
Advanced missiles, cyber and

2- Limitations Constraining China's Capacity

Various factors are limiting China's capacity in the parallel world.

space capabilities



C- Conclusion:

Trump's administration created a strategic vacuum in global governance, opening opportunities for alternative powers such as China, EU. China has capitalized on this by projecting itself a reliable partner through economic initiatives, technological leadership, creation of alternative institutions and military modernization. Such as AIIB, NDB, BRICS. However, regional assertiveness, trust deficits and geopolitical pushback, China is reshaping selective aspects of global governance rather than fully replacing US-led system.

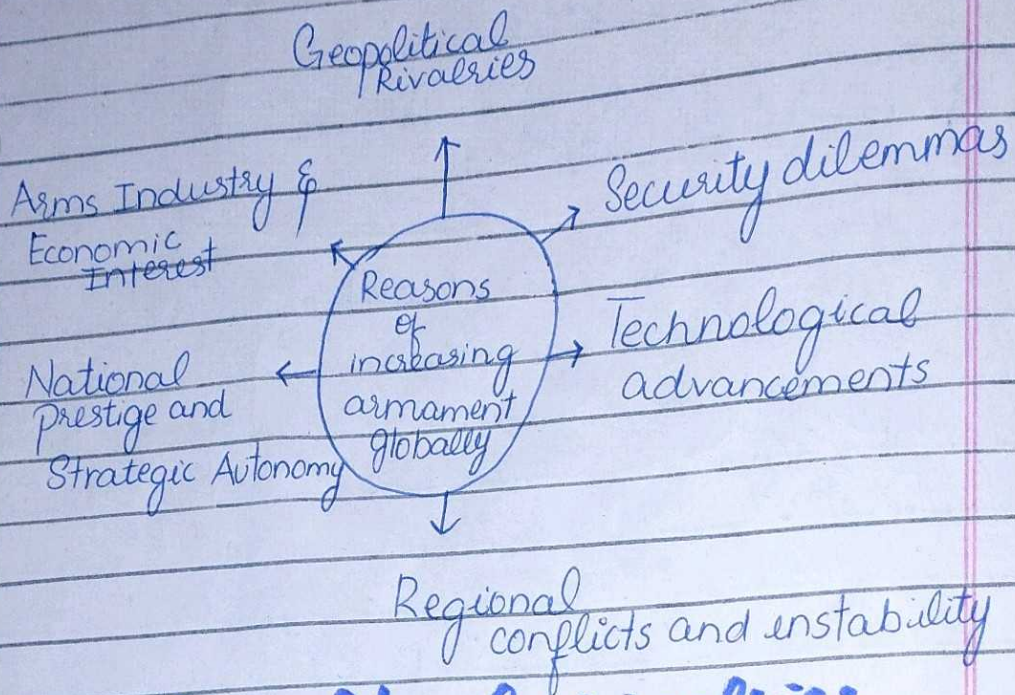
Q02

There is an increasing armament across the world. Critically evaluate the reasons and implications for World peace.

A) Introduction :

The contemporary world is witnessing a significant increase in armament, spanning conventional, nuclear and emerging weapons. Despite international treaties and disarmament efforts, global Military expenditure is projected to increase following a record **\$2.7 trillion in 2024**, according to **UNDP**. Factors driving this trend include ongoing conflicts, rising geopolitical tensions and increased spending in regions like Europe and the Middle East. Factors such as resurgence of Great power rivalry, technological advancements and pursuit of National prestige and Strategic Autonomy are also driving states to modernize and expand their arsenals. This escalating militarization poses serious challenges to the world peace and stability.

(B) Reasons of increasing armament globally:



(1) Geopolitical rivalries and great power competition: a key driver for increasing armament:-

Geopolitical rivalries and great power competitions globally enhanced the armament. **US defense spending reached \$871B in 2023, China \$293B and Russia \$86B**, depicts a Strategic competition for global influence. Rising Tensions between

US-China, India-Pakistan, Russia-Ukraine, NATO Expansion, Sudan-RSF, Armenia Azerbaijan push states to expand capabilities to assert influence.

US-China Strategic Competition in trade, technology.

US: \$877B

China: \$293B

South China sea dispute, Indo-Pacific dominance

Russia - NATO Tensions, accelerated armament

Post-cold War strategic competition

hypersonic missiles
Nuclear weapons

India-Pakistan Rivalry

Both maintain

~150 Nuclear Warheads

Missile, Air defense system

Middle East Conflicts

Iran-KSA
Israel-Palestine
US-Iran

Proliferation of missiles and drones

Russia - Ukraine War

\$75B Ukraine received military aid from NATO

Missile, Air defense
Nuclear deterrence

~6 Nuclear tests
1000+ missile launches

North Korea - South Korea - US standoff

China - Taiwan - US Tension

China Expanding PLA Navy, missile capabilities

US Arms **\$20B** exceed

Sudan and South Sudan conflicts

Armed forces and Militias, tanks and weapons

(~ SIPRI, 2024)

(2) Security Dilemmas and Mutual distrust increasing armament globally:-

NATO's eastward expansion and Russia's westward expansion created a fear in the Euro-Russia Zone. This has led to expansion of Russia's hypersonic Missiles and modernize its Nuclear arsenals.

“one state's defensive measures are perceived as threat and creating a cycle of arms buildup”
(~ Kenneth Waltz)

(3) Technological Advancements in Warfare:

Leading powers like the USA, Russia and China are developing AI.

AI-powered drones, hypersonic Missiles, Cyber weapons,

Space based Missile platforms are increasing

armament globally. US F-35 jets with Stealth technology,

AI-enabled drones, Russia's

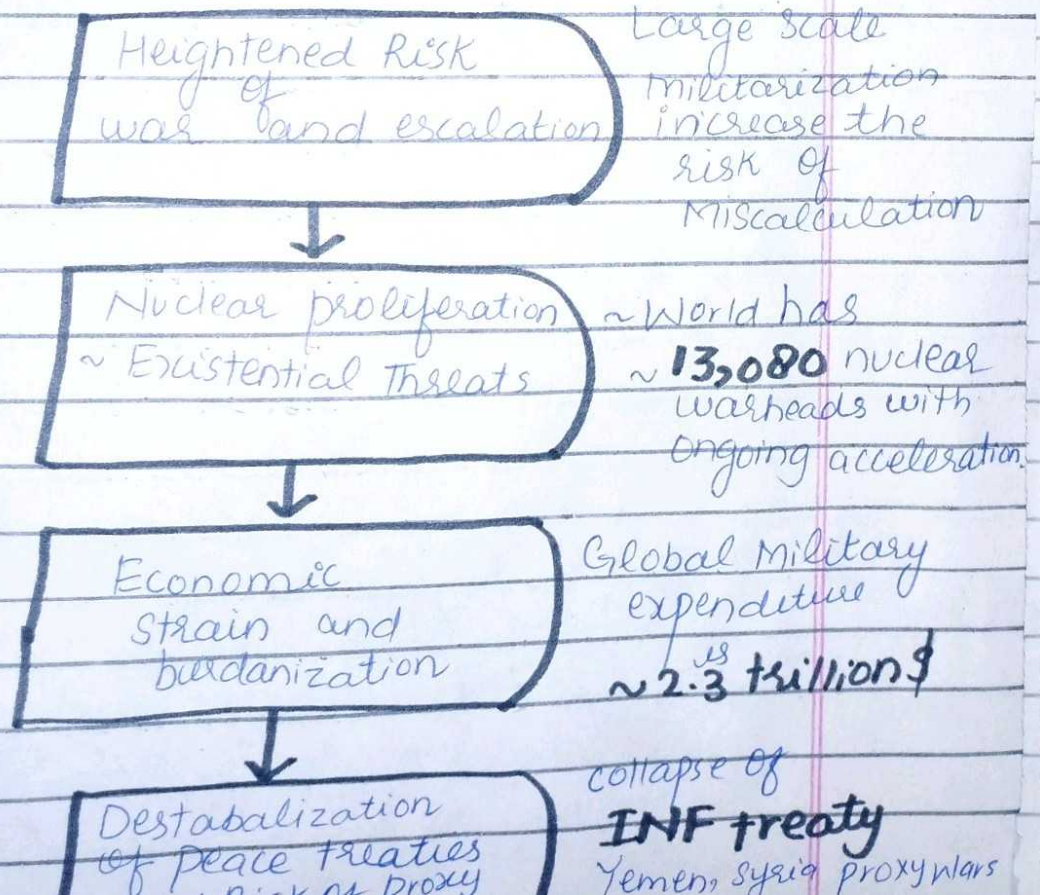
hypersonic Missiles like Avangard

are more lethal and precise.

(4) Arms industry and Economic interests: A key driver in acceleration of armament globally.

Global arms trade is worth over **\$100B / year**, dominated by USA, Russia, France and China. Defense industries lobby governments for higher production and exports, reinforcing militarization and increasing armament globally. ~ **SIPRI** arms database

(c) Comprehensive Implications for World Peace



Heightened tension
reduce
international
cooperation.

Regional imbalance
and
diplomatic
impacts

Arms supplied
by USA, Russia,
China fuels
regional imbalance

D) Way Forward to Control increased armament globally:

By strengthening arm control
treaties such as **NEW START**,
INF, **NPT** type frameworks to
limit proliferation. Promoting
confidence building Measures by
hotlines, **Joint-military** exercises
and information sharing protocols
to reduce mistrust. Moreover,
Encourage states to invest in
Socio-economic development
instead of military strengthening
solely. Develop international
Norms and treaties on emerging
AI Weapons, drones, hypersonic
Missiles and cyberwarfare. Promote
regional peacekeeping Mechanism.
Encourage UN, ASEAN and
regional organizations forums
to resolve disputes.

E) Conclusion:

The rising global
armament reflects a complex
interplay of geoeconomic

Rivalries, regional conflicts, technological advancements and National Security concerns. While Militarization can provide deterrence, it also destabilize national harmony, create fear and mutual incoexistence. To Mitigate these risks, a balance approach combining Security and cooperation is needed, only then world can move towards peace and Stability.
