

DATE: 7-01-26

DAY: Wednesday

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Batch 83 (41203)

Mock Exam VIII

IR - Part - II



Q NO. 1

Analyze the transition from a Unipolar system to a potential revival of multipolarity in global politics. What factors are driving this shift and how can international Relation theory help explain the — ?

a Introduction:

The post Cold war international system was predominately unipolar, with the United States as the pre-eminent global power shaping security economic and normative frameworks. However emerging geopolitical dynamics suggest a transition toward multipolarity where multiple states exert significant influence. Understanding this shift requires an examination of structural economic and ideological factors as well as insights from major international Relations theories.

b Structural Shifts

in power

The structural foundation of the international system is changing as power becomes more diffused. The rapid economic and military rise of China, assertive foreign policy of Russia and the increasing strategic relevance of actors like the European Union, India and regional coalitions weaken U.S. dominance. The diffusion of power reflects a movement from a single-pole hierarchy to a system where multiple centers of influence coexist challenging the historical dominance of a single hegemon.

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C Economic Drivers of Multipolarity

Economic growth and integration have reconfigured global influence. China's emergence as an economic powerhouse the expansion of BRICS and SCO frameworks and the diversification of global supply chains have enabled non-Western states to assert economic autonomy. Economic interdependence foreign direct investment and alternative institutions like the New Development Bank are redefining global governance and reducing dependence on U.S.

led economic Structures.

d Security and Geopolitical Competition

Changes in the international security environment also drive multipolarity. Russia's assertiveness in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, China's maritime expansions and technology competition with the U.S. and regional power plays in the Indo-Pacific and West Asia illustrate diversified security agendas. This geopolitical contestation among major powers suggests a diffusion of

Strategic influence, consistent with a multipolar structure.

9 Realist Explanation

From a Realist perspective the shift toward multipolarity is a natural outcome of the distribution of material capabilities. As states accumulate economic and military power they seek to balance the dominant power through balancing strategies (alliances, military, build-ups), leading to a more pluralistic distribution of power. Realists view this as a structural response to the declining relative

dominance of the United States.

f Liberal and

Constructivist Insights

Liberal Theory emphasizes the role of institutions and economic interdependence in moderating power politics. As networks like the EU, ASEAN, and multilateral organizations expand they create complex interdependence that shapes power configurations beyond mere capability. Constructivism complements this by highlighting how ideas identities and norms such as rising

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nationalist discourses or regional solidarity - influence how states perceive power and cooperation, contributing to multipolar configurations.

g Implications for Global order

A multipolar system can produce both competition and cooperation. Competition may arise in contested regions such as the South China Sea or Eastern

Europe but multipolarity also encourages multilateral engagement through regional forums economic blocs and diplomatic frameworks. Such a system is more

flexible and negotiated
with no single hegemon
dictating global norms.

h Conclusion

The transition
from Unipolarity to
a resurgent multipolar
order is driven by
economic diversification
Shifts in military capability
and evolving geopolitical
ambitions. IR theories
help illuminate this shift.
Realism explains it through
power redistribution.
Liberalism in terms of
institutional webs and
interdependence and
Constructivism by focusing
on normative evolution.
Collectively these

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perspectives reveal that emerging power dynamics among the U.S., China, Russia and other major actors are reshaping the international system toward a more distributed and complex global order.

Q NO. 2

Compare and contrast the theoretical concepts of "The End of History" ?

Introduction

The end of the Cold War generated profound optimism as well as deep uncertainty about the future of

global politics. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, ideological bipolarity disappeared prompting scholars to reinterpret the direction of history and conflicts. Two of the most influential and contrasting frameworks were proposed by Francis Fukuyama's "The End of History" (1989) and Samuel P. Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations" (1993/1996). While Fukuyama envisioned the universalization of liberal democracy as the final stage of ideological evolution, Huntington predicted that future conflicts would be

driven not by ideology or economics but by civilizational and cultural identities. These theories offered rival lenses through which the post-cold war order has been interpreted.

Theoretical Foundations of 'The End of History'

Fukuyama's thesis was rooted in Hegelian philosophy arguing that human political development follows a rational trajectory culminating in liberal democracy combined with market capitalism. The collapse of communism

would seem as proof that no viable ideological alternative remained. In this view major wars among great powers would decline as states would increasingly converge around democratic norms, economic interdependence, and institutional cooperation. History in the sense of ideological struggle had reached its endpoint even though events would continue.

Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations"

Huntington rejected ideological universalism and emphasized

Culture and civilization as the primary sources of post Cold war conflict. He argued that modernization strengthens identity, producing tensions along civilizational fault lines, particularly between the west and non-western civilizations. Events such as 9/11 the war on Terror sectarian conflicts and rising civilizational rhetoric in US-China relations reflecting the growing relevance of identity-based politics.

Comparative Assessment

Fukuyama anticipated ideological convergence and institutionalized

peace while Huntington
forebaw fragmentation and
cultural conflict. Fukuyama
focused on political
economy and regime
type, Huntington centered
identity religion, and
historical consciousness.

However both overgeneralized.
Fukuyama underestimated
authoritarian resilience
and power politics while
Huntington downplayed
intra civilizational divisions
and material interests.

Conclusion

The post cold
war order validates
neither thesis fully. Liberal
norm expanded but
history did not end.

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identity politics intensified but civilization alone does not explain global conflict. Contemporary international politics reflects a hybrid reality shaped by power transitions, ideological contestation and cultural revival making both Fukuyama and Huntington partially insightful yet individually insufficient.

Q NO. 3

Examine the Failure of the League of Nations and the Evolution of international organization ?

Introduction

The League of Nations was established after World War I to institutionalize collective security and prevent future wars. However its inability to stop aggression in the interwar period exposed the limits of idealist assumptions in the international politics. An IR-theoretical analysis explains both the League's failure and the evolutionary improvements reflected in the United Nations.

IR Explanation of the League's Failure

From a Liberal-idealist perspective the League relied on law diplomacy and moral pressure assuming states would cooperate for collective peace. Realism, however, better explains its collapse.

The League lacked enforcement power, excluded key states like the United States and depended on unanimity. Revisionist powers exploited these weaknesses and national interest consistently overrode collective obligations.

Confirming realist claims that institutions cannot restrain power politics.

United Nations:

Continuity and

Change

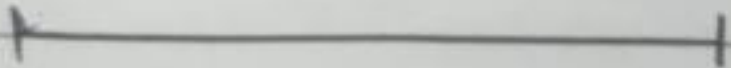
The UN inherited the League's commitments to peace and international cooperation but corrected its structural flaws.

The creation of the Security Council, veto system and peacekeeping mechanisms reflects a realist accommodation of power hierarchies within a liberal institutional framework. Unlike the League the UN possesses limited coercive authority enabling it to manage conflicts.

even if it cannot eliminate them.

Conclusion

The League failed because it institutionalized idealism without power. The UN represents a more pragmatic synthesis of liberalism and realism. While constrained by great-power politics, it remains a more resilient and adaptive model of international organization than its interwar predecessor.



Q No. 4

Analyze the impact of the post Pahalgam Crisis on the Indo-Pak security paradigm. How has this episode reshaped

Introduction

The post Pahalgam Crisis illustrates the evolving nature of India-Pakistan rivalry where military posturing is closely intertwined with diplomatic signaling, narrative construction, and external power engagement. This episode reaffirmed South Asia's

Status as a volatile nuclear region and highlighted the transformation of deterrence and crisis behavior.

Impact on the Security Paradigm

The crisis reinforced a shift toward a hybrid and risk acceptant deterrence environment. India emphasized punitive deterrence and limited military options while Pakistan relied on deterrence stability, restraint and diplomatic engagement to offset conventional asymmetry. This reflects

2 Growing reliance
on sub-conventions
and coercive tools
below the nuclear
threshold.

Regional Perception and Strategy

Regionally, the crisis
strengthened the image
of South Asia as a
nuclear flashpoint increasing
the focus of major
powers on crisis
management. India projected
itself as a counter-
terrorism and indo-pacific
actor while Pakistan
highlighted strategic
stability and conflict

internationalization

Foreign Policy

Implications

For India
the episode supports
continued coercive diplomacy
defense modernization
and strategic partnerships
For Pakistan it reinforces
the stabilization and
multi-lateral diplomacy
to prevent isolation
and manage escalation

Conclusion

The post
Pahalgam Crisis did
not change the
rivalry's foundations
but recalibrated its

expression. It Under
a shift toward a
multilateral - domain
Security Paradigm,
where diplomatic
positioning and perception
management are central
to crisis outcomes.

