

International Relations-II

Part II

Q1

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 Relations (IR) theory help explain the emerging power dynamics among the U.S., China, Russia and other major actors?

Introduction:

World has continuously evolved its order since the recorded history. All the wars, conflicts and rivalries have always come into existence for the gain of power and domination over the world. Great powers have history of ruling International politics.

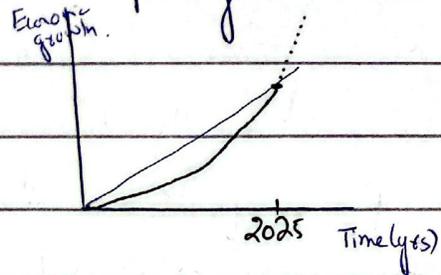
All states have competed in past to gain that powerful standing on chess board of global politics. Multiple factors including technological advancement, economic growth, connectivity, have contributed to transition of world order from unipolarity to multipolarity post cold-war.

Unipolar to Multipolar World Order:

During cold war, two major powers of the world, USA and Soviet Union competed for the super-power. Both the countries behaved as realist actors and tried to maximize their gain in a zero-sum game of global politics. However, the war ended with America emerging as sole power of the world while the Soviet Union was fragmented into small parts comprising Russia and Central Asia Republics of present. Therefore, Bipolar world order transitioned to unipolar world order in 1991 at the end of cold war.

Post-cold war, America being superpower intervened in every region of the world, draining its economic resources. This also shifted its focus from economic growth. On the other hand, China utilized its human resource and penetrated markets of all regions. Moreover, US also strained its resources to support Ukraine against Russia. US involvement in War on Terror also posed burden to its growth and economy. In this way US did not grow as much as China over the past three decades. Though US still is quite

powerful in terms of its economic capabilities, military technology, and Diplomatic position. The growth trajectory of China is sharp that indicate the possibility of China surpassing USA.



Factors driving transition from unipolar system to multipolar system

There are multiple factors that contributed in transition of global system from unipolar to multipolar system. These factors include technology development, economic growth, diplomatic holding, military capabilities. Some other factors include involvement in external conflicts.

1) Rise of Emerging Powers:

Including China and India.

→ China: Economic growth, Technological advances, Price competitive products, Emerging military technology (Pak vs India conflict).

2) Decline in US Hegemony.

Excessive involvement in external 4/20

Resources strained in War on Terror.

Balancing Ukraine in Russia-Ukraine War.