

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS + WORLD HISTORY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
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1. Invigilator Signature



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Name Jai kishanRoll No. GSM12017 D 41Mobile No. [REDACTED]Date 6/08/2017Signature [REDACTED]

REMARKS

- Q1. China's increasing assertiveness with respect to border dispute with India has increased in recent time. What implications it can have bilateral relations? What should be India strategic response to the border question? (12.5 Marks)

India and China shares a long boundary which starts from Northern Himalayas to Eastern Himalayas. The most part of the boundary is under dispute. In recent times, the assertiveness of China has increased. It is evident from # increased assertive incursions of People's Liberation Army in disputed zone.

the recent Doklam stand-off where Chinese troops were constructing roads in Arunachal a buffer zone.

India-China shares a bitter history of 1962 war. In this context, both countries can have several implications on bilateral relations.

- (a) Trade :- India-China enjoys seamless flow of goods of \$ 75 billion. The stand-off may impact trade.
- (b) Peace :- South Asia region's peace would be affected if such assertiveness spirals into a critical war.
- (c) Connectivity :- Both nations envisage to build connectivity among themselves - like Kolkata to Lhasa project, International North-South trade corridor. It may be hampered.

Y1
2/2

Remarks

- Industrial -

- Add issue of China-Pak geo. consider +

- How India can develop stronger ties with Japan vs R. neighbour to contain balance

(d) Bilateral issues like - India's membership to Nuclear's supply group, the issue of ban of Masood Azhar in UNSC sanctions committee, the border dispute resolution may be delayed.

(e) It may also lead to reduced efficacy of organisations like BRICS, SCO etc. and may also lead to arms race.

India should take cautious response to such assertiveness of China. Such disputes need to be solved through bilateral talks. The recent visit of India's National Security Advisor to China in BRICS meeting of security was an example.

Improving Infrastructure by building roads, airports, bridges along the Indian border.

India may grant security of borders to a single unit of Army. Today it is guarded by ITBP which is paramilitary force.

Apart from that India should be able to tilt the axis towards itself by having cordial relation with neighbours.

Remarks

- Q2. There has been a perceptible change in Indian policy vis-à-vis Pakistan, with focus on 'diplomatic isolation' and 'use of hard power'. What are the possible benefits of this policy? Assess the long term efficacy of this policy. (12.5 Marks)

India-Pakistan relationships have been similar to see-saw where one phase is tough and other phase is optimistic. The cross-border terrorism and the issue of Jammu and Kashmir are pivotal to India-Pakistan relationship.

The use of diplomatic isolation and hard power is perceptible in:-

(a) India's raising concern of cross border terrorism at international forums like- United Nations General Assembly, G20 summit, bilateral summits with Qatar, UAE, Egypt etc. The most important step in this regard was cancellation of SAARC summit of 2016.

(b) Further, the issue on renegotiation of Indus-Water Treaty, 1960 can be seen as use of hard power. The surgical strikes and retaliatory action of Indian troops on India-Pakistan border specially Line of control (LoC).

The possible benefits of such actions →

(a) ~~Increased~~ It may create pressure on Pakistan to neutralize the terror camps

3

Remarks

→ Focus more on what is asked

→ write multiple point for benefits & way forward

which are being operated in pol.

Internationalizing the issue would also raise the concern of Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan - occupied kashmir. This may be counter productive to India.

India's stand on Balochistan would create pressure on Pakistan to soften its stand on the issue of kashmir.

India and Pakistan are neighbours and the peace in South Asia depends how these two nations carry their bilateral relations. As both nations are atomic power, in this context, the long term peace can come only after bilateral negotiations. Last year, India opened the comprehensive bilateral talk option with Pakistan with 10 points which included cross-border terrorism, kashmir issue, siachen issue, humanitarian assistance etc. way forwarded.

Pakistan should help India to counter the terrorism, at the same India can negotiate on Siachen issue, siachen issue which are regarded as low-hanging fruit in Remarks diplomacy.

- Q3. Teesta River has become an important factor in India - Bangladesh relations. What are the hindrances in successful implementation of river water sharing agreement and what are its possible implications on India-Bangladesh relations? What could be the possible solutions?

Refer link for specific points

(12.5 Marks)

Teesta River, a tributary of Brahmaputra originates in Sikkim passes through Northern districts of West Bengal before meeting Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.

Teesta River dispute has been a concern for India-Bangladesh bilateral relations. The ~~hindrances~~ in successful implementation are -

Political :- Both parties - West Bengal Government and Bangladesh Government have politicised the issue.

Economic :- India's areas of "Dams" or northern districts of West Bengal, and Rangpur district of Bangladesh use Teesta water for irrigation. Rangpur, in Bangladesh is also called "rice bowl". As both nations have economic aspect, it is difficult to negotiate.

Socio-Cultural :- The regions from where Teesta passes is one of the backward region of South Asia. Teesta water acts as livelihood of many people.

India-Bangladesh bilateral relations have not yet been fully utilised. And Teesta River

Remarks

dispute is one of the reasons, unequal share of water.

39% - India, 36% - Bangladesh and 25% unallocated.

Bangladesh accuses India of being Regional Bully and demands equal share in water. The possible implications may be:

~~connected to India's dentiment in Bangladesh~~
~~C.N.G.) result~~ Bangladesh may be inclined to China.
right be # severed relationship with Bangladesh would
unrelated to threat to India's security including
funds for development of North-East
Promises
In order to solve such problem, the key
stakeholders - Union Government of India,
West Bengal Government and Bangladesh government
must negotiate.

political will is needed to solve such problem.
Lobbying on the aspects of livelihood of
people, concern of environment and climate change,
the stakeholders must begin the new negotiations.

Remarks

- Q4. Recently Myanmar became the 7th member of the South Asian Sub-regional Economic Co-operation (SASEC). What is the potential of SASEC to power South Asia and Asia in 21st century? What benefits India will get from it? (12.5 Marks)

South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation was formed for the first time by Asian Development Bank. Its initial members were - India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Recently, ~~the~~ Myanmar became its 7th member.

SASEC is formed due to the unrealised potential of SAARC ~~forwards~~ where consensus on major issues could not be achieved due to stand-off between India and Pakistan. It is a group which have huge potential in areas → Trade: It would enhance bilateral trade among the member nations.

Connectivity: - The ongoing infrastructure projects like - BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal), the Kaladan multi-modal project would get a boost.

The development of North-Eastern states would get a momentum.

Energy security: - Myanmar is rich in oil and natural resources, its cooperation would ensure access to resources in South Asia.

Remarks

-underline-

- Try to convey more in less words

41/2

India wants to be a regional player in South Asia and Indian Ocean. In this context, greater cooperation among SAARC member nations would ensure India's peaceful rise. India can help the member nations in assisting them in building roads, ports, air strips etc. This would enhance India's strategic influence. Cooperation among nations would be of strategic interest to India:-

- (a) It would reduce China's presence in backyard of Indian neighbours.
 - (b) It would ensure peace at porous Indian borders.
- # Apart from that, Indian firms would get access to the market of these nations, Indian firms can invest in their market.

By including Myanmar, India could also harness the tremendous energy potential of Myanmar.

Hence, SAARC is a step towards SAARC minus Pakistan. Increased cooperation for connectivity would ensure increased development.

Remarks

- Q5. Strategic partnership in combination with economic partnerships have become important part of India's "Act West Asia" policy in recent. What are the reasons behind India's active strategic engagements with West Asian countries without participating in West Asian turmoil? (12.5 Marks)

India in a last few years have recalibrated its associations with the middle-East. Middle-East is a resourceful region and very active for its geo-politics.

In this context, India's interests in middle-East lies due to following factors:

(a) Energy security:- India could grow only if energy supplies are uninterrupted. About 75% of India's crude oil is imported, India import 46% of LNG from Qatar.

(b) Infrastructure:- India wants Middle-East countries to participate in Smart City mission of India. National Infrastructure Investment Fund was created to attract sovereign funds of UAE, Saudi-Arabia.

(c) India's Expatriates and Remittances:- Majority of remittances in India comes from the Indians, who are employed in the middle East.

Looking at above issue, India

85%

Remarks

does not want to participate in west Asian turmoil. Further, the west Asian turmoil is based on many factors -

Turmoil in Syria where many factions are fighting - Kurds, Daesh etc.

Turmoil in Yemen where the fight is similar to civil strife,

Turmoil in Northern states of Africa like Libya;

India's active participation in turmoil would have negative aspects like -

(a) Drain of Resources,

(b) Violation of NAM's policy of non-intervention

(c) Lip. of Indian expatriate would be affected.

(d) India has to maintain harmonious relation with - Shia dominated Iran as well as Gulf co-operation council. Tilting towards one would mean severing relations with other.

Remarks

- Q6. Recently multilateral negotiations for a nuclear weapons ban were held under United Nations in New York. What was the objective of the negotiations? Why there was the need for separate negotiations out of NPT and talks on disarmament? What are the possible gains from negotiations. (12.5 Marks)

Proliferation of Nuclear Arms has become one of the major threat for the existence of Humanity. Atomic war would mean devastation at the greatest scale.

In this context, multilateral negotiations for nuclear weapons ban were held, in this India abstained from voting while the members of United Nations Security Council voted against it. The chief objective of the negotiations were banning the nuclear weapons. The other objectives were-

- # Regulating the use of nuclear enrichment
- # Talks on Non-proliferation
- # Greater security to Atomic Centres
- # threat of access of Nuclear weapons to the terror organisations.

There was a need for a separate talk for nuclear ban because current negotiations like- START, CTBT and NPT have not fulfilled

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Remarks

its agenda. The countries like - Pakistan is still making nuclear warheads. The most apt example is North Korea. Even after so much sanctions, North Korea has been able to make Hydrogen Bombs. The proliferation of Nuclear technology has become a cause of concern. The tension among Nuclear states like - India - Pakistan, U.S - China on issue of South China Sea, the threat of North Korea has compelled the UN to come with a new plan.

The possible gains can be:

- (a) The proliferation would be controlled by all members coordination.
- (B) The arms race - in South Asia would be controlled.
- (C) Greater cooperation in civil Nuclear deals.
- (D) State-of-the-art security guidelines for protecting the atomic centres.

Nuclear warheads need to be reduced incrementally so that the nations live peacefully.

Remarks

- Q7. The emergence of new financial institutions like NDB and AIIB have created greater need for governance and policy reforms in western dominated financial institutions.
 Comment: (12.5 Marks)

Post World War II, the Western countries created financial institutions like the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank, together called as Bretton Woods Institutions.

Due to growth of economy and increased aspirations of developing countries we see the emergence of new financial institutions like -

New Development Bank and ~~the~~ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. These financial institutions have come up against the monopoly of western world in dealing with governance of IMF and World Bank.

The key issues in IMF are

(a) The share of SDRs is allocated maximum to western countries and Japan. Recently, IMF decided to include Renminbi in SDR list.

(b) The voting rights need to be reformed and it should be based on current economic position and contribution of the Emerging Economies.

3+1

Remarks

-Underline-

- write features of NDB, AIIB etc to make it balanced.

The key issues in world Bank are:

Emerging Economics accuse World Bank for being partial in allocating grants for developmental projects.

The World Bank's criteria of "good governance" and several restrictions based on environmental factors are artificial and need to be rationalized.

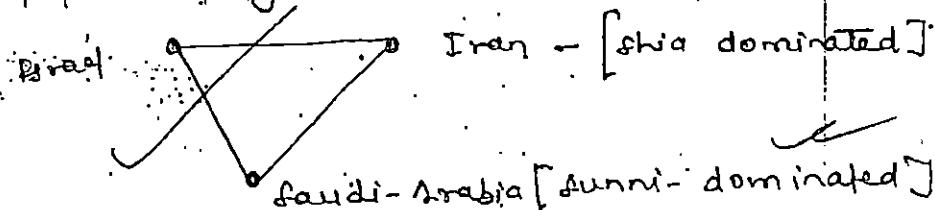
The new financial institutions like NDB and ADB are competing with traditional financial institutions like IMF, WB and Asian Development Bank.

The Emerging economies have created their own financial institutions so that they facilitate cooperation among themselves.

Remarks

- Q8. India has been able to balance and maintain a pragmatic relationship in middle-east despite existing rivalries and when even most of the world power failed to find such balance. Examine. (12.5 Marks)

India's foreign relations with the middle east has been stable one despite several challenges like -



The existing rivalries are -

- Saudi Arabia vs Iran
- Israel vs Arab
- Syria vs Turkey including Arab countries.

To ~~use~~ compare India's policy and the US's policy in middle-East :-

	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Israel	Syria
US	not good	ally	ally	Not Good
India	Healthy	Pragmatic relation	Deteriorated Israel-palestine Russia	Neutral

1+1+1/2

India-Iran

India-Iran relations are guided by India's energy security and construction of chabahar port which would link the central Asia via Afghanistan.

India has maintained neutrality on the

Remarks

- neutral
- other features
- policy
- L
- Independent
- Pragmatic
- Moral
- Separation
- of politics & trade
- Sh.

Shia-Sunni conflict.

India-Syria.

India has maintained complete neutrality on this issue. Although, India actively voices for end of terrorism and elimination of ISIS, it has not sided with US forces or the Russian led forces in the region.

India has recalibrated its strategy with the Middle-East. India also wants to engage with Turkey. Recent visit of Turkey's president to India and promise of close cooperation is one step in this direction.

India-Israel.

India in recent years has de-marginalized the issue of Palestine and India's interests are with Israel. India's official stand on Palestine is unchanged and the PM assured the Palestinian PM that India wants "peaceful co-existence of Israel and Palestine together."

The middle path in the foreign relations is essential for India to ensure "energy needs," save the life of Indian expatriate in the region and draw foreign investments.

Remarks

- Q9. India has been accorded associate member status by IEA. While highlighting the role of IEA in energy security of its members, also discuss how this status will benefit India? (12.5 Marks)

Remarks

Remarks

Q10. India-UAE relationship are not just limited to India's energy security, but they have evolved in a comprehensive manner covering almost every aspect of relations. In this light discuss the areas of mutual cooperation between India and UAE.

(12.5 Marks)

India-UAE relationships are special. one Intro should be more specific because of mutual trust and because of be more specific lack of any friction.

In this context, the relationships between India-UAE are guided by → relevant high level went other develop

- (a) India's concern for Energy security.
- (b) for the well-being of India's expatriate living in UAE.
- (c) for bringing investment specially in the Infrastructure. India wants UAE to be a partner in Make-in India.
- (d) NEEF - National Infrastructure Investment fund :- UAE has one of the largest sovereign wealth fund. In this context, India-UAE wants to cooperate so that UAE could become an active investor in NEEF.
- (e) The UNSC reforms:- UAE supports India for United Nations security council reforms.
- (f) counter terrorism and de-radicalisation :- both nations are threatened by the spread

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Remarks

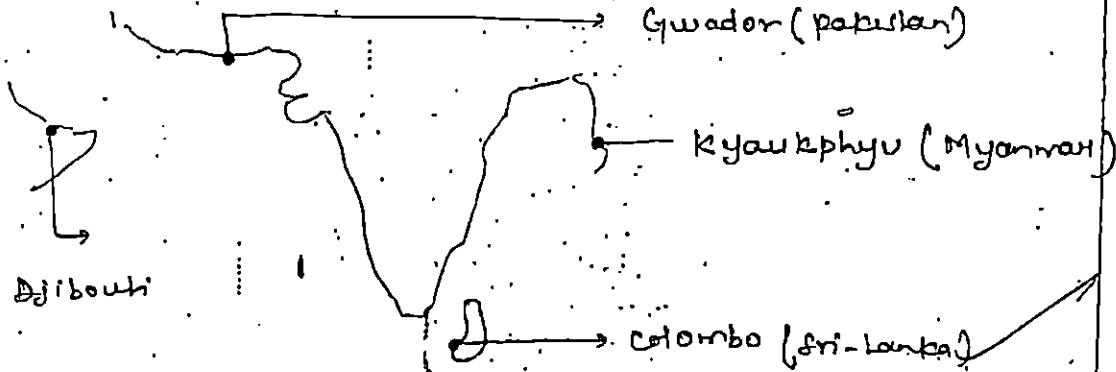
of terrorism and both now to fight against it.

(g) Gulf cooperation council → UAE is the member of GCC with which India seeks to have good relations. This would ensure India's energy security needs.

Hence, India-UAE relations are not limited to energy security only rather they are guided by - counter terrorism, food, infrastructure development etc.

Remarks

- Q11. There have been concerns regarding increasing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean and strategic encirclement of India. Examine, what options do India has as a counter strategy? (12.5 Marks)



Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean has increased in the recent years and this is evident from the Naval presence of China in Indian neighbourhood →

- ① Docking of submarine at Colombo and Chinese port development at Hambantota.
- ② Gwadar port, warm water port which may be used by Chinese military.
- ③ Chinese Navy base at Djibouti.

Besides this, the number of Chinese Navy vessels have increased including the presence of submarines.

In order to counter the Chinese influence India should do →

4/2

Remarks

- (a) Use south-china sea as a lever to counter China's presence in Indian Ocean.
- (b) Increased Naval exercises with the US, Australia, Japan, and other South East Asian littoral countries.
- (c) India should develop India's infrastructure of Andaman and Nicobar, which lies near to strait of Malacca which is a choke point.
- India has already installed BrahMos here; and development of infrastructure has been tendered to Japan.
- (d) India should foster good relations with nations on Indian Ocean Ring and few steps India has taken are
- (1) Construction of Chabahar port
 - (2) India could make Rishiri Island as its naval base
 - (3) Revitalised Infrastructure development of Andaman and Nicobar
 - (4) Malabar Exercise, involving India, US, Japan, Australia
 - (5) Vision to make Bi-lateral Democracy including India, US, Australia

Remarks

Q12. 'The G-4 is formed for a singular mission; however, due to its very structure, the aim seems implausible'. Critically analyze. (12.5 Marks)

Remarks

Remarks

Q13. Write a note on the following in not more than 100 words each.

1. Cold-Peace
2. Yazidi humanitarian crisis

(12.5 Marks)

Remarks

Remarks

Q14. India is the highest remittance earning country of the world, but the support available to the Indian expatriate workers from the government is inadequate. Suggest measures to improve the plight of Indian expatriate workers.

(12.5 Marks)

Indian expatriates can be found all over the world. Broadly, one can divide them into two parts.

- (a) the workers living in the Middle East
- (b) the IT/BPO based workers, and other skilled workers in Western countries.

The highest share of remittances comes from the Middle East. In this context, we can find that the support and living conditions of the workers is poor.

Kafala system

Under this system, a worker needs to be employed by a third party who is an agent. The kafala system of Middle East is inhuman and encroaches the rights of the workers.

Fairness in Middle-East and North Africa

Due to various civil turmoil, the Indians are often victimised.

Social security: The Indian workers often do not enjoy any benefit of social security.

- other issues

Remarks

3/4

life. Insurance or pension.

the government can do the following-

- (a) Renegotiate with countries to end kapala system. Recently, Qatar has ended the kapala system.
- (b) Better skills of Indian workers would make them more employable the government launched Skill Bank and National Apprenticeship programme.
- (c) India should make a standard of procedure to evacuate Indian expatriate in an efficient manner when civil strife occurs in these countries.
- (d) India could ensure their social security by bringing GATS - General Agreement on Trade in Services. This would make the social security tradable.

Remarks

Q15. What is double tax avoidance treaty and information sharing agreement? What are the benefits of such agreements. (12.5 Marks)

Double tax avoidance treaty is signed among two countries to ~~not~~ ^{for one adequate relief} tax the investments. From one country is not taxed doubly. ~~double~~ ^{after} There are two variants:-

- ① Source Based Taxation:- Here, the firms are taxed on its capital gains where the firms are operating.
- ② Resident Based:- The firm is taxed on its capital gains in the country where it is resident.

Traditionally, India's DTAA are resident based. Hence, many firms use this to evade taxes via - round tripping and transfer pricing. Such firms are located in tax haven countries. Recently, India has renegotiated its DTAA with Cyprus, Mauritius and Singapore.

Benefits

- ① It increases the FDI flow into the country.
- ② the firms are not taxed doubly.
- ③ It increases the employment opportunities and also
- ④ It fosters bilateral relations.

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Remarks

underline —

Similarly, countries make information sharing agreement so that they could track the tax evaders with the use of exchange of information. India & US have signed such information sharing system.

Benefits:

- ① It helps in curbing the round tripping.
- ② It also helps in tracking the tax evaders.
- ③ It helps in reducing the volume of blackmoney.

Remarks

Q16. While regional and multilateral organizations are not able to reach desirable outcomes and agreements due to various reasons in recent past, sub-regionalism is the way forward. Critically evaluate. (12.5 Marks)

Remarks

Remarks

Q17. Analyze the major influences of the French Revolution on social and political course of Europe in particular and modern history in general? (12.5 Marks)

French Revolution of 1789 is one of the most influencing revolution. The ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity came from here and these ideas have evolved over generations. The impacts of French Revolution ~~are~~ in Europe are →

(a) social.

- # the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity reduced the social stratification guided by - Clergy, Noble and Common classes.
- # It also brought a new movement - Feminist movement where women participated equally.

political.

- (a) It ended the rule of Louis XVI and it paved the way for coming of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- (b) Napoleon's rule influenced the politics of Europe in major ways -

- # rise of number of wars
- # Napoleon continental policy kept British engaged with tackling France
- # Napoleon had also role in German f. German Unification.

41/42

Remarks

② The ideas of French Revolution inspired the other regions of Europe as well - like Germany.

Impact of French Revolution in modern history

can be →

The ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity were cherished. Indian Constitution also gives liberty, equality and fraternity to all.

The ideas of French intellectuals like Voltaire, Montesquieu etc. were cherished by the people of colonies. Their literature was widely studied and used to inspire the people to fight against colonialism.

Montesquieu's idea of separation of power was embedded in the American constitution. Many other countries including India followed the separation of power.

French Revolution is seen as one of the episode of man's enlightenment and end to the despotic autocracy. The French revolution gives one lesson that the masses can bring a change.

Remarks.

- Q18. What is colonialism? What were the main reasons behind colonialism? Which powers led the era of colonialism and why? (12.5 Marks)

Colonialism ~~can~~ be described as use of economic or political power to control the resources of the other countries and its domain. Often, ~~we~~ use colonialism and imperialism ~~interchangeably~~ ^{and} ~~bookish~~ ^{student}. If imperialism is an ideology, colonialism is the actual practice.

The main reasons behind colonialism were:

- (a) Supremacy of race:- The Europeans believed in supremacy of the caucasoid race and they wanted to rule the world.

- (b) Capitalism:- Exploration of new trade routes led to increased trade among the nations. This led to birth of capitalism, and it further led to search for markets.

- (c) Industrial Revolution:- Post 1830; Britain was industrialised and overproduction of goods needed market. In order to dump those goods, colonial masters needed market. Regulating Act of 1813 was an apt example.

- (d) Technological Backwardness:-

Post Renaissance, Europe witnessed an age of Enlightenment where many

4/4

Remarks

discoveries were made, the technological advancement made the Europeans more competitive and powerful. Britain became the naval power by 1700s. The skewed power relation between European and other countries aggravated the colonialism.

The Era of Colonization was led by many powers based on their technological advancement.

- (1) pre-industrial:- Initially, Portugal and Spain ruled the colonialism because of their naval supremacy.
- (2) post Industrial Revolution:- Britain and Dutch started to rule. Britain got India, Ceylon, South Africa, while Dutch got Sumatra.
- (3) During late nineteenth century, new powers came like
 - (a) the United States due to rapid Industrialization for almost a century.
 - (b) Japan - Russo-Japanese war in 1905 is an evidence for rising Japanese state.
 - (c) Germany - rapid Industrialisation and invention of U-boats made Germany a powerful force.

The main guiding force behind colonialism was greed to get more market and more sources of natural resources.

Remarks

Q19. Socialism grew out of the endeavour to improve miserable condition of the working classes and seek to establish socio-economic equality between man and man just as democracy seek to establish political equality. (12.5 Marks)

Socialism believes in equality, equality in the sense that workers are the owners of producing assets, they are the key stakeholders and their well-being is of utmost importance.

Post Industrial Revolution, Capitalism emerged in European countries which had the mantra of profit at any cost. This had negative impact on social-cultural life of workers like →
 # poor unhygienic condition of slums
 # food scarcity in urban areas
 # the issue of child labour

In this context, Luddite Movement started which began burning down the industries. Soon people realised that industries were not responsible for their miseries rather capitalism is.

In 1848 - Karl Marx's ideas of socialism started gaining importance. He says that

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Remarks

- Every aspect of One should be addressed

Workers should be united to gain political powers. After coming to power, the first thing they should do is to end the concept of private property. This would make workers as owners of production.

Criticism.

- ① Socialism is an ideal concept. Many countries tried socialism in different ways -
 - # For Lenin → it was rule of ~~Party~~ or Vanguard
 - for Stalin - it was dictatorship or personality cult
 - For Mao - it was rule of fathers.
 Hence, no clear cut definition of socialism is possible.
- ② Socialism does not motivate people to produce more.
- ③ It encroaches the individual's rights.

Remarks

Q20. What factors lead to the formation of NATO? What were the impacts of formation of NATO on global politics? What is the relevance of NATO in post USSR era?

(12.5 Marks)

Post World War II, the era of cold war started. The two nations - the US and the USSR began influencing the world with their ideologies of Capitalism and Communism. Hence, NATO was born out of mutual distrust among the US and the USSR. The NATO refers to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The attack on member of one NATO nation means attack on members of all.

Hence, factors responsible for formation of NATO are

- (a) the conflicting ideologies - Capitalism vs Communism
- (b) protection of capitalist country from the USSR.
- (c) NATO acted as a deterrent to the USSR because combined strength of NATO superseded the strength of the USSR.

The major impacts of the NATO in global politics →

- # the USSR could not influence much on the western front of Europe. Warsaw Pact
- # it acted as a deterrent to the USSR.

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Remarks

- write multiple aspect of Qns.

Peace in Europe was guaranteed because attack on one country meant attack on all; this would start a new type of world war.

Post collapse of the USSR, the sole superpower is the United States of America. However, in coming decades the world is moving towards multi-polar world. Presently, the

Tension between US & Russia is due to security of Baltic states & under threat to assertiveness of Russia. Hence, it has some relevance in the present context as well.

Trump's policy of reducing the expenses on the defence of NATO nations is a significant turn in the US's policy with NATO.

Remarks