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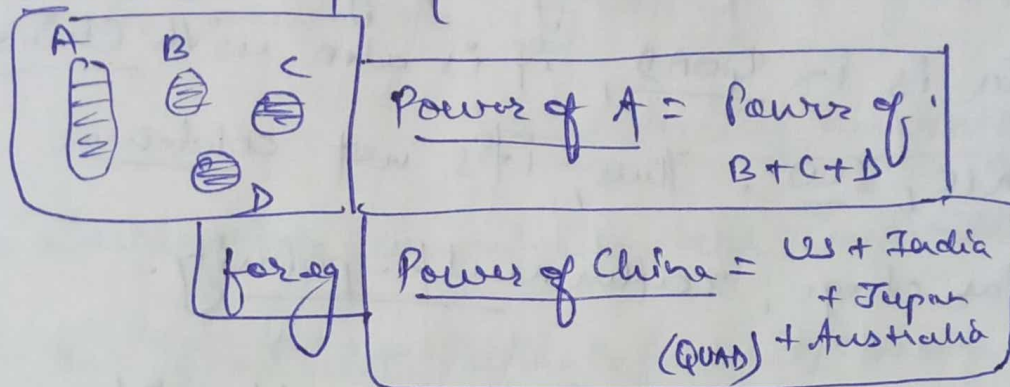
Subject - PSIR Optional Test Series

Q. 1)

Examine the relevance of the BOP in the post-cold war era.

Ans a)

Stephen Walt defines balance of power as the realist mechanism opted by weaker states to protect their sovereign interests against a hegemon in this anarchical international order.



This concept remains relevant to balance the threat arising.

For instance, the emergence of QUAD against China's unilateralist assertion in Indo-Pacific, maintains balance of power.

Likewise, "coalitional diplomacy"

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by developing countries in WTO (1997),
subverts balance of power against
developed countries.

However, the concept
has also become redundant. For instance,
today almost all countries are aligned
to their own interest groupings. While
India is in QUAD, it is also with China
in RIC, SCO. Thus, it's not cold-war
bipolar stage, rather multi-polarity.

Similarly, Marxist
calls it irrelevant as nations mostly
'balance threat' rather than power. Similarly
liberals highlight importance of -
collective security & functionalism
as better alternative (David Altrany).

6) Role of New Social Movements in developing countries.

Social Movements in words of Foucault resembles the idea that : "power cannot be seen to be located centrally but dispersed throughout". Social movements speaks power to injustice.

New social movements in developing countries are inspired by the genderist / ethnic / racial movements of west like Black rights / LGBTQ+.

These movements are of "post-material orientation" (Robert Putnam). As they are more ideological, decentralised and concerned with environmental issues.

They are also result

^a
of "deprivation theory" as they are
voices of marginalised. Like Niyangiri-
tribal protests in Odisha against corporates
or Aarey Forest protest against Mumbai-
metro.

They are also reflective
of Hannah Arendt's "acting in concert"
as they are result of society's collective
endeavour. [For eg] Nirbhaya gangrape-
mass protests was societal awakening.

However, sometimes they
are divided on gender & caste lines.
Like lesser Brahmin participation in
Bhine party or boycott of "Punjab To"
Radical Feminist group. For true
impact, they need to have [one voice].

- c) The quest for democracy in third world countries has been marked by bitter struggles and tribulations. Examine the statement.

Democracy is a political doctrine based on the premise of "popular sovereignty" (Rousseau) - where people are truly holders of power.

However, this idea had been denied to people in 3rd world or post-colonial societies by their masters & rulers.

The national movements in 3rd world countries like Africa, Asia demanded democracy but they were called "barbarians" and "superfluous masses" (Hannah Arendt).

However, even after the

democratization wave (Huntington) in these societies, they suffer from democratic deficit.

Robert Cooper calls these as "pre-modern societies" which suffer from post-imperial chaos, neoliberalism and democracy. F.W. Riggs calls these as "prismatic societies" with traditional society not able to grasp democracy.

Hans J. Habermas (Marxist) calls these as "over-developed state" where the political elites have kept power structure strong with weak socio-economic structure.

Thus, their struggle for democracy continues. True democracy require true empowerment of masses & transformation into radical democracy (Habermas).

2 (b)

Evaluate the Marxist assertion that international politics is driven by the interests of the capitalist class rather than the interests of states. How does this view challenge the fundamental assumptions of Realist and Liberal theories?

Karl Marx in Das Kapital wrote that: "the expansionist nature of capitalism pushes bourgeoisie to nestle & settle everywhere" ... It's on this premise that Marxist analysis of international politics is built.

Marxist criticises the expansionist nature of capitalism for brooding global class struggle & anarchy. For dependency school theorist like Immanuel Wallerstein the world is divided into [core]: developed & [periphery]: developing countries.

The core is dominated

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by the capitalist class, rather than states.
For profits & surplus value, capitalists
promote corporate globalisation - putting
companies / factories / office everywhere
to earn more.

Like Marx, neo-Marxist
like Gramsci, Robert Cox argue that
western capitalist class has used
ideological hegemony to rule over world.
Like democracy promotion (BUSH doctrine),
neo-liberalism through Washington Consensus
etc.

Thus, Marxist differs
from realists who claim that
anarchy (Morgenthau) is the driving

force for zero-sum diplomacy in world.
Rather, it's the bourgeoisie's interest
which drives the wheels of world.

Similarly, they differ
from liberal-idealist who claim that
liberal-institutionalism (Keohane & Nye):
peace through global institutions is
possible. Rather, they point how UN,
Brettonwoods (WB, IMF) etc. reflect
"continuing-hegemony" of west (Chris
Harrman).

However, Maoist claim
has also become redundant amidst
China becoming world's capitalist engine
& Vietnam becoming Schumpeterian-competition
state (Bob-Jessop). Triumphalism of
liberal democracy (Fukuyama) can't be
refuted worldwide.

2) Discuss the contribution of comparative methods in understanding the political systems. Also briefly mention the challenges of comparative politics in the context of globalisation.

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote that -
"without comparisons to make, the mind does not know how to proceed"

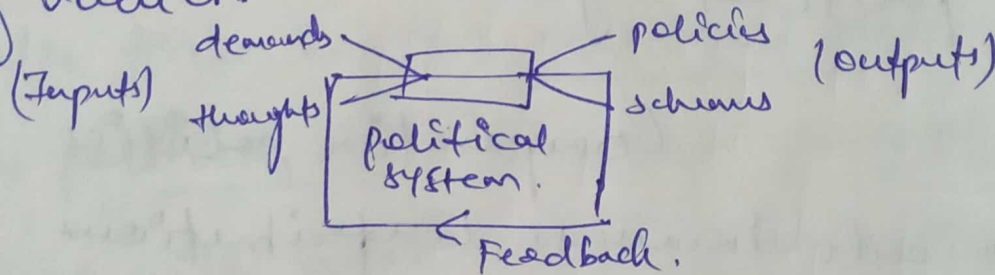
Therefore, comparative politics is an important sub-discipline as it analyses & compares the structure of state, its institutions, organisation and political systems.

Comparative politics has made immense contributions. Traditional methods inspired by Aristotle, analysed state & governments to answer the question of liberty, equality, justice.

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Post-WWII, inspired by David Easton's behavioural movement, empirical approaches were developed.

Systems approach analysed political systems rather than states to understand structure. According to this approach, political system interacts with environment to convert inputs into outputs for authoritative allocation of values.



Likens, Structural Functionalist approach by Harold A. Powell compares the functions of structure

for comparison of states. For instance,
both India & China have legislature
yet both perform different functions.

India → Lawmaking

China → puppet of party

(China is a party with a state
attached to it... - Vijay Chhale).

Political sociology approach

understands society in order to look
at system. For instance, Rajai Kothari's
politicisation of caste is based on this
approach as caste remains the breath-
line of Indian politics.

Amartya Sen & Jean-

Drze have used political-economy

approach to study Inequality in India-
China

Top 10%	1990s	2010s
India	31%	70%
China	28%	41%

In India,
inequality
rose more
surely.

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However, it's fraught with challenges. As it leans into over-simplification and false paradigm of value-neutrality (systems approach). For instance, post-colonial societies are too complex to oversimplify.

It's eurocentric as it portrays democracy & western liberal democracy as the ideal systems (Marxist).

Its bias as polit-economy approach argues that - country with weaker trade unions are economically efficient.

Yet, Comparative analysis is important to merge scienticism with normativism (neo-institutional approach).

5) 5)

Analyze the relationship between Environmental security and national security.

Prof. Mohd Azub (post-colonial theorist) has highlighted a new dimension of national security as "environmental security".

Environmental security

is about the protection and sustainable development of the environment's economic-engine to maintain a net-carbon positive architecture.

It also encompasses the security of the vulnerable section more prone to environmental hazards like tribals, climate refugees and globally SIDS, LDCs etc.

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As a dimension within national security, it seeks to widen the realist understanding of security as that of only state, to security of environment and biodiversity.

Environmentalists and ecofeminists from 3rd world like Ramchandra Guha & Vandana Shiva have spoken of bringing environmental interests at the core of foreign policy making.

Perhaps we need to "securitize" (Barry Buzan) the idea of environment - security, to make it a politically - worthy issue to be taken up by states.

Q-5)
c)

Critically examine the relevance of the theory of nuclear deterrence in preventing war in the international system.

Thomas Schelling defines nuclear deterrence theory as a psychological tool (game theory) in states' arsenal to protect states from falling into deep of full-fledged hot-war.

A lot many experts have praised the theory for preventing war. For instance, the presence of nuclear arsenals with India & Pakistan have prevented both from even starting a conventional war post-1999 Kargil.

Likewise, presence of nuclear arms is important according

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to realists like Waltz & Mearsheimer
for stopping wars & maintain balance of
power.

However, it's criticized
as presence of nuclear weapons has not
created deterrence. For instance, it has
not stopped Ukraine (non-nuke) to
attack Russia (nuclear state)

Likewise, form of warfare
has changed as seen in - Iran led
Houthi's attacking US & Israeli
ships in Red Sea ^{via drones}. Neo-classical

Realist approach hints that leaders
like Kim Jong UN (N.Korea) are susceptible
to use these any adversary very likely.

Thus, responsible usage of
nuclear weapons & global acceptance of
TNWT treaty can make difference effective.