

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How did new world order start?

Ans. It is believed that new world order started in December 1991 after the disintegration of Soviet Union and the hegemony of US was established in this new economy. But this cannot be accepted as pure truth as US hegemony was established at the end of Second World War or even before that at the time of international summits held between earlier friendly nations. The dominance of US can be seen on Dunbarton Oaks, Yalta Conference, San Francisco conference and Potsdam conference. This is also true that from the establishment of UN in 24 October, 1945, US hegemony is still existing on this world organization. It has also played an important role in decision-making of UN over various problems of Korea, Congo, Vietnam, Cyprus, Philistine, Kashmir, etc. It was appropriately said by scholar that the world affairs were depicted under the leadership of Britain. Britain's condition seemed dicey after the Second World War. It was replaced by USA.

Q.2. To what President George Bush termed as 'New World Order'?

Or

What is meant by 'New World Order'?

[CBSE (AI) 2012]

Ans. In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, rapidly occupying and subsequently annexing it. After a series of diplomatic attempts failed at convincing Iraq to quit its aggression, the United Nations mandated the liberation of Kuwait by force. For the UN, this was a dramatic decision after years of deadlock during the Cold War. The US president George H.W. Bush hailed it as the emergence of a 'new world order'.

Q.3. Write brief descriptions of US military power execution during Clinton years.

Ans. There were two major episodes of US military power execution during Clinton years:

(i) Actions against Yugoslavia: US performed military actions against Yugoslavia in 1999 during Clinton years. The predominantly Albanian population in the province of KOSOVO was in a great difficulty due to Yugoslavia military. The air forces of the NATO countries, led by the US, bombarded targets around Yugoslavia for well over two months. The downfall of the government of Slobodan Milosevic and the stationing of a NATO force in Kosovo were its two major consequences.

(i) Operation Infinite Reach: Another significant US military action during the Clinton years was 'Operation Infinite Reach'. US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-

Salaam, Tanzania were bombed in 1998. These bombings were attributed to Al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization strongly influenced by extremist Islamist ideas. President Clinton ordered 'Operation Infinite Reach', a series of cruise missile strikes on Al-Qaeda terrorists, targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. The US did not bother about the UN sanction or provisions of international law in this regard.

Q.4. When and why was 'Operation Enduring Freedom' launched?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. As a part of its 'Global War on Terror', US launched 'Operation Enduring Freedom' in 2001 against all those suspected to be behind 9/11 attack, mainly Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Bush, the US President, clearly declared that the overall objective of the 'Global War on Terror' was not only to disrupt Al-Qaeda network worldwide but also to prevent all danger from terrorists teaming with a small groups of nations seeking to develop nuclear and biological weapons. The Taliban regime was overthrown easily. The US forces have made arrests throughout the world. Sometimes these arrests have been without the knowledge of the governments of their home countries.

Q.5. Give a brief description of Iraq War.

Ans. US, in regard to destruction of 9/11, concentrated on Iraq after defeating Afghanistan. The news was spreaded in the world that Iraq's President has an illegal collection of weapons of mass destruction. So, it has become necessary to prevent Iraq from developing weapons of mass destruction. More than 40 other countries joined and was named as 'coalition of the willing'. On 19 March 2003, the US launched its invasion of Iraq under the codename 'operation Iraqi freedom'. Even UN's permission was not taken for this invasion. The government of Saddam Hussein fell swiftly. Since no evidence of WMD has been unearthed in Iraq, it is speculated that the invasion was motivated by other objectives, such as controlling Iraqi oilfields and installing a regime friendly to the US. Even after winning, US has not been able to 'pacify' Iraq. Instead, a full-fledged insurgencies against US Occupation was ignited in Iraq. While the US has lost over 3,000 military personnel in the war, Iraqi casualties are very much higher. 50,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed in the US-led invasion.

Q.6. Write a short note on 'First Gulf War'.

Ans. The 'First Gulf War' revealed the vast technological gap that had opened up between the US military capability and that of other states. The highly publicised use of so-called 'smart bombs' by the US led observers to call this a 'computer war'. Widespread television coverage also made it as 'video game war', with viewers around the world watching the destruction of Iraqi forces live on TV in the comfort of their living rooms. Incredibly, the US may actually have made a profit from the war. The US received more money from countries like Germany, Japan and Saudi Arabia than it had spent on the war.

Q.7. What do you mean by US hegemony in today's world? Which two constraints control US hegemony?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. US hegemony in today's world politics means dominance of US at global stage. After the Collapse of bipolar world, US has emerged as a sole superpower and unipolar system is established in the world. US hegemony can be seen as hard power, structural power and soft power. It can interfere in any part of the world in its economy and military affairs.

There are two constraints on American power:

1. The system of division of American powers among three parts.
2. NATO-NATO is the only organization in International system that could possibly moderate the exercise of American Power today.

Q.8. What are the constraints on American hegemony today? Which of these do you expect to get more importance in the future?

[NCERT]

Or

Mention any two constraints that come in the ways of American hegemony.

[CBSE Delhi 2013]

Ans. History tells us that empires decline because they decay from within. Similarly the biggest constraints to American hegemony lie within the heart of hegemony itself. Although, none of these constraints seemed to operate in the years following 9/11, but it now appears that all three of these constraints are slowly beginning to operate again.

These are as follows:

(i) Institutional Architecture of America: The first constraint is the institutional architecture of America itself. A system of division of powers between the three branches of the government, places significant breaks upon the unrestrained and immoderate exercise of America's military power of the executive branch. This is the best example of constraints on American hegemony today.

(ii) Domestic Nature of American Power: The second constraint on American hegemony is internal and domestic nature of American power. Although the American mass media may from time to time impose or promote a particular perspective on domestic public opinion in the US, there is nevertheless a deep skepticism regarding the purposes and methods of government in American political culture. This factor is a huge constraint on US military action overseas.

(iii) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO): NATO is the third most important factor that imposes a constraint on American power in global politics. Clearly, the US

has an enormous interest in keeping the alliance of democracies that follow the market economies alive and therefore it is possible that its allies in the NATO will be able to moderate the exercise of US hegemony.

Q.9. Describe US hegemony as a soft power.

[CBSE (AI) 2014]

Or

‘US’s hegemony as a soft power cannot be denied.’ Comment.

Ans. After the Second World War, America’s cultural superiority along with military and soft power dominance can also be seen. Here, hegemony implies class ascendancy in the social, political and particularly ideological spheres. Hegemony arises when the dominant country can win the consent of dominated classes, by persuading the dominated classes to view the world in a manner favourable to the ascendancy of the dominant class. A dominant power deploys not only military power but also ideological resources to shape the behavior of competing and lesser powers. Consent, in other words, goes hand-in-hand with, and often more effective than, coercion. The predominance of the US in the world today is based not only on its military power and economic powers, but also on its cultural presence. India’s example can justify this. It is the dream of every literate Indian that he/she wants to go settle in US by any means because they feel their future is secured in US. India is adopting culture, living sense of US. US has been benefitted by this reaction is expanding its dominance. Even during the Cold War, the society of Soviet Union was very much impressed by the improvised of US. The youth of Soviet Union was most impressed by wearing the popular blue jeans. As a result, they used to feel satisfied after purchasing blue jeans from market even if they spend their yearly income. These blue jeans were not available in their own country. During the Cold War, the US found it difficult to score victories against the Soviet Union in the realm of hard power. It was in the area of structural power and soft power that the US scored notable victories. The interest of citizens of Soviet Union in blue jeans clearly shows this. The US culture is very attractive and is most powerful. It is that aspect of soft power where the country wins the consent of dominated classes.