

POST IDEOLOGICAL WORLD ORDER

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Abstract—This research revolves around the world post-cold war which significantly has been described as post-ideological world order. It starts with the last decade of the twentieth century. There has not been a single world order but various forms of it suitable in different decades accordingly. Many theorists have explained the world order differently in terms of nations states, their economic advancement, political system and the geopolitics around it. This research assignment includes quotations, references of thinkers from various books, articles on International Relations and Geopolitics to illustrate a clear picture of the world after the cold war and the bipolar strife.

Index Terms—American century, Billiard Ball, Chinese century, Collective responsibility, Collective Security, End of history, Globalization, Internationalization of states, new world order, Shock therapy, War on terror.

I. INTRODUCTION

9th November 1989, the world became certain of the upcoming events all around the globe. It made the disintegration of Soviet Union and end of superpower era inevitable. The term “post-ideology” connotes the end of ideological race, a shift from traditional ideological framework. However, it became evident after the disintegration of the mighty Soviet Union. In the essay titled “The End of History”, Francis Fukuyama has proclaimed this event as end of history and triumph of liberal ideas and values which cannot be improved upon. He said there is no ideological evolution left as it was the ideal state for the world to be, as reaffirmed by the disintegration of Soviet Union. It was quite evident that the bipolar world has now dead.

The race of a superior ideology has its genesis way before the beginning of the cold war period. However, Ideology being the flag bearer of the nation states’ identity is the result of the post-World War 1. The decline in power of Great Britain in the backdrop of World War 2, United States and Soviet Union arose as two hegemonic powers, which started the decades

long ideological war of CAPITALISM vs COMMUNISM.

This research paper tries to describe the world order after disintegration of the Soviet Union and how the world order has changed over the three decades. The changing global scenario with respect to economy, politics and security dynamics. It further delves into the complexities of this changing character of nation states as actors in the multipolar world, a world more interconnected and open.

II. NEW WORLD ORDER

As soon as the cold war ended, the world was left with United States as the only Superpower left and liberalism- the only surviving ideology. In the post-cold war period, states were ready to buy the free world that Capitalism has spent last four decades in selling. Communism has failed, it was dead in every sense and its remains were scattered all over the Eastern Europe. Many political scientists claimed that the world has become “Uni-polar” and US is the superpower now. They claimed that Capitalism is the only surviving ideology and liberal democracy is the only successful form of government. The post-ideological period was relatively peaceful, and of nuclear disarmament.

The idea that the post-Cold War era would be characterized by a ‘new world order’ was first mooted by Gorbachev in a speech to the UN General Assembly in December 1988. However, it has not been clearly defined. The “new world order” supposedly meant to him as a world based on cooperation, peace, nuclear disarmament. President Bush in his ‘Towards a New World Order’ speech to Congress in September 1990, has marked his vision for the post-Cold War world elaborately. It included - US leadership to ensure the international rule of law, a partnership between the USA and the Soviet Union including the integration of the latter into the world economic bodies, and a check on the use of force by the promotion of collective security

The post-communist countries were in dire need of an alternative and in us model of liberal-democratic governance framework they found one. The eagerness of United States to take charge of the monitoring the class reflected in their growing inclination towards the humanitarian influence and the trends of gulf war. However, the unipolar system was different from the cold war bipolar system. The decision of President Bush in 2000 clearly shown the unilateralist tendencies of United States when it withdrew from International Criminal Court and the refusal to sign the Kyoto protocol. However, September 11 altered the nature of US foreign policy and shift in world paradigm. It is often argued that 9/11 was the point at which the true nature of the post-Cold War era was revealed and the beginning of a period of unprecedented global strife and instability.

So many theorists tried to explain the rise of transnational terrorism and the nature of the 'war on terror'. Samuel Huntington's theory of a 'clash of civilizations', tries to explain how culture plays an important role in the conflicts of this new world. This conception of the new world order had its own complexities and threats. Many of these arose from the penetration of weapons of mass destruction which was easily accessible by the rogue states or the non-state actors such as terrorist organizations.

III. BORDERLESS WORLD

The idea of the "borderless world" reflected in the writings of Ohmae in 1990, the ideas which are often associated with the hyperglobalists. Many commentators see this period as the period of intensification of Globalization. The idea that borders are no longer relevant, the state sovereignty is losing its significance. The "Billiard Ball" system with intact sovereignty and state centric approach has now faded, the hyperglobalists claimed. Robert Cox asserted it as "internationalization of states". Globalization caused the debate that has started around the hard power and soft power. The cultural, economic, technological and political shifts ties between countries started gaining prominence. However, this in no sense meant that wars became inevitable, it was just that along with hard power, soft power also became a factor for generating consensus, alluring masses and spreading local ideas at a global platform, which was now not confined to the one or two powerful states only. The

idea of Glocalization emerged as a result of penetration of ideas, culture, goods services and what not. There are ample examples of influence of local cultures at the global level on the one hand and amalgamation of global local at the other hand. The MNCs often change or assimilate their menu according to the need of the regional consumers. For example-

1. MacDonald's do not sell beef in their food items in India because the Hindu community of India regards cow as sacred.
2. Yoga is now known to every country on this Earth, which was earlier confined to India only. This penetration not only make goods and services accessible but cause in increasing the influence of the origin.
3. The well-known "western influence" over India as well as all over the globe is a secret to no one. The jeans t-shirts we wear are the result of the influence we have earlier asserted.
4. Held and McGrew (1999) thus defined globalization as 'the widening, intensifying, speeding up, and growing impact of world-wide interconnectedness'. In the case of the contemporary phenomenon of globalization, in contrast, the web of economic interconnectedness and interdependence has extended so far that it is possible, for the first time, to conceive of the world economy as a single global entity. This is the sense in which economic life has become borderless.

A multi-polar Global world order:

The decline and end of US hegemony was debated around the rise of a multi-polar world. A world no longer polarized, and a world where there were a number of players ready with their weapons to play. The multilateral institutions were pacing the speed of their reach and their rise has become a story to tell. The rise of China was so remarkable that it has started posing threat for United States and became a rival to it. The postcolonial states started coming out of their shells and significantly marking their presence felt. The big mighty powers of Europe were losing their significance too.

World order, in the modern period, is being shaped by a number of multipolar trends. The most significant of these is the rise of so-called 'emerging powers. These are the new, or the would-be, great powers of the

twenty-first century. Some of the states have already a regional significance – Brazil and, possibly, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela in Latin America; South Africa and Nigeria in Africa; Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran in the Middle East; and South Korea, Indonesia, Pakistan and Australia in Asia and Oceania. However, a range of other powers have acquired, or are acquiring, wider, and possibly global, significance. These include, most obviously, China, Russia and India, but also Japan and the European Union. Between them, and together with the USA, these powers account for over half the world's population, about 75 per cent of global GDP and around 80 per cent of global defense spending. Well earlier what was called a debated notion has started becoming true. The power of United States was deteriorating and it reached its climax after the 2008 financial crisis. The whole world got affected by the effects of what happened in United States and marked shift of power dynamics.

China is undoubtedly one of the rising powers which can pose a threat to USA. Many theorists have predicted this century to be “Chinese century”, as the twentieth century was largely regarded as “American Century”. China's increasing power has its foundation laid in the 1970s by Deng Xiaoping, which caused the rapid economic progress. Annual growth rates of 8 and 10 per cent for almost thirty years have meant that China became the world's largest exporter in 2009. By 2010, the economy of China was multifold increased from 1978. With the world's largest population, China has an abundance of cheap labor, making it, increasingly, the manufacturing hub of the global economy. The resilience of the Chinese economic model was further demonstrated by the ease with which it weathered the 2007–09 global financial crisis. China also has a growing military capacity, being second only to the USA in terms of arms expenditure. Russia's growth has two main strands: First, since the economic decline 1990s, associated with the ‘shock therapy’ transition to a market economy, a notable revival has taken place. This has largely been driven by the substantial expansion of oil and gas production. Although its economy is in serious need of diversification and remains heavily dependent on world commodity markets, Russia has emerged as an energy superpower. This allows it, for instance, to exert influence over the states of Eastern Europe and beyond by controlling the flow and price of oil and gas

resources. Second, fueled by growing economic confidence and strengthened nationalism, Russia has demonstrated a renewed appetite for military assertiveness, especially in relation to the so-called ‘near abroad’. This was particularly demonstrated by the 2008 war with Georgia, annexation of Crimea 2014 and the most recent the Russia's attack on Ukraine. Although the alliance of NATO has become stronger in the recent past with Finland and Sweden joining it. However, a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia is quite unlikely.

IV. NEW AGE IDEAS

The world order in the new age has taken an unprecedented turn, the ideologies of communism and capitalism has been transformed into many small ideas that has arisen either as their criticism and or as an alternative to the problems arising in the contemporary times. However, the second decade of the twenty first century has so many stories to tell, and most of them had an abrupt end. The global community in the twentieth century has grown more inclined towards the environment issues that have become one of the life challenging threats. Many environmental treaties have garnered support from all around the globe, as the need of the hour. The range of environmental treaties ranging from the Kyoto protocol succeeded by Paris Agreement of 2015 to the stressing debate on adaptation vs mitigation, the idea of collective responsibility surfaced. The earlier East-West divide changed its form to Global North vs Global South divide. The idea of Global North vs Global South divides in the Brandt report. The counties of Global South are the countries that have been severely exploited, but are now raising their voices, pointing fingers at the wrongs done to them, and openly accusing the resource exploiters. Therefore, asking them to take responsibility of the damage done to the society and environment by them at the expense of our lives.

The idea of a world order has changed drastically over the last decade. The global pandemic was the peak of the cruel realization of the consequences of borderless world, a world that has become so much intrigued and interconnected. Crores of people lost their life due to Covid and at one point it became so much widespread that it almost felt like this is how this world is going to end. But this pandemic compelled the world to see and

realize the negatives of the globalization clearly. However, the cooperation among states, the accessibility of aid was another side of the story.

V. CONCLUSION

The period after cold war can be largely summarized two contrasting ideas- the rising globalization as well as regional autonomy. In terms of regional autonomy, the world order is largely- states trying to carve out benefit, concerned more about their confined national interest than the global responsibility. States have more and more strengthened their sovereignty. The international trends change every few years. The recent Russia- Ukraine war, the Israel Hamas war once again made us realize the undying endurance for power. The power-seeking nature of states have not changed, the agendas and issues may have changed. In terms of international community, the cooperation between the nations have increased. However, the post-cold war world has faced and is still facing plethora of issues most notably religious fundamentalism, ethnically driven conflict and insurgencies. Thus, the future of the world order depends on how the international organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and the major power axis plays their role in sustaining and stabilizing it.

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