

CHAPTER 03 US DOMINANCE IN WORLD POLITICS

CONTENTS

- Hegemony & Its Causes.
- Elements or kinds of US hegemony & U.S.A.
- Constraints on US Hegemony.
- Different Operations Conducted.
- Operation Desert Storm or First Gulf War.
- Operation Infinite reach.
- Operation Enduring Freedom or 9/11 Attack
- Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- India's relation with USA.
- Can we overcome US hegemony.
- Indo US Civil Nuclear deal 2008.

Introduction

The end of cold war and disintegration of Soviet Union changed the shape and picture of world politics and relations. After 1990 Bi- polarity came to an end as now, there is hardly a serious competition to USA. USA at present is single handed dominating the world almost in each and every sphere. Exploring the political, economic and cultural aspects throughout the world, it is in one way or the other and coloured by US dominance. USA dominance is visible by its command over world affairs. Sometimes it acts at its will to deal with international issues. So it is because of US hegemony, we think of unipolarity world. USA is deemed and accepted as single super power.

Hegemony and its Causes:-

Hegemony

Hegemony reflects the power play of a nation it is dominance almost on all fronts as socio, political, economic, military, cultural etc. Throughout world. It means supremacy and influence in world politics. At present, in the history of international relations and politics, it looks that USA by its power play worldwide has become hegemony. Directly or indirectly it plays a leading role to settle the international issues and problems. Almost in every sphere it (USA) leads at front. It has predominant position in international relations. It imposes its leadership on others by dominating International politics.

Causes of U.S Dominance

After the end of cold war and this integration of USSR, USA sauced to dominate and influence the world politics. There are some prominent causes for this dominance:-

- I. **MATURED POLITICAL SYSTEM:-**USA has a best political system. It meets the demands of each and every situation.
- II. **POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY STRENGTH:-**Exploring the political, economic and military strength of world, it is America which leads at front. USA is much more efficient than any other countries in the world resulting in its dominance.
- III. **IT'S POWER SHOW:-**Whenever situation demanded USA by its actions proved a dominant power.
- IV. **Collapse of 2nd world:** After disintegration of USSR, there remained no serious competitor to US. Hence resulted in its dominance

In short at present USA is sole hegemonic worldwide. It has proved it by its worldwide influence and actions.

Elements or Kinds of Hegemony and U.S.A Position:-

Hegemony is multidimensional concept its various kinds are as under:-

Hard Power

It indicated military and technological superiority. USA by its technology can target and reach anywhere in the world. Its military might today is both absolute and relative. It has so much military capabilities that can reach any point on the planet accurately. No power today can remotely match them. The operations initiated by USA throughout the world are examples of USA as a hard power. Killing of Osama Bin Laden on 02/05/2011 at Abotabad Pakistan is a flame example of USA dominance as a hard power.

STURCTURAL POWER

It is to understand world economics order. In globalisation world economy needs a dominant power to support its creation and existence. Here again USA is playing a dominant role in flourishing world economy. It has its influence on world economic institutes like World Bank WTO and IMF. The US share in world economy is about 28% and in world trade is 15% respectively. The

US economic ideas are followed through the world like MBA, free trade etc. In short world-wide economic institutions are Infact product of American hegemony.

SOFT POWER

Soft power refuses dominance in cultural and ideological fields. USA here too has proved a hegemonic. People feel pride by accepting US culture and ideology. People are adopting more and more US made life style. Despite of their own styles, People in large numbers are using jeans, cold drinks, fast foods, celebrating rose days, valentine days, new tea parties etc.

To conclude it is clear from the above writings that USA by its worth and virtue has proved itself a hegemonic. It has a dominant role in world politics and in international relations. Due to its different capabilities it is ruling the world directly or indirectly.

Constraints on US Hegemony

At present the US hegemony is in a formidable position and is very difficult to overcome. However there are some factors which might act as a constraint upon us hegemony:-

- **CHECKS AND BALANCES:-** This is an institutional mechanism operating within USA. The power of the President to use military can be checked by congress.
- **FREEDOM OF MASS MEDIA:-** Open nature of American society and freedom of mass media plays a vital role as a constraint on us hegemony. The intellectuals can expose the real intentions of US policy and can help in restricting it to use military power anywhere.
- **NATO:-** It is an alliance formed by USA to fulfil its interests. So in order to fulfil his world-wide interests, US will never want to annoy his alliance partner's. So it is also possible that its allies in the NATO sometimes will be able to moderate the exercise of US hegemony.
- **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:-** The organizations like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International etc. publish reports about exercises committed by USA. Hence play role of a checker or as a constraint on hegemonic nature of USA.

DIFFERENT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY USA

OPERATION DESERT STORM OR 1ST GULF WAR:-

In August 1990 Iraq attacked a small country Kuwait. Whole world including UNO at first appealed Iraq to withdraw and let Kuwait free. Unfortunately all diplomatic efforts failed to persuade Iraq for withdrawal. UNO treated Iraq as an aggressor and allowed use of force to liberate Kuwait.

So a coalition force of 660000 troopers from 34 countries invaded Iraq, This war was called as "FIRST GULF WAR" Iraq was defeated. This operation duly sanctioned by UNO was code named as "Operation Desert Storm". Under this operation Iraq was forced to withdraw from Kuwait. Under US command Kuwait was freed from Iraq occupation.

OPERATION INFINITE REACH

This operation was self sanctioned by USA. Bill Clinton ordered a military action under code name "Operation Infinite Reach" In 1998 terrorist outfit called Al Qaeda attacked US embassies in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) with bombs. So US in order to finish those responsible for bombings attacked terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan by cruise missile, this missile action against terrorists is known as Operation Infinite Reach.

OPERATION DURING FREEDOM OR 9/11 ATTACK

9/11 is considered the deadliest attack on humanity. Thousands were killed in USA and a pledge was made to fight against terrorism till it ends. A fight against terrorism under code name "Operation Enduring Freedom" was launched

On 11 September 2001 a group of 19 terrorists took control of four American commercial aircrafts and dashed them into the important buildings in USA including world Trade Centre. The attacks almost killed 3000 people. This attack was considered the brutal attack on use since its formation. After this deadly attack use acted swiftly. The US president George W. Bush launched an operation under code name "Operation enduring freedom" to curb world-wide terrorism and crush terrorists. This operation was considered as a part of global war on terror. USA attacked Al Qaida in Afghanistan which was supported by Afghan led Govt. of Taliban. Taliban was dethroned and new democratic regime led by Hamid Karzai was established. In short 9/11 is considered "Very Surprising and Unusual to the contemporary world as a super power USA was attacked.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

On March 19, 2003 the US launched an invasion on Iraq under code name "Operation Iraqi Freedom". More than 40 other countries joined in the US led "Collection of Willing" after UNO refused to give its mandate to the attack. US blamed Iraq for developing weapons of mass destruction (WMD), hence launched an attack.

Since no evidence of WMD was found in Iraq, it is suspected that invasion was motive by an aim of controlling Iraqi oil fields and to install US friendly Govt. in Iraq by dethroning Sodom regime. USA was successful in obtaining its main object but is not able to control civil war in Iraq till date.

NOW BE ABLE TO ANSWER

1. What do you understand by hegemony?
2. Causes which determine U/S dominance?
3. What are different kinds with which hegemony can be proved.
4. What are constraints on US hegemony?
5. What do you know regarding different operations launched at different times?
6. What is 9/11? How USA reacted to it?

INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH USA

After obtaining freedom from British rule, Indian after 1947 followed NAM policy. During cold war era India posed to have equal distance from both powers. But it is clear from history of relations India's tilt was towards USSR. During cold war India's relation with US were surely cold. But after the end of cold war India modified its foreign policy. The process of liberalization, Indo-US diaspora and technological revolution brought two countries closer to each other. In kargil conflict US asked Pakistan to withdraw its troops. September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on us brought two countries further closer to each other.

The two countries signed important nuclear deal in 2008. In Nov. 2010 President Obama visited India and inked trade deals of 10 billion us dollars. India is 12th largest trading partner of US. India and USA also signed a bilateral agreement on science and Technology Co-operation in 2005. On 1st March 2006 President Bush made another diplomatic visit further expand relations.

Indian US relations touched extreme height during recent visits of PM Modi's visit to US in September 2019 marked by attendance in the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston and now by the visit of US President "Donald Trump" on 24 and 25 February 2020 with block-buster event at Marena Stadium in Gujarat. The two leaders decided to raise India us ties to the level of a "comprehensive global strategic partnership. The two leaders inked memorandums of understanding including one in the energy sector, talks on major trade deals besides comprehensive global strategic partnership security and defence got boost.

In short Indo-US relations are growing very fast. Both share common ideology regarding the world issues. Due to the changing scenario of international politics and relations India and US succeeded to make good relations which were inaugurated by Indo-US nuclear treaty and it is expected that relation will grow at greater extent in future.

CAN WE OVERCOME US HEGEMONY:-

We know that bipolarity lasted for less than five decades. Bipolarity ended with the disintegration of Soviet Union. We are now living in a unipolar world, where USA has proved to be a Super power. Times will prove that how long this hegemony will last. At present it seems that there is not any vibrant power to challenge US power and hegemony. International politics is that politics which is without government. Although there are some international organisations which check the world order. But to be honest these international rules are not so much effective to check and control any unlawful activity world-wide. These are some strategies which can to some extent check US hegemony. They are:-

- **BANDWAGON STRATEGY:** According to this strategy, it is good to extract benefits of hegemony rather going against it. To gain high economic growth co-operation is required in the field of trade, technology transfer and investment. This can be achieved by working with the hegemonic.
- **HIDE STRATEGY:** This means to keep safe distance from the hegemony. Many big actors like china, Russia and Europe union in different ways are seeking to stay below the radar, as it were but they do not want to antagonise the hegemony.
- **MEDIA AND NGO:-** Scholars, believe that challenge to US hegemony may come from non-state actors. The non-state actors like media and NGO's can criticise and resist hegemonic nature of USA.

In nutshell USA at present is a hegemon as proved by its acts and actions throughout the world. Its hegemonic nature can be checked if there will be balance of power. Since that is not available so in global village the resistance will be only option available.

NUCLEAR DEAL 2008:-INDIA US CIVIL

The 123 agreement signed between USA and India is known as Indo-US civil Nuclear Deal. The framework for this agreement was given on July 18, 2005 the joint statement by Man Mohan Singh and George W. Bush. This deal took three years to get completed. The agreement was signed by then foreign minister of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and US Secretary of state Condoleezza Rice on Oct. 10 2008. This agreement consists of 22 pages and 17 articles. The agreement will remain in force for 40 years. The purpose of the agreement is to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and USA. This agreement would help to address the problems of energy deficit which tells upon India's growth rate. The agreement does not hinder Indian military nuclear programme and provides for uninterrupted supply of fuel.

NOW ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

1. What is hegemony how can it be showed?
2. What are different kinds of hegemony? Explain with examples?
3. USA is playing as hegemony. What are constraints on its hegemonic nature?
4. What is operation Desert Storm or 1st Gulf War?
5. Write short note on Operations Infinite Reach?
6. What is 9/11? What was reaction of USA?
7. What do you know about Indo-USA relation?
8. Write a note on Indo-USA civil nuclear deal?
9. Can we overcome US hegemony? Discuss?