

B.A.LL.B. 1st Year, II semester

Political Science

International relation: Its meaning and nature

Meaning- The study of relations among nations has fascinated scholars for several centuries. However, the terms International was first used by Gemy Bentham in the latter part of the 18th EC although its latin equivalent integrants was used all earlier by Richard Zouche. Both of them had used this term in respect of that branch of law which was called law of nations, which later became 'International Law'. During the 19th and 20th CE, international relations have grown rapidly. Today nation states have become for too interdependent and relations among them whether political or those related to trade and commerce have developed into an essential area of knowledge. In this Unit, we are mainly consumed with the political relations among sovereign societies called nations or nation – states.

No nation is an Island because domestic policies are constantly effected by developments outside, nations are compelled to (rather than sit on the fans or out – rightly isolate themselves) enter into dialogue with target or in initiating entries or from alliances for the purpose of enhancing their status or increasing their power or prestige and survival in the international system. Because international relations is in transition following emerging realities in the international system, it has become complies and ever more difficult arriving at a more universally acceptable definition of the subject. But this is not peculiar to international relations as there are more instance disagreement over the definition of political science it self. Nevertheless scholars have persisted in their attempt to definite are national relations.

International politics and International Relations- In most case international relations and international politics are interchangeably found to have been used. The first chair in international relations was established at the

university of Wales (U.K.) in 1919. The first to occupants of the chair were eminent historians, professors Alfred Zin and C.K. uibster. At that time, international relation as a subject was little more than diplomatic history. During the next seven decodes this subject has changed in nature and content. Today the analytical study of politics has replaced descriptive diplomatic history. The term international politics is now used for the new discipline that has been emerging since the second world war. It is more scientific, yet narrow as compared to international relations. The two terms are even now sanctimes used as synonyms. But, they have two distinct areas, or content, of study. Home Morzenthan believes that “The core of international relations is international politics”, but a clear distinction b/w the two is to be made. International relations, acc. to him, is much divider in scope than international politics. Whereas politics among nations is, as Morglethava says, struggle for power, international relations includes political economic and cultural relations. Harold and Margaret sprout opine that international relations include all human behavior one side of a national boundary affecting the human behavior on the other side of the boundary. On the other hand, deals with conflicts and cooperation among nations essentially at political level. As Padelford and Hincoln define it, international politics is the interaction of state policies within the changing pattern of power relationship. Palmer and Perins Enpress similar vicus when they say that international politics is essentially concerned with the state system. Since international relations includes all types of relationship b/w It is under, and international politics is narrower. All students of I.R., we shall indeed examine political conflicts and cooperation among states. But, we shall also study their aspect of relations among nations as well including economic inter action and role of the non-state actor.

Definitions

Trevor Taylor (1979), defines international relations as “a discipline which tries to explain political activities across state boundaries”.

Acc. To Ola, Iosaph (1999), “International relations are the study of all forms of interactions that exist b/w members of separate entities or nations within the international system”.

Symon Brown (1988), Thus defines international relations as “the investigating and study of patterns of action and “reactions among sovereign states as represented by their governing elites. “Some scholars use power as the key to international politics. Thus, they define international relations as the subject that deals with those relations among nations, which include power status.

Stanely Hoffman writes “The discipline of international relations is concerned with the factors and the activities which affect the external policies and power of the basic units into which the world is divided. Thus, international relations is concerned with all the exchange transactions, contracts flow of information and the resulting behavioral responses b/w and among separate organized societies. International relations could encompass many different activities social, economic, religious and so forth in so far as they have implications for international political relations.

In the words of Karl Wolfgang Deutsch (1968), “An introduction to the study of international relations in our time is an introduction to the art and science of the survival of mankind. If civilization is periled in the nearest future, it will not be periled by famine or plague, but by foreign policy and international relations.” The point expressed here is that we can cope with hunger and pestilence, but we cannot deal with the power of our nuclear weapons and our own behavior as nation states. It is important to note that since the end of world war 1, nation states have possessed unprecedented instruments for national action in the form of ideologies and weapons, and they have become ever more dangerous vehicles of international conflict, carrying the potential for its escalation to nuclear distraction and ultimate annihilation. The nation state holds the power to control most events within its borders, but few events beyond them. It is thus decisively important. For the student of international relations to understand that the world of

today is marked by two factions. One fact has to do with the nature of power in the age of the atom; the other concerns the interdependence of mankind in the age of the individual.

Nature of international Politics

International Relations, like the world community itself are in transition. In a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world, it encompasses much more than relations among nation states and international organization and groups. It includes a variety of transition relationship at various levels, above and below the level of the nation states. International relations are a multidisciplinary field gathering together the international aspects of politics economics, geography, history, law, sociology psychology, philosophy and cultural studies. It is a meta discipline. The content and nature of IP have undergone major changes after the 2nd world war. Traditionally, world politics was centered around Europe and relation among nations were largely conducted by officials of foreign offices in secrecy. The common man was hardly ever involved and treaties were after kept secret. Today public opinion has begun to play an important role in the decision making process in foreign offices, thus, changing completely the nature of international relations. Ambassadors, once briefed by their govts, were largely free to conduct relation acc. to the ground realities of the countries of their posting. Today, not only have nuclear weapons changed the nature of war and replaced erstwhile the balance of power by the balance of terror, but also the nature of diplomacy changed as well. We live in the jet age where the heads of state and govt. and their foreign ministers travel across the globe and personally establish contacts and conduct international relations. Before the first world war a traveler from India to Britain spent about 20 days in the sea voyage. Today, it takes less than 9 hours for a jet aircraft to fly from Delhi to Landon, telephones, fax machines, teleprinters and other electronic devices have brought all govt. leaders direct contact. Hot line communications b/w Washington and Moscow, for eg, keeps the top world leaders in constant touch. This has reduced the

freedom of ambassadors who receive daily instructions from their govts. Decolonization has resulted in the emergence of a large number of sovereign states. The former colonies of the European powers including India, have become imp. actors on the stage of international relation. They were once Silent spectators. Today, they participate in the conduct of world politics. The disintegration of the soviet union has created 15 members of the united nations, instead of the previous three. Some of the very small countries like naures may have no power but they also have no equal voia in the general assembly. Eour very small countries viz. Liechtenstein, Mario manaco were admitted to the U.N. during 1990-93. The total no. of U.No. member has gone up from 51 in 1945 to 1985 in 1997. Thus international relations are now conducted by such a large no. of new nation state. Beside many non state actors such as multinational corporations and transitional polices like terrorist groups have been influencing international relations in big way. With the collapse of the soviet union as a super power, the united states has emerged as the supreme monolithic power and can now dominate the international since almost without any challenge. The non-alignment movement (NAM) still exists but with the dismemberment of one of its founders (i.e., Yugoslavia) and the disappearance of rival power blocs, the role of the “third world” has changed along with the of NAM.

For further queries you may reach us via..

E-mail - drdhanpalsingh19@gmail.com

Mob - 9837226633

Dr Dhanpal

Teaching Assistant

ILS, CCSU campus, Meerut