

India and the Emerging World Order: An Anti- Hero Proposition

Vikas Chaubey

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, DAV(PG) College, Dehradun

Abstract: Thinking about Nature in general and Human World in particular, if we have to choose one key word to define this whole Universe (since defining things and phenomenon is central to all understanding), that word can be ORDER, since neither the Universe nor the Human World can bear chaos. The same applies to International Relations and its future. The present paper discusses and tries to come up with some sort of Model or Approach regarding the future World Order by keeping India at the core of thought process, since India has emerged as a key player at the global level in 21st Century and this paper revolves around the theoretical axis and analyses the present World Order or disorder by dissecting some major key Theories of International Relations and putting them vis-a vis India.

Keywords: World Order, India, International Relations Theories, 21st Century.

Introduction

When we analyse the present World Situation and look at the global situation whether from the angle of contest for resources; Institutions ,laws and norms or from the angle of Governing arrangements between various actors, we find that World has become very unpredictable(and the problem is that we always need to predict in International Relations, especially when we take a serious note of E.H. Carr's 'Idle Parlour Game' concept, in which he talked about Politics and projections for future and referred to it as an idle game because it is removed from reality and played in the arena of speculative conjecture, but it should be played to be prepared for unexpected.), and this gave rise to a theoretical concern that even after having so much great theoretical understanding regarding the international politics, we do not have a concrete theory dealing with the problem of World Order and present. Even the 'End of History' and 'Clash of Civilizations' idea is far from present reality.

And although we are looking at the World order in 21st century but this discussion regarding New World Order started way back. New world order, a term that entered East Block of mid-1989, following the transformation of the political culture of the world. The use of the term evokes the president of America, George Bush first. After Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Bush introduced for the first time this term to Congress in September 1990. The collapse of the Berlin Wall in December 1989 put an end to the traditional system of international relations and war in the Persian Gulf draw a line between the new system and the old system. former world leaders

also sought to establish “new world order” respectively from Monroe to Lenin and from Hitler to Bush.

Hedley Bull and his allies in the international community believe that the order pattern of social relations that continually meet the following functional objectives: 1) Maintaining the international system, 2) Sovereignty or independence of the legal system, and 3) Security.

And this academic and theoretical quest becomes more important when we try to see the global order from the view point of India as an important player. though in past years we find a great amount of literature talking about India’s role in shaping the World order in 21st Century but actually there is no proper Model in international politics to deal with India’s role.

Case of India and the World Order

In the present scenario of world, when we witness limited, controlled but full-scale armed conflicts in Russia- Ukraine and tensions in other parts of world also; less faith in role of International Organisations; rising tensions between USA and China; widening gap between Developed and Developing nations etc.

India presents its case not only as a formidable force economically and in terms of GDP or market and not only as a responsible Nuclear and Military power, which still believes in Rule-Based International Order and respects Sovereignty of each and every nation but also from following various perspectives India presents its strong case of playing a pivotal role in 21st century World Order

- ✓ Civilizational aspect
- ✓ Great stable Plural Democracy
- ✓ Sincere accepted Interlocuter globally
- ✓ Pivotal in Asia and balancing China
- ✓ Geopolitically Important
- ✓ Young Population

And in words of M. C. Miller and K.S.D. Estrada also India has witnessed following shifts which are a big indication of big changes regarding its global role in coming days.

- From morality to National Interests
- From non-alignment to various alignments
- From Global South to embracing North
- Moving closer to international regimes

The Indian foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar’s recently published book, *The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World*, offers a dramatically different, yet utterly authentic, vision of how the official mind in India imagines the country’s international posture—even in the face of direct threats posed by a hostile neighbour such as China.

To clarify these issues, Jaishankar covers the entirety of India’s foreign relations with all relevant powers and regions of importance to New Delhi as well as the twists and turns in India’s economic policies over the years—a vast landscape that cannot be reviewed here. He also interrogates diverse topics ranging from the history of India’s foreign policy to its strategic culture (with the chapter on the latter, “Krishna’s Choice,” offering penetrating insights not found in

almost any other published work on this subject). But underlying this panorama lies one big and urgent question: how should India conduct itself in the evolving international system?

This query lies at the heart of India's grand strategy and Jaishankar's contribution, which is self-consciously aimed at "encouraging an honest conversation among Indians" but "without discouraging the world from eavesdropping", offers an argument that dashes all hope that India might one day become an ally of the United States. On the contrary, Jaishankar repeatedly and emphatically avers that Indian grand strategy in an uncertain world requires "advancing [its] national interests by identifying and exploiting opportunities created by global contradictions" so as "to extract as much [*sic*] gains from as many ties as possible". Precisely because India is presently disadvantaged in its power rivalry with China, New Delhi, along the way to expanding its national capabilities, must resolutely focus on "leveraging the external environment to address [these] bilateral imbalances". "Here, the weaker player solicits or manipulates stronger forces to [its] advantage", which in a world "of multiple poles and greater choices" requires that "India must reach out in as many directions as possible and maximize its gains. . . . In this world of all against all, India's goal should be to move closer towards the strategic sweet spot".

Hegel, very aptly in "The Philosophy of History" also presents the case for India, which is very much relevant and self-explanatory in contemporary world order situation and India's role in shaping it

"China can be regarded as nothing else but STATE

INDIA and its existence is as People not only as STATE."

The Theoretical Grid and India

If to see things from the very perspective of theory itself in a nutshell and as per the limitations defined here, in this research paper we will be focussing on following three dominant theories or approaches of international politics.

- ✓ Realist Approach
- ✓ Neo- Liberal Approach
- ✓ Constructivist Approach

Realist Approach: -

Realists believe that, the state is the most important actor in international politics. This has been the position since 1648, during the Treaty of Westphalia or the Peace of Westphalia where a number of European states converge to end various wars like the thirty years war. Another assumption of the realist theory of international relations is that, the state Third, realists believe that the international system is conflictual. In other words, international politics is characterised by tension and conflicts. The fourth assumption of the realists is akin to the foregoing which according to Kelly-Kate Pease is that states are perpetually locked against one another in a struggle for power and security.

Neo- Liberal Approach: -

In the study of international relations, neoliberalism (or liberal institutionalism) is a school of thought which holds that international cooperation between states is feasible and sustainable, and that such cooperation can reduce conflict and competition. Neoliberalism is a revised version of liberalism. Alongside neorealism, neoliberalism is one of the two most influential contemporary approaches to international relations; the two perspectives have dominated international relations theory since the 1990s. Neoliberalism shares many assumptions as neorealism (namely, that the

international system is anarchic, states are the main actors, and states rationally pursue their self-interest), but draws different conclusions from those assumptions.

Constructivist Approach: -

Constructivism is a social theory in international relations (IR) that suggests that many aspects of international relations are shaped by ideas, or ideational factors. Constructivists believe that the most important ideational factors are those that are shared by a group, and that these beliefs shape the interests and identities of actors. Constructivism also emphasizes the meanings assigned to material objects, rather than their existence.

So if we analyse the present uncertainty of world order based on these dominant above mentioned approaches we will find that present world can not be governed with one sort ideology or approach and that's what is the problem and because of this India presents a possible and plausible solution, the only problem is the absence of one concrete Model to analyse India's role in shaping contemporary world order.

Conclusion

So finally, we can say that India becomes pivotal to World Order as the present chaos or uncertainty will help Middle powers and particularly India because of its historical commitment towards perpetual peace. And moreover, even if we analyse present world situations vis-a vis India through the angle of Realpolitik (e.g. India's Neighbour First Policy even though not so friendly relations, not compromising its energy and resources in Russia-Ukraine conflict etc.)

Even from a Neo-Liberal lens or from Complex Interdependence Model managing its dilemmas of resources, technology,

Geography and skilled manpower beautifully.

And dominating the world stage in present century

through the Constructivist logic of Ideas and Culture and Civilizational aspect.

And India is in role of Anti- Hero in global arena, an Anti-hero is not the opposite of a Hero, but a specialized kind of Hero, one who may be an outlaw from the point of view of society, but with whom the audience is basically in sympathy. India in the present global order is managing beautifully between Realism and Idealism.

The study humbly proposes to combine various theories of international relations vis-a vis role of India in emerging World Order into the model of Anti Hero.

This syncretic model looks to bridge the gaps between the various schools within the international relations and provide a coherent theoretical picture of India's future course of action in World Politics.

References

1. Fukuyama, Francis (1992). The End of History and The Last Man, Free Press
2. Bull, Hedley (1995). The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics, 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave
3. Huntington, Samuel (1996). The Clash of Civilizations and The Remaking of World Order, Simon & Schuster
4. Miller, M.C. & Estrada, K. C. D. (2018). Continuity and Change in Indian Grand Strategy, academia.edu
5. Sullivan, Michael (2019) The Levelling: What's Next After Globalisation, Hachette Books