

SECURITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q1. What is security? What does it relate to?

A1. Security relates to freedom from threats that are extremely dangerous. Threats that could so endanger the core values (of sovereignty, independence) that those values would be damaged beyond repair if we did not do something to deal with the situation.

Q2. How can the notion/idea of security be divided?

A2. The notion of security can be divided under two groups-

a. TRADITIONAL NOTION: External & Internal

b. NON-TRADITIONAL NOTION-human security, global security, global poverty, human rights, migration, health epidemics, terrorism.

Q3. Examine the various components of External security according to *Traditional Notion* perspective.

A3. There are 4 components of External security:

1. Military Action: WHAT IS A MILITARY THREAT? HOW IS IT THE GREATEST DANGER TO A COUNTRY?

a) In the Traditional conception of security, the greatest danger to a country is from military threats.

b) The source of this danger is another country which by threatening military action endangers the core values of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

c) Military action also endangers the lives of ordinary citizens.

d) Quite often, ordinary men and women are made targets of war, to break their support of the war.

2. To surrender-to prevent-to defend: WHAT ARE THE CHOICES AVAILABLE TO A STATE WHEN ITS SECURITY IS THREATENED ACCORDING TO TRADITIONAL SECURITY PERSPECTIVE?

In responding to the threat of war, a government has three basic choices:

a) To surrender-governments may choose to surrender when actually confronted by war, but they will not advertise this as the policy of the country.

b)To prevent- A government may prevent the other side from attacking by promising to raise the costs of war to an unacceptable level.

c)To defend-A government may defend itself when war actually breaks out so as to deny the attacking country its objectives and to turn back or defeat the attacking forces altogether.

Therefore, security policy is concerned with preventing war, which is called deterrence, and with limiting or ending war, which is called defense.

3.Balance of Power: WHAT IS BALANCE OF POWER AND HOW CAN A STATE ACHIEVE THIS?

a)When countries look around them, they see that some countries are bigger and stronger, which is a clue who might be a threat in the near future.

b)There may be no obvious reason for attack, but the fact that this country is very powerful is a sign that at some point in the future it may choose to be aggressive.

c)Governments work hard to maintain a favourable balance of power with other countries, especially those close by, those with whom they have differences, or with those they have had conflicts in the past.

d)A good part of maintaining a balance of power is to build up one's military power, although economic and technological power are also very important since they are the basis for military power.

4.Alliance Building: WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF MILITARY ALLIANCES? GIVE EXAMPLE OF FUNCTIONING ALLIANCE WITH ITS SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE.

a)An alliance is a coalition of states that coordinate their actions to deter or defend against military attack.

b)Most alliances are formalized in military treaties and are based on a fairly clear identification of who is the threat.

c)Alliance are based on national interests and can change when national interests change.

d)For eg , the US backed the Islamic militants in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, but later attacked them when Al Qaeda- a group of Islamic militants led by Osama bin Laden- launched terrorists attacks against America on 11 September 2001.

Q4.In the Traditional view of security, why do most threats come from outside the borders?

A4. This is so because:

1.The international system has no central authority capable of controlling behavior.

2. Within a country, the threat of violence is regulated by an acknowledged central authority-the government.

3. In world politics, there is no acknowledged central authority that stands above everyone else.

4. The UN is a creature of its members and has authority only to the extent that the membership allows it to have and obeys it.

5. So, in world politics, each country has to be responsible for its own security.

Q5. What were the External threats faced by super power countries after the 2nd W.W.?

A5.

1. After the 2nd W.W. was the Cold War in which the US led Western alliance faced the Soviet led Communist alliance & they feared a military attack from each other.

2. Some European powers continued to worry about violence in their colonies, from colonized people who wanted independence. For eg the French fighting in Vietnam in the 1950s or the British fighting in Kenya in the 1950s and 60s.

Q6. In what way were security threat problems faced by newly independent countries *similar* to that of European countries?

A6. As the colonies became free from late 1940s onwards, their security concerns were often similar to that of the Europeans:

1. Some of the newly independent countries became members of the Cold War alliances. They, therefore had to worry about the Cold War becoming hot.

2. They were worried about neighbors who might have joined the other side in the Cold War.

3. They were hostile against leaders of the alliances--US or the Soviet Union.

4. Some colonial people feared, after independence, that they might be attacked by their former colonial rulers in Europe, so they had to prepare to defend themselves against imperial war.

Q7. How were the security challenges faced by Asia and Africa (Third world countries) *different* from the challenges faced in Europe (First world countries)?

A7. They were different in 2 ways"

1. MILITARY CONFLICT WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES:

a) Many newly independent countries came to fear their neighbors even more than they feared the US or Soviet Union or the former colonial powers.

b) They quarreled over borders and territories or control of people and populations or all of these together.

2. INTERNAL MILITARY CONFLICT:

a) Internally, the new states worried about threats from separatist movements which wanted to form independent countries.

b) Sometimes the external and internal threats merged. A neighbor might help or instigate an internal separatist movement leading to tensions b/w the 2 neighboring countries.

Q8. Describe the importance of cooperation in the concept of Traditional Security. OR What are the justified reasons for war according to the notion of Traditional security?

A8. In Traditional security, cooperation plays an important role in limiting violence. But it is now universally accepted that:

1. Countries should only go to war for self defense or to protect other people from genocide.

2. War must also be limited in terms of the means that are used.

3. Armies must avoid killing or hurting non-combatants as well as unarmed and surrendering combatants.

4. They should not be excessively violent.

5. Force must be used only when all other alternatives have failed.

6. Countries should cooperate in disarmaments, arms control and confidence building measures also. For eg the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the 1992 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) banned the production and possession of these weapons; others are Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty II or SALT II and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968.

Q9. What do you understand by arms control. Mention treaties that have been signed on arms control.

A9. Arms control regulates the acquisition or development of weapons and the following measures were adopted to control arms:

1. The Anti-ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 1972 tried to stop the US and Soviet Union from using ballistic missiles as a defensive shield to launch a nuclear attack.

2. The US and Soviet Union signed a number of other arms treaties like the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty II or SALT II and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968.

Q10.Explain the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty(NPT-1968). OR Nuclear weapons as deterrence or defense have limited usage against contemporary security threats to states. Explain the statement.

A10.

1.The NPT was an arms control treaty in the sense that it regulated the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

2.Those countries that had tested and manufactured nuclear weapons before 1967 were allowed to keep their weapons and those that had not done so were to give up the right to acquire.

3.The NPT did not abolish nuclear weapons but limited the number of countries that could have them.
