

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

For All the Universities
As per the New 2017-2018 Semester Scheme

UNIT - II - III BA

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INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

I National power:-

Meaning:- National power is an inseparable feature of the state system which determines the capacity of any state to achieve its national interests. Power in a broader is defined as the ability or "capacity" to control others and get them to do what one wants them to do. The foreign policy of every country is also determined by its national power.

NATURE:-

a) National power is relative:-

National power is usually measured in terms of the power of other states & therefore relative.

b) National power is not static:-

which is dynamic. Nations economic and political position and power may change over a period of time. A state may increase or decrease the size of its military forces morale may go down or up, leaders may be changed and so on.

c. Power consciousness of states:- Many leaders of states are quite aware of the interdependence of the essential elements of power and they try to bring about the maximum utilization of these elements in their

own states.

Elements of National power:-

Elements of national power are usually classified into two broad categories. They are-

- ① Tangible or stable elements
- ② Intangible or unstable elements

① Tangible elements:-

① Geography:- Geography as a part of the study international relations has been recognized long back.

Napoleon remarked that "the foreign policy of a country is determined by its geography". Geographical factors include the factors of size, location, climate, shape, topography and boundaries.

② Location:- The location of the state also determined whether it develops naval power or land power.

The location of the state also decides its foreign policy. States located b/w two big powers are forced to become neutral and are influenced by the policy of the neighbouring country.

③ Climate & weather:- Climate is one of the determinants of culture and religion. Economy along with natural resources,

political organisation and religion. Extremes of heat and cold are unworkable for energy, productive capacity and national strength.

① Size: The land area of a state is in itself an element of power. Land area should be combined with a number of other factors such as location, fertility, rainfall, the temper of its people, the nature of its technology and the quality of its leadership.

② Shape and topography: The shape of state may add too many things. It may help the state to have long or short coast-lines or boundaries, good ports or no ports, efficiency or inefficiency in administration and so on.

③ Boundaries: Boundaries may be either natural or artificial and are determined by natural features such as mountains, rivers and coastal lines.

④ Fertility: The climate determines the fertility of the soil. If the rainfall is unsteady and if there is frequent drought conditions as in India

The development of national power is automatically limited. Foodstuffs are a vital element in a nation's strength.

② Natural Resources: All country develop into an industrial based only if it possess sufficient natural resources and raw materials. Natural resources are the gift of nature and includes materials most of the minerals, flora fauna, fertility of the soil, waterfalls etc. Raw materials like rubber, cotton etc are also the resources of a nation. Some of the natural resources are the following -

① Foodstuffs: Of all the natural resources foodstuffs is a prime importance. Any country enjoying self-sufficiency in this direction is likely to be powerful. India was also not able to pursue a vigorous foreign policy when she was dependent on foreign countries for the supply of food.

② Minerals: National power is also determined through the existence of minerals like coal, iron, copper, oil, etc. The abundance of coal and iron ore in Britain provided the base for the industrial

revolution in that country and so she emerged as one of the great world powers in the 19th century.

11) Intangible Elements :-

1) Population :- Population is another important determinant of national power. Large population is considered as a source of strength but it will be wrong to overemphasize the importance of large population.

① Quantity of population :-

Population has nothing to do with power. China & India which are regarded as populous states are certainly not regarded as the most powerful, but they are regarded as potential major powers.

② Quality of population :- It is not just the quantity of population which is factor of major importance but also the quality and character of the population.

③ Age distribution :- Age distribution is affected by the stage of economic development. A mature industrial revolution society will have a relatively large number of older people, whereas a society in the early stage of industrial development will have a relatively

large number of young people

(d) Occupation: There is a close relationship between the population and the profession followed by them.

(e) Literacy: A state with higher rate of literacy is more superior than the state with a lower level of literacy. Such literate people develop greater productive capacity.

(f) Racial character: The racial character of a population is also of great importance. purity of race is almost a rarity but the degree of racial intermixture varies from state to state.

(2) Technology: Technology is often defined as "applied science". Technology affects the power base of a state and exercises deep impact on determining the course of international relations.

(a) Industrial Technology: which adds to the power of the country by creating economic surplus and frees the country from dependence on other countries.

(b) Military Technology: Technology

enables a nation to have a stronger economy, strong industrial base, stronger transport and communication, stronger army, greater capacity to win war and influence or dominate other nations.

③ Organisation and leadership:

Ultimately, if a nation has to emerge as a great power and play an effective role in international sphere, organisation and leadership have to operate effectively. Organisation implies the fundamental principles which govern the conditions of production and distribution.

④ National character:

National character is a product of history and social experience and plays an important role in consolidation of national power.

⑤ Morale:

Morale of the people is often developed in such a manner that citizens become ready to sacrifice their interest for the sake of national welfare. Sacrifice is required during the time of war & peace. Morale is closely related to the concept of leadership.

⑥ Military Element: The Military element of national power is very important because ultimately all nations are forced to depend on their own system of security and power. The military element dependent on the quantity and quality of its armed forces.

⑦ Ideology: Ideology is a set of ideas & doctrines followed by the people of a nation. Ideology gives an ideal to the nation and helps to build up the morale of the people.

⑧ Diplomacy: Diplomacy is the brain of national power as national morale is its soul. The conduct of nation's foreign affairs by its diplomats is for national power.