

India and the Contemporary World Order the Perpetual Peace Proposition

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Abstract:

Love and Hate are the two key components managing Human World from time immemorial. Even the great epic Mahabharata talks about that. In the same manner Peace and Conflict are the two important aspects when we look at International Politics and more specifically when we talk about Global Order. Now while keeping in mind the present uncertain World Order and India's role in shaping it as a key player, this paper is an attempt to analyse and propose that India can be pivotal to 21st Century World Order because it suits the theoretical key triangle of concept of Perpetual Peace, Democratic Pluralism and Responsible Power.

Keywords: World Order, Peace, India, Democracy, Power.

Introduction

The present World Order faces a gruesome situation because of many reasons. First of all, the Bretton Woods system or the American dominated system is facing serious threats, because of rising powers like China, increasing middle powers and changes in social and political system of USA itself internally. Reforms are demanded in United nations and various other global platforms. Other than this there is no single accepted to all kind of Leadership in the International Politics.

Another situation is this that, other than the conventional challenges of Security, Resources, Environment-Climate, Wars, Nuclear threats, the present World and World Order are facing much more difficult challenges of Cyber Space, Artificial Intelligence, Information and technology, and Economy and much more critical version of Complex Interdependence is there.

And because of this very scenario the World order is uncertain and the present article tries to see and locate that how India can play a crucial role amidst this.

Floating The Proposition

Concept of Perpetual Peace –

Kant proposed a peace program to be implemented by governments. The "Preliminary Articles" described these steps that should be taken immediately, or with all deliberate speed:

"No secret treaty of peace shall be held valid in which there is tacitly reserved matter for a future war"

"No independent states, large or small, shall come under the dominion of another state by inheritance, exchange, purchase, or donation"

"Standing armies shall in time be totally abolished"

"National debts shall not be contracted with a view to the external friction of states"

"No state shall by force interfere with the constitution or government of another state"

"No state shall, during war, permit such acts of hostility which would make mutual confidence in the subsequent peace impossible: such are the employment of assassins (percussores), poisoners (venefici), breach of capitulation, and incitement to treason (perduellio) in the opposing state"

Three Definitive Articles would provide not merely a cessation of hostilities, but a foundation on which to build a peace.

I.—"The civil constitution of each state shall be republican."

II.—"The law of nations shall be founded on a federation of free states."

III.—"The rights of men, as citizens of the world, shall be limited to the conditions of universal hospitality."

In his philosophical treatise, Kant proposes three mechanisms that foster peace among nations and societies: (1) the presence of a 'republican constitution', which for Kant entails the requirement of public approval before the government can decide on the use of military force, (2) the pacifying effects of close trade relations – what Kant termed 'the spirit of commerce', and (3) a federation of states to overcome the condition of lawlessness in international politics.

Democratic Peace Theory

Proponents of democratic peace theory argue that both electoral and republican forms of democracy are hesitant to engage in armed conflict with other identified democracies. Different advocates of this theory suggest that several factors are responsible for motivating peace between democratic states. Individual theorists maintain "monadic" forms of this theory (democracies are in general more peaceful in their international relations); "dyadic" forms of this theory (democracies do not go to war with other democracies); and "systemic" forms of this theory (more democratic states in the international system makes the international system more peaceful).

In terms of norms and identities, it is hypothesized that democratic publics are more dovish in their interactions with other democracies, and that democratically elected leaders are more likely to resort to peaceful resolution in disputes (both in domestic politics and international politics). In terms of structural or institutional constraints, it is hypothesized that institutional checks and balances, accountability of leaders to the public, and larger winning coalitions make it harder for democratic leaders to go to war unless there are clearly favourable ratio of benefits to costs.

Democracies regard other states as legitimate when these reflect values, institutions, and an ideology that is similar to their own. Specifically, countries are perceived as trustworthy and predictable when they are governed democratically. By contrast, non-democracies with despotic rule are perceived as possibly dangerous and unpredictable. Shared norms constitute the collective

identity of democracies. This can lead to peaceful relations among them, but it also potentially fosters aggression vis-à-vis non-democratic regimes, because these are regarded as oppressive and unjust toward their own population. Hence, emphasizing perceptions and collective identity, the variant of the normative argument is better able than the externalization argument to account for both parts of the dual finding of the democratic peace.

Complex Interdependence Model:

Complex interdependence in international relations and international political economy is a concept put forth by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye in the 1970s to describe the emerging nature of the global political economy. The concept entails that relations between states are becoming increasingly deep and complex. These increasingly complex webs of economic interdependence undermine state power and elevate the influence of transnational non-state actors. These complex relationships can be explored through both the liberal and realism lenses and can later explain the debate of power from complex interdependence.

The Proposition and The Argument

In the light of above analysis and unpacking the problem of uncertain World Order vis-a vis dichotomy of Perpetual peace , the paper want to propose that since American system is under lot of scrutiny both from within and outside, China and its intensions are not reliable and its ways of tackling the world are not acceptable to world community, Russia and its leadership are also under scanner and especially after invasion Of Ukraine, Europe is politically and economically fragile in contemporary situation and other middle and rising powers are not as promising as India.

Amidst all this, India is major force not only balancing Asia but also the World as a responsible nuclear power along with Democratic means of dealing with the World. And from the understanding of concept and idea of Perpetual Peace we know that World Wars or big wars do occur but rarely, after 1648 World fought in 1914 only and even though there are lot of short comings of Democracies but they offer more stability to world order and India is pioneer of that form of government and being a young population, big market, nuclear power and sincere force acceptable to all, which still believes in morality and rule based order and more than that Peace, so India can play a pivotal role in shaping World Order on the lines of Democracy and Perpetual Peace.

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