

India and the World-II

1. West Asian Crises

Israel-Palestine conflict:

- Historically the area was inhabited by Jews
- After Christianity became prominent Jews were forced out and a very few were left behind
- Region came under the control of Muslims
- After Muslim kingdom of Ottomans started showing signs of depletion in 19th century, a wave to reclaim the lost land became strong amongst Jews
- After the region came under the control of British after World War 1, British helped Jews from across the world to migrate back
- After WW 2 more Jews migrated
- British left Palestine in 1948 and in that very year UN declared that Palestine is divided into two countries: Palestine and Israel
- Muslim World erupted with anger and attacked Israel
- But Israel won the war and occupied many Muslim territories such as Golan heights from Lebanon, Gaza from Egypt and West bank from Palestine.
- Many subsequent wars have been fought
- Today Palestinians are refugees in their own land
- Israel wants Palestinians to recognize Israel
- Extremist Palestinians refuse to recognize it and carry on with terrorist activities
- Israel time and again curb this extremism by attacking Palestinian areas

Arab Spring

- The Arab Spring is a series of revolutions against the established regimes/dictators that began on 18 December 2010. Rulers have been forced out from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen. Civil uprisings have erupted in Bahrain, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and Sudan. Minor protests have occurred in Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman and Saudi Arabia
- The Arab spring is widely believed to have been instigated by dissatisfaction with the rule of local governments, though some have speculated that wide gaps in income levels may have had a hand as well. Numerous factors have led to the protests, including issues such as dictatorship or absolute monarchy, human rights violations, government corruption (demonstrated by Wikileaks diplomatic cables), economic decline, unemployment and extreme poverty,

Present Situation

- **Egypt:** Hosni Mubarak was thrown out and Mohamad Morsi was elected democratically. But he too assumed unconstitutional powers. Protests are going on against him.
- **Tunisia:** Dictator Ben Ali was thrown out and after much instability fresh elections recently held.
- **Libya:** Dictator Mummar Gadaffi was killed and civil war is still on.
- **Syria:** Major protests against the dictator Bashr Al Assad has lead to a full time civil war situation in the country, with many western countries becoming a part of the conflict.
- **Yemen:** Dictator Abdullah Saleh forced to resign but still holds influence on the newly elected president, who was his vice president

2. International Terrorism

Breeding Ground for Terrorism

- Historical animosity between the Christians and the Muslims
- Disintegration of Ottoman Empire into several independent countries prompted by western countries after Ottomans lost during the 2nd World War was seen as an attempt to decrease the power of the Muslim Nation against the Christian Nation
- Increased interference by the western countries in the aftermath of disintegration of the Ottoman Empire by installing puppet governments for their vested interests
- Open support by the US and other western countries for the creation of Israel on the land under the possession of Muslims in West Asia created thousands of refugees in their own homeland.
- Capitalist-Communist rivalry literally converted West Asia into a chess board by the USA and USSR, increased the sufferings of common people
- The Shia- Sunni Conflict, taken advantage of by the western countries to promote infighting amongst the Muslims which lead to the Iran- Iraq war that lasted 10 years, devastated the economies of these nations
- Invasion of Afghanistan by USSR in 1979 that lasted 10 years further aggravated the already volatile situation in the region
- India Pakistan rivalry on Kashmir and the rise of Hindu fundamentalism in India added fuel to fire
- A propaganda to free Muslim lands from the infidels: Kashmir, Chechnya, Xingjian, Palestine etc
- Misinterpretations of the Quranic verses, instigate common Muslims against the so called infidels: Christians, Jews and Hindus
- And finally a dream to revive the lost glories of Islam by creating an Islamic Caliphate that extends from Spain in the west, the already Islamic west Asia, Indian subcontinent and Indonesia and Malaysia in the far East.

Al Qaeda and Taliban

- Bin Laden believed that the restoration of Sharia law will set things right in the Muslim world. And believed that Afghanistan under the rule of Taliban was "the only Islamic country" in the Muslim world
- The Taliban was initially a mixture of mujahideen who fought against the Soviet invasion of the 1980s, and a group of Pashtun tribesmen who spent time in Pakistani religious schools, or *madrassas*, and received assistance from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI). It took control of Afghanistan's government in 1996. Taliban rule was characterized by a strict form of Islamic law, requiring women to wear head-to-toe veils, banning television, and jailing men whose beards were deemed too short
It ruled over until the 2001 U.S. led invasion drove it out from power. Though the group has been out of power for several years, it remains a cultural force in the region.

Talibanisation of Pakistan

- It began in 2004 when tensions rooted in the Pakistani Army's search for al-Qaeda members in Pakistan's mountainous Waziristan area (in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas) escalated into armed resistance by local tribesmen. Clashes erupted between the Pakistani troops and al-Qaeda's and other militants joined by local rebels and pro-Taliban forces. The Pakistani actions

were presented as a part of the War on Terrorism, and had connections to the war and Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

- In 2008, Pakistani security forces clashed with pro-Taliban militants in the tribal area near Peshawar, jeopardizing peace talks between the militants and the government. The clashes continued in early 2009, expanding into the Swat Valley.
- If Pakistan falls to the Taliban, there could be a flow of refugees across India's borders, as it happened in 1971 from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). And that could create a crisis with serious economic, demographic and security repercussions. And no doubt Talibanisation of Pakistan will be disastrous for the entire world as Pakistan is a nuclear weapon's state.

3. Global Warming

Effects of Climate Change

- Rising sea levels and gradual submergence of costal areas
- Erratic rainfall-floods and droughts
- Unstable ecosystems
- Sea water turning acidic affecting marine life
- Rapid melting of glaciers threatens the flow rate of important rivers and availability of fresh water

Towards Sustainable Growth

- Vienna Conference
- Montreal Protocol
- Kyoto Protocol
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (*IPCC*)
- Cancun Summit

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005. It binds most developed nations to a cap-and-trade system for major greenhouse gas emissions.

The Kyoto mechanism:

1. Emissions trading
2. Clean Development Mechanism
3. Joint Implementation

Emission/Carbon Trading

Carbon Trading is an administrative approach used to control pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in the emissions of pollutants.

- Emission quotas were agreed by each participating country, with the intention of reducing their overall emissions by 5.2% of their 1990 levels by the end of 2012.
- Nations that emit less than their quota will be able to sell emissions credits to nations that exceed their quota.

Kyoto Protocol Issues

Under the Kyoto Protocol, developed nations have to reduce emissions; developing nations only have to report their emissions

U.S has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol but said it would reduce its emissions by upto 7 percent below 1990 levels

-however, U.S. emissions have risen by 16 percent between 1990 and 2005

Developed nation want equal emission levels for developing nations.

The alarm bells are ringing

- The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012. Thus, there is an urgent need for a new climate protocol.
- At Copenhagen 2009 ,UNFCCC meet for the last time on government level before the climate agreement needs to be renewed.

United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009(Copenhagen)

Areas of concern

- Gather and share information on emissions, policies and best practices
- Launch strategies for addressing emissions and adapting to expected impacts(incl. the provision of financial/technological support to developing countries)
- Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change

Ecological Footprint analysis measures human demand on nature-it compares human consumption of natural resources with the Earth’s ecological capacity to regenerate them.

Country	Ecological Footprint
India	0.8
USA	9.0
England	6.1
China	1.8
France	4.6

4. United Nations

	Members	HQs	Functions	Controversies/ Criticisms
UN 1945 Prequel League Of Nations	192	New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Law • International Security • Economic Development • Social Progress • Human Rights • World Peace 	<p>The number of people died after the inception of UN till now is slightly less than those that died during the world wars.</p> <p>More conflicts started than stopped in this period.</p> <p>Besides, unprecedented genocides and droughts could not be controlled.</p>

United Nations and India

India has always been an active member and a strong proponent of a more powerful UN. India has sent forces for many peace keeping operations throughout the world. But the most important issue with the UN today is ‘Securing a seat in the Security Council’. In mid-October this year when India, after 19 years, got elected as one of the temporary members of UN Security Council many in the

diplomatic corners of Delhi started busying themselves up projecting it as a major triumph of their dedicated finesse. But the trivial fact is that this membership will be valid for mere 365 days, w.e.f January 1st 2011 and hence a worm-eaten reason to rejoice for a year. But the real reason to enjoy would be when India secures a permanent seat in the Security Council. Lately USA and France on the visits of their premiers to India declared their open support for this cause, but still India's hopes is in murky waters. There are many other countries in the world demanding a permanent seat and the competition is tough. **Asia-** India, Japan, **Africa-** South Africa, Egypt **South America-** Brazil

5. International Organization for Economic Cooperation

<p>WTO 1995</p> <p>Prequel GATT</p>	153	Geneva, Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is an International Org designed to • Supervise, • Liberalize International Trade • Lower trade barriers • Provide a platform for negotiation of trade 	Doha Development talks are mired with controversies on agricultural subsidies and tariff and non tariff barriers and is a perfect instance of the differences between the Developed and Developing World
<p>IMF- Bretton woods Institute</p>	185	Washington DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize international Exchange rates • Facilitating development • Leveraged Loans to poorer countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some experts claim that the Bank and IMF are agents of western imperialism by imposing conditions to the borrowers • Westerners accuse these agencies of promoting communism by financially supporting such nations. • These agencies are accused of financing dictatorships, faulty socialist policies and thus promoting misery • The environmentalist claim that the agencies are financiers of ecological destruction
<p>World Bank- Bretton woods Institute</p>	185	Washington DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its IBRD + IDA= World Bank • IBRD- provides loans to developing countries • IDA- provides grants to poorest of the nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both these agencies are accused of not being very flexible of the present international realities. • Developing countries want to raise their participation in the decision making process of these institutes.

- **Reforms IN Word Bank and IMF** The President of the World Bank is always a US citizen and that of the IMF is always a European. However, this standard is increasingly being questioned and competition for these two posts may soon open up to include other qualified candidates from any part of the world. Many developing countries want restructuring of both the bodies according to the changing power equations of the world. Infact India's quota in IMF was increased recently.