

National Power

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Introduction:

It is important part of the system of the state. It is a instrument of state through which the State is able to implement the internal external Policies

It plays a great role because IP is a essentially a struggle for power. Power in IP is an necessary as money in economic life. Hence each nation has tries to achieve power. Whenever a nation becomes weak, it loses its independence.

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Definition

- ***Mr. Schwarzenberger:-***

“The power is the capacity to impose one’s will on other by reliance on effective sanctions of non-compliances”.

- ***Mr. William Ebenstien :-***

“National power is more than the sum total population, raw materials & quantitative factors and technical capacity”.





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- ***Mr. Organski :-***

Power is the ability to influence the behaviour of others in accordance with one's own ends.

- ***Mr. F.H. Hartman :-***

“Power is the strength or capacity that a sovereign state”

- ***Mr. Karl Detush :-***

“By national power means the ability to prevail (to gain mastery) in conflict & to overcome some obstacles”

Meaning

- It means the totality of the state capacity to control the policy of other states in according with its desire & interest .
- It does not refer to the power of all the individual residing in that state. It refers to the power of certain individual who acts as agents of state.

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- NP can be changed over period of time . The change may take place either due to decreases in the size of military forces, reduction of raw material, the production may fall down due to natural calamities, or alliances may be broken.
- A change in the power of state can also take place due to increase its capacity in all fields.
- Ex:- U.K. was ranked 1st in the world before 1st world War.

Elements/ Component of National Power

- There are various elements of national power.
- Mr. Morgenthau has divided the elements into two categories .i.e permanent & temporary.
- Prof Palmer & Perkins divided the elements into tangible (that can be touched) namely geography , raw material & natural resources.
- Intangible ideology , morale, & leadership.

Elements of Power

A) Geography :-

- Size
- Climate
- Location
- Topography
- Boundaries

B) Population:

- Size
- Quality & Quantity of Population.
- Population Control.

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- Education & Research.
- Population and food supply.
- Trends in Population growth.

C) Natural Resources and Raw Material

- Vegetable Products.
- Animals Products.
- Minerals:- Metal, Non-metals & Fuels
- Food Stuff & Agricultural Products.

D) Technology :

- Military Technology.
- Atomic & space technology
- Industrial Technology
- Communication Technology.

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E) Military:

- Force
- Quality & Quantity

F) Economics Organization.

G) Political Structure.

H) Diplomacy.

I) Leadership.

A)Geography:

Size :-

- NP depends upon its size. The land area of state is in itself an element, small & big . Size factor is related to population , military installation, transportation , routes.
- The nation must have a big size of land because a small nation can not become powerful as well as it could not possess all the essential requisites of NP.
- A large nation can accommodate a large population & can have large supply of natural resources and thus can become more powerful.

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Climate:

- Location, rainfall & wind determine a climate.
- It plays a great role in making the power of a nation.
- Temperate climate is suitable for industrialization.
- The extremes of climate of heat & cold are unfavorable for national power.
- The temperate regions are considered the best for health & energy of the people which lead to the nation productivity.
- It determines the fertility of the soil. If the rainfall is uncertain & periodically there are drought hence the development of nation is automatically limited.
- If the country is depend for food on foreign aid, it certainly obstructs the development of the nation & adoption of an independent foreign policy.

Topography :

- It includes mountains, oceans, rivers, forest & etc.
- It determines natural boundaries between nations & sets limits to their natural expansion.
- The Himalaya have acted as a barrier for foreign attack on India.
- The Atlantic & Pacific Oceans provides a natural protection to the USA.
- The importance of Egypt in the world affairs in all due to the suez Canal which links Europe & Asia, reducing the distance by thousands of miles in so far as the sea route is concerned.
- Forests provides wood, rubber & many other products.
- The rivers provides ports, harbours & transport system

Location :

- It determines the power of State & security of the country.
- States located very close to big power are influenced by the policy of the neighboring country.
- If the country is strategically important it becomes a center of big power politics as Egypt.
- England & Japan being islands have been more secure.
- USA being separated from Europe & Asia could remain in isolation for long time.
- The importance of Pakistan to the USA is also due to her strategic location.

- *Boundaries:*
- There are two types of boundaries –natural & artificial.
- Natural boundaries may be decided by natural features such as mountains, rivers and coastlines.
- Artificial boundaries decides by state authorities.
- Problems and disputes arises from boundaries- Ex India and Pakistan, India & China, North & South Korea.

B) Population: Size



- It is an important and essential element of national power.
- It is still true that no country can remain or become a great power which does not belong to the more powerful country of on the earth.
- Without large population it is impossible to establish & keep going the industrial plant necessary for the success conduct of modern world war.
- Population can utilize the natural resources fully. Small nation can not possess enough natural resources.
- There must be good quality among the Population. They must have greater technical capacity , ability to use more effective control over the forces of nature & contribute to the growth of national power

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- Large population is a source of strength for any state but sometimes it may also prove to be a source of weakness.
- A nation is more capable of becoming a big power with a large population.. It helps in increasing agricultural & manufacturing production.
- A large labour force contributes for the economic growth.
- Population will be strength if the state has the means to utilize its talent, energy & maintain a proper standard of living.
- It is source of strength in the developed countries & is a source of weakness in the underdeveloped countries.

- **Quality & Quantity of Population:**
- Quality of the people of a nation is a more valuable factor in the context of power.
- Dedicated, disciplined, hardworking, healthy, educated & skilled manpower alone can be a source of national power.
- A State with higher rate of literacy is more powerful because the people develop greater productive capacity.
- Quantity of population is a source of weakness.
- Modern industry & technology needs skilled manpower & not just manpower.

- Population control:
- It is very important for the populated country to control birth rate. Ex... India (Indian Government slogan is *Hum Do Hamare Do*) & China.
- Due to availability of good & fast medical treatment , it decrease death rate as well as increase birth rate.

Education & Research:

- It is the duty of government to provide basic education to all. There should not be any type of discrimination on the bases of cast , religion, gender, race, language, place of birth, date of birth, region and etc.
- Educated people is a source of power. State can use the skill ,capacity, energy of people to enrich the national power.
- Educated people are laying vital role in the developing of Great power in contemporary world such as **U.S.A, U.K, China, Japan, France, Russia & Germany,**

Natural Resources & Raw Materials

- It is a gift of nature. It is a permanent factor of national power.
- Raw materials like coal, iron & etc are vital for national power.
- Oil is another basic natural resource for economic power.
- Modern military force requires various raw material like uranium which is required in the manufactures of nuclear weapons. It contributes to the ability to win the war in the contemporary world.

Classification of natural resources

- Vegetables products
- Animals Products
- Minerals
- The distribution of the raw materials
- Food stuffs & agriculture
- Agriculture technology



Vegetables Products:

- These products are very important in day today life. Without achieving self-sufficing, no country will super power in the world.
- It is very necessary to export vegetable products in world market. Hence, each state has to concentrate on agriculture field.
- Top 10 countries which export agriculture products are U.S.A., France, Netherlands, Germany, U.K., Canada, Australia., Italy, Belgium & Spain.
- China, India, Indonesia are also largest agriculture countries but *United States* is the country which is not also famous for agricultural out, but also the largest agricultural exporter.



Animals Products



- Animals Products includes some foodstuffs such as meat, poultry, fish, milk, eggs & etc.
- Animals products are important & often major source of food for millions.
- Poultry is another major source of food . Tandoor chicken is a well known dish in vegetarian India.
- Eggs are very important product for many.
- Milk of cow and other milk products is especially valuable food for children in any countries



Distribution of Raw Materials

- Today no on country in world is self sufficing in essential raw material & therefore all country re heavily dependent on foreign source supply.
- Some countries are heavily dependent on foreign markets for basic product and their entire economics & political system are affected by the world price & demand.



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Food stuffs & Agriculture

- Food stuffs are a vital element in a national strength.
- It is prime imp & a country enjoying self sufficiency in this direction has great advantage over other.
- The USA & Russia are fully self sufficient.
- Europe as a whole is dependent upon imports for about half of its food.
- Most of the underdeveloped countries have to import large amounts of food even to sustain their people at low standard of living.
- Too much dependence ~~on foreign~~ food considerable weakens the international status of a state.

• Technology

- It means the application of science & new concept of technology for increasing the agriculture production in country.
- It plays a vital role in agricultural field to discover new instrument which uses in land.



Technology

- It means the application of science & new method of production.
- Every nation requires new technology for increasing production capacity.
- It affects not only power of state but also the entire source of international relations.
- Top 10 countries in technology in the words USA, Japan , south Korea, India, Germany, England, Canada, China, France & Sweden.

- Techno state can produce the highly technical weapons of modern war.
- Military technology:
- It protects the nation from aggression .
- U.K could establish its empire $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world by its military technology.

Limitations On national Power

- Exercise of national power by every nation is an accepted reality of international relations. Power and its individual distribution is one of the major determinants of the behaviour of a state in international relations. However, an unlimited use of power by the states can be a source of war, anarchy and chaos in international relations.
- The humankind fully realizes the dangers of an unregulated use of national power by each state. The states now themselves realize their increased international interdependence and the need for exercising restraint in the use of power.

- In this nuclear age, the danger resulting from an unlimited use of power involves the possibility of a total destruction of the humankind by a nuclear war. The new need for sustainable all round development has again compelled all nations to accept the need for controlling and regulating the use of power by all states in the interest of preventing war and anarchy in the international relations. This objective, is sought to be realized with the help of several devices which act as limitations on national power.

Balance of Power:

- Balance of Power is a device of both power management and limitation of power. Its underlying principle is that the power of several equally powerful actors can be a source of limitation on their powers. The major actors should maintain a sort of balance in their power positions.
- No state should try to become unduly powerful as can endanger the balance. If a state becomes or tries to become unduly powerful, another state or states should collectively pool their powers and create a preponderance of power against the offending state. Through use of force or coercion or other devices, these states should act to reduce the power of the threatening state and restore the balance.

- No state should be eliminated completely but the power of the state should be kept under control in the name of 'balance'. Balance of power places restraints upon the states by preventing all attempts at an unjustified increase of power on the part of any member of the balance of power system.
- This concept was used in the 19th century by the major European states for adjusting their relations. This system was successful in preventing the outbreak of any major war during 1815-1914 period. Currently the device of Balance of Power is used only at the regional or sub-regional level. At the global level it has lost much of its relevance and applicability.

International Law:

- International Law is the body of rules that the nation-states accept as binding upon them, and which regulates their behaviour in international relations. It is an important limitation on the power of a nation. It directs and controls the behaviour of the nations engaged in international relations.

- International law constitutes a legal framework for the orderly conduct of international relations both in times of peace and war. Backed by common consent, natural law, international morality, world public opinion and its utility, International law acts as a major limitation on the misuse of power by the states. It enunciates the do's and don'ts for the states.
- It declares war as an illegal means for the promotion of interests. It lays down rules for the establishment and conduct of diplomatic relations. Violations of International Law can invoke sanctions against the violating states

- However, International Law is a weak law. It is not backed by force. It is also subject to different interpretations. It often fails to meet the pressure exerted by a powerful nation pursuing aggressive nationalism. Its objective is to secure international peace, security and development, by securing orderly international relations through the prevention of use of force, war and violence. However, its weakness as a law, rather half- law, and half-morality, tends to limit its role as a limiting factor of national power.

3. International Morality:

- Just as human behaviour in a society is regulated by a set of moral norms or rules, likewise behaviour of states in the international environment is limited by International Morality. International community accepts certain values—peace, order, equality, goodness, mutual help, respect for life and liberty of all, and respect for Human Rights of all, as right and good values which must be accepted and followed by all states.

- International Morality is “a generally accepted moral code of conduct which nations usually follow in international relations”. It acts as a limitation on the national power of each state. It has played a role in strengthening human consciousness against war i.e. against misuse of national power.

4. World Public Opinion:

- The democratization of foreign policy and the coming of communications and IT revolutions have together made possible the rise of organised and strong World Public Opinion in contemporary international relations.

- It has emerged as an important factor of international relations. The presence of strong global peace movements, strong movements in favour of Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament, a very strong and healthy global movement for the preservation of Earth's ecological balance, the environment protection movements, Human Rights protection movements and several other such movements clearly show the presence of a strong World Public Opinion.

- It is now fast emerging as a big limitation on national power. Fear of adverse world public opinion often forces a nation either not to follow a particular policy or to take a decision or even to pursue a particular goal or decision. Strong world public opinion in favour of Arms Control and Disarmament has been a factor behind the INF Treaty, the START-I, START-II, the Chemical Weapons Elimination Treaty and the continued talks on the issue of disarmament, nuclear disarmament and arms control in international relations.

5. International Organisations:

- Since 1919, the world has been living with a world organisation , except for the years of the Second World War. Since 1945, the United Nations has been functioning as a global organisation of all the members of the international community. Its Charter specifies certain aims and objectives which its members are committed to follow.

- It specifies certain means for pacific settlement of disputes among the member states. It provides for collective security of peace in times of war and aggression .The United Nations constitutes a global platform for the conduct of international relations in a peaceful and orderly manner. Nations are bound by the UN Charter and they are expected to use their powers only in accordance with the dictates of the UN Charter.

- Along with the multipurpose United Nations, there have emerged several well organised international and regional organisations like UNESCO, who, ilo, unicef, which guide, direct and control the actions of their member states in various spheres of activity. Some Regional Organisations also act as a source of limitation on the national power of each member state.

- Living in this age of international interdependence which is characterised by the existence of several powerful non-state actors, the modern nation-state very often finds its power limited. This fact has also been a source a big limitation, or check against the misuse of power by the states. However, the continued love and respect for sovereignty and nationalism continues to keep the role of international organisation and non- state actors limited.

6. Collective Security:

- It is a device of power-management which also acts as a limitation on national power. The system of Collective Security is based on the principle that international peace and security is the common objective to be secured by all the states through collective action against any violation by any state or states. It is a device of power management and its purpose is to maintain international peace and security by the collective efforts of all the states.

- As such, the power of a state which violates or seeks to violate the freedom, sovereignty or territorial integrity of any other state is limited by the fear that any aggression or any such act committed by it will be met by the collective power of all other states. In this way collective security is considered to be a deterrent against war and aggression i.e. against the misuse of power by any state.

7. Disarmament and Arms Control:

- Since military power is a formidable dimension of national power and armaments form a formidable part of military power, Arms Control and Disarmament are regarded as devices of limiting the national power. Arms Control refers to the control over and limitation or reduction or control of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, through internationally agreed decisions, policies and plans. Disarmament refers to the liquidation, gradually or in one stroke, of the huge stockpiles of arms and ammunition which the nation- states have come to possess till today.

- Both Arms Control and Disarmament are based on the belief that by eliminating or reducing the possession and production of weapons, the military power of a nation i.e. the national power of the state can be limited. Any success towards Arms Control and Disarmament can be a source of limitation upon the national power of the states. The decision to adopt arms control and limited disarmament due to internal economic necessities has decidedly limited the role of power in contemporary international relations.

- All these factors act as limitations on National Power. Several scholars, however, advocate that an effective and powerful limitation on the National Power can be the creation of a permanently organised world powers—a world government or a world state.
- Well so long this does not happen; the devices discussed above can be used for keeping the national power under check as well as for keeping contained the struggle for power among nations. At least these can help the humankind to keep on avoiding a Third World War as well as to keep on working for ensuring some order in international relations.
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