

Super Power , Regional Power, Detente

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Super Power

- **The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics:-**
- **It refers those few states with power defined by combining a series of variables together e.g., wealth, population, size, and above all, military strength, especially w.r.t. the possession of sophisticated nuclear armaments for transcending that of the rest of the states in the international arena.**

- The term ‘superpower’ was coined in its current political meaning by Dutch-American geostrategist **Nicholas Spykman** in a series of lectures in 1943 about the potential shape of a new post-war world order.

- A year later , William T.R. Fox, an American foreign policy Prof. elaborated on the concept in the book, “The Superpowers: The US, Britain, and the Soviet Union- their Responsibility for Peace-1944”

REGIONAL POWER

- In IR , a regional power is a state that has **power within a geographic region.**
- Regional powers shape **the polarity of a regional area.**
- Typically regional powers have capabilities which are important in the region but do not have capabilities at a global scale.

The German Institute of Global and Area studies that

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- A regional power must:-
- Form part of a definable region with its own identity
- Claim to be a regional power
- Exert decisive influence on the geographic extensions of the region as well as on its ideological construction
- Dispose over comparatively high military, eco., demographic, political and ideological capabilities.
- Be well integrated into the region
- Define the regional security agenda to a high degree

Hurrell mentions 4 criteria for regional power

- **The capacity to contribute to the regional order**
- **Intended cohesion to allow effective state action**
- **Economic power such as high levels of economic growth or a large market at regional level.**
- **Military power , with the ability to compete with other regional states in a conventional war.**

Example of Regional power

- **Northern America- Canada, U.S.**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean- Argentinian, Brazil, Mexico**
- **East Asia- China, Japan, South Korea**
- **South Asia – India**
- **Southeast Asia- Indonesia**
- **West Asia- Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel**
- **Europe- France, Germany, Italy, UK**
- **Oceania- Australia**
- **Trans-continental regional powers- Russia, Turkey**

History of system

1 Ancient , medieval time – unit of governance – Empire- monarchy- king and his subjects

2 People entire world MAKE revolt against monarchy and demanded democracy

3 Revolutions 1 Glorious rev. 1689, parliamentary supremacy , American 1776- against colonial rule, French-1789- against Louis 16th dynasty rule, Russian-1917-against Zaar

Moderen – nationalism EU

Polarity in IRs

- The emergence and development of polarity as a concept in IR theory results from changes in international relations after **WWII**
- Polarity refers to the **distribution of power in the international community** thus describing the **nature of the international system and consequences that come from it.**
- Essential components which can determine the status of a polar power in the int. structure are political power, economic power, military and technological power

- Acc. To the theory of **structural realism** , the concept of ‘polarity’ is made quite clear during the 3 time periods of modern **western civilization**.
- **Before 1945** there were more than 3 countries that qualified as poles thus crating a multi polar int. system
- **After wwII** and later only 2 states were at the right level to be determined as an polar actors by making the system of int. relations recognize the classical case of a bipolar world.

- While in the **early 1990**, one of these 2 poles lost this status.
- As result the **US emerged** as the largest military, political and economical power in the world thus reshaping the int. order of the post cold war.
- **First World- NATO members and their western allies**
- **Second World- Warsaw pact and their socialist allies**
- **Third World- Neutral nations and colonies**

Bipolarity

- **It is a distribution of power in which 2 states have the majority of economical, military and cultural influence internationally or regionally often, spheres of influence would develop.**
- **For ex. In the cold war, most western and capitalist status would fall under the influence of the USA, while most communist states would fall under the influence of the USSR**
- **After this, the 2 powers will normally maneuver for the support of the unclaimed areas which in the case of the cold war means Africa etc.**

- **1. Try to eliminate the other bloc**
- **2. product of the cold war- 2 competing blocs distanced by geography, ideology, pole, structures and eco. Formations**
- **3. tendency towards BOP- cold war**
- **4. peace by B.o.terror and mutually assured destruction (MAD)**
- **It was also a period of tension , mistrust, suspicion Cuban Missile Crisis-1962, Arms Race etc.**
- **Has often neglected the issues of Global South like development, sustainable development, poverty eradication etc.**
- **It was this time when Nehru had given a 3rd way -NAM**

What do we mean by unipolarity?

- Uni stands for one and polarity in international relations is any of the various ways in which power is distributed within the international system.
- Post cold war international system is unipolar as the **United States** emerged as the super power of the world after the **disintegration of the USSR at the end of cold war.**

New World order

- The phrase "New Word Order" was first publicly coined by former US President, George bush.
- On August 2, 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait and on August 17 ,1990 president bush announced the that, " Iraqi invasion shall not stand, because it threatens the new World order“
- By the term new word order he actually meant the new unipolar world order under the hegemony of the United States.

From Bi- polarity to Uni -polarity

- Throughout the cold war there were two big powers in the world that is US and USSR.
- Era of cold war was basically the era of bipolarity in the world.
- USSR was disintegrated and us emerged as the only superpower of the world.
- In this way world witnessed the **shift** in international system.

Factors behind uni-polarity

- The end of cold war in international relations.
- The disintegration of the USSR.
- The liberalization of Eastern European countries.
- The economic depends of Russia and other republics of the erstwhile USSR upon American and western economic aid.
- The emergence of the USA as the Sole surviving power.
- The increase the role of the United States of American in peacekeeping operations in the post Gulf war world.
- The universal acceptance of the principles of democracy, decentralization , market economy

What do we mean by multipolarity?

- Multi polarity is basically or distribution of power in which more than two nation States have nearly equal amounts of military ,cultural and economic influence.

History of multi polarity

- Before World war first which was fought between 1914 to 1918 there was multi polarity in the world.
- In 1914 on one side there were Germany ,Italy and Austria called the **Triple Alliance** and on the other side there were Great Britain, Russia and France called **Triple Entente** which was the counter-balance.
- Multi polarity continued till the end of world war second

Revival of multi polarity

- Us emerged as the only superpower of the world at the end of cold war.
- But in the current situation it seems like the multi-polarity of 1914 is reviving.
- It seems as if history is repeating itself with so many rising powers on the global stage.

Emerging powers

- 21st century is regarded as **Chinese century** due to Beijing's growing relative **economic power** and **military power**.
- China is an emerging power and is a threat for US hegemony.
- Russia, China, European union ,Pakistan, India, Iran, Brazil ,South Africa and others have become a great challenges for the hegemony of United States in the world.

