Non-major elective paper-II

International politics for civil services exam

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Unit-1

Introduction: Nature, scope and meaning of international politics

International Relations is an important branch of Social Science. The Scope of International relations is the complex relations existing among the sovereign states of the world. It is mainly concerned, among other things, with the study in depth of all events and situations affecting more than one state. According to Hartman "International Relations as a field of study is focused upon the process by which states adjust their national interest to those of other states". International Politics constitute relations and interactions among nations. As in politics, so in international politics, there are sovereign states whose interests are not identical. Those interests of the sovereign states are called national interest. Most of the scholars of international Relations describe the following aspects in the study of this discipline. 1. State system 2. National Interest 3. National Power 4. Foreign Policy 5. Instruments of international politics - Diplomacy. Foreign policy, international trade, Economic and Military assistance etc. 6. Nationalism, Colonialism and imperialism. 7. Control of interstate Relations - Balance of power-International law and international organizations. 8. Dynamic elements and new Dimensions-Rivalry between super powers and different blocs of nations. 9. World government. 10. War and peace ideologies. 11. Ethnic groups - Races of mankind and Terrorist groups. 12. International Regionalism. 13. Nuclear weapons and its use. 14. International organization and its role in maintaining world order.

Approaches to the International politics

The History of modern political thought is the story of a contest between two schools that differ fundamentally in their conception of the nature of man, society and politics. Realism and idealism are the two main competitors for recognitions as the sound approach to the study of international politics. One believes that a rational and moral political order derived from universally valid abstract principles achieved. It assumes the essential goodness and changeability of human nature. It trusts in education, reform and the periodic use of force to remedy these defects. This is the idealistic school. The basic assumption underlying realist approach is rivalry and strife among nations in some form or other. It is contest for power or influence always goes on in international society, and this contest cannot be controlled by International law or Government. Therefore, the prime function of Diplomacy and Statesmanship is to check the contest for power and the means to be adopted, for its new balance of power.

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