

# NEW WORLD ORDER AND MULTIPOLARITY

## THE OLD WORLD ORDER

In this turbulence, the old world order is dying, and a new world order is emerging. Antonio Gramsci, a renowned Italian philosopher and politician, used this concept of the old world in the early 20th century, where dying of the world was the result of monstrous politics. Prevailing situations were the bedrock of the new world order, for instance, the advent of the United Nations. The old world order, where global leadership was sustained by American leaders and by its supremacy. After the disintegration of the U.S.S.R., the entire world became unipolar where U.S.A.'s hegemony dominated in geo-economic issues as well as geo-political issues. In that era, the West adopted new languages to colonise the world, often called "Soft power" (ideological control, Cultural influence, technological controls, diplomatic and institutional control). Gramsci also emphasised the cultural and ideological hegemony of capitalism. The West promoted its ideological and cultural values like globalisation, privatisation, liberalisation, consumerism, western media, etc, to exercise control over the entire world. But the emergence of a new world order is going to substitute the connotations of power and leadership at the global level and order, which is eulogised by multipolarity.

## CHANGING FACE OF THE WEST

As we have been acknowledging the U.S.A. confrontational stance, weakening the roots of the

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Western liberal order. The foundation of the Western liberal order rests on the two broad pillars of open economy and free trade between countries, as well as international commerce, with the purpose of fostering economic interdependence. Donald Trump, the 47th president of the U.S.A passionately advocates protectionist strategies and supports ultra-nationalism. Announcement of the tariff broke the World Trade Organisation's rules and his aggressive stance for multilateral institutions, sidelining institutions like USAID, silence over global diplomatic issues, and withdrawing from the key UN agencies.

Now these strands dismantled the administration that once shaped international norms of the Western liberal order. For instance, withdrawal from the Paris agreement can make the annual climate summit of COP (Conference of the Parties). The European Union is also struggling to hold its relevance in the external markets because of extreme steps of Trump's administration, and also because of some internal issues. The EU, the UK and Canada, as well as international organisations, occupy a central position in the Western liberal order. The UN, which is considered the engine of the Western liberal order facing challenges in the emerging world of multipolarity. As external affairs minister S. Jaishankar on the United Nations day said that, "UN decisions hit the credibility of multilateralism." The organisation's decision-making neither reflects its membership nor addresses global priorities because he said that the UNSC (United Nations Security Council) is shielding barbaric Pahalgam attackers. Jaishankar also said that a few examples are more telling about the challenges facing the UN than its response to terrorism



## DUPLICITY OF THE WEST

In the world, where we used to study the world order through the lenses of the West, a world order where most of the definitions given by the West used to be universal, a world order where Western knowledge was considered superior compared to indigenous and non Western knowledge traditions. Indigenous knowledge was often dismissed as primitive or unscientific. Britain is the propagator of colonialism and the nexus of industrialisation. The West, on the one hand, led movements such as the American and French revolutions, which were based on the demands of equality, liberty, justice and fraternity. On the other hand, it was not at all experienced in the colonised countries, which shows the paragon of Western ordered duplicity. One of the known Western thinkers quoted "The West vs the Rest", in which he meant that whatever the West is today, the rest will be tomorrow. Here, the Rest refers to non-Western countries and the West reflects Western liberal democracies, which illustrates Western supremacy in all global phenomena, especially in developmental terms, where non West follow the path that has already been followed by the West.

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## NON-WESTERN POWERS

Several global actors are gaining prominence, like China, India, South Africa and the Middle East countries, etc. China's position poses challenges in front of the West. Its investment in the U.N. and the affiliated organisations, along with its global governance initiatives, aims to improve the international governance system, which symbolises its eagerness to fill the vacuum created by the West or to be more precise, by the USA. India is also one of the emerging powers of the Global South. In recent years, India has emphasised enhancing India's preparedness in areas like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, green tech, and to achieve self-reliance in various sectors like education, healthcare, transport, agriculture and technology, etc. As we know, the 20th century is mainly about 2Ts, one is trade and the second is technology. And India is investing in both Ts to achieve the goals of "Vishwa Guru". India's diplomatic strategies are aimed at strengthening and normalising diplomatic ties through negotiations and strategic partnerships. The ongoing negotiations of the country and adopted agendas reflect its strength in negotiating. India's approach towards intergovernmental organisations (India -ASEAN, India - BIMSTEC, India - EU) and its free trade agreements with the countries projects foreign policies efficacy. These organisations provide India with multiple partners and bilateral deals. Strengthening engagements with global south powers like Brazil (The largest agricultural economy), Saudi Arabia (the largest oil exporter plus a key OPEC leader), etc. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated at the ASEAN defence

Meet that, "India will maintain high military operational readiness," which highlights its dedication to self-reliance in the defence sector. He emphasised over rule of law and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region, and this was meant to safeguard collective regional interest amid mounting global concerns. India's strategic engagement with ASEAN based on shared beliefs, comprises openness and inclusiveness. But now in the present time, the aura of Western supremacy is declining. Countries like China, Japan and South Africa etc. are emerging as knowledge producers, not as knowledge consumers. Countries are generating original ideas, innovations, and intellectual contributions of their own. India's rise is also a defining factor of its new global stature. BRICS – a prominent organisation union of five countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The recent sparking international news about BRICS currencies challenges the U.S.A.s dominance of the dollar. Once it gets launched, it will be threatening the Western liberal influence and breaking the chain of economic supremacy, where the West cultivates capitalism and individualism. The U.S dollar is no longer the only game in town. On the other side, we believe in flourishing factors imbibed by ethical and human values.

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All these factors are pushing the world towards a new global order, which can be characterised by a decolonial order. From colonial epistemology to regional cognisance where English is the dominant language and the western culture has been permeated everywhere, now the focus has shifted and is inclined towards learning the regional history of nations, which shapes the experiences at present. Vernacular languages are promoted and disseminated, which shows that instead of following the paths of homogeneity given by the West, we choose to construct our own path for preserving our own culture and languages. Now we are no longer the students of the West.

## UNCONVENTIONAL PLAYERS

As violence escalated between Pakistan and Afghanistan recently, the initiatives to stop it did not come from Washington but from the Middle East. African and Middle Eastern countries are heavily contributing to mediation between countries to bring peace all over the world. The New diplomacy of mediation highlights the rise of unconventional players. For instance, Turkey has been an active champion of mediation in various international organisations. The Pak-Afghan ceasefire talks took place in Doha, with the presence of Turkish intelligence officials. Ankara's role also plays in the rapprochement between Russia and Ukraine. Now this reflects a departure from the past, where peace talks were synonymous

with the European and Western powers. But now mediation is no longer the preserve of the West. Various new powers are coming to the forefront to resolve the conflictual issues between the countries and turning this into a diplomatic weapon to lead at the global level.

## NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHTS

In this new order, new definitions are required, and new lenses are required to study it. As we have been entering into a new world order where multiple powers are coming at the international level and portraying themselves as sovereign independent entities, not as a satellite of Western influence. These powers adopted a framework in which nations take independent stands on governmental issues, including environmental concerns and geo economic policies. In the new global structure, there should be a school of thought in which multilateralism would be the main approach to combat the new challenges and to elaborate concepts regarding the world. Additionally, comprehensive and dynamic, plus flexible approaches should be added to meet the demands of time. That school of thought deconstructs the Eurocentric and orientalist views. Orientalism and Eurocentrism are both correlated perspectives regarding non-liberal and non-Western democracies.

Intellectuals who espoused these perspectives define eastern societies, particularly Asian, African as inferior and backwards and liberal societies as progressive. Analysis of the world from multiple dimensions would jeopardise liberal control over the geo-economics and geopolitics of the world order. The school of thought impetus to the anti-colonial movement by emphasising diversity of perspectives and mutual cooperation. In this multipolar world we should refer to those thinkers who promote middle or balanced paths, instead of those who strongly adhere either to western supremacy or eastern exclusivism. Aristotle (the Western political thinker) – "Golden-mean" about balance between the two extreme things, which demonstrates the essence of balance, cooperation and understanding. Whereas when we look at the West, it is extremely materialistic in nature, which is drifting apart from the ethical and human way of life that are the key characteristics of humanity. Buddha's stand on "Madhyam Marg" also emphasized moderation and avoiding authoritarian rigidity. Both Buddha and Aristotle's philosophy of the middle path believe in dialogue over discord, the rule of law over authoritarianism, which can serve as the foundational stone in this turbulent time period and multipolar world. They teach the path of moderation which will ensure global stability and abalanced global order.

