

Q. 1. Define International Politics.

Or

What do you mean by International Politics ?

Introduction. We are living in 21st century. This century is dedicated to scientific research and technical development. The great revolution in the field on communication started in the middle of 20th century. This has resulted in shortening of geographical distances and bringing the nations closer. Any significant incident happening in one part of the world invariably affects the other part of the world, whether directly or indirectly. Although, the nations had established diplomatic and commercial relations with each other several years ago, but this revolution has forced the nations to plan their relationships with other nations in the light of international developments. The study of these relations are the subject matter of international politics.

Definition. Different scholars have diverse opinions regarding the definition of international politics. It is not easy to define international politics. Some of the definitions of international politics are produced below :

Quincy Wright, "International Politics is the art of influencing, manipulating or controlling major groups so as to advance of some against the opposition of others."

James N. Rosenau, "It is now widely agreed that International Politics is only a sub-category of international relations, although perhaps the most important one."

Feliks Gross, "The study of International Politics is identical to the study of Foreign Policy."

Robert Purnell, International Politics is nothing but those "aspects of politics concerned with disagreements, competition, rival claims and various outcomes arising from a desire for change in the relations of those special collective entities we call states."

H. J. Morgenthau, "International Politics includes analysis of political relations and problems of peace among nations. It studies struggle for power among nations."

Charles Schleicher, "International Relations involves the study of 'the relations among states'. It includes all inter-state relations—Political or Non-political."

Norman Padelford and *George Lincoln*, "International Politics covers the interactions of state policies within the changing patterns of power relationships."

Palmer and *Perkins* prefer to use the name International Relations, and they define it as, "a subject concerned with the state system."

Harold Sprout and *Margret Sprout*, "International Politics means those aspects of interactions and relations of independent political communities in which some element of opposition, resistance or conflict of purpose or interest is always present."

Hartman writes, "International Relations is a field of study focussed upon the processes by which states adjust their national interests to those of other states."

Burton holds, "International Relations include the study of all such events and circumstances which affect more than one state. It is a system of peaceful communications whereby states consciously and in their own interest, would like to avoid conflict because the costs of conflicts are too high."

Thompson, "International Politics is the study of rivalry among nations and the conditions and institutions which ameliorate or exacerbate these relationships."

Robert Strousz-Hupe and *Stefan Possony* include, "The actions of citizens and the decisions of politically significant private groups." while defining the field of International Politics.

Charles Raynold, "International Politics refers to the process by which conflicts arise and are resolved at international level. In this environment nation-states try to serve their national interests by means of their policies and actions which may be in conflict with those of other nations. Thus, the study of national politics is the study of conflicts, how they originate, how the parties to conflict behave in an attempt to deal with conflict and how they are resolved. Its study also involves an examination of political system context the constitution and norms within which the conflict takes place."

Review of these Definitions. On the basis of these definitions it can be deduced that International Politics is a continuous process. Power plays an important role in it. It is an art to affect and to the extent possible, control the nations. It formulates the relations within the nations. The contradiction of national interests serves as its basis. Some

scholars conceptualise International Politics as a system of interactions among nations that involves the actual use or threat of use of power. They prefer to call it International Politics. On the other hand, some other scholars seek to define it as a relations among nations and call it International Relations. Some of them stress over the factors of conflict and power while many others give weightage to political, economic and cultural relations among nations. *Feliks Gross* defines it as a Foreign Policy, whereas *James N. Rosenau* seeks to define it as a subcategory of international relations. According to *Padelford* and *Lincon*, International Politics is "the interaction of state Politics within the changing pattern of power relationship." Therefore, there cannot be a universally agreed definition of a subject "whose scope is in constant flux, indeed a field whose fluctuation is one of its principal characteristics." This observation of Stanley Hoffman clearly highlights the difficulty in formulating a single acceptable definition of International Politics.

The Sources of International Politics

The sources of International Politics are as follows :

- (i) The forces increasing national ambition of each country to attain a high and dynamic position in the world.
- (ii) The earnest desire of each country to maintain close and sound relations with other countries for her national defence and withstand mutual fear of aggrandizement.
- (iii) The politicians' ambitions to elavate their national and economic status by maintaining fruitful diplomatic relations with foreign countries.
- (iv) The individual tendency of political leaders and diplomats to the effect that they want and also exert their powers to establish their own hold on the indigenous people and territory.