

TEST CODE : 4 2 0 6 1

FIAS – MGP 2021 – Essay Simulator Test #1

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION	
Name Of Candidate	ATULESH JHA			
Roll No.	1910000128	Date:	16-12-21	
Time Allowed: Three Hours			Maximum Marks: 250	
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.	
Q.1			2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English & Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part	
Q.2			3. One question in each part is compulsory.	
Total Marks:			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.	
Remarks:			5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.	
			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.	
			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.	
			<i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i>	

For Student Only				
Start Time 10:30 am		End Time 1:25 pm		
Mode Of Examination:		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>		
For Office Use Only				
ECN CODE:		EG:		Evaluation Date:

MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/Criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Total Marks</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Organisation	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
Language Skills	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
Examiner's Discretion	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100



SECTION - A

1. India's missing women
भारत की गुमशुदा महिलाएं
2. Social media- a tool for engineering consent
सोशल मीडिया- सहमति को निर्मित करने का एक उपकरण
3. Are big tech undermining state sovereignty?
क्या बिग टेक राज्य की संप्रभुता को कम कर रही है?
4. Federalism in India - a paradox.
भारत में संघवाद . एक विरोधाभास के रूप में

X
3. Are Big Tech undermining state sovereignty?

INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BIG TECH
3. MECHANISMS OF INFLUENCE
4. DIMENSIONS OF INFLUENCE
5. STATE REMEDIES
6. METHODS OF CONTROL
7. CONCLUSION

Introduction :

The entire world was waiting with bated breath, the result of the USA Presidential elections, 2016 on 11th November 2016. All Exit Polls were unanimously pointing to the victory of Hillary Clinton, even Political Pundits in India had written articles detailing why it was impossible for Donald J. Trump to secure a victory. However, the results shocked everyone, for President Trump won a thumping victory.

As the cloud settled and post-mortem analysis poured in, it was noticed that a concerted effort was carried out on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook to sway voters by publishing a barrage of misinformation from fake bot accounts. In the next

week Twitter alone blocked over 80,000 such accounts. A Senate mandated enquiry pointed fingers at actors in Russia, but with little proof. However, the bigger takeaway from this episode being that how Big Tech was successfully used to influence the outcome of the Oldest and Most Sturdy Modern Democracy.

Big Tech can be understood as technological corporations which command a huge market share and are even monopolies such as Twitter in the micro-blogging space. These are the go-to spaces for modern society for nearly every aspect of our daily lives. If we need information we Google, to connect to our dear ones we use Facebook, to watch news or any form of visual entertainment

we rely on Youtube or OTT platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime etc.

We as a society have now entered into the 'knowledge era' on the vehicles of 'Big Tech'. The unfortunate Covid age has further pushed us into the grasp of 'Big Tech'; work from home, Zoom meetings or attending weddings online has become the new norm; for small activities such as buying grocery; we use Amazon or Big Basket. Our economic activities too have shifted to Paytm or Google Pay. Thus, we see that Big Tech has become a part and parcel of our lives; it has a pervasive presence. Our reliance on these companies also gives them undue influence on nearly all aspects of society, be it social, political or economic aspect. But the most worrisome trend is their actions which undermine the thesis of State Sovereignty.

Big Tech Corporations are accused of trying to do so in three ways

- Explicit mechanism
- Implicit mechanism
- state-sponsored mechanism

Explicit mechanism refers to actions on part of these companies to counter state's actions to establish their stronghold in the markets; much like the actions of Union Banana Company in Latin Americas a century ago.

They actively act to avoid paying taxes by Base Erosion and Profit Sharing eg. Google is headquartered in Ireland to save taxes. Facebook has actively sought to subvert state authority by defying it such as its refusal to appear at a hearing of Delhi State Assembly and even in the USA Senate.

Implicit Mechanism are utilised more subtly by these corporations to influence governance. They use methods like

lobbying and bribery to pass favourable legislations. They even delay compliance to new rules and regulations citing some loopholes eg. Twitter was not willing to comply to the New Social Media Regulations for a long period of time. Airtel and PayTm were even accused of utilising Aadhar data to open Payment Bank accounts without authorisation or due process, on getting caught they paid a fine and feigned ignorance of rules.

State Sponsored acts by Big Tech are also being called as the 5th frontier of military warfare in cyberspace. China has been at the forefront of this by deploying its technology companies to enhance its soft power and also stranglehold on e-commerce and social media. Even the youth are influenced by games

such as Pubs; companies such as Tencent develop thousands of apps and are accused of surveillance of its users; their data centres are always located in China where all user data is stored too. Not only softwares, but hardware infrastructure companies like Huawei is accused of spying on behalf of China and also disrupting information systems such as 5G.

DIMENSIONS OF INFLUENCE:

Various means are deployed in order to establish their market hold. Social Media allows circulation of misinformation and even fake news which can cause internal disturbances and even undesired diplomatic incidents; leaking sensitive documents can cause major embarrassment too. Recently, it came to light that FB chats of politicians in ASEAN nations were used to blackmail them for favourable legislations.

Election outcomes are influenced by foreign actors using Big Tech or Big Tech themselves through their content moderation policies. The deployment of bot accounts to amplify Fake News presents new challenges as was evident in the USA Presidential elections.

Apart from influencing electoral outcomes indirectly they also deploy direct methods. Since they employ a huge workforce, they can try to influence voters too. In California, Uber explicitly asked its drivers to vote for candidates that favour lenient taxation policies. Amazon has actively expressed support for Governments that favour low corporate taxes as has Elon Musk of Tesla.

Even worker rights are suppressed by these corporations by actions such as casualisation of labour and ban on Unions which in

turn reduces State's ability to initiate and install labour reforms. Ola refuses to award recognition to its drivers and hence skirts all acts of government such as Industrial Disputes Act, Minimum Wages Act, etc.

Beyond these issues the problem of data Privacy has also emerged. Mobikwik recently leaked over 6 million account data and even their Aadhar details. These companies are also resisting Data-localisation norms. RBI has identified over 150 Chinese loan apps operating illegally in India which use users by predatory mechanisms. Cryptocurrency presents a new set of FinTech challenge which has perplexed the government and can be used by Bad actors to destabilize global economy too. The emerging systemic risks of Big Tech are huge and need immediate response to.

STATE REMEDIES :

States too are acting against attempts by Big Tech to undermine them and the public at large. The various governments are bringing in legislations to curb their influence; such as the privacy laws like GDPR of Europe and Australia curbs the misuse of private data. India's government has notified new rules for online news and OTT platforms which brings them under the ambit of MEITY and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The US government has taken recourse by stringent oversight regulations and also considering breaking up monopolies such as Facebook and Twitter. In order to counter tax avoidance and tax evasion; the G20 has proposed a Global Minimum Alternate Tax under the

watchful eyes of FATF to ensure that global economic system is not threatened. India has gone a step ahead and devised a futuristic Crypto-currency Bill which can eliminate any illicit activity in FinTech space.

CONCLUSION:

Big Tech operates in a new frontier which presents new, emerging set of challenges. Rules for Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Crypto can't be formulated stringently. The upcoming metaverse will further complicate issues. They provide job opportunities and earnings too and India alone has 18 unicorn startups in Big Tech.

However, this doesn't mean that they can undermine the state to achieve gains, the governments have to come up with new regulations which do

not stifle innovation but curb the undue influence on their sovereignty.

The government's sovereignty is a manifestation of the will of the people and even Big Techs need to realise and respect this.

X

ROUGH

3. Are Big Tech undermining State Sovereignty?

Intro - US Elections 2016 - Twitter, FB.

Defⁿ - Google, FB, Twitter, Netflix, etc.
→ Reliance by society, influence society; pervasive
Explicit - Tax issues, Delhi leg. Assembly

How? - Implicit - Lobbying, refuse to comply O.T.
state-sponsored Alibaba, Tencent

- Market monopoly/cartel - Pabg, Tiktok, Huawei etc.
- source of info - Covid - more power (with)

- News, Fake News, - Fake accounts, bots
→ large source of revenue; jobs Amazon

- Worker Rights issue - Ola, Uber

- Paytm, Mobikwik - Data Privacy, leak
- Fintech crypto - Aadhar Linkages

State Remedies: - systemic risk; offshore; black eco.

- OTT; News Regulations; black eco.
- Chinese Model
- USA breaking up companies
- Global MAT - G20
- Strong FATF

- Conc.
- New Frontier; AI, ML; Crypto
 - Govt. falling behind Metaverse
 - But opportunities - Unicorns Jobs Earnings
 - Balanced approach
 - Hard approach stifle innovation
 - Regulations to be objective
 - Future oriented.
 - Laws updated; dynamism.

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading



SECTION - B

1. Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.
नेता अपनी शक्ति के कारण नहीं, बल्कि दूसरों को सशक्त बनाने की अपनी क्षमता के कारण महान बनते हैं।
2. Fools multiply when wise men are silent.
बुद्धिमानों के चुप रहने पर मूर्खों की संख्या बढ़ जाती है।
3. It's not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity.
यह वह नहीं है जो हम दावा करते हैं बल्कि हम जो अभ्यास करते हैं वह हमें सत्यनिष्ठता प्रदान करता है।
4. Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrow.
शांतिपूर्ण कल को बनाने के लिए युद्ध एक कमजोर उपकरण है।

4. Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrow.

INDEX

- ① INTRODUCTION
- ② WARS CAUSE
 - ②.1 Senseless Destruction
 - ②.2 Antagonism
 - ②.3 Economic Loss
 - ②.4 Environment Loss
 - ②.5 Resource Crunch
 - ②.6 Mutual Distrust
- ③ NO PEACEFUL TOMORROW
- ④ SOLUTIONS
 - ④.1 Development
 - ④.2 People to People contact
 - ④.3 Strong Institutions
 - ④.4 Globalisation
- ⑤ CONCLUSION

Introduction:

The end of World War I was a time of jubilation and celebration for the victors; but a time of rootlessness and uncertain anxiety for the losers.

The anguish felt was manifested in the Versailles Treaty which put the blame squarely on Germany and humiliated it by piling economic and geo-political miseries. It was forced to pay hefty war reparations and to cede its territory as well.

The Germans were antagonised and out of this fire of vengeance rose Adolf Hitler who channelised these feelings; amplified them and caused the WW II, which was more damaging than the earlier. It was geographically, economically and socially far more devastating as nearly twice many

nations participated, more than 3 times the death toll and its economic impact was felt even 5 decades later in the Fall of Berlin Wall.

Wars cause:

Wars are a dreadful scenario where humanity suffers; to destroy and kill is the norm which in turn fuels a cycle of such senseless revenge. It is a negative act which does not bring any benefits to either the victor or the vanquished but only suffering.

Wars cause senseless destruction and damage to life and property. Not only living beings but also ancient civilizational monuments and artwork are destroyed; eg. the World War II killed over 12 million individuals by some estimates; even those who came back alive suffer from PTSD and are but a shadow of their former self.

Antagonism gets a fertile breeding ground for the vengeful attributes of humans overtakes their other faculties of mind. It was this feeling which was exploited by Adolf Hitler to initiate militarisation of Germany which ultimately led to World War II and caused more damage.

The economic loss due to wars is beyond comprehension and even affects generations to come; eg. the end of World War I brought Global Economic Depression which continued to haunt the economies of all nations, big and small for the next two decades. The amount of money invested in weapons and ammunitions during such wars can be utilised for much better capital investments to develop society such as schools, hospitals and even theatres.

Wars are harmful to the environment too; such as the use of Agent Orange by USA during Vietnam War harmed not the ecology but also the humans and children born in future too; similar to the sufferings of children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It cannot be expected that these individuals who suffer for no fault of their will look forward to a peaceful future with those whom they consider as enemies.

Wars also cause resource crunch, as can be seen in West African nations that are plagued by sectarian warfare; despite lying in rich tracts of minerals, these nations are unable to utilise them for growth or development and are said to suffer from 'Mineral curse'.

Wars also produce a sense of mutual distrust among the population for opposition; any act even when done in good faith is perceived as a threat eg. India's launch of South Asian Satellite was viewed suspiciously by Pakistan and it refused to be a part of it; even though other SAARC nations joined enthusiastically.

No Peaceful Tomorrow:

War causes endless suffering and destruction which cannot be reversed overnight; it moreover fuels a cycle of hatred and revenge which waits to manifest again into a war; eg. the defeat of Afghanistan's Taliban only served to alienate the common populace as they saw US as an outside entity. The lack of connect and development only fueled their desperation which was

again exploited by Taliban to come back to power after establishing a strong support base.

War Fueled Cycle of Hate



Solutions for a peaceful tomorrow:

Development of the war-ridden or war-torn society can be a positive step. It helps the people to cope with the destruction and economic loss suffered during the war and also provides them with a hopeful future, eg. South Korea and Japan have focused on developing their economies post-WW II and thus their populations too are more intent on scientific and economic growth. This weans them from festering any negativity within themselves too.

Wars are never fought in isolation and so it is the responsibility of others as well to contribute to post-war development to avoid a future repeat. After WWI, Germany was burdened with reparations which crippled its economy and angered the people; however post-WWII; countries like USA and USSR extended generous development grants such as Warsaw Plan and Marshall Plan for economic support.

Diplomacy and negotiations go a long way in resolving disputes and establishing peaceful relations; even the Indian Freedom Movement largely relied on peaceful protests and negotiations; having few spells of extremism. Thus; today no antagonism exists with the British government; in fact Indians are occupying important portfolios in Britain.

People to people contact and using soft power diplomacy also makes people trustful of each other and promotes global harmony; the spread of Korean-Pop has made their songs popular world over and also imparted importance to their diplomatic capabilities. Japan and USA despite fighting a bitter war are considered steadfast partners on many forums such as QUAD, Asian Development Bank, IMF, etc. It is largely due to people to people connect that they have had a peaceful coexistence.

Creation of strong institutions; both social and political goes a long way in establishing peace and avoiding wars. Institutions of education and democratic institutions such as legislature also help contain peoples grievances and

channelise them better; eg. the central legislature in British India gave a platform to Indians to air their issues and demand resolution. However, support and involvement of local populace is a must or else unrepresentative institutions such as those created by USA in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan can crumble quickly too.

Globalisation has resulted in integration of economy and society all over the world. It has further demonstrated that interconnectedness is a strong background for peace and deterrence to wars. Since nations realise that their acts of wars will also affect them by causing global disruptions, there haven't been any global war scenario.

Conclusion:

To expect to carve a peaceful tomorrow using chisels of wars is akin to operating surgery using a sword; both can only result in failure. Peace is a two way street and requires mutual trust and cooperation.

It cannot be approached till one looks at another through the eyes of antagonistic relations.

To establish long lasting peace, war is to be shunned and avenues of growth and development need to be adopted. It needs to be established in confidence and alongwith honest intent; for a peaceful future can only be laid on the foundations of humanity and not wars.

X

P. T. O.

ROUGH

4. Wars are poor dishes for carving out peaceful tomorrow.

→ Intro. WWI → WWII

War causes:

~~destruction - Germany WWI~~

~~autagonism - Germany Hitler~~

~~economic loss~~

~~environment loss - Agent orange~~

~~Reserve fund~~

~~loss of life~~

~~Distrust mutual Revenge Hindu-Turki~~

Peaceful tomorrow

→ Ppl suffer; revenge; poverty - Afg.

→ SDG?

→ ~~Development of Japan & Korea~~

→ ~~Eco support, Marshall Plan; Warsaw,~~

→ ~~Ppl to ppl contact & force - Japan, USA,~~

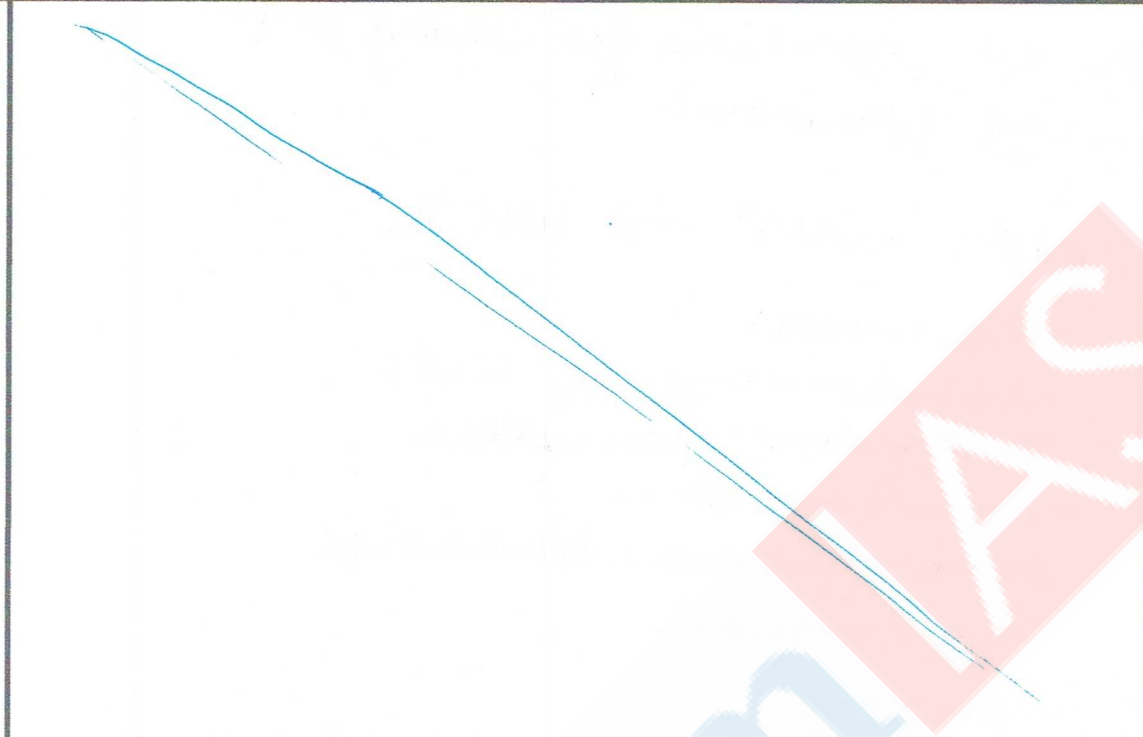
→ ~~Education~~

→ ~~Strong institution of lack in Afg~~

~~Globalization~~

or
else
Cycle continues

Conc.



Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading