

TEST CODE : 5 2 0 2 2

FIAS - MGP 2022 (C-7) - Essay Test #2

ForumIAS

## GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate

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Roll No.

1910047534

Date:

25/7/2022

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

## INDEX TABLE

## INSTRUCTION

Q. No. Max. Marks Marks Obtained

Q.1

Q.2

Total Marks:

Remarks:

1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.

2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English & Hindi . You have to write on 1 topic from Each part

3. One question in each part is compulsory.

4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

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.

*Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.*

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Start Time | 11:57

End Time | 2:35

Mode Of Examination:

Online Offline 

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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>
<b>Basic Format</b>	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
<b>Content</b>	Data/Facts/Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
<b>Organisation</b>	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
<b>Language Skills</b>	Punctuation/Grammar/ Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
<b>Examiner's Discretion</b>	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

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

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



SECTION - A

1. Social media – a tool for engineering consent.

सोशल मीडिया- सहमति को निर्मित करने का एक उपकरण।

2. Are Big Tech undermining state sovereignty?

क्या बिग टेक राज्य की संप्रभुता को कम कर रही है?

1.

Social media - a tool for engineering consent

It is said that 'if one repeats a lie many times, it starts to look like truth'.  
From ancient times, it has been witnessed that powerful nations, people used to engineer consent by presenting a particular narrative. ('white man supremacy' or 'white man's burden' to justify colonialism, 'purge' or 'aryanisation' by Hitler to kill Jews etc) are certain examples.

In above examples and many more, one thing was common - presence of a selective narrative on an audience which was polarised and could be influenced.  
However, with the boom of social, the

out of engineering consent isn't just limited to the powerful. The whole arena of information economy has become democratised with this. With one viral post, there is ~~an~~ formation of opinions - generally extreme opinions and the people are forced to conform to either of these.

The above ~~an~~ observation is analogous to the post World War-2 era, when the third world was forced to join 'capitalism/democracy' flagbearers USA/W. Europe or 'Communist' Russia. However, in social media, people with Non-aligned ideology are rare to find. Thus it is a polarized platform.

Before we get to the ways in which social media engineers consent, we must understand the reason for that. How does social media Engineers consent? The reason goes back to human evolution; Humans always had to be attentive for

charges - new sound, rattling of twigs etc as it meant potential danger. This activates adrenaline and serotonin and humans used to fight 'fight or flee' to preserve themselves.

Thus every notification, every new narrative - like a video on a person from different religion using hate speech, triggers the same behaviour from humans. There is also a dopamine factor which gets activated by instant gratification. These behaviours have been well researched by tech giants and thus there is a targetted feed for every individual based on his data, choice, likes, views etc.

Thus social media becomes a platform to create narratives and engineer consent. Political parties across the world have used this tool. Cambridge Analytica company was under probe under allegations of data purchase and using them to influence behaviour of voters. There were news reports that Russia played a role

in 2016 US Presidential elections. Use of hate speeches, circulation by anonymous, faceless people creates an echo chamber for the consumer of that information.

This saw a threatening turn when tweets of former US President Donald Trump, led to people storming US Capitol with guns, bats etc in hand. This was a black day in the history of an oldest democracy. There have been misogynistic, xenophobic comments by far-right politicians across the world and it has in some way influenced people.

The above political cases across the world are exacerbated in times of socio-economic crisis in certain parts of the world. Thus social media ~~also~~ must also be seen in economic terms, especially in the current economy battered by pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict, food crisis, economic crisis - Sri Lanka, Pakistan etc.

A single tweet can lead to capital flight, wrong investments, volatility in the market. Eg, Elon Musk's tweets on Dogecoin Bitcoin ~~also~~ resulted in speculations and volatility in the crypto market. This resulted in losses for investors. Similarly certain companies were targeted which didn't conform to polarised ideas. Eg. A Tanishq Jewellery advertisement showcasing communal harmony was seen as promoting love jihad. This led to cancelling of that advertisement.

Similarly, many companies endorsed by celebrities use social media to purchase certain products, download apps etc. These apps might ask for access to files, storage, gallery, phone calls, texts etc. Thus it is a disguised way of asking consent to share data. And, in this economy, data is the new oil and companies mine and sell it without formal consent.

The Tanishq case mentioned above stems from certain social fault lines. Social media and its echo chamber tend to make those lines permanent and, time and again re-cultivate them. 'Communal tensions' are aggravated by social media leading to opinion formation. The consumers only get selective information due to filter bubble and this leads to echo chamber.

Muraffnagar riots, Delhi riots, Nupur Sharma now have all escalated because of social media. Social media was used to radicalise youth and asked them to take to streets which created law and order issues. The engineered consent could be clearly seen as some news channels showed that students protesting for 'Agnipath' scheme had no idea why they were protesting. Similar case was seen in the attack on Red fort on Republic Day.



This shows that people blindly followed a particular faction without having all the necessary information. This was seen during farmer protests too where one extreme called the protesters - separatists, Khalistani etc. while there were many protesters who had never benefitted from MSP scheme (According to Shantakumar Committee, only 6% farmers benefit from MSP). Some protesters took law and order in their hands.

Situations like above get aggravated due to presence of digital media, influencers, stand-up comics etc who have a large follower base. Greta Thunberg's tweet and Rihanna's tweet was not required on an internal matter but social media allows that. This creates pressure on the government too and undermines sovereignty. Thus social

Media has the power to engineer governments consent too.

However, social media is not all bad. It is just a double edged sword. The other edge provides the strength to people who had no voice. It makes the democracy more participative. A single tweet leads to response by ministers and officials. Political parties seem accessible to people and parties benefit from constant feedback.

In economic context, people have transformed from information consumers to information creators. A person just needs an internet connection to sell her products online, market an idea, get noticed by entertainment industry etc. Eg. Prajakta Kohli has been awarded by UN. She is a content creator on Youtube and Instagram.

Similarly social media led to #MeToo, #Black Lives Matter, etc. There was support to LGRTQ+ community which led to empowerment. The social media outcry after USA's Supreme Court's adverse verdict on abortion, led to senate passing a law legalising abortion.

Thus, here also consent was engineered, but for a right cause.

The above causes were highlighted by many digital media outlets. They have created an alternative to established media houses who have been following Yellow Journalism and relying on sensationalism to boost their TRP.

Thus social media is a useful tool for the society, economy, democracy etc. However, it needs reforms.

Social media in general is not regulated. They have been treated

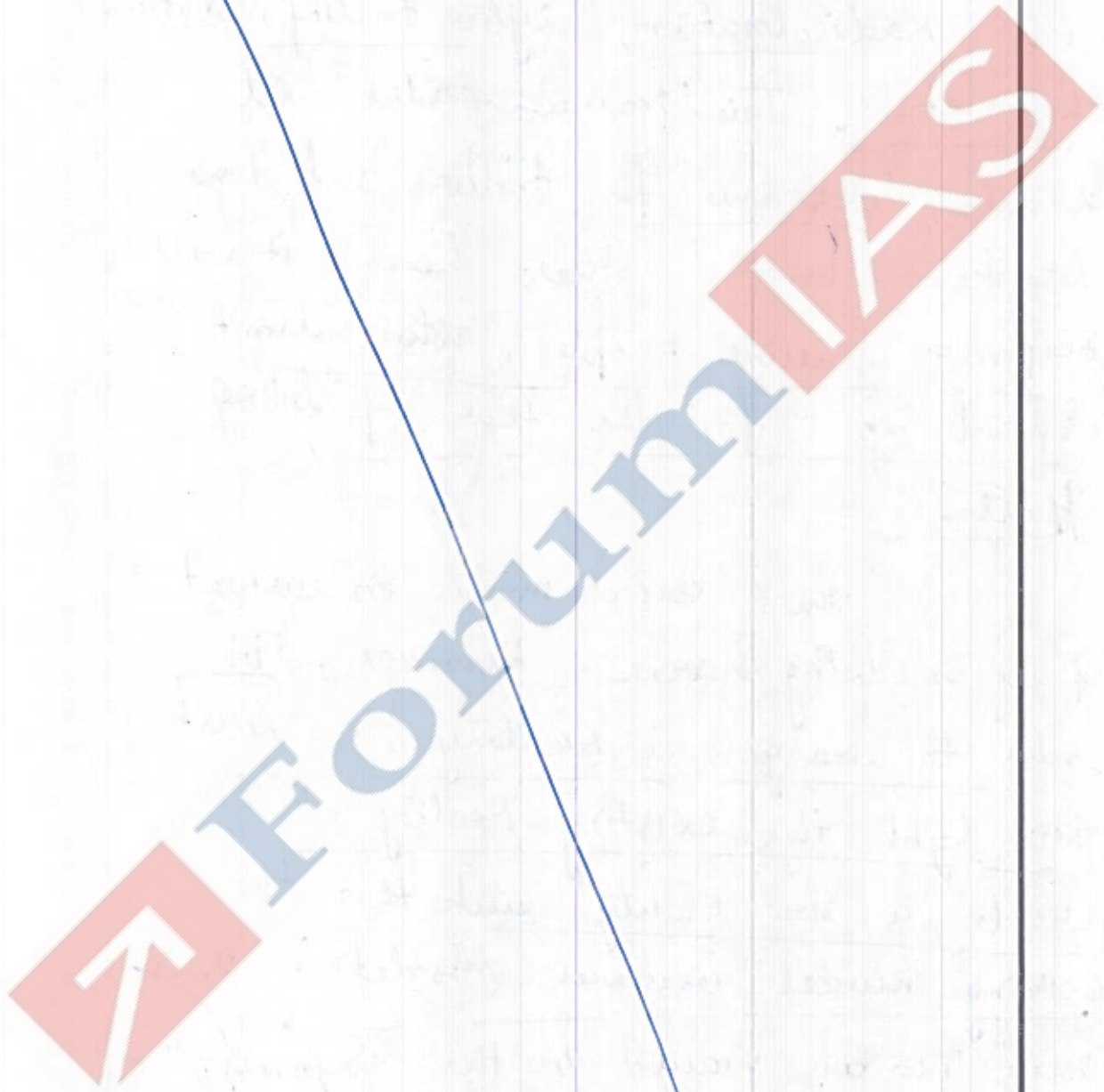
As intermediaries and thus these tech giants escape accountability. Also, countries lack data protection laws to safeguard privacy and prevent wrongful manipulation of data. This must be done to prevent the 'Big Brother' condition from George Orwell's novel - 1984, where every individual's action was monitored through data collection and analysis and all had an engineered consent.

Other reforms are required related to Grievance Redressal. Facebook, Twitter were not appointing nodal Grievance Redressal Officers. Also, government requires data in case of national security, law & order situations. These conditions must be accepted to maintain State sovereignty over Big Tech. GDPR by European

Union is a good case study.

There needs to be trained cyberpolice force to deal swiftly with radicalisation, cyber trolling, data theft etc. This trained cadre will create deterrence for trolls and law breakers. On the other hand, it will empower genuine people, who don't speak up for the fear of being trolled.

Thus social media in current form is doing harm. However, 'In order to change a reality, one must not fight the existing reality, rather create a new reality such that the existing model becomes obsolete'. This new model would be the reforms discussed above.



1 Rough

social media - what is? → Revolution from bast, it has democratised info.  
↳ not just consumers

2 pages on this

↳ but content creators. end with this

Rest → a tool for engineering consent.

↳ start w human anthropological aspect  
↳ threat, dopamine etc

↳ also based on this  
stress, fear, energy, desire to be like & by tribe.

Consent

↳ political

↳ use of social media

↳ fake news    ↳ echo chamber    ↳ selective perception etc.

Eg. → Trump → attack on Capitol.  
↳ Cambridge Analytica case  
↳ fb → data → target audience

↳ farm protests  
↳ Greta Thunberg  
↳ Rhona

↳ Legal

manufactured consent

↳ Economic ↳ tweets of Elon Musk → volatile crypto  
↳ ads by celebrities for certain apps, neo banks etc on social media.

↳ Social ↳ Muzaffarnagar riots  
↳ Delhi riots  
↳ recent Nupur Sharma.

↳ communal, memes, Cultural  
↳ LGBTQ, cancel culture  
↳ then take that to culture/entertainment

↳ Entertainment Industry ↳ manufactured words  
↳ failure of good projects

Reasons → International → Yemen, Russia-Ukraine  
↳ polarisation T.T.

Legal → form laws  
→ Controversy on USA SC abortion case → Senate passed a law.

Humanitarian/Individualistic → LUFTB, woman  
↳ GitHub case  
↳ Boys Locker Room case  
↳ victimisation of victim  
↳ troubling, cyberbullying Eg. Samantha Prabhu

Reasons

↳ unregulated  
↳ data privacy, targeting  
↳ lack of global consensus → Cornell on tar only  
↳ Sol<sup>m</sup> → Regulate  
↳ sensitive ↳ data privacy  
↳ cyberpolice  
↳ swift action

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. 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।

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

शांतिपूर्ण कल को बनाने के लिए युद्ध एक कमजोर उपकरण है।

② Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrow

'An eye for an eye makes the world blind'. This quote by M.K. Gandhi summarises the issue that wars only create problems and are hardly a solution. This has been witnessed since human history. Wars, conflicts have been witnessed on issues ranging from difference in looks (species) -

(eg. homo sapiens eliminating Neanderthals),

to religion (crusade wars) to resources (Imperialism) etc.

However, most wars pertaining to homo sapiens have created

further issues. Earlier wars were fought for resources, climate etc. Huntington in his book "Civilizations and Climate" writes how Central Asians invaded other regions due to harsh climate, famines etc.

wars like crusade wars, always created issues - the Eastern Europe, Turkey region has always been embroiled in wars leading to polarisations, balkanisations, participation in world wars etc. Similarly wars among Indian rulers led to multiple divisions and lack of nationalism. Thus it was easy for Sultans, Mughals and later Britishers to invade India and exploit the fault lines.

wars have been fought for resources and glory. Colonialism is a result of capitalism (Marxist scholars) which colonial powers

justified in terms of 'civilization', 'white man's burden' etc. Colonialism led to Partition of India and this problem persists. 'Sucrabble for Africa' has caused many ethnic wars in Africa due to unscientific drawing of boundaries.

The 'Opium Wars' in China led to 'century of humiliation'. Xi Jinping and former premiers wanted to avenger this. This has led to assertive rise of China - creating issues of Sabanci slicing (S. China Sea, Galwan, CPEC etc), debt trap diplomacy (Sri Lanka, Pakistan etc) and also use of vetoes in UNSC. Similarly Japan became an imperialist power post

Meiji Restoration ~~1868~~ 1868 after learning lessons from China's history.

Thus wars led to other issues due to balance of power issue.

World War-I was fought by among European powers due to ~~Japan~~ <sup>Germany's</sup> ~~actions~~ <sup>actions</sup>. However, it was not to bring peace but to maintain the superiority. Harsh sanctions on Germany under Treaty of Versailles led to economic distress which led to Nazi party led by Hitler and the rest is a tragic history of Jews persecution and beginning of second world war.

Similarly, secretly migrating Jews to Arab region by England and France led to Jew-Arab conflict and the displacement of Palestines. Issues like Munich killings, 6 days war etc were seen and the trouble persists till today. Thus it can be seen that wars cannot create a peaceful tomorrow.

A war results in a change of Balance of Power. This triggers fear in other countries which leads to escalation of military, arms race etc to protect their territorial, economic interests etc.

For example → Hiroshima and Nagasaki

bombings resulted in arms race in Cold war era which also led to Cuban Missile Crisis. India had to develop nuclear to protect itself from a 'two-front war' from China and Pakistan.

This change in 'balance of power' and emerging economies like Germany and Japan (Thucydides trap) led to fear among USA and European power like UK, France etc. But second world war came with a cost - loss of lives, Post Cold War etc. The cold war saw 'Korean war'. This resulted in

38th parallel and a rogue nation called North Korea, which is a threat for world peace. The trust deficit with USA has left no room for negotiations either.

The 'Great Game' of past for preserving peace (in reality colonial interests of England in India) resulted in ever lasting issues. This resurfaced in 1979 Russian invasion of Afghanistan, proxy wars, rule of Taliban, terrorist attack on WTC towers, ousting of Taliban by USA to current 'New Great Game' where Taliban rules and powers like China, Pakistan, Central Asia hold a sway on the region.

In the vicinity of the Great Game region, there lies Central Asia, Eastern Europe etc which was hitherto part of USSR (before 1991).

The actions of USA and NATO allies to increase their sphere of influence in Eastern Europe and Ukraine (important for Russia for trade in Mediterranean and warm water ports) led to escalation by Russia and a full blown out war.

Neither USA's actions of expanding NATO, sanctions on Russia etc, nor Russia's action will result in peace in the region. It has already led to food crisis (Russia-Ukraine are one of the largest exporters of fertilizers, wheat etc), fuel crisis leading to economic crisis in countries - like Sri Lanka (to a certain extent).

It has led to weaponisation of trade, finance (sanctions), supply chain and energy. This has resulted in 'friend-shoring' or protectionism and working only with like minded nations.

• But this has potential for geopolitical and geo-economic shift in equilibrium.

China is already assessing the situation and may lead to Taiwan's invasion. This could trigger chip famine and hinder Industrial Revolution 4.0.

There is already a Kindleberger Trap and emergence of a G-0 world where no single country has the potential, economic leverage and will to provide global goods and protect global commons.

This has long lasting repercussions. Due to weaponisation of energy, the world is undergoing energy dilemma. On ~~the~~ one hand, we have promised NDGs, on the other hand Russia is blocking natural gas, and lack of investment in renewables due to war. This will result in Carbon



Bomb / i.e. more fossil fuel based energy. Germany had net zero target of 2045 and is already looking for coal based energy.

thus, it shows that wars cannot come out as peaceful tomorrow. Energy and food crisis, will trigger political crisis and it can have Regional security ramifications. India is worried about Sri Lankan refugees, and a threat of Pakistan ceding Gilgit-Baltistan to China, both due to economic crisis, hard power (debt trap) of China.

thus world needs to re-look its actions otherwise the future of humanity seems bleak (especially after IPCC AR-6 reports). World needs a Reformed multilateralism. The UNSC dictated by P5 doesn't represent the current world order. This has

resulted in 'crisis of confidence' as said by PM Modi. He also said that reformed multilateralism with a reformed UN at the centre is required for humanity.

the 'protectionism' and 'friend-shoring' will result in creation of 'smaller yards with big fences' as said by Putin. There is already a rise of Splinternets. India must converge with like minded countries - global South for multilateralism and globalisation. 'When goods do not cross the border, soldiers do cross the border'. This neo-liberal school of thought must be considered.

The above two reforms will create a trust and prepare a ground for diplomacy. ~~Diplomacy~~ 'Wars happen when diplomacy fails'.

Thus focus on trade relations, diaspora, Soft power, track 2.5 diplomacy must be considered before a war.

However, in reality, it might not be possible to avoid some wars. Eg. Galwan clashes - India had to respond due to threat of its sovereignty. Similarly '1971 Liberation War' and creation of Bangladesh has resulted in peace. Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economy in world and South Asia. Thus, wars, sometimes have to be fought against malicious rogue nations.

In Sun Tzu's Art of War it is said that <sup>the</sup> art of war is not in thinking that the enemy won't attack, but to be prepared, so that if the enemy attacks, our position is unassailable. Thus, India's recent announcement on tri-service theatres would be helpful to counter China's Strip

of Pearls and exploit on its Malacca Dilemma.

Thus, a country must be a responsible power, (like India's No first Use Nuclear Policy), non aggressor etc. but must be thoroughly prepared to counter enemy's attack to protect its national interest - sovereignty and welfare of people.

However, there must always be efforts on global level to prevent wars as they create further rifts, lead to deaths, forced migrations and food and fuel crisis in rest of the world. In an era of 'MAD', an all out war can never be an option, otherwise, homo sapiens will go extinct by the action of their own species.

Wars - Poor chisels Peaceful tomorrow.

'An eye for an eye makes the world blind'

→ Crusade wars ⇒ fault lines ⇒ Eastern Europe  
 ↳ Balkanisation etc.  
 ↳ Great Game → New Great Game  
 ↳ Taliban

↳ WWI → Causes esp.illy for m<sup>n</sup>  
 ↳ Role of Japan, Germany

↳ Israel → Jews → issue still there.

Germany - Italy ⇒ Nazism ⇒ 2<sup>nd</sup> world war

↳ 2 blocs → nuclear weapon ⇒ arms race  
 ↳ MAD.

↳ Cold war → Cuban missile  
 ↳ Korean  
 ↳ Vietnam ⇒ Russia-Ukraine  
 ↳ Afghan

examples like  
 Kargila, 1971 liberation war  
 then differentiate the intentions.

First start with the topic then the narrative of peaceful tomorrow

↳ 4<sup>th</sup> world war

↳ Trade  
 ↳ economic sanctions  
 ↳ Russia - Iran - China  
 as is

S.S. ⇒ smaller, poorer, nearer world  
 ↳ Uimate goals ⇒ Carbon bomb, energy dilemma  
 ↳ SDG goals  
 ↳ CL ⇒ hyper 25%

Conclusion of Vasudhain

- ↳ multilateral reforms → crisis of confidence
- ↳ European mentality
- ↳ Global South

↓

- Soft Power
- Trade
- diplomacy
- neoliberal thought

deal with Hogue powers

**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

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