

## Why isn't global interconnectedness halting war?

### What is the issue?

Despite wide-ranging sanctions from various countries the international world order failed to prevent the Ukraine Russia war.

### How was the International Order Post 1945?

- International order created in 1945 rests on assumptions that the preference is for peace and development.
- For this along with United Nations (UN) as a universal institution several institutions like IMF, World Bank and WTO as three pillars was instituted.

### Has the international post-world war order failed?

- **First failure** - First jolt to this vision came with the Cold War in 1946.
- When the Cold War ended and the Soviet Union dissolved there was an expectation that we would go back to the vision of 1945.
- But unfortunately, the U.S. and NATO chose a path of containment and confrontation with Russia.
- **Recent failure** - Russia has begun to react to the confrontation after the NATO has planned to include Georgia and Ukraine in the alliance.

### How countries react to recent invasion?

- There are some asset freezes and travel bans against individuals.
- There are even calls from some Western nations to remove Russia from the WTO.
- The sovereign debt rating of Russia reduced to junk overnight.

### Will the recent sanctions completely isolate Russia?

- Sanctions are unilaterally imposed and not by UNSC.
- Russia controls supply chains in metals like titanium, palladium and neon. It is a full spectrum commodity superpower. Also energy exports from Russia are not forbidden for two political reasons.
  - Europe will suffer if that happens.
  - U.S. is heading towards a mid-term election. U.S. doesn't would want gas prices to go up.
- And we have to see whether China will come to the rescue of Russia or not.
- So, it is not easy to isolate Russia.
- Only the global economic order is only sought to be rearranged.

## **What is the reason for this failure?**

- Even though Minsk agreement was endorsed UNSC has failed to enforce it.
- USA and European powers are equally responsible for carrying on with NATO in the 1990s.
- All this reflects that we do not have a settled international order.
- We are moving from something like a unipolar moment to a very messy multipolar world order, which is yet to take shape.

## **Is UN ineffective?**

- Recent war is a violation of the territorial integrity of states.
- Sovereignty of states is one of the principles which bind the UN.
- India was the first victims of the violation of this principle when our territory was occupied by Pakistan.
- Today Russia has vetoed this resolution in the UNSC, which was co-sponsored by about 80 countries.
- However U.S. has also vetoed a resolution condemning Israel's activities in its occupied territories.
- All this shows the irrelevance of the UNSC to the ordinary person affected in recent wars.
- It is a major blow to the UN and current P-5 structure.
- Veto-holders believe that the veto saves them from international scrutiny and for being able to do what they do and get away with it.
- This inability of the multilateral institutions like WTO, UNSC and NPT, to rewrite the rules will make them irrelevant if they continue to be discriminatory.

## **Do we need to reform the UN now?**

- The Ukraine crisis should actually act as a catalyst for the UNGA to convene a general conference to review the Charter.
- If there are issues with the veto, this is the place with the legal framework to do it.
- But there is no single word about UN reform in any of the recent statements.
- If it doesn't reform itself the world will seek a new order when people unilaterally do whatever they want to do.
- For this countries like India have to take a leadership role to articulate the issues during multilateral agenda.
- India has nothing to lose and everything to gain by going to the court of international public opinion and making our case strongly for a seat on a reformed Council.

## **Do consistent abstentions affect India's aspirations as a global leader?**

- India's abstentions are in India's interest.
- We have abstained to create room for diplomacy.
- Though abstention generally comes with negative connotations of sitting on the fence in certain circumstances abstention is a positive and strong decision.

## **Reference**

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/why-isnt-global-interconnectedness-halting-war/article65188591.ece>

