

INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF NATIONAL INTEREST

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INTRODUCTION:

- ◉ Nations use various mechanisms for the promotion of their national interest.
- ◉ Palmer and Perkins as well as many other scholars have dealt with the main instruments for the promotion of national interest.
- ◉ These can be listed as follows -
 1. Diplomacy,
 2. Propaganda,
 3. Alliances
 4. Psychological and political warfare,
 5. Economic methods,
 6. Imperialism and colonialism,
 7. Coercive methods and war

1. DIPLOMACY:

- ◉ Morgenthau considers diplomacy as the primary means of realizing national interest.
- ◉ Diplomacy is universally recognized and is the most frequently used method to realize the goals.
- ◉ The functions of a diplomat constitute a very important part of the promotion of national interests.
- ◉ All his functions are directed towards the protection of the national interests of his country.
- ◉ Among his most important functions is reporting to his government all relevant information, to execute the policies of his home country and to protect its interests.
- ◉ Diplomatic negotiations are employed to reconcile the different interests of the states through the process of mutual give and take.

DIPLMACY.....

- The diplomatic negotiations prove fruitful only if the interest of the concerned states are complimentary or compatible.
- On the other hand, in case of conflicting interest negotiations may not be of much success.

2. PROPAGANDA:

- ◉ In the contemporary world propaganda has become a major instrument of for the promotion of national interest.
- ◉ Propaganda is the art of convincing others about the goals and objectives or the end which are desired to be secured.
- ◉ States have set up permanent agencies for the systematic exploitation of the possibilities of propaganda as an instrument of national policy.
- ◉ In international relation propaganda means organized efforts by governments to induce either domestic groups or foreign states to accept policies favourable or at least not unfavourable to their own.

PROPAGANDA...

- ◉ In the post Second world war period it became a major component of the cold war between the Soviet Union and the US in their relations with the nations in the Third World.
- ◉ It has been a chief characteristics of Sino-Soviet rivalry.
- ◉ This instrument has been utilized in ‘hot’ as well as ‘cold’ wars, such as in Korea, in Vietnam, in Arab -Israel, in Gulf, I Indo-Pak, etc.
- ◉ The means of communication like the internet has increased the scope of propaganda as a means for securing support for the goals of national interest.

3. ALLIANCES:

- ◉ These are usually concluded by two or more states for the promotion and protection of their common interests.
- ◉ After the conclusion of the alliance, the protection of these common interests becomes a legal obligation of the member states.
- ◉ These alliances may be concluded for achieving different kinds of national interest.
- ◉ The character and tenure of the alliance will depend on the relative strength of those interests.

ALLIANCES...

- ⦿ Alliances are sought not only to protect common interests but also against common enemies.
- ⦿ Alliances could of any kind, such as political, military or of socio-economic nature.
- ⦿ Regional alliances mostly serve the purpose of economic cooperation and other common interests.

4. PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL WARFARE:

- ◉ Eisenhower associated psychological warfare with the struggle for minds of men.
- ◉ Psychological warfare means the use of propaganda against an enemy, together with such other operational measures of a military, economic or political nature as may be required to supplement propaganda.
- ◉ Political warfare includes the means short of war which a state takes to waken a particular enemy or enemies.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL WARFARE....

- Persuasion of friendly diplomacy is not political warfare.
- On the other hand, diplomacy or propaganda which has the intent of coerce must be regarded as political warfare.

5. ECONOMIC METHODS:

- ◉ Control over economic activities is another such instrument through which national interest can be realized.
- ◉ Both control and freedom of economic policies are consciously adopted by states in pursuit of their national interests.
- ◉ A state may adopt economic policies with the intention to injure another state.
- ◉ Some of the major economic instruments used to further national interests are tariffs, economic agreements, foreign aid, dumping and so on.

ECONOMIC METHODS.....

- ⦿ **Tariff** is a device for regulating imports and exports. It can be used for checking the flow of goods from other countries into the domestic markets and used for protecting domestic industries from harmful foreign competition.
- ⦿ Then countries use **economic aid and loans** as instruments to secure their interests in international relations. However these instruments have been used mostly by the developed countries because of their better bargaining position.

ECONOMIC METHODS.....

- ⦿ Grants are given on humanitarian grounds but they are also designed to serve the interests of the donor countries.
- ⦿ The developed countries also use dumping for various purposes. It means they export goods at prices lower than those charged from domestic buyers.
- ⦿ Economic methods are regularly employed to fulfill national interests both in peace and war.

6. IMPERIALISM & COLONIALISM:

- ◉ Imperialism and colonialism are other important means to promote national interests.
- ◉ The practitioners of imperialism and colonialism defended it on the ground that it was an obligation of advanced nations to help backward countries, to develop them socially, economically and politically.
- ◉ The main motives of imperialism were economic gains, increase in national prestige, national defense, the quest for competition free markets and sources for raw materials and fields of investment for the capitalist class of imperial powers.
- ◉ Vast oversea colonial empire added prestige and glory to nations.

IMPERIALISM & COLONIALISM

- ◉ Some states have attached lots of importance to the colonial sources of rubber, tin and other raw materials.
- ◉ Colonies may also be valuable reservoirs of manpower.
- ◉ The imperialists devised other means also, such as the threat of force, economic penetration and undermining of the established regimes.
- ◉ Colonies were also annexed as the spoils of war, in which the colonies suffered no direct conquest but were attached to others by sale.

7. COERCIVE METHODS AND WAR:

- ◉ States use coercive means, short of war, as the method for fulfilling their goals and objectives.
- ◉ some of the popular coercive means include issuing embargos, boycotts, reprisals, suspension of treaties, retaliation and severance of relations.
- ◉ Confiscation of property of the rival state for compensation for the wrongs, suspension of the operation of the treaties, seizure of ships at sea, etc. are other coercive means for the realization of national interest.
- ◉ An extreme form of coercive method is war, whereby a state uses its military power for securing its desired objective.

COERCIVE METHODS AND WAR...

- ◉ War may take the form of military bombardment and operations and military occupation.
- ◉ War can be used as a last resort when all other methods prove futile in the promotion of national interest.

CONCLUSION:

- ◉ Nations have the right to protect their national interest.
- ◉ The difficulty with the concept of national interest is that in many cases, it conflicts with the global ideals.
- ◉ Hence, the nations must keep their national interests in harmony with universal global ideals of peace and security.