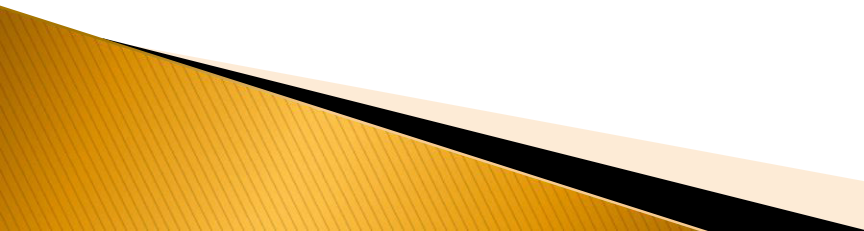


NATIONAL POWER

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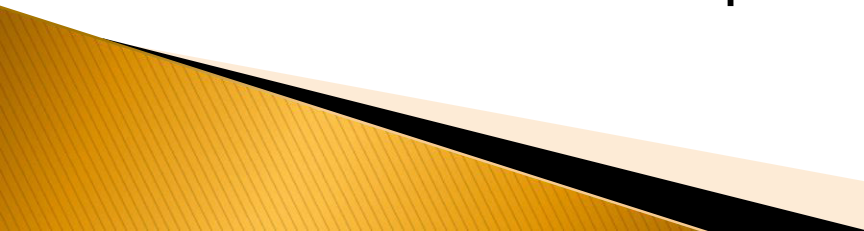
Introduction:

- ▶ National power is the power or capacity of a state to deal with the domestic and Foreign policy as effectively as possible to realize its national objectives.
 - ▶ In other words, it is the ability of a state to pursue these national interests or objectives.
 - ▶ According to Hartmann, “National power is the strength or capacity that a sovereign state can use to achieve its national interests.”
 - ▶ In short, national power is the totality of the state’s effectiveness in world politics.
 - ▶ It determines the status or position of the state in international sphere.
 - ▶ It is an off-shoot of the sovereignty of the state and there would be no national power without national sovereignty.
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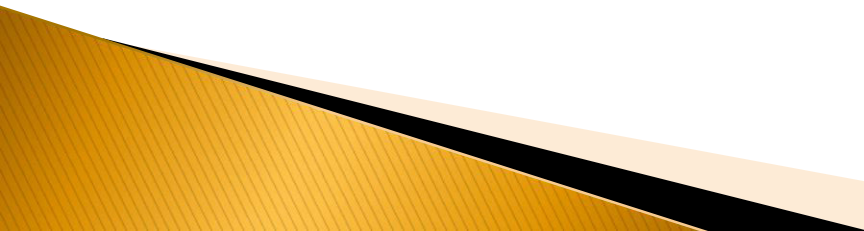
Meaning and Definitions:

- ▶ The term National power has been defined in different ways by different writers –
- ▶ “National power is the capacity to impose one’s own will on others by reliance on effective sanctions in case of non-compliance.” –George Schwarzenegger.
- ▶ “It is the strength or capacity that a sovereign state can use to achieve its national interests” – Prof. Hartmann.
- ▶ National power may be divided into three categories (Carr) – Military Power, Economic Power and Power over Opinion.

Nature of National Power:

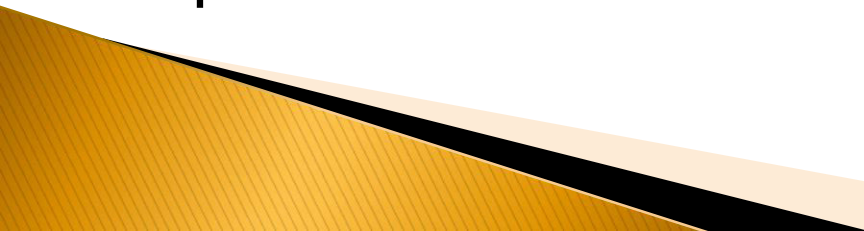
- ▶ National power has certain characteristic features which are as follows –
 1. **National Power is relative:** Since it is usually measured in terms of the powers of other states and therefore it is relative.
 2. **National Power is not Static:** It is usually subject to continuous change due to many reasons. Every nations economic and political position and power may change over a period of time.
 3. **Power consciousness of States:** The nature of power is such that every state tries to protect itself with the national power that they have.
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ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER:


- ▶ The Elements of National Power may be classified into two broad categories. They are – a. Tangible/Stable elements & b. Intangible/Unstable elements.
 - ▶ Tangible elements are –
 1. Geography &
 2. Natural Resources.
 - ▶ Intangible elements are –
 1. Population,
 2. Technology,
 3. Organization & Leadership
 4. National Character
 5. Morale
 6. Military element
 7. Ideology
 8. Diplomacy
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a. Tangible Elements – 1.

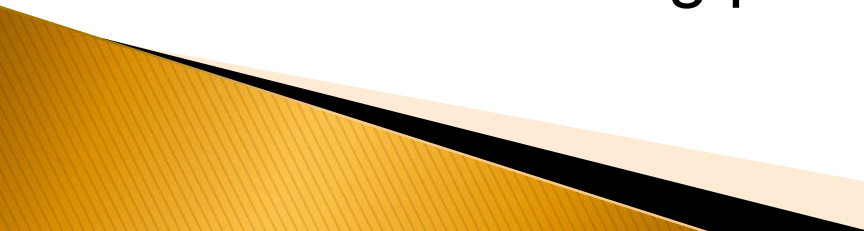
Geography:

- ▶ Geographical factors plays a very significant role in determining the national power of a nation.
 - ▶ Geographical factors have a decisive effect upon national development and civilizations.
 - ▶ “The foreign policy of a country is determined by its geography.” Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - ▶ Geographical factors include the factors of size, location, climate, shape, topography and boundaries.
 - ▶ Geography provides a stable element of national power.
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a. Size:

- ▶ The large territorial size of the state is in itself an element of power.
 - ▶ Large territory of a state has the following advantages – it can accommodate large population, can have a varied supply of natural resources, it has various military advantages, can locate vital centers of industry away from the reach of enemy attacks, etc.
 - ▶ However, a mere possession of big land area like the Sahara desert does not constitute national power.
 - ▶ Sometimes, having a large territory may become a liability as it add to the difficulty of achieving national unity, effective administration and cultural integration.
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b. Location:

- ▶ It is the location factor that has made states like USA, UK, Japan to emerge as great naval powers.
 - ▶ On the other hand, states like Germany and Russia developed their land force.
 - ▶ Buffer states are often forced to be neutral in foreign policy.
 - ▶ And land –locked countries like Nepal and Switzerland are forced to be dependent on their neighbors for an outlet in to the sea.
 - ▶ Again, the strategic location of Egypt has made it the centre of big power politics.
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c. Climate:

- ▶ Climate has a direct effect on the health & energy of the people.
 - ▶ Almost all major powers are located in the temperate zones.
 - ▶ Extremes of heat & cold are unfavourable for energy, productive capacity & national strength.
 - ▶ Temperate climate is more suitable for the promotion of Industry.
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d. Topography:

- ▶ Topographical features like Mountain ranges, rivers, coastlines etc is another important geographical factor which determines the national power of a nation.
 - ▶ Natural barriers on frontier save the nation from external aggression, e.g. The great Himalayan ranges along the northern frontiers of India saved her from the aggression of foreigners from that side until the 1960s.
 - ▶ Good rivers may help transportation throughout the state and also provides means for extensive irrigation.
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e. Fertility:

- ▶ The climate determines the fertility of the soil.
 - ▶ If the rainfall is uncertain, and if there is frequent drought conditions as in India, the development of national power is automatically limited.
 - ▶ If the country has to depend for food on foreign aid, it obstructs the development of national power and adoption of an independent national power. Thus food stuffs are a vital element in a nation's strength.
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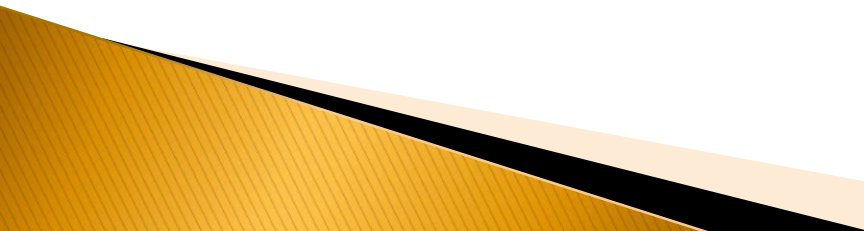
2. Natural resources:

- ▶ Industrialization & economic development greatly depends upon the availability of natural resources.
 - ▶ Natural resources are the gifts of nature & includes most of the minerals, flora fauna, fertility of the soil, water resources, etc.
 - ▶ Sometimes, the natural resources may become a liability in which case they may have to be destroyed.
 - ▶ Existence of natural resources may also encourage foreign aggression, for e. g. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990s due to its richness of oil resources.
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2. Natural resources.....

- a. **Foodstuffs:** of all the natural resources foodstuffs is of prime importance.
 - ▶ Any country enjoying self-sufficiency in this direction is likely to be powerful, **e.g. USA.**
 - ▶ Dependence on foreign food weakens the international stature of a state, especially during the times of war e.g. Britain before world war II was dependent for her food stuffs on a number of countries and when enemies obstructed the smooth flow of food supplies, the very existence of **Great Britain** was threatened. Likewise **Germans** were defeated in world war I due to the successful blockade of foodstuffs from outside by its enemies. In the similar way **India** was not able to pursue a vigorous foreign policy when she was dependent on foreign countries for the supply of food.

b. Minerals:

- ▶ The three most important minerals which have a direct relevance in the making of national power are iron, coal and oil.
 - ▶ The modern military force requires various types of minerals like for example, uranium or Thorium for Nuclear Bombs.
 - ▶ It was the lack of oil which was the main handicap of Hitler during the second world war.
 - ▶ The Arab countries are carefully treated by the great powers because of the oil which they possess.
 - ▶ However, it should be noted that the mere possession of natural resources will not make a nation powerful.
 - ▶ A strong nation can obtain resources by one or the other methods of power.
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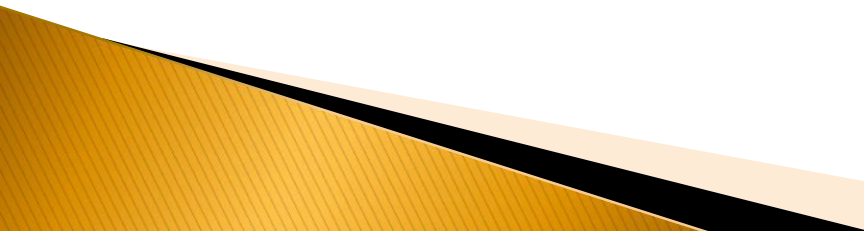
II. INTANGIBLE ELEMENTS:

1. **POPULATION:** It is another important source of national power.
 - ▶ Generally, large population is considered as a source of strength but if the nation is unable to utilize its human resources effectively then it becomes a source of its weakness.
 - ▶ It can be used either in military action or economic production.
 - ▶ In order to possess a large labour force, a large body of consumers it needs large population.
 - ▶ A large population is also necessary for a large military force.
 - ▶ Wars in Indo-china & Korea proved beyond doubt that there is still no substitute for infantry even in the era of push button wars.
 - ▶ It is not just the quantity of population which is a factor of major importance but also the quality and character of the population.
 - ▶ This quality dependent on age & sex distribution, trends in birth rates, standards of living, health & literacy, productive capacity and skills, customs and beliefs, moral and religious codes and standards, and vigor & morale.


2. Technology:

- ▶ Technology (applied science) is considered as one of the most prominent factor promoting national power.
- ▶ There are 3 areas of technological progress which have affected international relations are industrial technology, communications & military technology.
 - a. **Industrial Technology:** Industrial technology adds to the power of the country by creating economic surplus and frees the country from dependence on other countries
For example, USA was fully dependent on South East Asia for her rubber requirements till it discovered synthetic rubber and attained self sufficiency.
- The technological changes in the field of communication has helped not only in the transport of people, goods but also ideas to other countries. It has also affected diplomacy.


b. Military technology:

- ▶ Technological advancements played a very significant role in the military field.
 - ▶ USA & USSR emerged as super powers in the world due to their military technology. Britain could carve out its colonial empire due to her technological development.
 - ▶ Technological advancement in military field means better guns, tanks, warships, fighter planes, bombs etc.
 - ▶ Technology enables a nation to have a stronger army, greater capacity to win wars and influence or dominate other nations.
 - ▶ Thus, technology constitutes a very vital element of national power.
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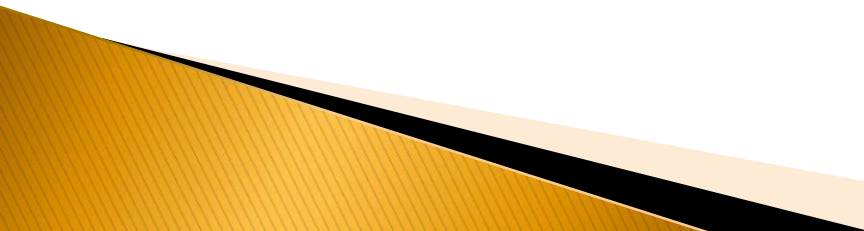
3. Organization & Leadership:

- ▶ Organization & leadership plays a very significant part in enhancing the national power of a nation & enables it to play an effective role in international politics.
 - ▶ Organization here means the pattern of government
 - ▶ Democracy is considered to be better than dictatorship as the involvement & participation of masses in the development & growth of the country is greater in the former than the latter.
 - ▶ It is the efficiency & honesty of the bureaucracy which contribute in a big way in enhancing the power of nation.
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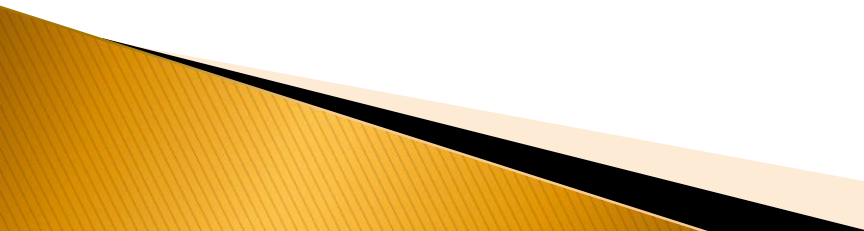
Organization & Leadership....

- ▶ Organization in the economic sphere means the fundamental principles which govern the conditions of production & distribution.
 - ▶ Economic organization may be based on socialism or capitalism.
 - ▶ Efficiency in production leads to surplus production which adds to national power.
 - ▶ Economically developed countries can assist the developing countries and it increases the influence and prestige of a country in the international field.
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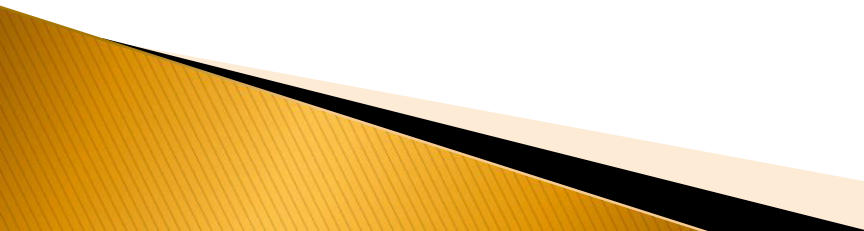
Leadership.....

- ▶ Leadership is the unifying factor which plays a dominant role in the utilization of national resources.
 - ▶ In order to build up power there should be all types of leaders in order to protect & promote a nation's interests.
 - ▶ Able Generals, Naval Captains & Air Chiefs increase military power.
 - ▶ Labour leaders and other spokesman of industry improve the standard of the labour. Wise diplomats strengthens the foreign policy.
 - ▶ An effective leadership acts as a source of inspiration to the people. The strength and progress of a nation also depends upon the factor of leadership.
 - ▶ Political leadership provides guidance to all other kinds of leadership.
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4. National Character:

- ▶ National character is the product of history and social experience and plays an important role in consolidating national power.
 - ▶ For example, the German character of discipline and authoritarianism is due to their background of dictatorship.
 - ▶ The American pragmatism is also a product of its background.
 - ▶ The Indian policy of non- alignment reflects the trait of detachment .
 - ▶ However, the national character is not static but dynamic as it keeps changing from time to time depending on various situations.
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5. Morale:

- ▶ It is the quality of the people of a nation to put the nation's welfare above their own personal welfare.
 - ▶ It is the willingness to sacrifice anything for the sake of motherland.
 - ▶ During the times of crisis like that of war this willingness to sacrifice must be there not only with the armed forces but also among the civilian population.
 - ▶ Differences in morale can be seen from one nation to another from one age to another. People in poor countries may be called upon to reduce consumption for military purposes or for capital investment for industrialization.
 - ▶ Faith in the national government is an important determinant of individuals willingness to make sacrifice for nation.
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6. Military Element:

- ▶ It is an important element of national power because ultimately all nations are forced to depend on their own system of security and power.
 - ▶ The military element is dependent on the quantity and quality of its armed forces.
 - ▶ A country with a large number of armed personnel is very powerful.
 - ▶ The nature of training, morale of army and military leadership assist in the maintenance of national power.
 - ▶ Apart from these, the quality of arms and ammunitions is also important to increase national power.
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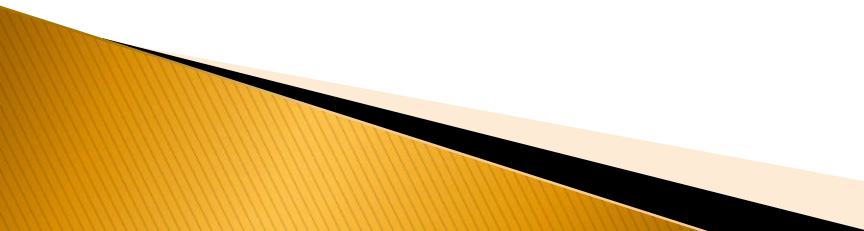
7. Ideology:

- ▶ Ideology is a set of ideas or doctrines followed by the people of a nation.
 - ▶ It is considered as an essential element of power.
 - ▶ Ideas or ideology which a government champions do a good deal to determine the extent of sympathy and popular support at home and abroad.
 - ▶ Ideology gives unity to a nation and gives a sense of common interest to people.
 - ▶ For example, Hitler took advantage of Ideology.
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8. Diplomacy:

- ▶ According to Morgenthau, it is the quality of a nation's diplomacy which gives direction and weight to other elements of national power.
 - ▶ The conduct of a nation's foreign affairs by its diplomats is for national power.
 - ▶ “Diplomacy is the brain of national power as national morale is its soul” said Morgenthau.
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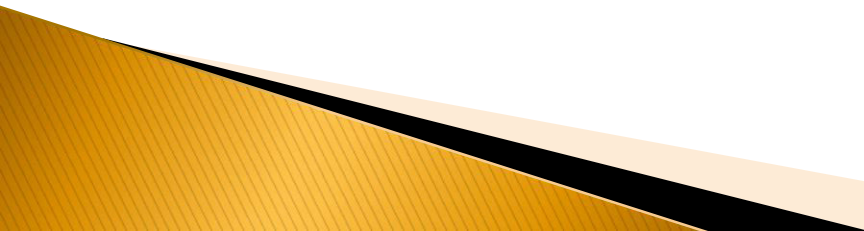
Limitations of National power:

- ▶ The main limitations on the national power are the following –
 1. Balance of Power,
 2. International Morality,
 3. World Public Opinion,
 4. International Law,
 5. Disarmament,
 6. International Organizations, etc.
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1. Balance of Power:

- ▶ Checking power with power is the balance of power which is often used in international politics to prevent a particular nation from imposing its will upon others.
 - ▶ The common techniques utilized to maintain the balance of power are like divide and rule, compensation & acquisitions, armaments and interventions, alliances and counter alliances and buffer state formations.
 - ▶ It is a means to preserve status-quo and to promote peace and security by averting the outbreak of war.
 - ▶ The power of one group of nations is somewhat equal to the other group so that no group may dare to attack the other group of nations.
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2. International Morality:

- ▶ National power is also limited by the concept of international morality.
 - ▶ To preserve society certain moral precepts have to be adopted like keeping of promises, trust in others' words, fair dealing, respect for international law, protection of minorities, repudiation of war as an instrument of foreign policy, etc.
 - ▶ If use of power go unchecked then it leads to war and disruption of society.
 - ▶ These principles of morality impose limitations on the use of power by a country in achieving its desired goals.
 - ▶ All states are expected to observe universally accepted moral code of conduct. This universal code is often described as international morality.
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3.The World Public Opinion:

- ▶ It is another limitation on the use of power by a nation.
 - ▶ No nation can exercise its power to secure its selfish ends in violation of World Public Opinion.
 - ▶ The world public opinion effectively guards the interest of the humanity as a whole against the execution of nation's particular policy decision which is against the interest of mankind
 - ▶ World public opinion has helped in the formation of international organizations like League of Nations in 1919 or UNO in 1945.
 - ▶ World Public opinion was very much against the recent US attack on Iraq to depose Saddam Husain.
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4. International Law:

- ▶ It is a code of conduct to regulate the behaviour of sovereign states.
 - ▶ If every nation used power or force against the other nations without observing any rules, then the world may come to be destroyed.
 - ▶ International Law imposes a check on the unlimited exercise of power by nation states for the fulfillment of the selfish interest of the nations.
 - ▶ It supports the formation of collective security to prevent naked attack by any nation on other nations.
 - ▶ Thus, the object of INL is to impose limits on the exercise of national power.
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5. Disarmament:

- ▶ The efforts at disarmament under the League of Nations & United Nations Organization have also limited the exercise of national power.
 - ▶ Efforts have been made through various conventions to control the use of weapons of mass destruction which has resulted in the curtailment of National power.
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6. International Organizations:

- ▶ The existence of world organizations restrained the power of the states.
 - ▶ Prevention of wars & promotion of peace & security in the world is the main objective of these organizations.
 - ▶ The states are expected to act in accordance with the principles stated in the Charters.
 - ▶ Though it has no power to interfere in the internal affairs of any states but when a state exposes a threat to peace it acts as a check on the unfair and unlimited use of power by the states.
 - ▶ It is a world forum for the ventilation of the grievances of the states.
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