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Q.) Discuss Realist Approach to the Study of International Relations ?

Ans.

Introduction

Realism is a set of related theories of international relations that emphasizes the role of the state, national interest and power in World Politics. Realism has dominated the Academic Study of international relations since the end of World War - II. Realism focuses on abiding patterns of interaction in international system lacking a centralised political authority. Realists are generally pessimistic about the possibility of Radical Systematic reform.

→ ~~Morgan~~ Morganthau Morganthau's 6 principles of Realism:-

- Morganthau's politics among nations (1948) helped to meet the need for a general theoretical framework for realism.

1st Principle: Politics is governed by objective laws; The first principle is the politics is governed by objective law that are based on Human Nature and Psychology. Society or Political system cannot be improved without understand these laws. Moreover, these laws cannot be surpassed as this will only lead to utter failure. With the help of such a theory based

On human nature and psychology, we can distinguish between truth and opinion. The theory also believed that human nature is very stable.

* 2nd Principle: National interests defines in terms of power; Secondly, the main characteristics of international politics enables us to distinguish it from other social sciences is the concept of national interest which Morgenthau defines in terms of power. It helps a lot to understand the event of political scene. As such, we assume that all states always think and act only to fulfill their interest by achieving power. Thus, he believes that the desire of national interest is the essence of any foreign policy.

3rd Principle: Interest cannot be fixed for all time; No doubt interest defined in terms of power is the key concept of political realism. It's meaning cannot be determined or fixed for all times. Professor Morgenthau believes the environment plays the most significant role in shaping the interests that determine political action. Thus, the concept of power according to Morgenthau must be adapted to the changing circumstances. He holds that the units of a distinct character. He further holds that this transformation will be achieved by the manipulation of the potential forces which were already in existence.

4th Principle: Moral principles cannot be applied to state's action; Political realism suggests that universal moral principles cannot be applied to a state's action in the abstract universal formulations but that they must be changed according to concrete circumstances of time and place. Realism believes that states are not expected to observe the same standards of morality and individuals. The individuals may sacrifice himself in defense of moral principles but the state has no right to sacrifice their liberty for moral principles.

5th Principle: Political sphere is autonomous; Political realism stresses that the political sphere is just autonomous as the respective spheres of economists, lawyers or the moralist. It thinks in terms of interest defined as power as the economist thinks in terms of utility, the lawyer, in terms of conformity of action with legal rules, the moralist in terms of conformity of action with moral principle. Political Realism is a very much conscious about the existence and relevance of non-political standards of thought, but it puts all these standards in subordination to the standard of politics.

6th Principle: No identification between moral aspirations of a nation and universal moral laws; Political Realism according to Morgenthau refuses to accept any sort of identification between the moral aspirations of a nation and moral laws that governed the universe. Realism considers

all nations as political actors pursuing national interest defined in terms of power. All nations pursue their policy that suspect the interest of other nations while promoting and protecting their own interests.

CONCLUSION

Classical Realism was not a coherent school of thought. It drew from a wide variety of sources and offered competing ^{visions} versions of the self, the state and the world. Classical Realists stressed the various barriers to progress and reform that allegedly inhered in human nature, in political institutions or in the structure of international system. Morgenthau's classical realism ultimately faded by the emergence of neo-liberal realism in the 1970s.