

1. Discuss how a regime change in a country can affect its bilateral relations. Elaborate with both historical and contemporary examples.

Answer:

- Regime changes can completely alter the course of a country's foreign policy. A regime change means not only a country's government changes, but also its governance system, its bureaucratic structure in part.
- Such a broad shift definitely has impact on all the policy making dimensions of a country and foreign policy is no different than that. Sometimes such changes are minimal and minor adjustments to previous course, while at other times they can completely turn the policy on its head.
- One major historical example of such a change is the change of regime in Bangladesh following the murder of its first president Sheikh Mujibur Rehman in 1975. His government was very close ally of India and deeply anti-Pakistan, which was seen as an aggressor and war criminal. However, his assassination brought pro-Pakistan and radical thinker Ziaur Rahman to power. His foreign policy was anti-India and he reestablished strong ties with Pakistan.
- These changes were brought not respect to India and Pakistan, but also regarding the entire foreign policy. While Sheikh Mujib was a NAM supporter, his successor was pro-USA.
- Similarly, in a modern example, we can consider the middle-east policy of USA, which has taken a complete U-turn under Bush and Obama. While, Bush always considered Iran as a rouge state and enemy, his successor has recognized it a strong regional power and has engaged with it in a nuclear deal, much at the cost of its friendship with a proven ally in Israel, which has been sidelined by Obama administration.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. More than a decade after it was passed, the implementation of the RTI Act leaves much to be desired. Comment. Also discuss the issues associated with the recent proposals to amend the RTI Act. (150 words)
2. Critically discuss the evolving policy on reservation in promotions in India with special focus on its ability to meet the objectives of social justice. (150 words)