

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE III
COURSE: BA LLB SEMESTER III
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MODULE: MODULE VI, COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Structure:

- Conditions for maintaining collective security
- Relevance of Collective Security Today

CONDITIONS FOR MAINTAINING COLLECTIVE SECURITY

The principle of collective security in order to work successfully as an instrument for providing peace must fulfil the following conditions.

1. The basic requirement of collective security is that it should function impartially. If collective security is to operate impartially government and people must exhibit flexibility of policy and sentiments.
2. The system of collective security must be able to muster at all time such overwhelming strength against the potential aggressor that the later should not repeat the aggression. The collective system must be able to meet any situation.
3. The nations which offer the combined strength to meet the threat of aggression under collective security system must have identical conception of security.
4. The nations must be willing to subordinate their political differences to the service of the world community by whole heartedly supporting collective action against the aggressor.
5. In the event of any aggression there should be unanimity among states in determining the aggressor.
6. Collective security must not be directed against any specific states group of states, but against aggression in general, that is against any aggression anywhere.
7. Collective security is incompatible with the traditional doctrine of neutrality in war. Neutrality strikes at the very root of collective security.
8. Collective security system necessitates the willingness of the nations to fight for the status-quo. Collective security does not accept a forcible change in the international order.

RELEVANCE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY TODAY

In its theoretical aspect collective security system appears to be logical but in its actual operation it reveals a number of shortcomings and drawbacks. The difficulties that come in the operation of the collective security system actually make the system itself unrealistic and unworkable. In reality collective security is an ideal which cannot be realized under the conditions prevailing on the international scene.

The collective security has not worked satisfactorily under the League of Nations and the United Nations. In fact the machinery of collective security has never been satisfactorily developed.

Collective security is based upon wrong assumptions which are mostly hypothetical. The conflicting interests of the nations, the lack of common outlook, cold war and group rivalries and the threat of nuclear war are the factors which run counter to an effective system of collective security. Whatever failures might have been faced in creating a system of collective security, its value as theory is meaningful.

The Gulf War against Iraq in 1991 can be cited as the first example of the collective security measures undertaken by the UNO as conceived by the UN Charter itself. This perhaps became possible as the Soviet Union herself disintegrated during the same period and became dependent upon the United States for reorganization of her economy. The world order had become unipolar and no country was in a position to challenge the US. The US too functioned in a responsible manner by consulting all other big powers in her war efforts, and the Security Council was transformed into a seat of collective action. Thus, Iraq was defeated proving the success of the collective security measures.

The success of collective security lies in the fact that today any aggression is condemned legally and morally by the international society, any aggression is everybody's business and aggression and problems of the disturbance of peace become the general concern of the international organization. Moreover, it is a standing warning to the potential aggressor that is to be opposed by the combined and overwhelming force.

REFERENCE:

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