

KEY TAKEAWAYS of RTC ON WEEKENING RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER AMIDST EMERGING SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

1. GENERAL / GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

- a. The post–Cold War international order is under sustained strain as geopolitical rivalry intensifies, multilateral institutions weaken, and trust among major powers declines.
- b. The present global order is largely shaped by Western historical experiences, governance models, and power structures formed after World War II.
- c. Western dominance is sustained through a combination of military strength, economic influence, cultural power, and control over global narratives and institutions.
- d. Western liberal democracy and human rights frameworks remain ideologically dominant despite widespread dissatisfaction with the social, economic, and environmental impacts of capitalism.
- e. Long-standing alliances are becoming fragile, leading to shifting geopolitical alignments and greater global uncertainty.
- f. Geo-economic competition is driven by supply chains, quests for critical resources, and technological dominance, reshaping geopolitical strategies.
- g. Post–World War II governance institutions no longer reflect contemporary power realities, widening the gap between formal order and realpolitik.
- h. International rules and institutions often reflect the strategic and economic interests of powerful states rather than functioning as neutral global frameworks.
- j. Stability in the international system is uneven, benefiting dominant nations while creating insecurity or disadvantage for weaker states.
- k. Middle powers are gaining diplomatic and strategic influence in regional and global affairs. These countries increasingly function as mediators, balancers, and governance gap-fillers where major powers are constrained or unwilling to create opportunities for a more inclusive, balanced, and adaptive global governance system.
- l. Economic instruments including tariffs, sanctions, export controls, and financial restrictions have become primary tools of statecraft and coercion.

- m. The fusion of economic and national security now requires integrated, adaptive policy responses to non-military coercion.
- n. Traditional arms control mechanisms are weakening while military competition and multi-domain warfare driven by new technologies are intensifying.
- p. Strategic competition between the United States and China is redefining trade routes, maritime dominance, and alliance structures, particularly in the Asia - Pacific.
- q. Intensifying rivalry over critical sea lanes in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean is directly affecting global commerce and regional stability.
- r. Non-traditional Maritime security challenges are expanding to include use of AI & innovative technologies by dominant powers/groups, cyberattacks on infrastructure, hybrid warfare, transnational crime, and disruption of undersea assets.
- s. Coordinated multilateral naval missions and cooperative security frameworks are essential to protect global maritime commons.
- t. Multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations, are losing effectiveness because of geopolitical rivalry, veto politics, and technological transformations.
- u. Future naval efficacy will depend on interoperability, intelligence sharing, operational readiness, and investment in AI-enabled, cyber-resilient, and autonomous technologies.
- v. Inequality between the Global North and South persists due to control over technology, knowledge, finance, and development pathways, reinforced by international financial institutions.
- w. International collaboration on technology standards, governance frameworks, and legal regimes is necessary for naval order at sea.

2. **PAKISTAN-SPECIFIC PERSPECTIVE**

- a. Pakistan's maritime domain offers substantial Blue-Economy potential across fisheries, offshore energy, transport, tourism, and coastal development.
- b. Sustainable governance and climate-resilient planning can transform coastal regions into engines of trade, connectivity, and economic growth.

- c. Pakistan's geographic position at the junction of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East provides inherent transregional connectivity advantages.
- d. Persistent India–Pakistan tensions continue to shape South Asian security dynamics and complicate broader diplomatic engagements.
- e. Strategic infrastructure especially Gwadar Port and CPEC can anchor Pakistan's role as a corridor for trade, energy, and regional integration. Diversified diplomatic and economic partnerships are essential to fully realize these connectivity opportunities.
- f. Maritime ports and logistics hubs require Zero Trust cybersecurity architectures to defend against evolving digital and hybrid threats.
- g. Advanced monitoring, identity management, and rapid cyber response systems are critical for resilient maritime infrastructure protection.
- h. Investment in cyber capability, artificial intelligence, and autonomous maritime systems will enhance domain awareness and deterrence.
- j. Pakistan can emerge as a constructive middle-power actor by supporting secure maritime commons, international law, anti-piracy cooperation, and environmental stewardship.
- k. Balanced engagement with major powers alongside proactive regional diplomacy will enable Pakistan to contribute to stable, rules-guided, and resilient maritime governance.