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ASSIGNMENT QUESTION: What is the Position of the developing countries in the present world order?

Several questions come to the fore front when this question is brought into focus. These questions include:

1. Are developing countries in the periphery of the present world order?
2. Are developing countries marginalized in the present world order?
3. Are developing countries playing any challenging roles in the present world order?
4. Are these developing countries dominant powers in the present world order?

Before any of these questions can be addressed it is important to understand the term developing countries and world order. According to Wikipedia, A developingcountry (or a low and middle incomecountry (LMIC), less developed country, less economically developed country (LEDC), or underdeveloped country) is a country with a less developed industrial base and a low humanitarian development index (HDI) relative to other countries. Developing countries tend to have some characteristics in common. For example, with regards to health risks, they commonly have: low levels of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; energy poverty; high levels of pollution (e.g. air pollution, indoor air pollution, water pollution); high proportion of people with tropical and infectious diseases (neglected tropical diseases); high number of road traffic accidents; and generally poor infrastructure. Often, there is also widespread poverty, low education levels, inadequate access to family planning services, corruption at all government levels and a lack of so-called good governance. Effects of global warming (climate change) are expected

to impact developing countries more than wealthier countries, as most of them have a high "climate vulnerability". The Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations were set up to help overcome many of these problems. Development aid or development cooperation is financial aid given by governments and other agencies to support the economic, environmental, social and political development of developing countries. With the highlighted commonalities, it is more than safe to list the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America as developing countries.

World order is an international-relations term describing the distribution of power among world powers. The term "**new/present world order**" has been used to refer to any new period of history evidencing a dramatic change in world political thought and the balance of power. Despite various interpretations of this term, it is primarily associated with the ideological notion of world governance only in the sense of new collective efforts to identify, understand, or address worldwide problems that go beyond the capacity of individual nation-states to solve.

The phrase "new world order" or similar language was used in the period toward the end of the First World War in relation to Woodrow Wilson’s vision for international peace;Wilson called for a League of Nations to prevent aggression and conflict. The phrase was used sparingly at the end of World War II when describing the plans for the United Nations and the Bretton Woods system partly because of its negative associations with the failed League of Nations. However, many commentators have applied the term retroactively to the order put in place by the World War II victors as a "new world order."

The most widely discussed application of the phrase of recent times came at the end of the Cold War. Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George H. W. Bush used the term to try to define the nature of the post-Cold War era and the spirit of great power cooperation that they hoped might materialize. Gorbachev's initial formulation was wide-ranging and idealistic, but his ability to press for it was severely limited by the internal crisis of the Soviet system. In comparison, Bush's vision was not less circumscribed: "A hundred generations have searched for this elusive path to peace, while a thousand wars raged across the span of human endeavor. Today that new world is

Struggling to be born, a world quite different from the one we've known". However, given the new unipolar status of the United States, Bush's vision was realistic in saying that "there is no substitute for American leadership". The Gulf War of 1991 was regarded as the first test of the new world order: "Now, we can see a new world coming into view. A world in which there is the very real prospect of a new world order. It is important to note, the world order is referred to as the present world order because, and many other orders have existed before it. From the European imperial order that established the dominance of colonialism, to the present world order.

The previous world order as created by Europe, leaves little to no room for the developing countries to become dominant powers. Therefore, it is a sad reality that these developing countries are not dominant powers in the present world order, but rather part of the periphery.

This is because, Europe and North America, continue to dominate the world order. The periphery are countries that were colonized. They are also the major producers of raw materials.

Developing countries are heavily marginalized. They are often crippled when the world economy crumbles as revenue from exports reduce. China as a developing country tries to challenge the dominant powers. With the leadership of China, marginalized countries are trying to create a new world order. A multi polar world order. China has been able to challenge the United States in all spheres. With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, china has been able to combat the pandemic to a large extent. While the developed countries such as America (US) are still riddled with fear and confusion. Poverty has also played a huge role in the easy marginalization of developing countries.

With a strong contender such as China, The hierarchical and dominating present world order is trying to be toppled but china is just one country out of many on the side of the marginalized developing countries. This is a bit defeating as the developed countries have more players on their team which include, France, The United Kingdom, and The United States etc.

Developing countries are playing challenging roles but the fact they are marginalized, hinders their impact in the present world order. They cannot produce finished goods, they do not have veto-power in international institutions, they are riddled with poverty, and they face high level internal Conflict, they face inequality (the financial gap between the rich and the poor, is quite large), they are highly dependent on the developed countries.

In conclusion, the present world order is heavily marginalized with little or no benefits. The little benefits are hardly enough to help these developing countries command more impact. The developing countries are playing from a highly disadvantaged position in the present world order.