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**QUESTION**

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

**ANSWER**

Developing countries have not had a definite position in previous world orders, in fact, they only came into being at the end of the inter-war order (the world war two order). The term developing countries arose during the cold war, when two opposing blocs, one led by the United States (first), the other led by the USSR (second) appeared to dominate world politics. Within this bipolar model, the developing world consisted of economically and technologically less developed countries belonging to neither bloc (non-aligned), although this was only on paper as they integrated with either bloc on the basis of financial aid or ideology. The developing countries contained in some two-thirds of the world's population, are located in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Some of these countries are moving out of their previous situation and may soon join the ranks of industrialized countries e.g. China, the Asian tigers. Others, with economies considered intrinsically incapable of development, are at times lumped together as forming the ‘underdeveloped countries.

The position of developing countries can be explained on the basis of four aspects which are; Are the developing countries part of the dominant or core powers? Or are they playing any challenging roles to the dominant powers? Are they marginalised in the present world order or making any impacts on the international arena?

Developing nations are seen as weaker in the international system by developed nations, colonialism and its legacy of has diminished whatever power the developing world may have and turned them into a haven for resources and brain power that the developed world may plunder from. For instance, a populous third world, developing state like Nigeria has high numbers of its citizens migrating to Europe for ‘the want of a better life’, some of the country’s citizens do not mind going through dangerous routes in North Africa (for example Libya and the political crisis the state has been going through since the assassination of its former leader Muammar Gaddaffi) fully aware of the inhumane conditions that lay in store for them.

Poverty and corruption is the order of the day in the developing world, developing states have been ranked as the most corrupt by many international organisations and ranking agencies, the corruption has been etched deep into the fabric of their societies that it is difficult to pinpoint its origin, it is however important to note that not all developing states are riddled with corruption and poverty, some states in the third world ran higher than developed states in the international order built and led by the United States and its partners is in crisis. In the Middle East, East Asia, and even in Western Europe, long-standing regional orders are in transition or breaking down. Global international agreements and institutions—across the realms of trade, arms control, environment, human rights—seem to be weakening. For seventy years the United States has stood at the centre of a Western-oriented, liberal international system, organized around openness, rules, and multilateral cooperation. After the cold war this American liberal hegemonic order spread outward and seemed to offer the world a universal logic for global politics. But that unipolar moment has now passed. Today, the United States and the Western industrial democracies, roiled by nationalist and populist upheavals, have turned inward and appear less committed to their own post-war liberal international project. The first world. Other factors are often times seen as the cause of the aforementioned factors, which are: bad governance and inability of the state to use its resources effectively.

The Third World also displays little homogeneity; it is divided by race, religion, culture, and geography, as well as frequently opposite interests. It generally sees world politics in terms of a global struggle between rich and poor countries the industrialized North against the backward South. Some nations, such as those of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), have found ways to assert their economic importance as sources of raw materials indispensable to advanced societies, and others may follow suit. Widely advocated within the Third World is a so-called New Economic Order, which through a combination of aid and trade agreements would transfer wealth from the developed to the developing nations

Also, to a lesser degree and in less obvious ways, the promotion of human rights and democracy in the third world is extremely poor when compared to that of the first world, which is why it has also been assumed that Western states through their foreign policies control third world states through international economic institutions for loans and grants to developing countries.

The international order built and led by the United States and its partners is in crisis. In the Middle East, East Asia, and even in Western Europe, long-standing regional orders are in transition or breaking down. Global international agreements and institutions—across the realms of trade, arms control, environment, human rights—seem to be weakening. For seventy years the United States has stood at the centre of a Western-oriented, liberal international system, organized around openness, rules, and multilateral cooperation. After the cold war this American liberal hegemonic order spread outward and seemed to offer the world a universal logic for global politics. But that unipolar moment has now passed. Today, the United States and the Western industrial democracies, roiled by nationalist and populist upheavals, have turned inward and appear less committed to their own post-war liberal international project, it is this world order that the third world follows.s