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Q2

The empires of the future will be the empires of the mind.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Name the source:** Churchill at Harvard, 1943 - future empires of the mind
- **One stand:** land and armies still matter; the prize now is knowledge, narrative, code
- Move through education, science, culture, digital power, ethics. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a mind that serves a republic, not a feed

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a launch on a cracked phone. Stand:** the prize is mind; keep it public.
- **Headings:** self, science, education, digital, ethics, then one counter.

Earn Churchill once; Tagore or Ambedkar once. Peg ISRO or UPI, not a dump.

Close on a mind that serves a republic.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A boy in a small town watches a satellite launch on a cracked phone. No border moved that afternoon. A capacity did. Churchill told Harvard that the empires of the future would be empires of the mind. The boy's phone is already a province of someone else's.

One stand

Territory still exists. The contest that will decide dignity is over who thinks, who teaches, who owns the model, and whose story a child believes. Write to keep the mind as a public good, not a colony.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Empire:** command over others' choices - once by fort, now by school, patent, platform, myth.
- **Mind:** science, art, faith, data, attention.
- **Churchill (1943):** after a war of steel, a warning about ideas. Do not turn it into a TED slogan.

Self

- Attention is the first colony. A day without a book is a day under someone else's empire.
- Doubt and craft beat a downloaded opinion.

Knowledge and science

- **Labs, patents, chips, vaccines:** mind as hard power.
- **Peg:** **ISRO** and public digital rails (Aadhaar-UPI stack) - capacity a republic built, still contested in design and privacy.

Culture and education

- A language that cannot do science or poetry is already a subject people.
- NEP's claim is a years-bet on the mind; coaching-as-destiny is a smaller empire of fear.

Digital and narrative

- **Who owns the model, the map, the newsfeed:** a new East India Company of attention.
- **Deepfakes:** an empire that occupies memory.

Ethics

- **An empire of the mind without dharma is propaganda.** **Ambedkar:** cultivate the mind and constitutional morality.

The counter

Food, fuel, and a border still decide whether a mind has a desk. Do not preach "soft power" to a hungry district. Steel and grain remain. The line ranks the future prize; it does not abolish the old ones.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** build schools and chips, and still ask whose story the child is living in. A republic's empire should be literacy and doubt, not a captive feed. Expand each heading in the hall - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Churchill

Harvard, 1943: the empires of the future are the empires of the mind. Name the year; do not fake a page.

Tagore

Where the mind is without fear - an Indian cousin: mind as freedom, not as conquest.

ISRO

Public science as national mind-capacity - not a slogan, a desk and a launch.

UPI / DPI

A public rail for payments: mind-infrastructure. Ask who governs the data.

Art. 21A

Education as a right - the legal floor of any 'empire of the mind'.

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