

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q3(b)

Account for the rise of European Union as a highly influential regional organisation

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 2 · 15 marks · Changing International Political Order

Changing International Political Order: Rise of super powers; strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and Cold War; Nuclear threat; Non-aligned movement; Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.

Core demand of the question

- Account for the rise of the European Union as a highly influential regional organisation
- Write at 15-mark length

Revision summary

The EU grew from the 1951 coal and steel pool to a union of law, market, and for many members a currency.

Mitrany and Haas explain the method of task integration and spillover.

Market size and regulation give the Union influence beyond its members.

Enlargement spread that legal order eastward.

Military dependence on NATO and internal splits cap that influence.

Introduction

The European Union rose from a coal-and-steel pool among six States to a union with a **single market**, a currency for many members, and a dense legal order. Influence comes from market size, law, and a method of pooling sovereignty that other regions have not copied at the same depth.

Body

Historical rise

- The Schuman Plan and the European Coal and Steel Community (1951) tied French and German heavy industry after two world wars.
- The Treaty of Rome (1957) created a common market. The **Single European Act** and the Maastricht Treaty (1992) added political union language, a path to the euro, and a common foreign and security policy in name.
- Enlargement after 1993 and 2004 spread EU law across **Central and Eastern Europe**. The **Lisbon Treaty (2007)** adjusted institutions after that growth.

Why it became influential

- **Functionalist and neofunctionalist logic, from Mitrany and Haas, fits the early decades:** trade and regulation spilled into more policies.

- The **single market** sets product, data, and competition rules that exporters worldwide must meet. That is regulatory influence, sometimes called the **Brussels effect**.
- The euro, the European Central Bank, and a large aid and trade network give the Union weight in the IMF, WTO, and climate talks.
- Internally it is a security community. Externally it is a civilian power that still relies on NATO for hard defence, which is a limit as well as a condition of its rise.

Limits that still sit inside the account

- Brexit showed that pooling is reversible in politics if not easily in law.
- Disagreement on migration, fiscal union, and Ukraine-war energy policy shows that influence is not the same as a single State.
- For Waltz, the EU does not cancel anarchy among great powers. For Keohane, it is the densest regime complex in the system.

Flow diagram

ECSC Rome Maastricht -> Single market euro law
Single market euro law -> Global regulatory influence
NATO hard security -external condition. -> Global regulatory influence

Conclusion

The EU rose through task-based integration, enlargement, and a **single market** whose rules travel. It is highly influential as a regulatory and economic union. It is less so as a military actor, which is part of the same history.

Facts & figures

Treaty of Rome 1957

Created the European Economic Community among the original six.

Maastricht 1992

Created the European Union name, the path to Economic and Monetary Union, and new policy pillars.

Lisbon Treaty 2007

Reformed EU institutions after eastern enlargement; created a permanent President of the European Council and a High Representative.

Single market

Free movement of goods, services, capital, and people among members, with common regulation.

Brussels effect

Term for extra-territorial reach of EU product, privacy, and competition rules through market access.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/psir-gs-2/2023/account-f-or-the-rise-of-european-union-as-a-highly-influential-regional-organisation/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams