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

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Q4(b)

What do you mean by offensive and defensive realism?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 2 · 15 marks · Comparative Politics

Comparative Politics: Nature and major approaches; political economy and political sociology perspectives; limitations of the comparative method.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/psir-gs-2/2023/what-do-you-mean-by-offensive-and-defensive-realism/>

Kenneth Waltz

Theory of International Politics (1979): anarchy, capability distribution, and security-seeking States.

John Mearsheimer

The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (2001): great powers maximise power toward regional hegemony.

Security dilemma

Defensive steps that appear offensive to others, producing spirals.

Robert Jervis

Offence-defence balance and misperception as variables that can ease or worsen the dilemma.

Regional hegemony

Mearsheimer's goal-condition in which a great power dominates its own region and blocks peers elsewhere.

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