

23/6/21

Ques) In the context of soft power India and China remains equally competitive in the context of international politics. Do you agree with this view? Comment

Ans) Soft power is having an ideological or cultural influence on other nation's diplomacy through persuasion rather than coercion.

Soft classical India and classical China were much more competitive with respect to soft power as we can see India's soft power influence a little dwindling as compared to China.

Soft power can be evaluated with three dimensions

- ↳ foreign policy - the influence by legitimacy and morality of nation's foreign policy
- ↳ cultural influence - the reverence given by others ^{to} the nation's culture
- ↳ political influence - the influence by the political principles of the nation.

Studies and survey by Lowy Institute of Australia shows that in

1. In ^{overall} diplomacy china ranks 1st and India ranks 6th out of 25 countries
2. In cultural influence china ranks 2nd while India ranks 4th
3. In political influence - the governance effectiveness index shows china in the top 32% ranks 10th and India in top 43%, ranks 12th.

Though, the difference is not vast, some acknowledgement of this aspect is a must for the foreign policy formulators

Way forward -

1. setting up more number of worldwide embassies (most of them are regional presently)
2. Increasing information outflow by allowing more foreign students (India holds some thousands against lakhs in china)
3. Ensuring "political stability & absence of ~~violation~~ violence" as it serves as the basis for political influence

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