International Relations · GS - II

Divergent approaches among Western allies towards negotiations with Russia highlight the challenges of maintaining collective security during geopolitical conflicts. Examine the implications of such differences for NATO cohesion and European strategic autonomy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Transatlantic relations, NATO collective defence, strategic autonomy, divergent national interests, Russia–Ukraine conflict, energy security, diplomatic coordination, European defence capabilities, burden-sharing, geopolitical stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia–Ukraine conflict has exposed differences among Western allies regarding negotiations, sanctions and long-term security arrangements. Such differences test transatlantic unity and European strategic priorities.

Implications for NATO Cohesion

Uncoordinated diplomatic initiatives can weaken collective bargaining power and create uncertainty regarding security commitments. Differences over sanctions, military assistance and relations with Moscow may also complicate alliance decision-making. However, NATO's collective-defence framework continues to provide an institutional basis for cooperation.

European Strategic Autonomy

Dependence on external military capabilities, intelligence and energy supplies has encouraged European countries to strengthen their strategic autonomy. This requires greater defence investment, indigenous capabilities, diversified energy sources and stronger coordination within the European Union.

Way Forward

Western allies should maintain diplomatic consultation, coordinate negotiating positions and ensure that any settlement respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. Stronger European defence capabilities should complement, rather than undermine, transatlantic cooperation.

Conclusion

Alliance unity does not require identical national policies, but it requires strategic coordination and credible security commitments. A coordinated approach is essential for sustainable European security.

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