International Relations · GS - II

The proposed comparison between a contemporary trilateral summit of major powers and the 1945 Yalta Conference raises concerns about great-power diplomacy and the exclusion of smaller states. Critically examine the relevance and limitations of this historical analogy in the present international order.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Yalta Conference, great-power politics, spheres of influence, strategic bargaining, sovereignty, Ukraine conflict, nuclear diplomacy, multilateralism, Global South, United Nations, representation of smaller states, changing global order.

Model Answer

Introduction

The 1945 Yalta Conference brought together the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union to discuss the post-war international order. Comparisons with contemporary major-power summits reflect concerns about powerful states negotiating global issues without adequate participation of affected countries.

Relevance of the Yalta Analogy

1. **Great-power bargaining:** Major powers continue to exercise disproportionate influence over international security and conflict resolution.
2. **Spheres of influence:** Negotiations involving Ukraine and other geopolitical flashpoints raise concerns about powerful states determining the strategic choices of smaller countries.
3. **Nuclear diplomacy:** Arms control and strategic stability remain heavily dependent on negotiations among nuclear powers.
4. **Exclusion and representation:** Decisions taken without affected countries can undermine their sovereignty and political agency.
5. **Power-based international order:** Such diplomacy highlights tensions between geopolitical interests and the principles of sovereign equality.

Limitations of the Comparison

- The Yalta leaders were wartime allies, whereas contemporary major powers are strategic competitors.
- Today's international system includes numerous independent states, regional organisations and multilateral institutions.
- International law and global economic interdependence constrain unilateral arrangements.
- Smaller and middle powers possess greater diplomatic platforms than in 1945.

Way Forward

Conflict resolution should ensure the participation of affected states, respect territorial integrity and strengthen multilateral institutions. India's advocacy of strategic autonomy, inclusive global governance and reformed multilateralism is relevant in this context.

Conclusion

The Yalta analogy is useful for understanding the risks of great-power bargaining, but the contemporary world is institutionally and geopolitically different. A legitimate international order must combine strategic negotiations with sovereign equality and inclusive multilateral decision-making.