SYSTEM OF BALANCE OF POWER
INTRODUCTION

- Famous Philosopher Kautilya has explained the concept of the balance of power in his world famous book ‘Arthshastra’. In his book he has suggested a particular system of power distribution between a state and its neighbouring states which can secure a balance and a favourable power position of the state. According to many scholars it is a best principle for securing national interests without getting involved in wars. Till the first half of the 20th century, balance of power was considered the only modern form of the international order.
The meaning of Balance of Power, we may take the analogy of balance with a pair of scale. If the weight in both the scale is equal, there is balance and it is not equal, then there is no balance. The same analogy can be applied to international relations. The two states or two alliance of states are in balance if they are equally powerful. But in case a state or an alliance of states is more powerful in comparison to other state or alliance of states, then there is no balance of power. Balance of Power is essential for the maintenance of world peace.

Acc to Hans. J. Morgenthau, “Balance of power refers to an actual state of affairs in which power is distributed among several nation with approximate equally.”

Acc to Palmer and Parkins, “It (Balance of power) is the equilibrium of type represented by a pair of scale. When the weights in the scale are equal, balance result.”
CHARACTERISTICS OF BALANCE OF POWER

1. Equilibrium
2. Temporary and unstable
3. Active Intervention
4. Supporter of status-quo
5. War is the test of Balance of Power
6. Subjective and Objective Approach
7. Conflicting Aims
8. Big powers are actors of Balance of Power
9. Multiplicity of States Essential
10. Protection of national Interests
11. Need of Balancer
12. Question Mark on the viability of Balance of Power
13. Balance of Power is not a device of Peace
DEVICES OF BALANCE OF POWER OR METHOD OF BALANCE OF POWER

- 1. Compensation and Partition
- 2. Alliance and Counter Alliances
- 3. Armament and Disarmament
- 4. Intervention and Non-Intervention
- 5. Divide and Rule
- 6. Buffer States or Zones
- 7. Balancer or Holder of Balance
- 8. Domestic Methods

Other methods are:
- 1. Power consolidation
- 2. To take peace Initiative
- 3. By establishing friendly Relations
MERITS OF BALANCE OF POWER

1. Guarantee of Peace
2. Curbs Imperialistic Tendencies
3. Establishes stability in International Relations
4. Maintains International Law
5. Ensures justice in international relations
6. Preserves Multi-State System
7. Preserves the independence of states
8. Discourage Wars
9. Provides security to smaller States
DEMERITS OF BALANCE OF POWER

1. Balance of Power can not establish Peace
2. Divides the world
3. No real guarantee of security
4. Nations are static Units
5. Based on wrong Assumptions
6. Unrealistic Principle
7. Big Power game
8. Dominance of one power can also secure Peace
9. Narrow Base
10. Nations are not break alliances at their Will
11. Not suitable to the present day International Situations
RELEVANCE OF BALANCE OF POWER IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES

- 1. Entry of new forces
- 2. Reduction in the number of powers
- 3. End of European dominance in international politics
  - 4. Impact of Bi-polar world
- 5. Change in Psychological Environment
- 6. Lack of balancer
- 7. Impact of Nuclear Weapons
- 8. Impact of ideological Factors.
- 9. Decline of colonialism and imperialism
- 10. Disparities in the powers of Nations
- 11. Advent of new international Actors
- 12. Decline of Alliance.
BALANCE OF POWER CAN NOT BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED

- 1. Reality of power
- 2. Uncommitted Nations
- 3. Nation state System
- 4. Multi-polar World
- 5. End of ideology
- 6. Existence of balancer
CONCLUSION

- We come to the conclusion that the concept of Balance of power is relevant today. While expressing views Palmer and Perkins have said, “As long as the nation state system is the prevailing pattern of international society balance of power politics will be followed in practice how so ever soundly they are damned in theory.”
REFERENCES

- Schleicher, Charles P, “Introduction to International Relations”, INC N. Jersy 1963