

Realism and Climate Change: Evaluating Great Powers' Foreign Policies in a Warming World

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Abstract

This article investigates the realism in international relations and the unyielding global issue of climate change by assessing the foreign policies of great powers in a warming world. The review resolves the focal inquiry of how realist standards impact the methodologies of great powers, like the US, China, and the European Union, in answering climate change difficulties. This research utilizes a blended strategies approach, consolidating subjective investigation of strategy reports, settlements, and master interviews. Our findings demonstrate that realist standards, including personal responsibility, power legislative issues, and state-driven conduct, assume a huge part in molding the environmental strategies of these great powers. Prominently, the US will, in general, focus on public interest and monetary development in its environmental strategies, while China offsets ecological worries with power gathering. In the meantime, the European Union features a more helpful methodology that aligns with the realist idea of organizations as devices for power projection. This examination adds to a superior comprehension of how realism illuminate environmental discretion in a multipolar world. The ramifications of this study stretch out to the domains of international relations theory and work on, featuring the requirement for a realist focal point in breaking down and tending to the complicated and interconnected international difficulties presented by climate change in the twenty-first 100 years.

Keywords: Realism, Climate Change, Foreign Policy, Power Politics, Climate Politics.

Introduction

Synopsis of the Global Climate Change Predicament and its Implications for International Relations

Climate change is one of the most squeezing international problems in recent memory, presenting dangers to ecological soundness, human security, and monetary prosperity. The logical agreement on the truth and seriousness of climate change is overpowering, and its effects are, as of now, being felt around the world. As international temperatures increase, the world is encountering more regular and extreme climate occasions, liquefying ice glaciers, rising ocean levels, and interruptions to biological systems. The results of climate change reach out past the ecological

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domain, as they have significant ramifications for global governmental issues. The acknowledgment that climate change isn't exclusively a natural issue yet, in addition to a question of international concerns, has prompted the rise of environmental discretion as a vital part of international strategy. Countries, especially great powers, have been constrained to take on systems and positions on climate change that mirror their apparent public interests. These interests frequently incorporate energy security, monetary development, and the protection of international impact, which are focal reservations in global governmental issues. Thus, the inquiry emerges of how the realist standards of global relations theory, which underscores state-driven conduct, power governmental issues, and personal circumstance, impact the international strategies of great powers about climate change.

Featuring the Need to Assess the International Policies of Great Powers in Tending to Climate Change

As climate change speeds up and escalates, the international community faces a developing basic to resolve the issue successfully. Great powers, like the US, China, and the European Union, play an essential part in forming the international reaction to climate change because of their critical impact on international governmental issues, financial matters, and natural strategies. Understanding how these great powers explore the perplexing convergence of energy and climate change in their international approach is essential to appreciating the elements of global environment discretion. While there is an extensive body of literature tending to climate change in global relations, an engaged assessment of the impact of Realist standards on the international strategies of great powers is justified. This study looks to fill that hole by giving a nuanced examination of how personal responsibility, power contests, and state-driven conduct impact the environmental strategies of these critical powers. Thus, it plans to add to a more profound comprehension of the role of realism in environment tact and its suggestions for international endeavors to battle climate change.

Research Question: Characterizing the Focal Exploration Question Connected with Realism and Climate Change

The focal examination question that directs this study is:

"How do Realist standards, like personal responsibility, power legislative issues, and state-driven conduct, impact the international strategies of great powers, including the US, China, and the European Union, intending to the difficulties of climate change?"

This exploration question digs into the transaction between Realist standards and environmental tact. It looks to reveal the degree to which great powers' international strategies are molded by Realist contemplations about climate change.

Significance: Talking about the Significance of the Concentrate in Understanding How Realist Standards Impact International Environment Approaches

Understanding the nexus between realism and climate change international strategies of great powers is of central significance in light of multiple factors. It, first and foremost, reveals insight into the inspirations and techniques of critical international abilities in tending to an international emergency. By looking at how great powers offset their circumstances with international environment targets, this study can add to more compelling global environment discussions. Also, the review offers experiences into the pertinence of realism to contemporary international difficulties. Climate change is a remarkable issue that rises above conventional state-driven

concerns and requests participation and split the difference. Breaking down how great powers integrate realist standards into their environmental strategies gives a great point of view on the flexibility of realism in a changing international scene.

Finally, the review has more extensive ramifications for both theory and practice in international relations. It can illuminate researchers and policymakers about the degree to which realism stays applicable in the twenty-first century while resolving international issues that challenge ordinary power legislative issues. Also, it can direct the improvement of more powerful environment tact methodologies by featuring the manners by which Realist contemplations can be outfitted or alleviated to propel aggregate environment activity. As the title implies, it adds to how we might interpret how Realist standards impact international environment arrangements and offers experiences into the mind-boggling elements of environment strategy in the cutting-edge global field.

Literature Review

Realism in International Relations

Realism is a prevailing and getting-through theory inside the field of International Relations (IR), offering a solid focal point to figure out state conduct and global legislative issues. This segment presents a survey of critical fundamentals and standards of realism in IR theory, featuring its pertinence about assessing great powers' international strategies in tending to climate change. Realism declares that the state is the essential player in International legislative issues, and the global framework is anarchic, without any trace of focal power. Waltz's structural realism (Waltz, 1979) stresses the significance of force dispersion among states as a determinant of their behavior. Realism underlines states' inborn drive for self-protection and security. Morgenthau's traditional realist point of view (Morgenthau, 1948) contends that states look for power and security in a climate described by vulnerability. Realists accept that states are reasonable powers driven by personal circumstances. They focus on the quest for public interest over moral or philosophical worries (Mearsheimer, 2001). Realism places that states take part in adjusting conduct to check dangers presented by other strong states (Walt, 1987). The Balance of Power theory is fundamental in grasping excellent power Unions. Realism upholds the thought of *realpolitik*, where moral contemplations take a secondary lounge to state interests (Donnelly, 2000). States might frame collisions or participate in *realpolitik* strategies to propel their inclinations.

Power is the essential cash of international legislative issues, as per Realists. States seek relative power positions and may take part in coercive ways of behaving to accomplish their targets (Morgenthau, 1948). The security difficulty, as presented by Herz (1950), highlights that a state's endeavors to upgrade its security may coincidentally undermine others, prompting a pattern of instability and arms races.

Neorealism, or primary realism, progressed by Kenneth's Step dance, centers around foundational factors like the dissemination of force, as opposed to states' goals. It is especially significant while inspecting how shapes answer the difficulties presented by climate change (Waltz, 1979). Mearsheimer's hostile realism (Mearsheimer, 2001) places that great powers will often seek territorial authority and may participate in adversarial procedures to boost their energy, which has suggestions for their position on climate change arrangements. Protective Realists, like Glaser (1997), contend that states principally look for security and can be more agreeable when they see dangers. This point of view is excellent for understanding how great powers balance their climate change interests with security concerns.

With regards to assessing great powers' international strategies in tending to climate change, a Realist focal point takes into account the assessment of how the quest for personal circumstance, the complete influence, and contemplations of relative power impact these states' environmental strategies. Great powers might participate in ecological design to upgrade their standing, advance their monetary advantages, or collaborate, which can all be figured out through Realist standards.

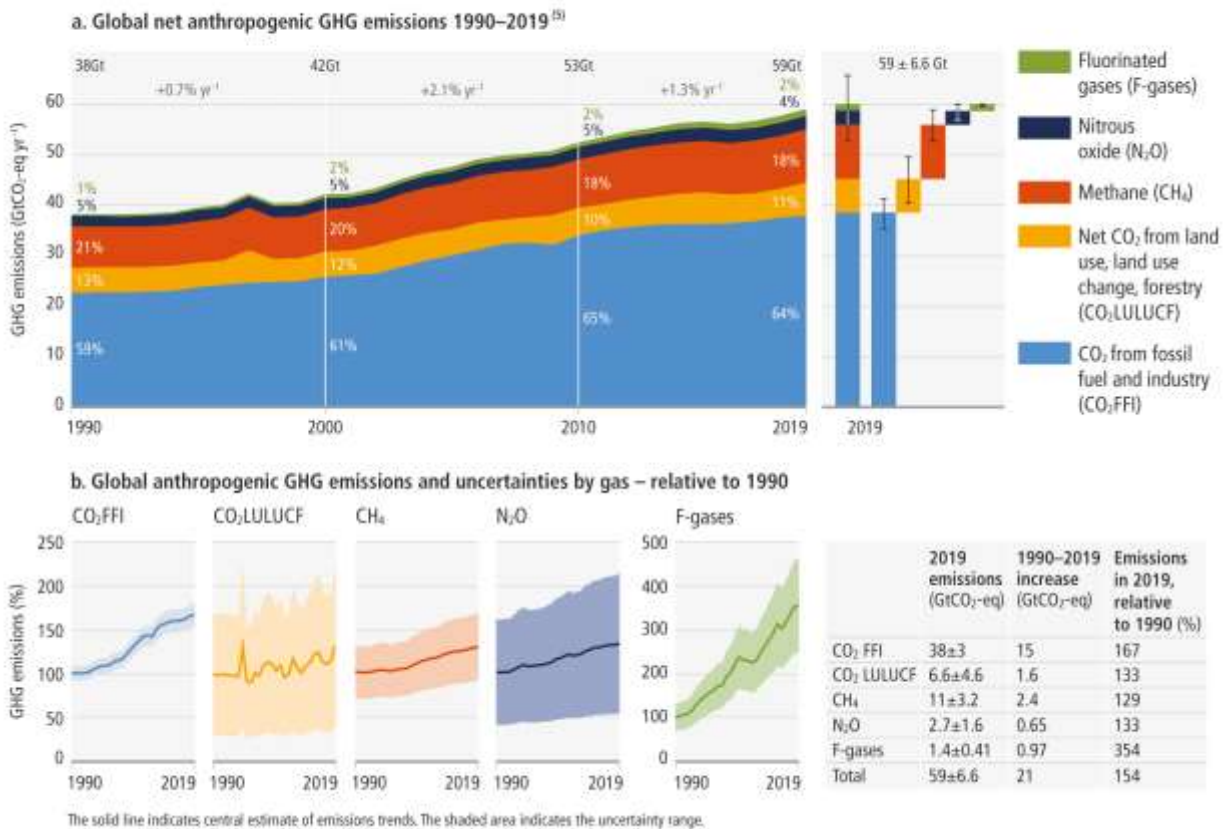
Climate Change in International Relations

The crossing point of climate change and international relations has become a focal concentration in ongoing scholar and strategy conversations. Climate change is perceived as a squeezing international test with expansive ramifications for the climate, human security, and financial frameworks. Researchers like Biermann (2007) have stressed the innately transnational and international nature of climate change, which requests global participation. Climate change presents complex collaborations between states, influencing asset accessibility, relocation examples, and food security. Swain (2019) features the rise of climate change as a modern security issue, possibly prompting clashes and debates. Alleviation systems to diminish ozone-depleting substance outflows and variation measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change are focal subjects. Depledge (2016) investigates the elements of international environmental dealings and the difficulties of accomplishing agreement on moderation objectives.

Global climate governance, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, is critical in coordinating international responses to climate change (Bäckstrand & Lövbrand, 2006). Writing on environmental discretion researches the dealings, interests, and power elements among states in environmental arrangements (Hovi et al., 2016). Keohane and Victor (2011) present the idea of "system edifices" to depict the organization of peaceful accords and establishments administering different parts of climate change. Environmental equity is essential to environment conversations, underlining the moral and evenhanded conveyance of environmental weights and advantages (Caney, 2010). This viewpoint inspects authentic obligation and the rule of ordinary, however, separated liabilities. Climate change is frequently outlined as an "international center" issue, raising worries about the awfulness of the lodge (Ostrom, 2010). It investigates how collaboration can be accomplished to oversee shared assets. Research by Schleussner et al. (2016) and others explores the security ramifications of climate change, including the potential for asset clashes, removal, and delicacy in weak districts. The spread of environmental standards and the utilization of delicate power in environmental tact are investigated by researchers like Betzold and Castro (2016), featuring the role of influence and impact in molding global reactions to climate change.

Figure 1

Global net anthropogenic emissions have continued to rise across all major groups of greenhouse gases.



Source; *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

Beyond state actors, local and subnational governments, as well as non-state actors like NGOs and corporations, play a significant role in climate governance (Betsill & Bulkeley, 2007). Their activities frequently cross with global governmental issues and impact environmental approaches. This writing survey features the multi-layered nature of climate change in global relations, enveloping ecological, financial, moral, and security aspects. The developing idea of climate change as an international test keeps on forming global governmental issues, with expanding acknowledgment of its effect on state conduct, strategy, and administration.

The world is now confronting the outcomes of environmental change. To stay away from significantly more perilous and expensive effects, the most recent Intergovernmental Board on Environmental Change (IPCC) report tracks that for the world to restrict worldwide temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) and forestall the most terrible impacts of environmental change, worldwide discharges need to top before 2025 (IPCC, 2022). Ongoing examination recommends that ongoing degrees of ozone-harming substance emanations be sliced in half by 2030 and arrive at net zero by mid-century to keep this temperature focus reachable (IPCC, 2023). All nations, especially significant economies, must move forward with their environment desire and submit more grounded public environment plans, known as Broadly Resolved Commitments (NDCs). Long-haul environment methodologies should be created, and clear goals for arriving at net-no emanations as quickly as time permits should be laid out. Internationally, 2030 ozone-

harming substance discharges should be 55% lower than under the underlying round of NDCs (IPCC, 2023). The most significant discharge sources, similar to the energy area, are great starting spots. However, quick changes across all frameworks are required. The Territory of Environment Activity report views that to meet the discharge cuts expected by 2030, nations should quickly transition away from coal in the power age, stop deforestation, increment the portion of low-carbon energizes in transportation, and scale up open and confidential money, among different activities.

Table 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

Sector	Emissions (Gigatons of CO ₂ equivalent)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Energy	37.6	75.6%
Agriculture	5.8	11.6%
Industrial Processes	3.1	6.1%
Waste	1.6	3.3%
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry	1.6	3.3%

Source; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Realism and Climate Change

Realism, a prevailing viewpoint in international relations theory, has progressively been applied to examining climate change issues. This writing survey investigates how Realist points of view have been utilized in past explorations to comprehend the intricacies of climate change inside the setting of international legislative issues. Realist researchers have analyzed environmental dealings from the perspective of force legislative issues. They contend that great powers use environmental arrangements as instruments to propel their essential advantages, and their cooperation is, much of the time, driven by personal circumstances and the craving to augment their relative increases (Victor, 2011). Pakistan is not immune to this danger of climate change. Pakistan is a country that is exceptionally powerless against these modern security dangers. The nation has a considerable populace that relies upon horticulture, making it especially vulnerable to the impacts of environmental change (Gasura et al., 2023). Pakistan should effectively partake in worldwide environmental change discussions like the UNFCCC and reinforce its associations with created nations, international associations, and non-administrative associations to wipe out this proviso. Cooperation endeavors could include financing environmental change projects, mechanical exchange, and limit building exercises (Ahmad et al., 2023). Extraordinary powers decisively contend and cooperate to propel their public advantages. Realists' hypothesis can assist with making sense of how asset portion about environmental change can be impacted by the international contention of enormous states, business benefit-chasing, and the requirement for energy security (Hussain et al., 2023).

Realist examinations portray states as judicious powers in climate change conversations. Scientists recommend that states pursue choices in light of an objective decision system, focusing on their matters over international natural objectives. They are frequently hesitant to focus on restricting outflow decreases if it does not line up with their apparent public interest (Vanderheiden, 2008). Concentrates by Paterson (2012) underlines the essential role of public interests in forming environmental strategies. Realists contend states focus on monetary and security worries over ecological goals in their environmental approaches. Realist viewpoints investigate the security

ramifications of climate change. Researchers like Busby (2013) contend that states might see environment-instigated weaknesses as dangers to their public safety, prompting expanded rivalry for assets and expected clashes. Some exploration centers around how great powers utilize climate change as a part of their geostrategies. This viewpoint highlights how environmental strategies might be utilized to upgrade a state's international impact (Nicholson, 2018).

Realist investigations consider global environment arrangements as apparatuses for accomplishing state targets. Gilpin (2000) talks about how states can utilize environmental concurs decisively to get their drawn-out interests, involving ecological issues as an instrument of statecraft. The overall influence theory is applied to environmental tact. Lipschutz (2015) recommends that great powers mean to keep up with or shift the overall influence through environmental arrangements and talks. A few researchers investigate environmental systems from a Realist point of view. Busby and Lahn (2014) examine the limits of environmental arrangements in accomplishing natural objectives, stressing the inborn personal responsibility of states. Realist viewpoints additionally think about power imbalance in global environment talks. Moellendorf (2010) discusses how strong states can impact environmental equity conversations and exchanges to safeguard their inclinations. Realism has been applied to comprehend how states focus on transformation systems despite climate change. Fankhauser (2010) underlines that states might need to focus more on shielding their populaces and resources from environmental influences. These examinations feature how Realist viewpoints have been coordinated in investigating climate change issues in global relations. They outline the significant impact of state interests, power elements, and estimations of the environment's effect on security and strategy in molding environment administration.

Case Studies

Case Study of U.S.

The US has been a noticeable player in global environmental and governmental issues, and its international strategy on climate change can be inspected through a Realist focal point. Realism accentuates state-driven conduct, personal responsibility, and power governmental issues in the U.S. regarding climate change. The U.S., as an international superpower, has focused on its public advantages in environmental strategy. The choice to pull out from the Paris Arrangement in 2017, under the Trump Organization, was viewed as a move driven by personal responsibility. Realist researchers contend that this choice followed the idea that states act to expand their general additions and financial seriousness (Victor, 2011). In any case, the Biden organization's re-visitation of the Paris Understanding in 2021 exhibited the impact of homegrown and global variables on U.S. environment strategy. Realism recognizes that states can move their positions in light of changing conditions and see public interests. Account of the U.S. force legislative issues are evident in its cooperation with other great powers, especially China. The serious part of excellent power relations is reflected in the U.S.-China environmental dealings, where the two nations try to safeguard their public advantages and keep up with their international impact (Nicholson, 2018).

Case Study of China

China, as a rising great power, assumes a critical part in climate change governmental issues. Realist standards of force governmental issues and personal circumstances are evident in China's environmental strategies. China's emphasis on financial development and energy security has been crucial to its climate change arrangements. Realist examinations recommend that China offsets its environmental responsibilities with its circumstances in keeping up with the monetary turn of

events and energy assets (Brunée & Nasiritousi, 2015). This approach reflects Realist ideas that states focus on their public advantages—China's participation and contest with the U.S. in environmental tact outline power legislative issues. The mind-boggling communications between these great powers are affected by their quest for international impact and vital interests. Ecological worries do not exclusively determine China's environmental strategy; however, it is an essential instrument to improve its international standing. China's commitment to environmental discretion is likewise impacted by its impression of the overall influence. Realism battles that state expect to keep up with or shift the overall influence in support of themselves through peaceful accords (Lipschutz, 2015). China's support in environment talks mirrors its endeavors to safeguard its inclinations while adding to its more extensive international system.

Case Study of the European Union

The European Union (E.U.) is a vital player in environmental strategy, and its behavior can be surveyed through Realist standards. The E.U.'s role in environmental administration mirrors a blend of forced governmental issues, personal responsibility, and state-driven conduct. The E.U., as a local power, participates in environmental strategy to propel its personal circumstance and international impact. Realist examinations propose that the E.U.'s obligation to environmental activity aligns with the quest for an influential position in international legislative issues. The E.U. involves environmental issues to improve its international picture and impact, steady with Realist thoughts of state conduct (Nicholson, 2018). The E.U.'s environmental arrangements additionally stress the insurance of its financial advantages and energy security. Realism sets that states focus on their public advantages, and the E.U.'s environmental activities are driven by its need to get energy assets and financial steadiness. The E.U.'s way of dealing with environmental discussions inside the UNFCCC system highlights the state-driven conduct of great powers. The E.U.'s dynamic contributions in molding environment arrangements and its accentuation on standards and values align with its Realist quest for an influential position. Realists contend that strong states impact the terms and needs of environment exchanges, and the E.U.'s role in setting the environment plan mirrors these elements (Victor, 2011).

Table 3: Contributions to Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Country	Emissions (Percentage of Global Total)
United States	12.5%
China	26.4%
European Union	7.03%

Source; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Findings

The findings of this study uncover the critical impact of realist standards, including power legislative issues, personal circumstance, and state-driven conduct, on the international strategies of great powers concerning climate change. Every one of the contextual analyses — U.S., China, and the European Union — exhibits how realist points of view shape the methodologies and activities of these powers regarding environmental strategy. The U.S.'s international strategy on climate change epitomizes the realist standard of force legislative issues. The choice to pull out from the Paris Understanding in 2017 was seen as an essential move driven by personal circumstances and the craving to boost relative increases. The resulting reemergence into the arrangement under the Biden organization reflected moving power elements and an affirmation of

the significance of keeping up with the impact of environmental and governmental issues. China's environmental strategies mirror the impact of force legislative issues. As a rising great power, China safeguards its public advantages and international standing. Its commitment to environmental tact is not exclusively about ecological worries, yet it is an essential device to upgrade its impact and secure its essential advantages.

The E.U.'s authority in environmental strategy is formed by a craving to apply international impact, predictable with Realist ideas of forcing governmental issues. The E.U. utilizes environmental issues to upgrade its international picture, mirroring the transaction of ecological worries with more extensive vital targets. The U.S. has now and again focused on personal circumstances in environmental strategy. The withdrawal from the Paris Understanding underlines the realist idea that states think about monetary seriousness and energy security as vital to their public interest. In any case, the Biden organization's re-visitation of the arrangement shows the way that personal responsibility can be dependent upon future developments in light of moving conditions and view of public interest. China's environmental strategy lines up with the realist standard of personal responsibility. The insurance of monetary development and energy security plays a huge part in dealing with climate change. China's responsibilities are offset by the need to keep up with its financial turn of events and energy assets.

The E.U.'s environmental arrangements focus on personal responsibility regarding financial dependability and energy security. The E.U.'s dynamic commitment to environmental tact is viewed as a way to protect its monetary advantages, mirroring the Realist idea that states consider their public prosperity—the U.S.'s. State-driven conduct in environment administration is seen through its dynamic contribution to forming global environment arrangements and its quest for homegrown interests. The vacillations in the U.S. environment strategy mirror the realist thought that states focus on their targets while adjusting to evolving conditions. China's state-driven conduct in environment administration is affected by its endeavors to safeguard its inclinations and add to its international procedure. Its part in environmental dealings delineates the state's quest for power and competitive edges inside the international framework.

The E.U.'s state-driven conduct is reflected in setting the environment plan and impacting the terms of environment discussions. The E.U. effectively advances its standards and values, lining up with Realist contentions about the impact of solid states in forming peaceful accords. While the impact of Realist standards on the international strategies of great powers is apparent in each of the three cases, varieties exist. In outline, this study highlights the unavoidable impact of realist standards on great powers' international strategies about climate change. Nonetheless, it likewise features the versatility of states' conduct because of developing public interests and moving international elements, offering a nuanced point of view on the convergence of realism and environment strategy.

Findings

The findings of this study give essential bits of knowledge into the discussion of realism and climate change, revealing insight into how realist standards impact the international strategies of great powers. The understanding of these findings inside the more extensive writing on realism and climate change uncovers a few vital ramifications and subtleties. The impact of forced legislative issues and personal circumstances on great powers' environmental approaches is evident in the three cases. Realism stresses that states try to boost their power and safeguard public advantages. The U.S.'s withdrawal and reemergence into the Paris Understanding epitomize how personal responsibility can drive strategy choices. China's methodology prioritizes personal

responsibility in financial development and energy security. The European Union's administration in environmental discretion is predictable with the quest for international impact. These findings line up with realist contentions that state conduct is, in a general sense, molded by power elements and self-safeguarding.

Great powers effectively participate in molding international environmental arrangements, setting the environmental plan, and impacting the terms of discussions. The European Union's advancement of standards and values inside environmental arrangements epitomizes this state-driven conduct. The findings underline the realist affirmation that strong states practice their impact in international administration.

Recommendations

The ramifications of these findings stretch out past the particular cases analyzed in this review and have more extensive ramifications for global relations theory and practice:

The pertinence of Realism: Realism remains an essential and hearty hypothetical system for understanding state conduct about climate change. The findings insist that realist standards keep on affecting the international strategies of great powers.

Flexibility of States: The flexibility of states' environmental approaches features the significance of considering advancing public interests and moving international elements. States may recalibrate their situations in light of evolving conditions, testing a deterministic perspective on state conduct.

International Ramifications: The impact of realist standards on environmental strategies has critical international ramifications. Environment strategy is not exclusively about natural worries; however, it is interwoven with more extensive vital targets and power elements.

Strategy Suggestions: Policymakers and international powers should consider the transaction of realist standards in environmental discretion while planning and carrying out environmental approaches. Perceiving the centrality of personal circumstances and power governmental issues can assist with illuminating more successful methodologies and arrangements.

Conclusion

This exploration has dug into the multifaceted connection between realism and climate change by analyzing how realist standards impact the international strategies of great powers regarding environmental tact. The review utilized blended techniques to dissect three critical cases: the U.S., China, and the European Union. The findings offer essential experiences into the convergence of realism, environmental, and governmental issues and have a few ramifications for international relations theory and practice. The exploration uncovered the inescapable impact of realist standards on great powers' environmental strategies. Power governmental issues, personal circumstances, and state-driven conduct were considered crucial drivers of state activities in environmental tact. These standards showed diversely for each situation, mirroring the unmistakable public interests and provincial elements of the powers.

The review highlights the versatility of states in answering changing conditions and moving international elements. State conduct must still be inflexible and can develop to align with apparent public interests and force conveyance. This flexibility challenges deterministic perspectives on

state conduct and features the mind-boggling exchange of realist standards in international relations. The findings have suggestions for both theory and practice. Realism remains a pertinent and robust structure for understanding state conduct in climate change. Policymakers and global powers should consider the transaction of realist standards while planning environmental arrangements and arrangements, perceiving the centrality of personal circumstance and power governmental issues in environmental discretion.

Nonetheless, this examination has impediments. The review zeroed in on a predetermined number of cases, and further examination could extend the extension to incorporate extra great powers. Elective exploration plans and strategies could likewise be investigated to improve the examination of state conduct in environmental discretion. A unique examination after some time could give a more complete comprehension of changes in great powers' environment strategies and their effect on international environment administration. Considering everything, this study adds to the continuous talk on realism and climate change by giving observational proof of how realist standards shape the international strategies of great powers. The findings offer a nuanced point of view on state conduct in environment discretion and its suggestions for global relations theory and practice. They likewise feature regions for additional examination and investigation, guaranteeing that the crossing point of realism and environmental legislative issues stays a dynamic and developing field of study.

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