

#### 4. Russia and China Aim To Build A Post-Western Order

**Prelims Syllabus:** International Relations

**Mains Syllabus:** GS-II International Relations | Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and agreements involving India



##### Why in News?

- Russia and China aim to exploit divisions within the West to transform the global order and build a post-Western order. However, the Indian strategic community should not expect the fault lines within the West to be fatal, as history has shown that such dreams have not come to fruition.

##### Post-Western Order:

- **Building a post-Western order:** Russia and China have talked of upending the world order before, with the history of international communism in the 20th century being about building a post-Western order.
- **America's internal fissures and divisions between the US and Europe:** While Moscow and Beijing are convinced that they can put the West on the defensive by pooling their strengths, the success of this strategy rests on the Moscow-Beijing axis successfully leveraging America's internal fissures and divisions between the US and Europe.

##### Dividing America from Europe:

- **The Moscow and Beijing are hoping to divide America from Europe:** Russia's latest version of its foreign policy doctrine singles out the US as the main instigator, organizer, and executor of the aggressive anti-Russian policy of the collective West.

- **China's diplomatic Europe strategy:** China's love for Europe's strategic autonomy is equally passionate. However, it is unlikely that there will be a decisive movement on either issue, but both sides see the diplomatic dance as a valuable exercise.

### **Sino-European Engagement:**

- **Europe's pressure on Russia:** Europe wants Xi to put pressure on Putin to end the war in Ukraine, and Beijing would like Europe to distance itself from the US on its China policy.
- **Europe not ready to busy China's peace initiative:** While Europe is not ready to buy China's peace initiative on Ukraine, it has convinced itself that Xi is the only leader who can nudge Putin towards peace.

### **India's Perspective:**

- The realists in India are aware of the many differences between the US and Europe, but they are also aware that Western strategic unity has endured since World War II.
- The Russian and Chinese overreach has cemented broad Western unity rather than separating Europe from the US.

### **Conclusion:**

- While Russia and China aim to exploit divisions within the West to transform the global order, it is unlikely that they will succeed in building a post-Western order. The fault lines within the West are real, but they are by no means fatal.