Q 4)What are the different levels of analysis in studying International Relations? Explain them with the help of suitable examples.

Ans: The term "**level of analysis**" is used in the social sciences to point to the location, size, or scale of a research target.The study of levels is related to the study and analysis of the causes of a phenomenon particularly in research and studies. Initially it was used to be a feature of Natural Sciences.But after the Behavioural Revolution in politics during late 1940s-1950s,’levels of analysis’ was used in political science/politics. The study of levels of international relations enabled the scholars to understand better the nature ,dimensions and concerns of their chosen subject of study.

Several political scientists ,like Kenneth Waltz,Morton A.Kaplan,J.David Singer etc ., have popularized the study of levels of International Relations.

**Level of analysis in International Relations**

The study of levels of analysis means the way of looking at or approaching the study of International Relations or the International Systemi.e., the system of relations and interactions among states at various levels.

In International Relations, level of analysis is generally divided into three categories – individual, state, and international system. However, newer discussions of globalization have led to a newer level of analysis to be considered.

The framework of analysis originated from Kenneth Waltz's 1959 book entitled,” *Man, the State, and War” and also*  J. Singer's "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations" (1961). While the framework is widely discussed, it seems surprising that not many scholarly articles use it. Two writings may shed light on its advantages and disadvantages. M. Brawley's 2005 case studies of international economic relations and S. Hu's 2015 analysis of small states' diplomatic recognition of Taiwan.

The three (or four) levels of analysis cannot describe every effect and there is unlimited number of levels between the three primary ones. Levels of analysis will help understand how one force in political power affects another. Generally, power is the concept that collects all the analysis together.

For example, the struggle for power may be the cause of war, but the struggle for power may originate in the individual human being's lust for power. The lust for power is individual level of analysis, while the struggle for power is systemic level of analysis.

1. **Individual level: individual as prime actor:**

Individual level of analysis views the leaders of states as being the largest influencers of foreign policy.The individual level of analysis locates the cause of events in individual leaders or the immediate circle of decision makers within a particular country. It focuses on human actors on the world stage identifying the characteristics of human decision making.

For example, the causes of World War II is from the particular leaders in power at that time.It analyzes nature,motives and actions of key individuals such as Hitler,Stalin,Churchill,Mussolini as prime actors.

1. **Domestic/state level: Nation-state as prime actor:**

The domestic level of analysis locates causes in the character of the domestic system of specific states. Thus, war is caused by aggressive or warlike states, not by evil, inept, or misguided people or the structure of power in the international system. The failure of domestic institutions may also cause war. In World War I, the internal collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or the brittle system.Capitalist and socialist economies generate different attitudes of behaviour are often cited as important causes.

Stable and failed institutions are domestic level factors affecting state behavior. A great worry today is the existence of failed states, meaning states whose domestic institutions have broken down, such as Somalia. Another worry here is existence of a rogue state, such as North Korea, which may pass nuclear weapons on to terrorists.

**3) International System level:Systemic level/System Approach**

The systemic level of analysis explains outcomes from a system wide level that includes all states. It seeks explanations for international phenomena by considering the nature or structure of the international political system at the period under study. It takes into account both the position of states in the international system and their interrelationships. The position of states constitutes the systemic structural level of analysis. This involves the relative distribution of power, such as which state; great, middle, or small power, and geopolitics; such as which state is sea or land power. The interaction of states constitutes the systemic process level of analysis. At this level, we are concerned with which state aligns with which other states and which state negotiates with which other states.

For example,thus, we can explain World War I in terms of the absence of system wide institutions, such as League of Nations, which was not created until after World War I to prevent such wars in the future. However, system wide institution does not always mean harmony among nations, as seen in the World War II. The cause of World War II is seen as the failure of a systemic institution, which led new institutions of the United Nations to carry on reformed legacy of the League of Nations.

**OTHER POSSIBLE LEVELS OF ANALYSIS**

**Global level**

Global level factors are much like Systemic level factors, however the core difference is that global factors are not necessarily created by states, whereas systemic factors are. Global factors *can* be the outcome of individuals, interest groups, states, nonstate actors or even natural conditions – however they cannot be *traced* to the actions of any one state or even group of states.

An example can be how the internet can shape how policy is formed, through social media or forums – where an idea is formed over time by a group of individuals, but the source is generally hard to determine. An environmental natural example is how global warming can help shape how society views certain policies, or help shape new policies themselves.

**Regional level of analysis**

Strategic issues within their own regions interpretations of states are one of the determinant factors in regional level of analysis.This level includes relations which form the regional security complex,region to region relationship especially with neighbouring ones and the role of global power in Regional Security Complex Theory.Buzan and Waever introduced regional level of security as a prominent tool for studying international politics especially since the end of the Cold War.According to Regional Security Complex level of analysis,a mixture of history,politics ,and material conditions in every region forms specific patterns of security and insecurity.