



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 24.04.2024

**Article link : [Link](#) (The fallacy of soft power :
The world runs on cold national self interest, not cultural capital)**

1. According to the article, the Soft Power Index "is little more than pub talk, writ large" as:
- A. It establishes the scale of countries' soft power only by opinion polling
 - B. It only takes into account the country's ability to get others to do things they otherwise might not do
 - C. As a conception of power, it is purely relational
 - D. All the above

Explanation : A

Refer to the lines, 'Over two glossy pages, its "methodology" hardly deals with behaviour. Rather, it establishes the scale of countries' soft power by opinion polling, asking people how far other countries bear influence, familiarity and reputation.' Options B and C are not true, based on the article.

2. The author uses all the following arguments to question the idea of soft power, except:
- A. The circularity of the formulation of the concept, with the input being indistinguishable from the output
 - B. The use of the idea of a country pursuing a way of life in a hostile world as a corporation with a brand
 - C. Anecdotal evidence from the past revealing that the world revolves around harder currencies, of blood and iron
 - D. The established fact that Britain and the US squandered their moral authority with the Iraq war of 2003



Explanation: D

All options except D are true. Note the line, 'The war was a disastrous blunder, but the "moral authority" complaint runs up against the facts.'

3. According to the author, the danger of the "soft power" proposition is that:

- A. It fosters the false belief that international life is about getting other countries to admire your moral authority and enlightened gestures
- B. It deflects from the harder means-ends decisions that a serious country must face
- C. It encourages the dangerous conceit that soft power can offset or replace hard capabilities
- D. All the above

Explanation: D

All given points are mentioned in the article.