



Atlantic Charter

Why in News

Recently, the **US' President and UK's Prime Minister** signed a **new version of the 80-year old Atlantic Charter**.

Key Points

▪ Atlantic Charter (1941):

- The Atlantic Charter was a **joint declaration released by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill** on 14th August, 1941 (during [World War II](#)) following a meeting of the two heads of government in Newfoundland.
 - The Atlantic Charter was **subsequently incorporated** by reference in the Declaration of the **United Nations** in 1942.
 - **World War II** was a conflict that **involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939-45**.
 - The principal belligerents were:
 - **Axis powers:** Germany, Italy, and Japan.
 - **Allies:** France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China.
- The Atlantic Charter **provided a broad statement of US and British war aims such as:**
 - They desired **no territorial changes without the free assent of the peoples** concerned.
 - They **respected every people's right** to choose its own form of government and wanted sovereign rights and self-government restored to those forcibly deprived of them.
 - They would **try to promote equal access** for all states to trade and to raw materials.
 - They hoped to **promote worldwide collaboration** so as to improve labour standards, economic progress, and social security.
 - The destruction of **"Nazi tyranny," (Germany)** they would look for a peace under which all nations could live safely within their boundaries, without fear or want.
 - Under such a peace the **seas should be free**.
 - Pending a general security through renunciation of **force, potential aggressors must be disarmed**.

▪ New Atlantic Charter (2021):

- The new charter, a 604-word declaration, is an effort to **stake out a grand vision for global relationships in the 21st century**, just as the original was a declaration of a Western commitment to democracy and territorial integrity just months before the US entered World War II.
- It is a statement of principles, a promise that the UK and the US would meet the challenges

of their age together. It calls for both countries to **adhere to the rules-based international order.**

- The new charter focuses on [climate change](#) and the **need to protect biodiversity.** With references to **emerging technologies, cyberspace and sustainable global development.**
- It calls on Western allies to **oppose interference through disinformation or other malign influences, including in elections.**

- It **ranks the threats to democratic nations** in a technological era.

- It vows that as long as there are nuclear weapons, [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#) will remain a nuclear alliance.

▪ **Opportunity for India:**

- The **old Atlantic Charter alienated Indian nationalism** from **the West but the new Charter and the rebooting of western institutions should facilitate a productive phase of India's cooperation with the US** and its allies.
 - In 1941, the UK insisted that **the principle of self-determination highlighted in the charter did not apply to India.**
 - However, the presence of **India and South Africa along with Australia and South Korea (as guests) at the [G-7 summit 2021](#)** is a recognition of the **urgent imperative to widen the basis of the West** in dealing with global challenges.
- The current **Anglo-American effort to institutionalise western consultations with India is a long overdue correction.**
 - Indian Prime Minister, who is remotely joining the discussions at the **G-7 summit (2021)**, has an opportunity to signal a commitment to both address perceptions about shrinking democratic freedoms within India and **offer substantive collaboration with the western democracies on global issues.**

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