

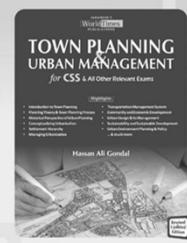


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# Current Affairs (Relations)

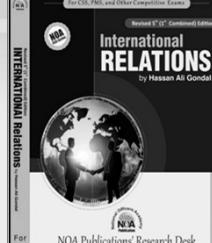
**Hassan Ali Gondal**

~ CSS Teacher for Current Affairs & International Relations  
~ Faculty Member, NOA  
~ Editor-in-Chief, NOA Publications



TOWN PLANNING  
URBAN MANAGEMENT  
for CSS & All Other Relevant Exams

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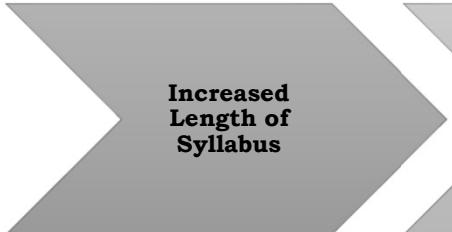
@Currents & Relations with HA Gondal      @Hassan Ali Gondal

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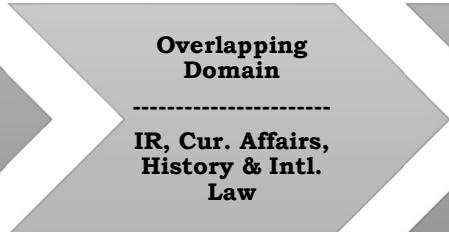


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## NOA's Academic Design



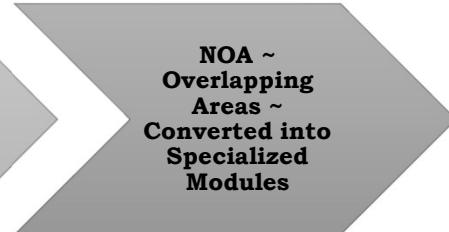
Increased Length of Syllabus



Overlapping Domain

-----

IR, Cur. Affairs,  
History & Intl.  
Law



NOA ~  
Overlapping  
Areas ~  
Converted into  
Specialized  
Modules

2



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## Current Affairs (Relations) ~ Overlapping

1- Current Affairs  
 (3~4)

2- Pak Affairs  
 (2~3)

3- International  
 Relations-I  
 (2~3)

4- International  
 Relations-II  
 (3~4)

5- Political Science-I  
 (1~2)

6- Political Science-II  
 (1~2)

7- Indo-Pak History  
 8- US-History  
 9- European History  
 (~1)

10- International Law  
 (~1)

3



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## Syllabus

Concepts Analysis  
 ~ Foreign Policy  
 ~ National Interest

Foreign Policy  
 ~ Russia  
 ~ India  
 ~ Pakistan

Relations  
 ~ Pak-Russia  
 ~ Pak-India

Regional Perspective  
 ~ Peace Making  
 ~ South Asia  
 ~ Focus (Indo-Pak)

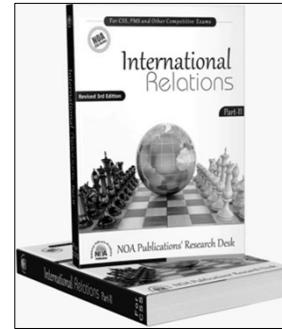
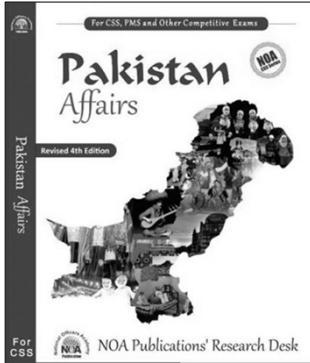
~ Pakistan Foreign Policy for USA Post 9/11 ~ China FP  
 ~ Georgian Crisis ~ Crimean Crisis ~ Recognition of Israel  
 ~ Maps ~ BRI/CPEC ~ US vs. Russia ~ USA vs. China ~ India vs. China

4



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## Recommended Readings



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## Topic: Foreign Policy & National Interest

### Recommended Readings

- **Chapter 4 & 6 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)**
- **Chapter 3 ~ International Relations (Part-I Book) by Hassan Ali Gondal**

6

## Introduction



### Theme-1:

## A policy pursued by a state in its FUTURE DEALINGS with ANOTHER STATE in order to secure its own NATIONAL INTEREST.

- **Roadmap for Future**
- **One-to-One Interaction**
- **Under the Rationale of National Interest**
- **Written/Unwritten, Declared/Undeclared, Covert/Overt**

7

## Case Study: National Interest



**Survival**

Immediate Existential Needs

**Stability**

Mid-Term Needs

**Sustainability**

Long-Term Needs

**Raison D'état**

Reason of Existence of a State

3S-RD-6NI

**Significance** : Primary NI  
Secondary NI

**Permanence** : Permanent NI  
Temporary NI

**Relevance** : General NI  
Specific NI

~ Security ~ Welfare ~ Law & Order ~ Justice ~ Freedom ~ Ideology

**Challenge:**  
Anything with a potential negative impact

**Paper Attempting Tip:**  
Bottom-Up Approach

8

## Evaluating Effectiveness of Foreign Policy



### Theme-2:

## Success of a foreign policy is dependent upon COMPARATIVE GAINS of NATIONAL INTERESTS in state's own HISTORICAL CONTEXT.

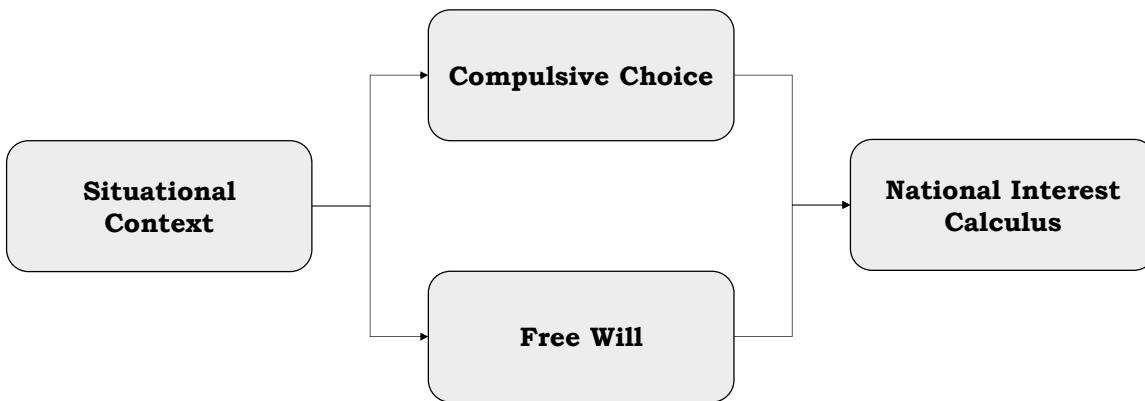
- Leader to Leader Comparison
- Regime to Regime Comparison
- Event to Event Comparison
- Era to Era Comparison
- Point to Entire History Comparison

9

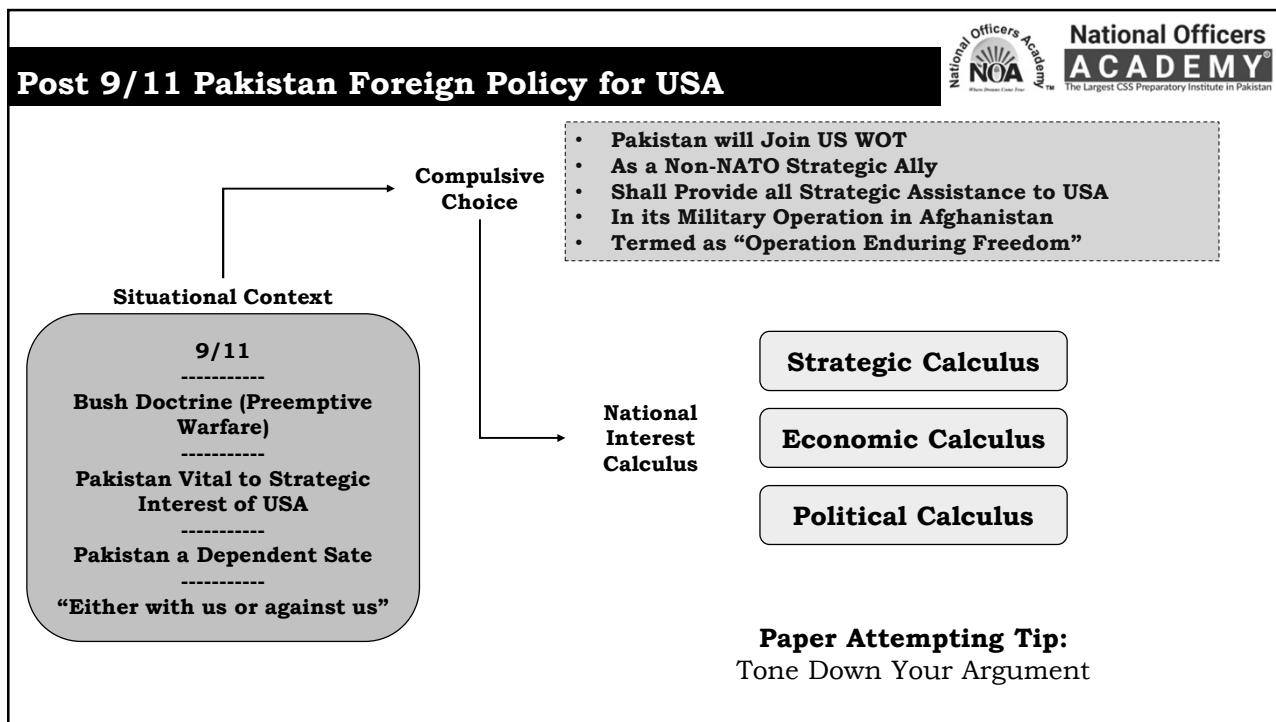
## Evaluating Effectiveness of Foreign Policy



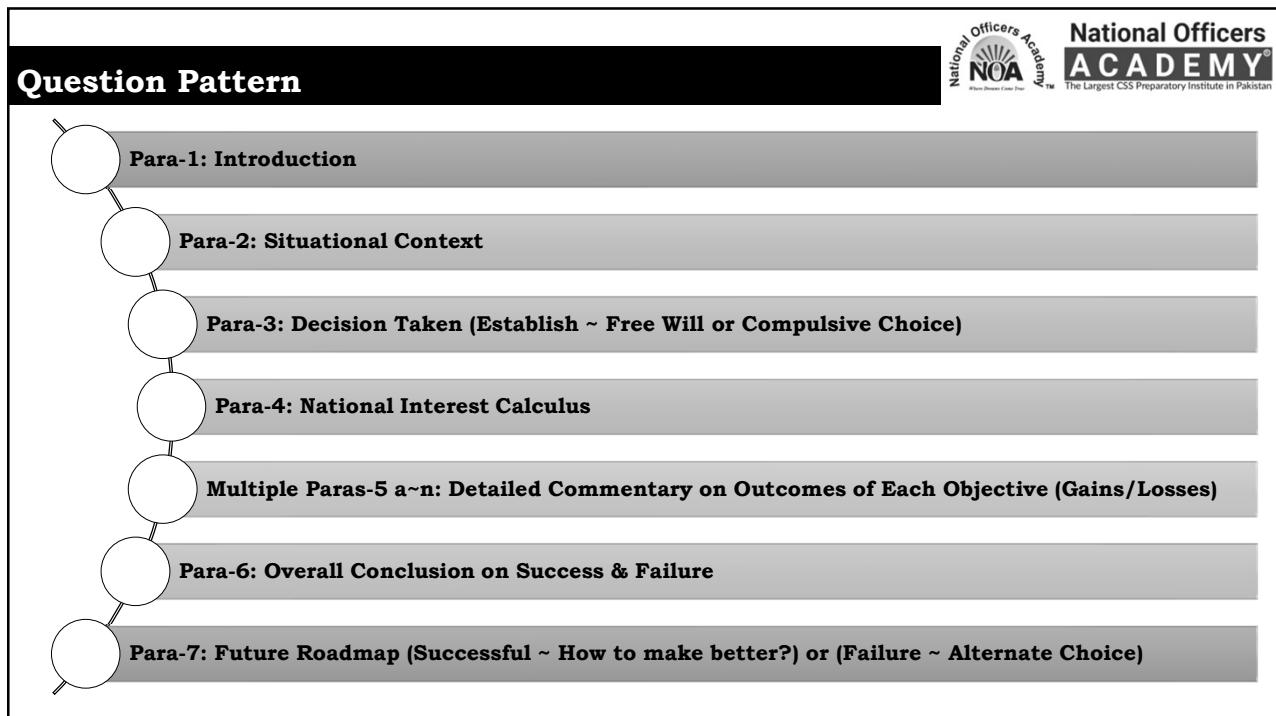
### Foreign Policy Formulation Process ~ Understand Jargons



10



11



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## Determinants of Foreign Policy



**All those factors which are BROUGHT UNDER CONSIDERATION in order to reach any FOREIGN POLICY DECISION would be termed as determinant of foreign policy.**

Domestic Determinants	International Determinants
Domestic Stimuli	International Stimuli
Internal Factors	External Factors
Elements of National Power	Environmental Factors
<b>Domestic Determinants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military Capabilities</li> <li>• Economic Capabilities</li> <li>• Type of Government (Leader's Perception)</li> <li>• Size of a State &amp; Geography</li> <li>• Culture and History</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• National Capacity</li> <li>• Social Structure</li> <li>• Public Mood &amp; Role of Media</li> <li>• Political Accountability</li> <li>• Leadership</li> </ul>	<b>International Determinants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geo-Politics</li> <li>• International Organizations</li> <li>• World Public Opinion</li> <li>• Polar Structure</li> </ul>

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## Assessing Role of Determinants



**Theme-3:**  
**Comparison of both states on basis of ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER as well as ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS serves as determinants of foreign policy.**

### Analysis Method Remember 'END'

**E = Enabler**

- Point of Strength
- Point of Advantage
- Free Will

**N = No Impact**

- Irrelevant in Respective Situational Context

**D = Disabler**

- Point of Weakness
- Point of Disadvantage
- Compulsive Choice

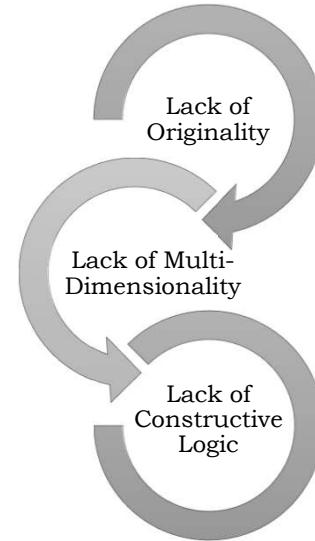
14

## Recognition of Israel

### Brainstorming (Argument Building) Tip:

Why-Why Analysis?

Element	END	Decision
Military Capabilities	N	~
Economic Capabilities	N	~
Social System/ Values	D	No
Political System/ Culture	D	No



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## Sample Paragraph

Debate of recognition of Israel has once again resurfaced in diplomatic power corridors of Pakistan. However, careful consideration against multiple determinants shall reveal that any prospective decision of recognition shall come up with both advantages and disadvantages. On the front of advantages, there is a probability that we shall be able to acquire superior military technology to further boost our defense capabilities. Furthermore, we can gain diplomatic leverage of Israel as well its economic niche to bring positive economic outcomes for Pakistan's ailing economy. However, the strategic and economic gains can be traded-off by further boosting our ties with our existing strategic partners – primarily CHINA. However, on the end of disadvantages, this decision shall create major backlash as far as socio-political stability is concerned. There is a high probability that this non-populist decision shall create political instability. In addition, this decision can lead to extreme reaction from different religious factions resulting in further polarization of societal fabric. If we weigh both advantages and disadvantages, apparently the later one appears to be more significant. So, our decision should be based upon socio-political lens. AND it is not feasible to go for any hasty decision of recognition without changing the mindset of masses and a wider consensus building exercise at national level.

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## Decision Making & Analysis of FP



Graham  
Allison's  
Models  
(ABC Model)

**A. Rational Actor Model**

**B. Bureaucratic Politics Model**

**C. Bargaining Model**

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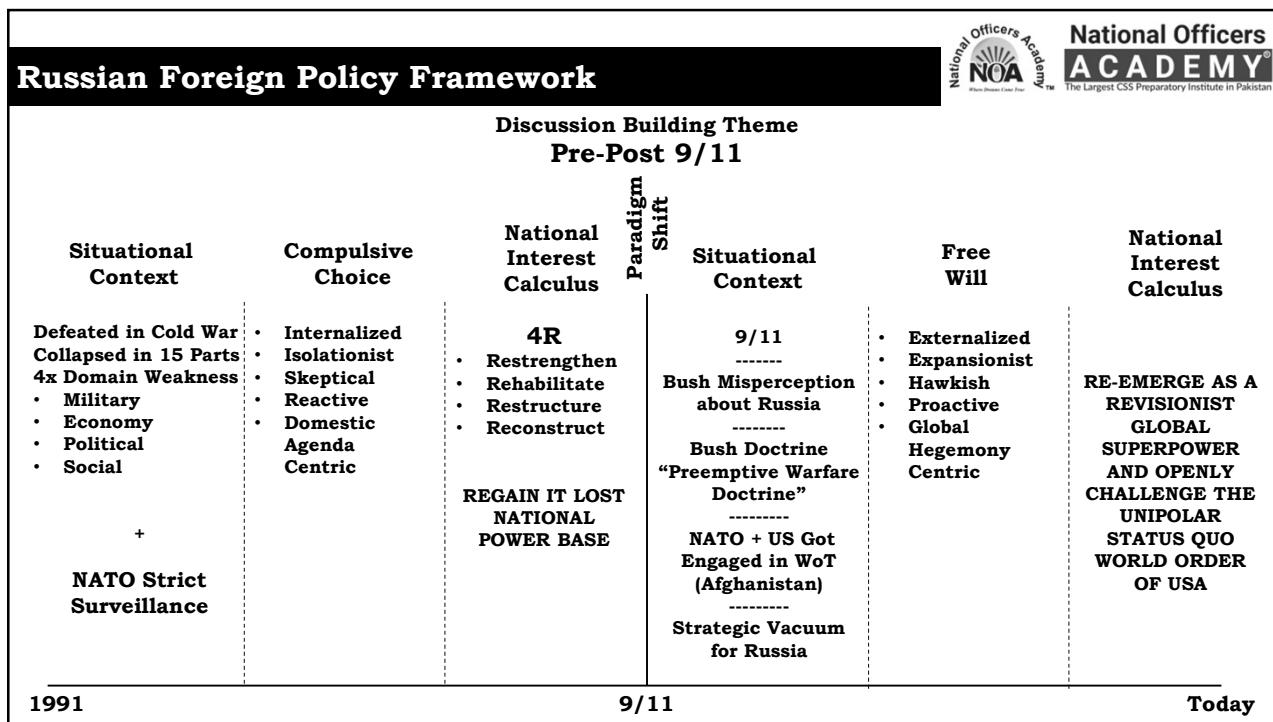
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## Topic: Russia in Focus

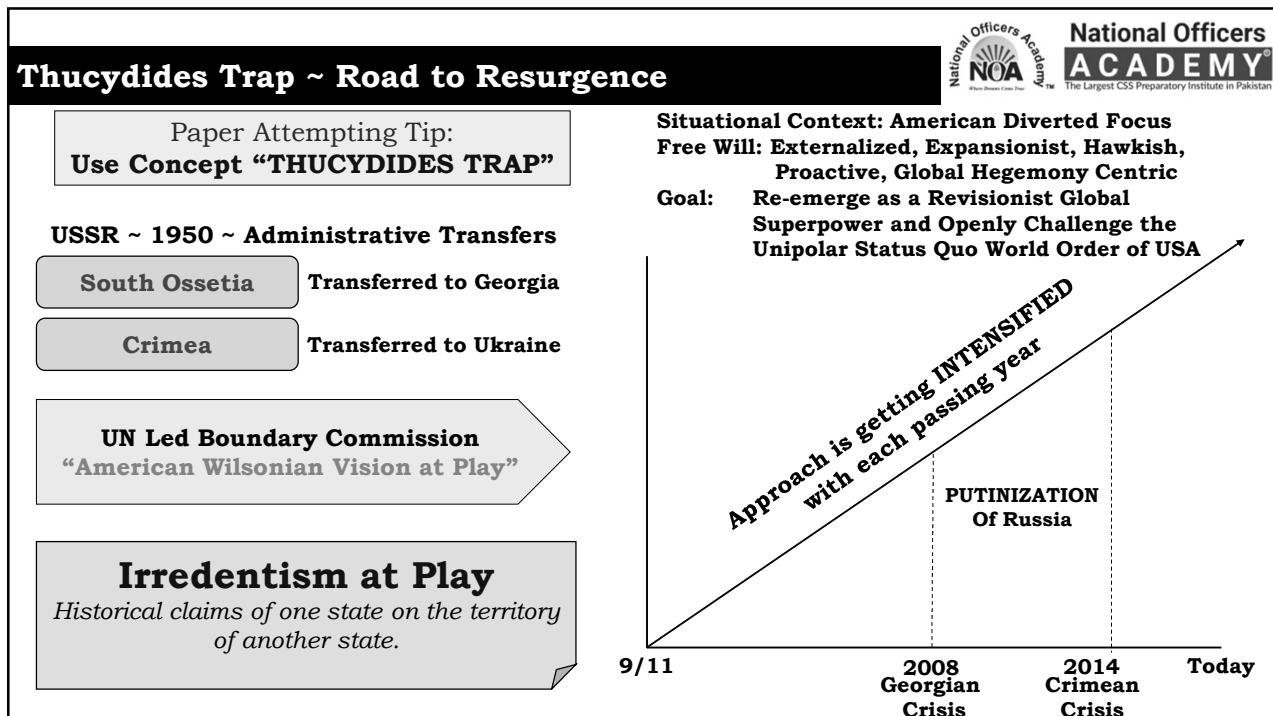
### Recommended Readings

- **Chapter 4 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)**
- **Chapter 5 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by Hassan Ali Gondal**
- **See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too**

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### Russian Build-Up (From Georgia to Crimea)




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- 2007 ~ Military Operation in S-Ossetia
- Terrorism vs. Genocide (Ethnic Cleansing)
- Anti-Terrorism vs. Humanitarian Intervention
- Bush Response ~ POLICY OF APPEASEMENT
- Backfired

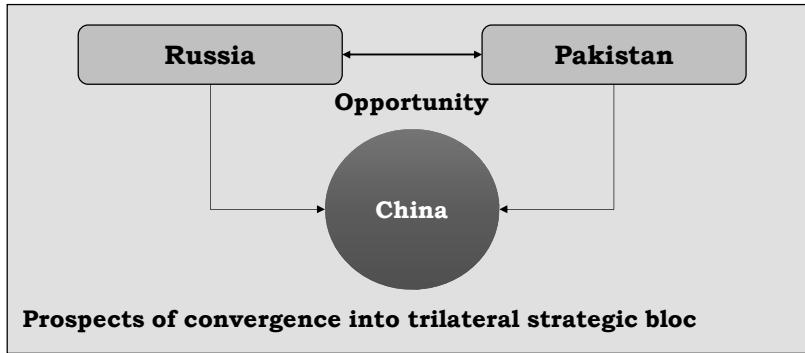
  

- 2014 ~ Annexation of Crimea
- Controversial Referendum
- Obama Response ~ POLICY OF BRINKMANSHIP
  - Assets & Investment Frozen
  - Stoppage of Gas Supplies to Europe
  - Embargo on Arm Supplies
  - Putin Entering into SYRIAN Theatre
- Backfired

Theme:  
“Continuity of American Miscalculations”

21

### Decoding Pak-Russia Relations



Prospects of convergence into trilateral strategic bloc

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**Thesis Statement:** The growing pulse of cordial relationship between Islamabad and Moscow was in reality a reaction to Indo-US Strategic Partnership further facilitated and catalyzed by Chinese converging (facilitatory) factor.

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**Pak-Russia Relations (Irritants & Aspects)**

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Where Dreams Come True

**Discussion Building Theme**  
**Acronym for Russian Actions (Foreign Policy)**  
**“NOS”**

- **N = Nature ~ Reactive**
- **O = Orientation ~ Anti-USA**
- **S = Scale ~ Entire Globe**

**Burden of History (Conflictual Legacy)**

**Opposing Strategic Cultures**

**USA**

23

**Recent Cooperation & A Pulse for Future**

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**Pak-Russia Relations (Recent Highlights)**

- Strategic Aspects**
  - SCO ~ RATS Military Exercises
  - AMAN-VII Naval Exercise (March 2021)
  - Full Spectrum Deterrence & Tactical Nukes
  - CPEC Strategic Partner
- Economic Aspects**
  - North South Gas Pipeline
  - Re-Investments (PSM), Barter & Concessionary Oil
  - SCO Membership (Russian Bid)
- Political Aspects**
  - Troika Plus
  - Kashmir Issue (Article 34-A & 370)
- Social Aspect**
  - Natural Converging Factor

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## Topic: Understanding Key Aspects of Maps

### Recommended Readings

- **No Reading ~ For Interest ~ Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)**

25

**Understanding SLOCs & Choke Points**

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• **SLOCs** ~ Sea Lanes of Communication  
 • **Choke Points** ~ Bottlenecks points connecting sea's pathways

 A world map illustrating the global network of sea lanes of communication (SLOCs). The map shows major shipping routes connecting various continents. Key choke points are marked with circles and labeled: Panama Canal, Bab el-Mandab, Suez Canal, Cape of Good Hope, Bosporus, Strait of Hormuz, and Strait of Malacca. The map also indicates the importance of these routes with a legend: "Importance" (Core Route and Secondary Route) and "Chokepoint" (Primary and Secondary).

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### Understanding Regions (Indian Ocean Region)

- Regions are marked either by marking choke points or extreme points or both.

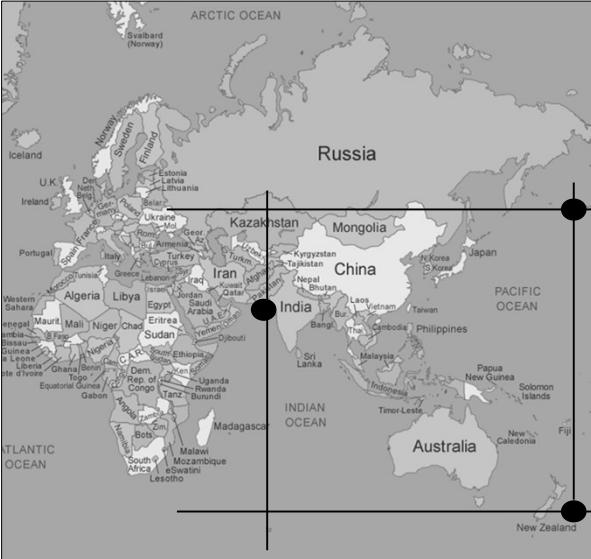
**Hotspots**

- Pak-India
- KSA vs. Iran
- China vs. India
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Persian Gulf
- Yemen Crisis
- BRI (CPEC)
- Arabian Sea
- Energy Politics
- India vs. Nepal
- Mynamar
- 7th Fleet (USA)
- Critical Chokes
- Etc.

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## Understanding Regions (Asia-Pacific)

- Regions are marked either by marking choke points or extreme points or both.




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**Hotspots**

- Pak-India
- China-India
- South Asia
- SEA

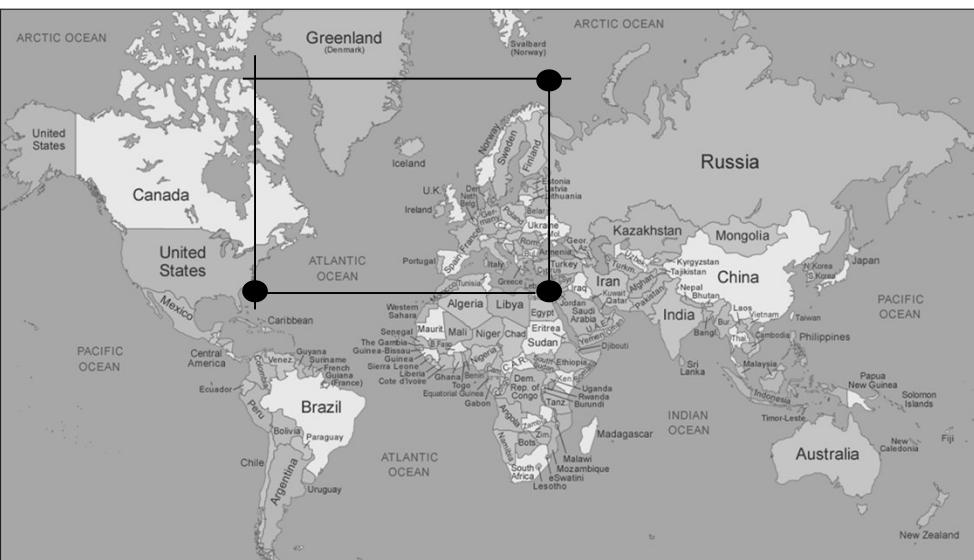
**Korean Issue**

- Japan vs. China
- AUKUS
- QUAD
- FOIP
- SCS
- ECS
- BRI
- RECP

29

## Understanding Regions (Euro-Atlantic Region)

- Regions are marked either by marking choke points or extreme points or both.

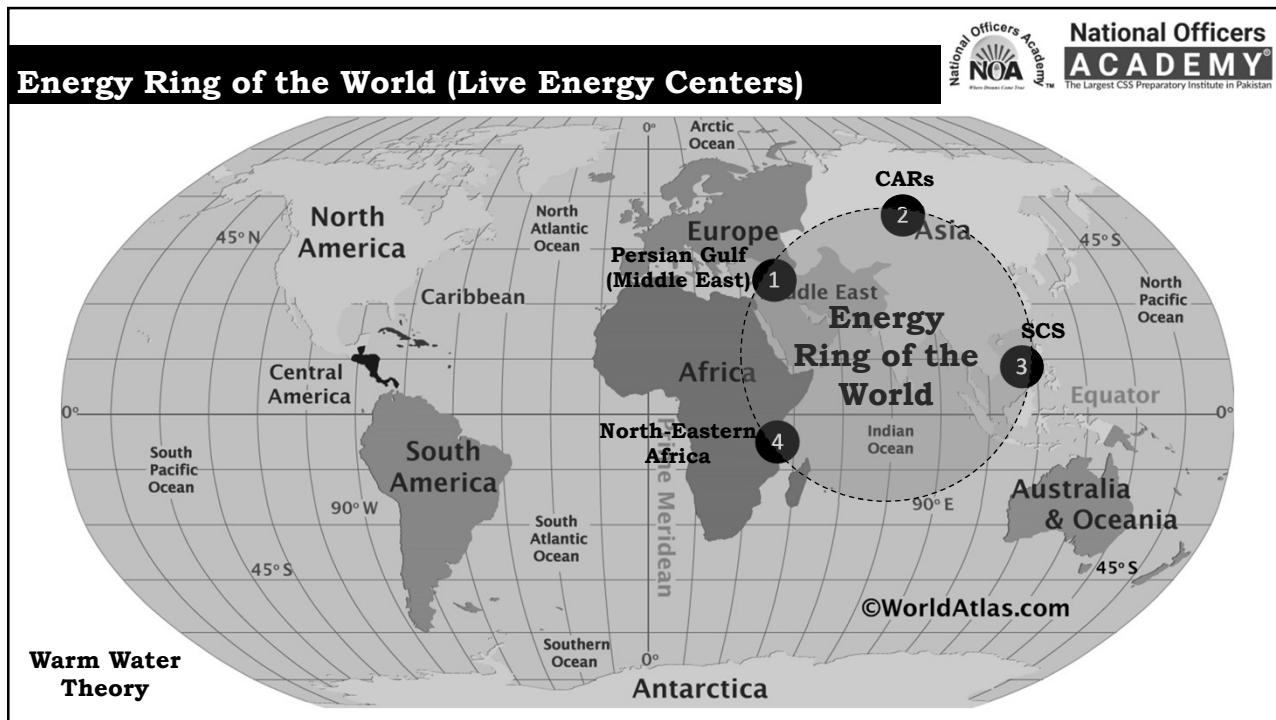



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**Hotspots**

- Ukraine-Russia
- NATO
- EU Disintegration
- Exits
- Refugee Crisis
- Turkey
- France
- Germany
- B3W
- Etc.

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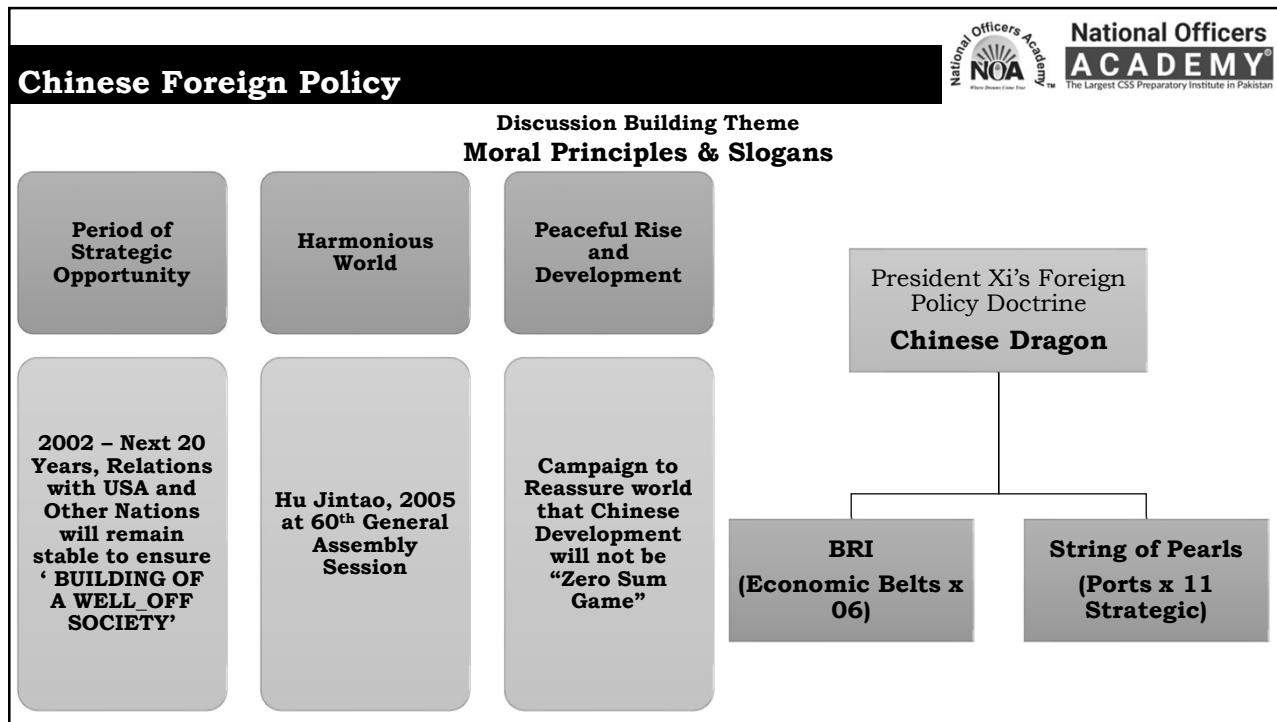
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## Topic: China in Focus

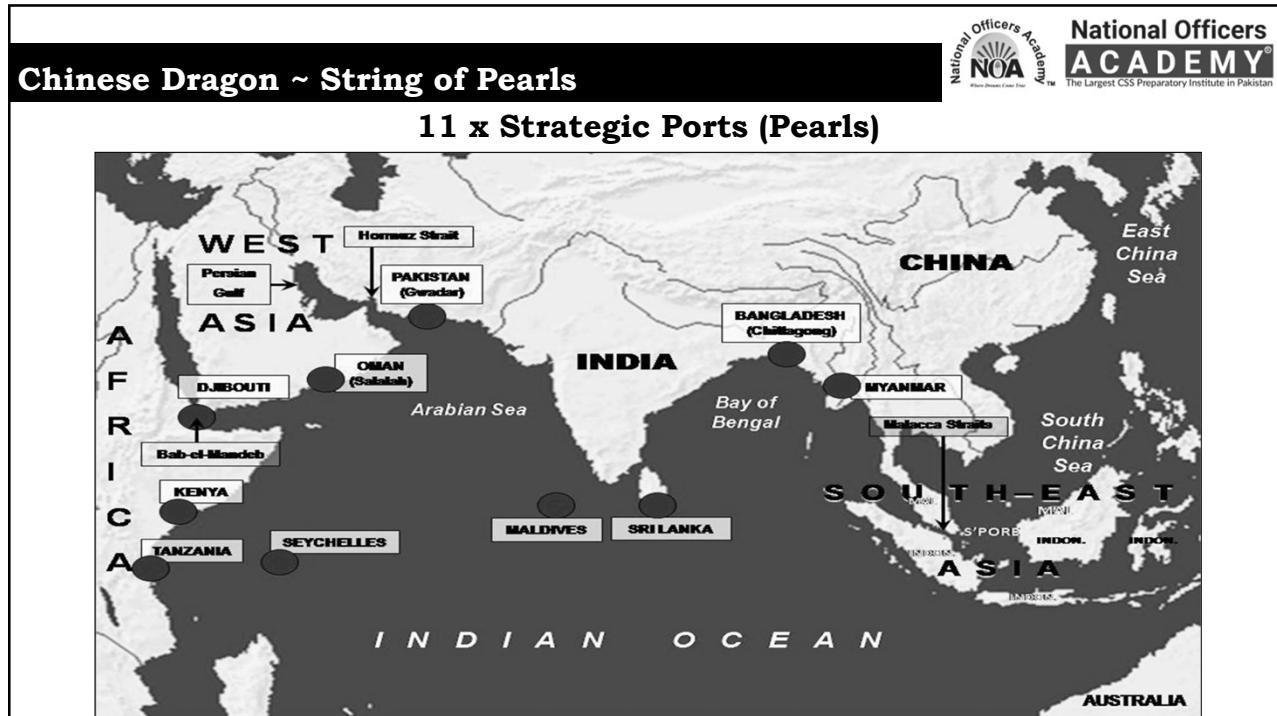
### Recommended Readings

- Chapter 5 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)
- Chapter 5 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by Hassan Ali Gondal
- See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too

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**Chinese Dragon ~ Belt Road Initiative (BRI)**

**06 x Strategic Economic Belts (Road Connectivity)**

The map illustrates the 6 strategic economic belts of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) originating from China. The belts are:

- 1. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**
- 2. China-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor**
- 3. China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor**
- 4. TUT (Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmeni. Economic Corridor)**
- 5. Eurasian Economic Corridor (Russia-Estonia-Latvia-Belarus-Ukraine Economic Corridor)**
- 6. Middle Eastern Economic Corridor (Pakistan/Afghanistan to Iran to Iraq-Jordan/Turkey)**

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**Chinese BRI in Totality**

**Key**

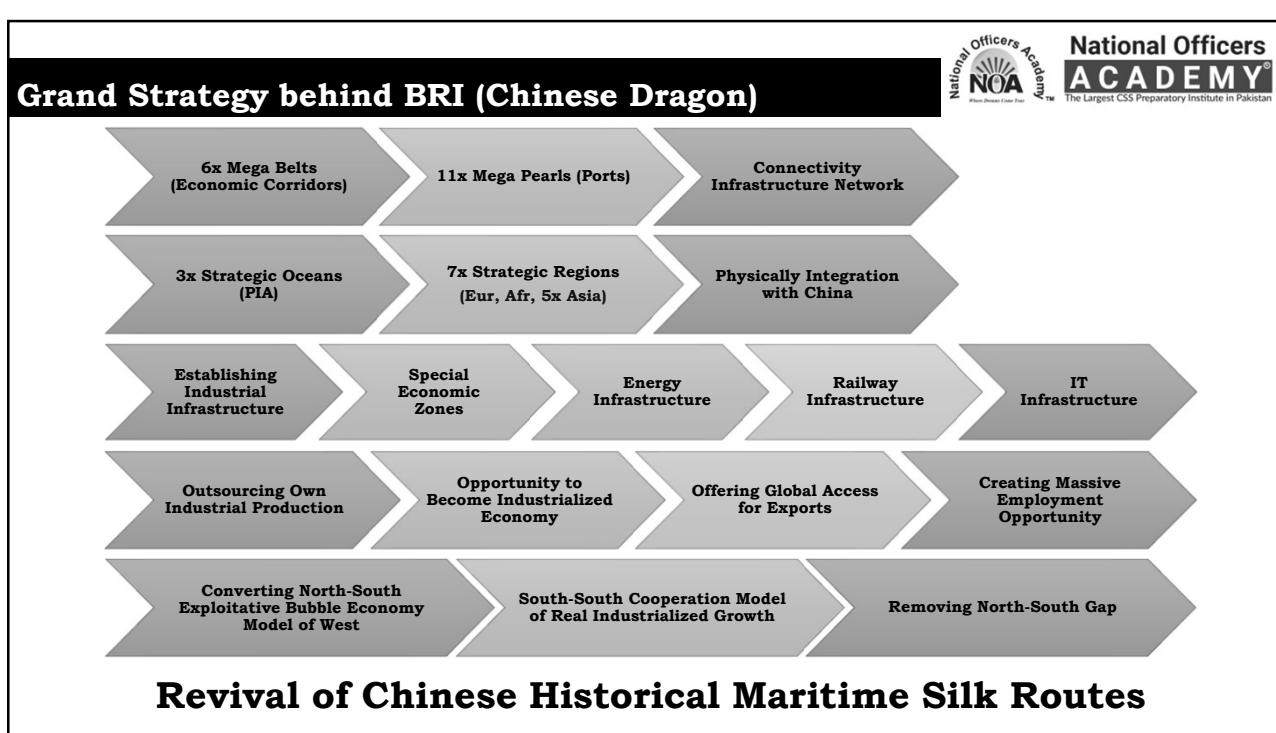
- Silk Road Economic Belt
- New Maritime Silk Road

**Projects subsumed under China's Belt and Road initiative**

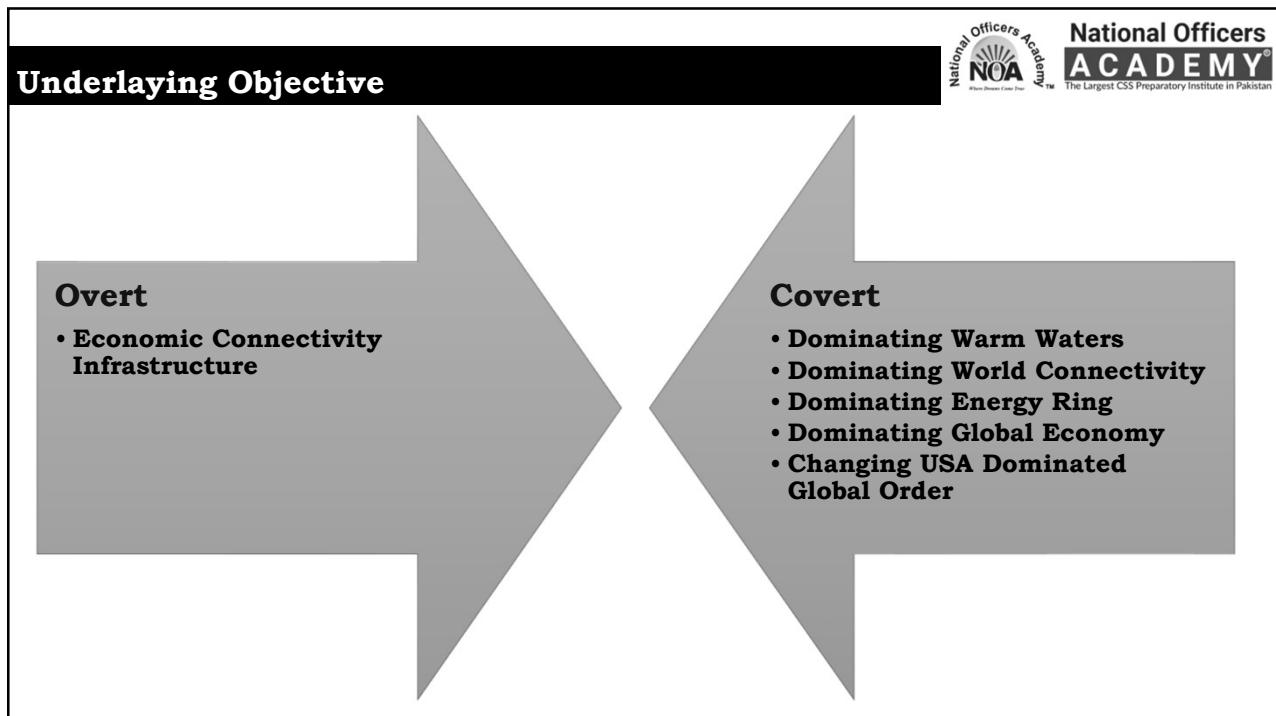
- Gas pipelines
- Oil pipelines
- Railroad
- Proposed economic corridors
- Ports with Chinese engagement
- Planned or under construction

The map shows the total network of projects subsumed under China's Belt and Road Initiative as of December 2015. It includes the Silk Road Economic Belt and the New Maritime Silk Road, with various projects marked by lines and dots. Key cities and ports along the routes are labeled, including Hamburg, Rotterdam, Madrid, Paris, Venice, Belgrade, Istanbul, Ankara, Gwadar, Djibouti, and many others in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

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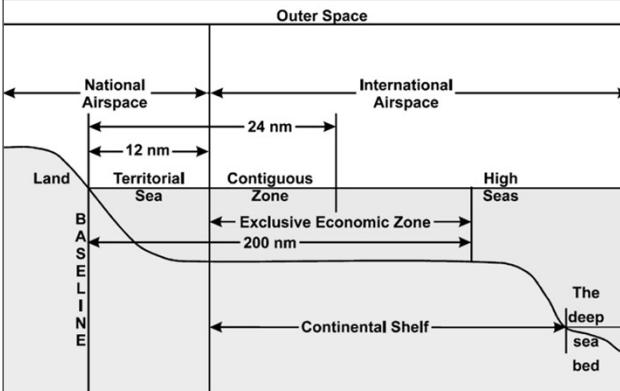
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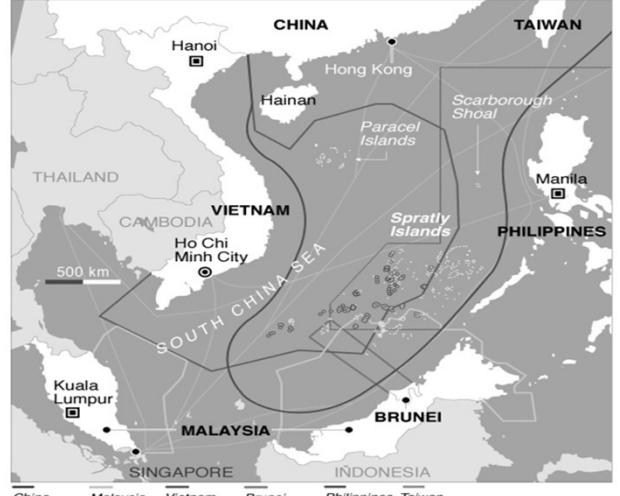
38

**De-Coding South China Sea Dispute**

**International Law on Seas**  
**United Nation Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS-III)**



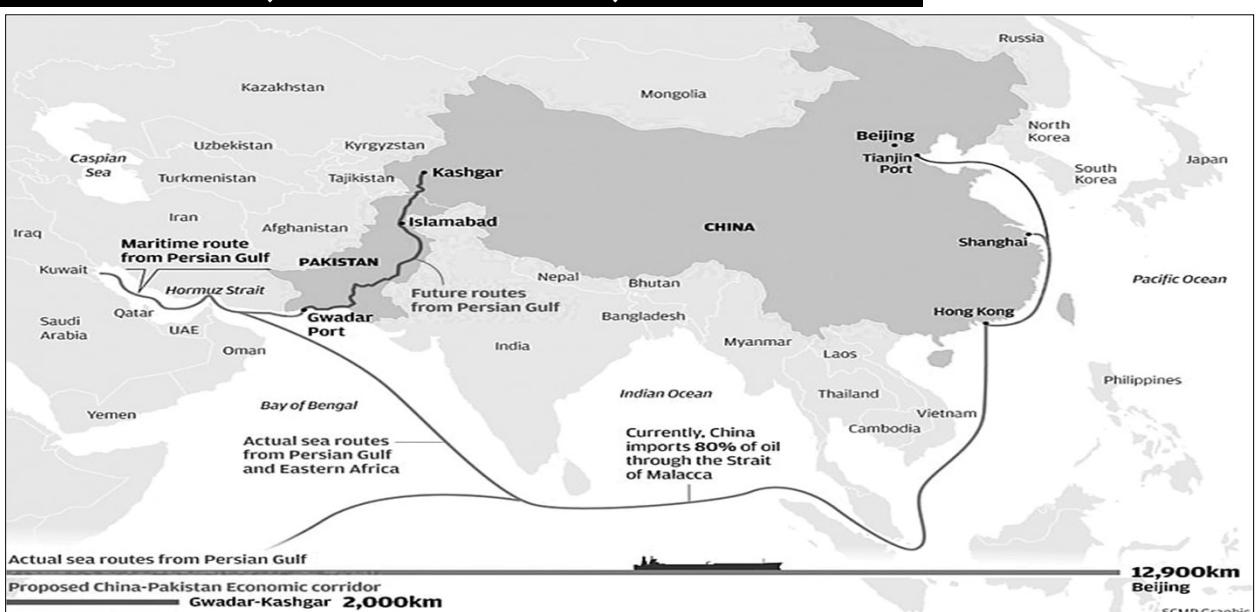
**South China Sea Dispute Chinese Nine Dashed Line**



**China can't rely on it. Need to diversify connectivity and accessibility.**  
**THE THESIS OF GWADAR (CPEC).**

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**Case of Gwadar (Pak-China Relations)**



**Proposed China-Pakistan Economic corridor**  
**Gwadar-Kashgar 2,000km**

**Currently, China imports 80% of oil through the Strait of Malacca**

**12,900km Beijing**

SCMP Graphic

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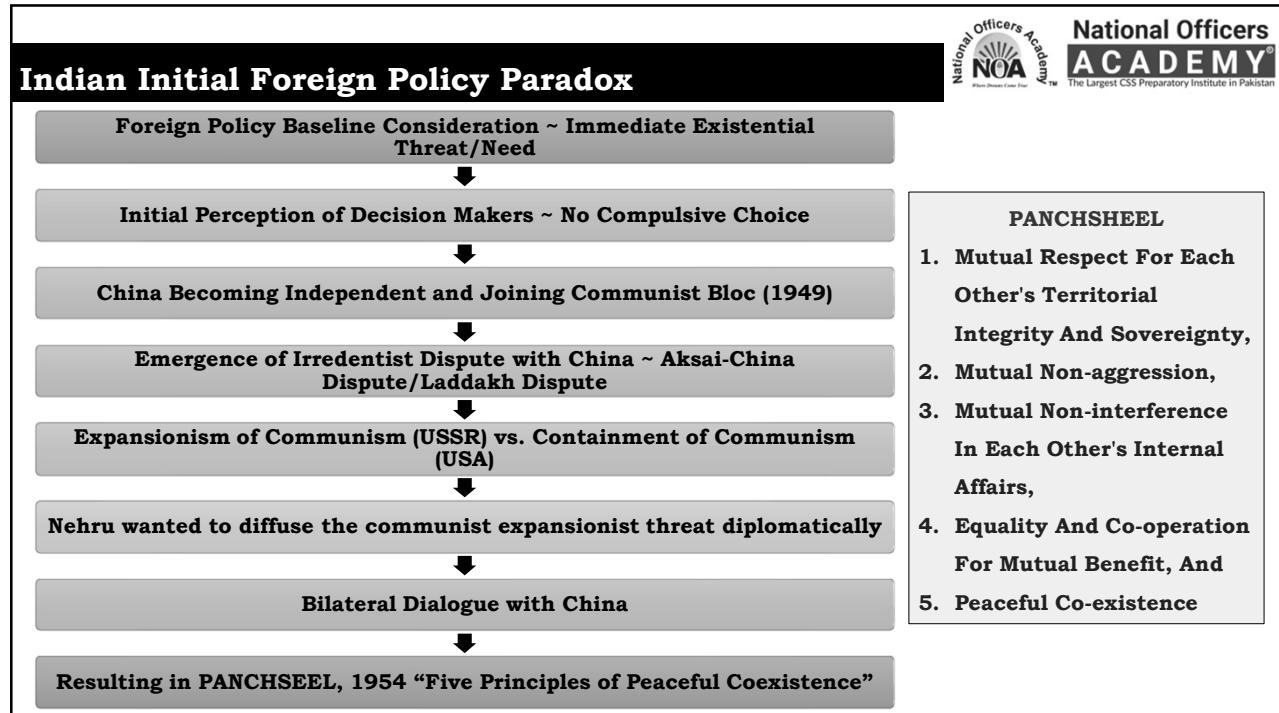
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## Topic: India in Focus

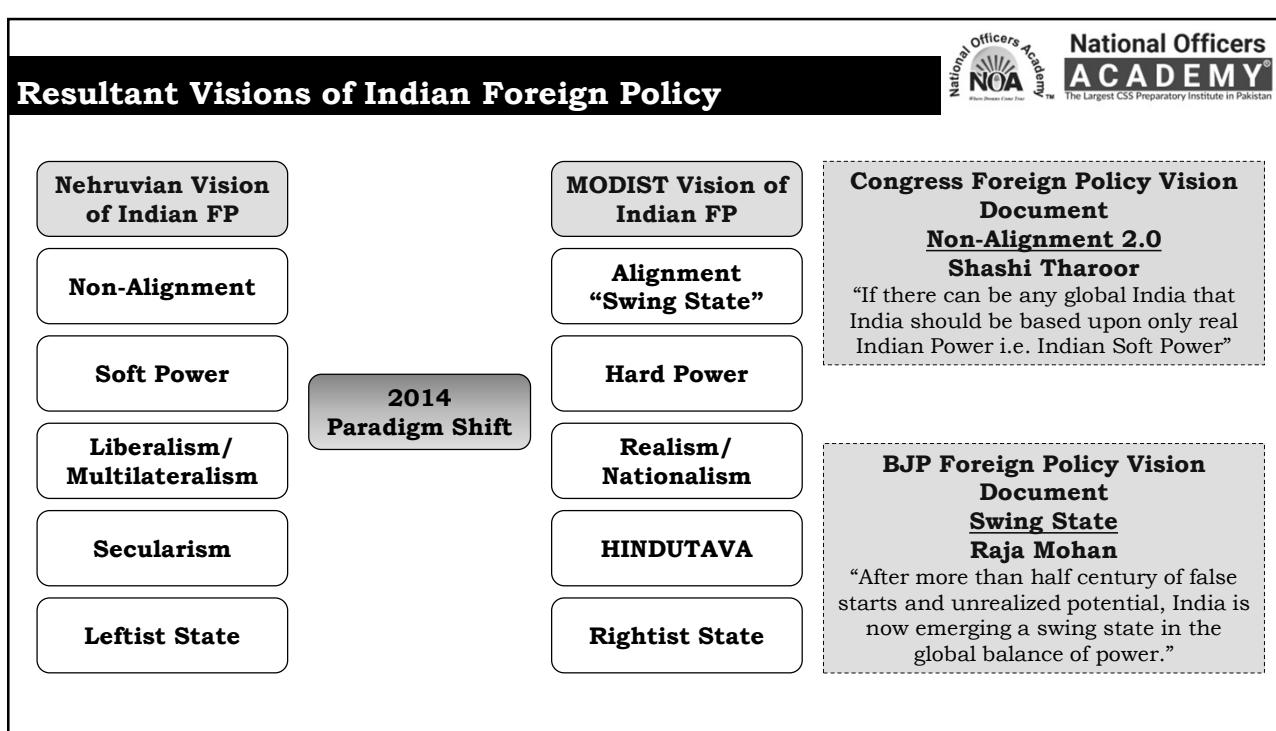
### Recommended Readings

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- **Chapter 5 & 6~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by HA Gondal**
- **See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too**

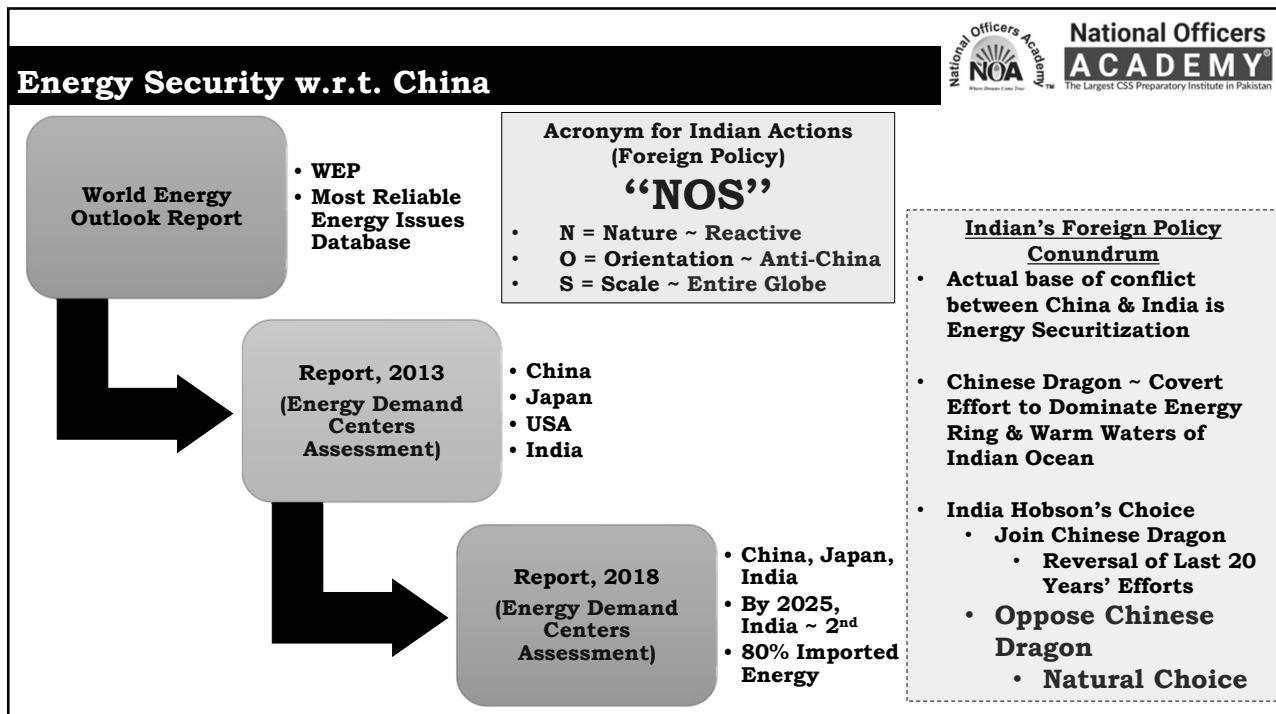
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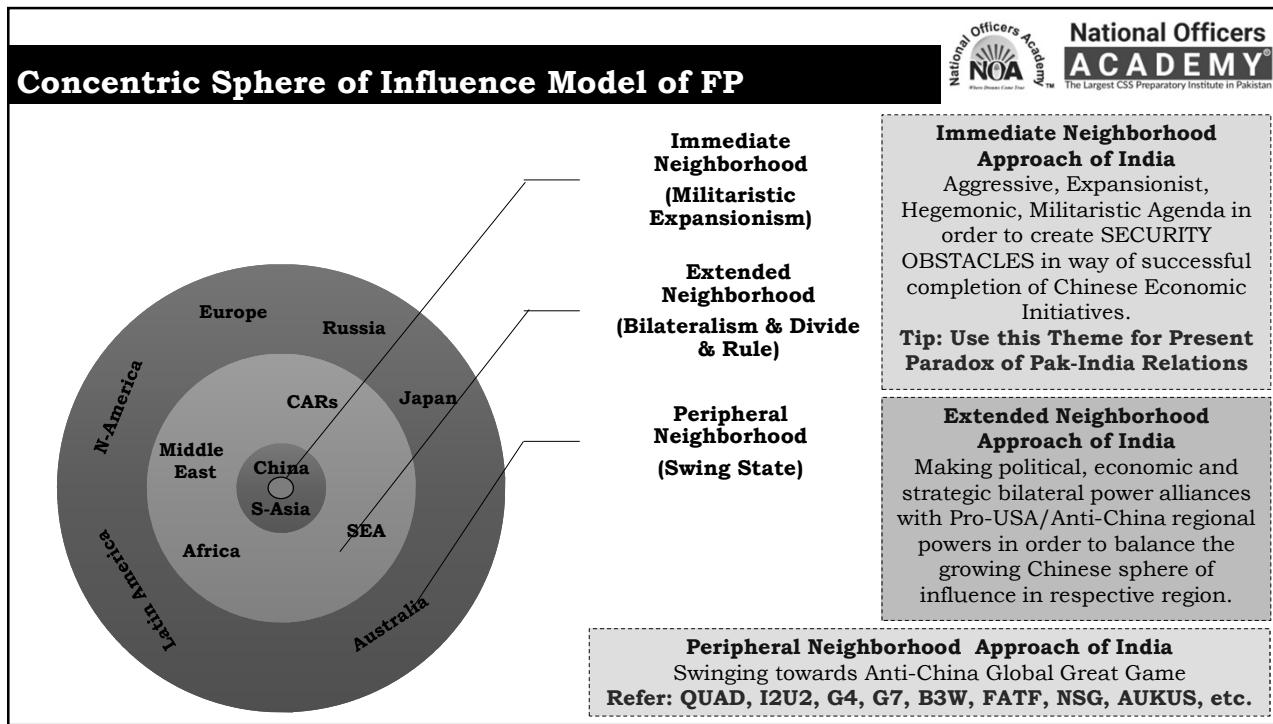
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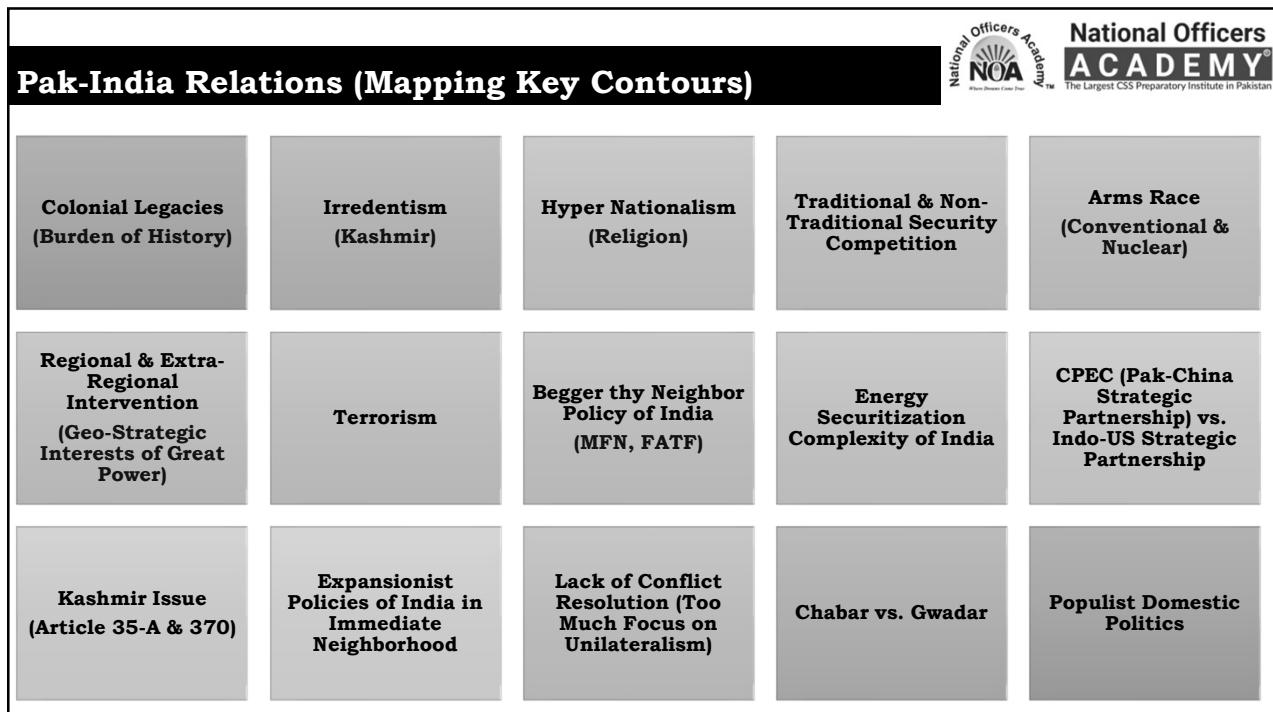
43



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## Dispute Resolution Mechanism ~ Best Route??



### Methodology:

- Identify different routes/ways in which both countries tried to resolve their conflicts.
- Figure out which route was result-oriented and which was not.
- Debate the relevance (prospects) of result-oriented route in prevailing environment.

#### Bilateral Route

- Nehru-Liaquat Pact (1950)
- Khawaja-Nehru Dialogue, 1952
- Sikander Mirza-Nehru, 1957
- Bhutto-Sawaran Dialogue, 1960
- Ayub-Indra Gandhi, 1966
- Bhutto-Indra Gandhi, 1973, 1975
- Zia-Rajiv Gandhi, 1988
- Composite Dialogue, 1998
- Lahore Declaration, 1999
- Agra Summit, 2001
- Ufa Summit, 2015

No Big Breakthrough

#### Multilateral Route

- UN resolutions on Kashmir
- SAARC on Regional Cooperation

No Big Breakthrough

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Mediation Route

- Seize Fire Agreement, 1949 (UN)
- Indus Water Treaty, 1960 (WB)
- Tashkent Declaration, 1966 (USSR)
- Rann of Kutch Arb. 1968 (UNSG)
- Simla Agreement, 1972 (USSR)
- Nuclear CBMs, 1998 (USA)
- Kargil De-escalation, 1999 (USA)
- Balakot De-escalation, 2019 (KSA)

Only productive route in historical discourse.

-----  
But not workable in prevailing situation.



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## Topic: Foreign Policy of Pakistan

### Recommended Readings

- Chapter 8 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)
- Chapter 5 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by HA Gondal
- See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too

Thematic Understanding of Past-Present		Discussion Building Theme Foreign Policy in Transition	
Historical Outlook (1947~2017)		Attempt for Paradigm Shift (2018~2022)	
Riyadh-Washington Centric	Beijing Centric		
Socio-Strategic Lens	Geo-Economic Lens		
Nationalism	Multilateralism		
Realism (Military/Hard Power Lens)	Liberalism (Economic/Soft Power Lens)		
Isolation (Indian Propaganda)	Global Agenda Centric		
Bandwagoner (Extra-regional Approach)	Balancer/Inter-dependency (Region Centric Approach)		
Client State	Mediator State		

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Determinants, Contours & Phases		
Determinants	Contours	Phases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security Concerns</li> <li>Geo-Political Location</li> <li>Kashmir Issue</li> <li>Economic Dependency</li> <li>Regional &amp; Global Alliances</li> <li>Nuclear Program</li> <li>Domestic Politics</li> <li>Global Events</li> <li>Islamic Identity</li> <li>Diaspora &amp; People-to-People Ties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quest for Security</li> <li>Survival as Independent State</li> <li>Troubled Relations with India</li> <li>Reliance on West</li> <li>Solidarity with Muslim World</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formative Years (1947-1953)</li> <li>Alliances and Non-Alignment (1954-1970)</li> <li>1971 and Realignment (1971-1977)</li> <li>Cold War and Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan (1979-1988)</li> <li>Post-Cold War Era and Nuclearization (1988-2001)</li> <li>Post-9/11 and the War on Terror (2001-present)</li> <li>Engaging with Regional Powers (Recent Years)</li> </ul>
Analysis Theme Build Suggestions on Following Themes		
	Region Centric Approach	Balancing (Non-Alignment)
	CPEC (Economic Lens)	Stability

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## Additional Topics

**Time Dependent**

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## Topic: Peace-Making & Peace Building in South Asia ~ Analytical Perspective

**Recommended Readings**

- **Chapter 6 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by HA Gondal**

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**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**

**Discussion Building Theme**  
**Construct Arguments in Flow of**  
**Following Outline**

-----

1. Corridor of Instability
2. Multidimensional Complex Diversity
3. Burden of History
4. Geographical Centrality of India
5. Indian Expansionist Foreign Policy
6. Drivers of Unremitting Stability
7. Major Constructs of Security
8. Solution ~ Multilateral Approach (Reforming SAARC)

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**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**

**Discussion Building Theme**  
**Construct Arguments in Flow of**  
**Following Outline**

-----

1. Corridor of Instability
- 2. Multidimensional Complex Diversity**
3. Burden of History
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7. Major Constructs of Security
8. Solution ~ Multilateral Approach (Reforming SAARC)

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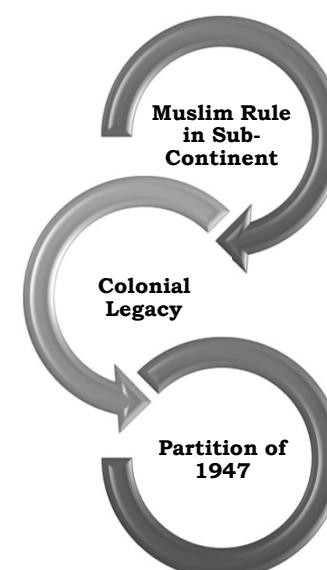
**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**

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**Discussion Building Theme**  
**Construct Arguments in Flow of Following Outline**

-----

1. Corridor of Instability
2. Multidimensional Complex Diversity
- 3. Burden of History**
4. Geographical Centrality of India
5. Indian Expansionist Foreign Policy
6. Drivers of Unremitting Stability
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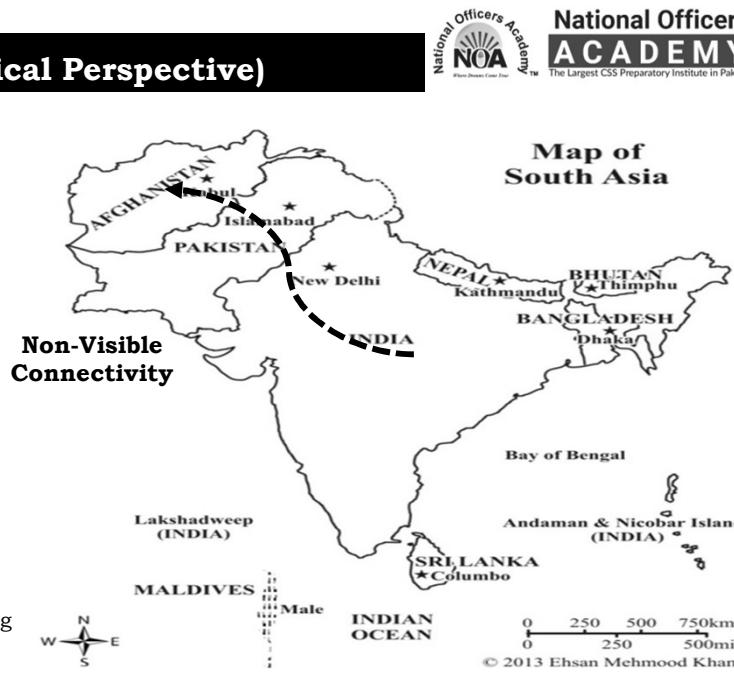
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**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**

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**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**


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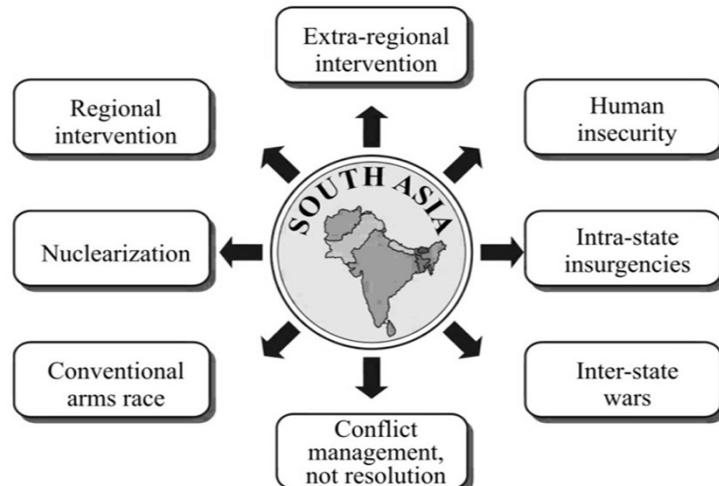
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6. Drivers of Unremitting Stability

**7. Major Constructs of Security**

8. Solution ~ Multilateral Approach (Reforming SAARC)



The diagram illustrates various security constructs centered around South Asia. At the center is a map of the region. Surrounding it are eight boxes, each containing a construct, connected to the center by arrows:

- Regional intervention (top-left)
- Extra-regional intervention (top)
- Human insecurity (top-right)
- Intra-state insurgencies (right)
- Inter-state wars (bottom-right)
- Conflict management, not resolution (bottom)
- Conventional arms race (bottom-left)
- Nuclearization (left)

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**Cause-Effect-Solution (Analytical Perspective)**


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**8. Solution ~ Multilateral Approach**  
**(Reforming SAARC)**

Functional Restructuring of SAARC	
Reforming and Revitalizing SAARC	
South Asian Security Dialogue (SASD)	
South Asian Nuclear Dialogue (SAND)	
Conventional Arms Reduction Dialogue (CARD)	
South Asian Parliament (SAP)	
Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)	
People to People Contact (PPC)	
Multi-track Diplomacy (MTD)	
Inter-Regional Trade (SAFTA)	
South Asian Literacy Commission (SALC)	
South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA)	

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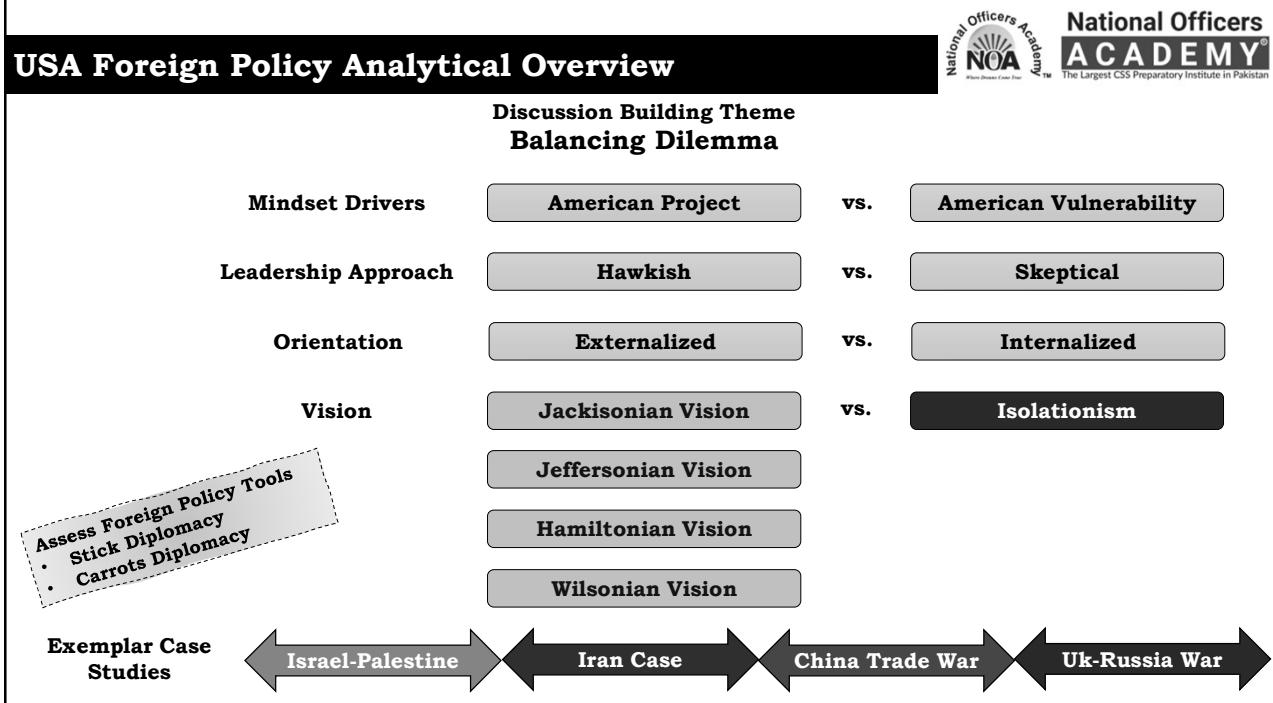
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## Topic: Foreign Policy of USA

### Recommended Readings

- Chapter 5 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by HA Gondal

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## Topic: Pak-Afghan Relations

### Recommended Readings

- **Chapter 5 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)**
- **Chapter 6 ~ International Relations (Part-II Book) by HA Gondal**
- **See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too**

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### Pak-Afghan Relations ~ Key Contours

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#### Historical Disputes

- Durand Line & The Pashtunistan Issue

#### Afghan Cold War Theatre

- Communism vs. Capitalism ~ Soviet Invasion, 1979
- Mujahedeen vs. Northern Alliance

#### Post-Soviet Conflict (Mujahadin vs. Northern Alliance)

- Ideological Differences
- External Support
- Post-Soviet Vacuum

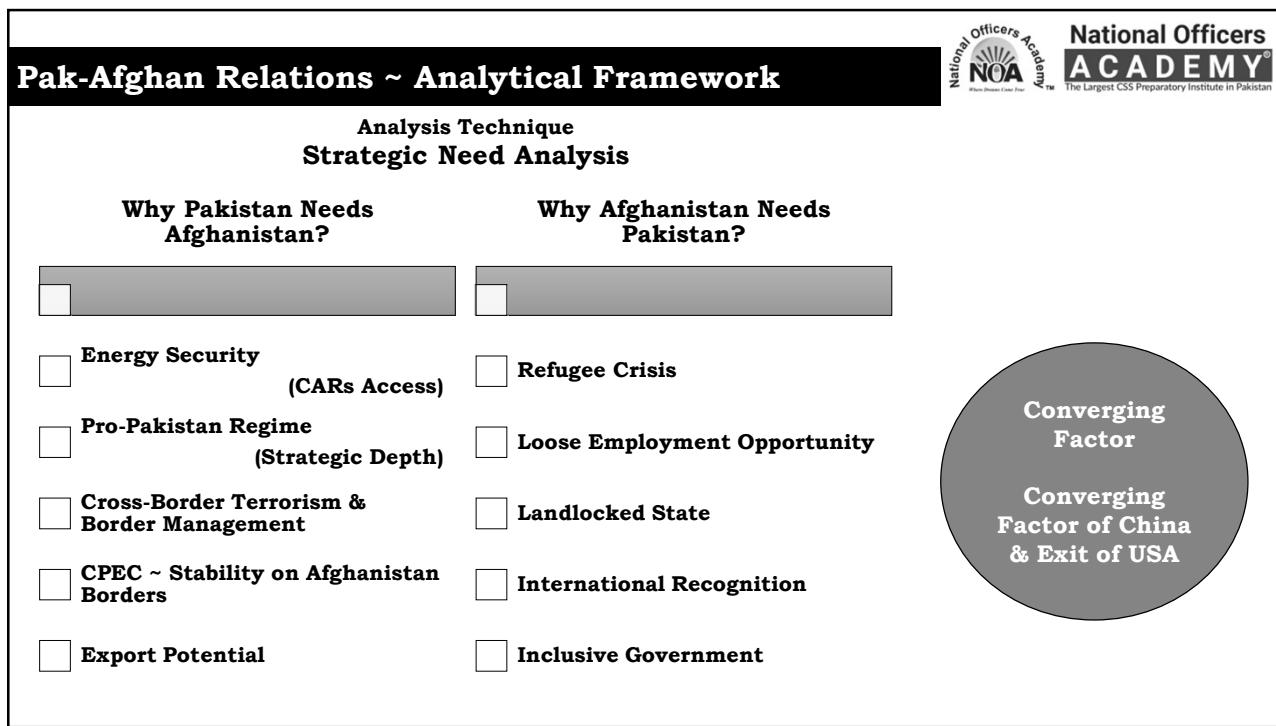
#### Pakistan Conundrum (During~After Soviet Invasion)

- Pakistan as a Safe Haven
- Refugee Crisis
- Changing US-Pakistan Relations
- Impact on Regional Stability
- Soviet Withdrawal and Aftermath

#### Post 9/11

- Cross-Border Militancy, Safe Havens, Border Management & Fence Construction
- Accusations of Proxy Warfare & Spillover of Violence
- Refugee Crisis and Repatriation Challenges
- Peace and Reconciliation Efforts

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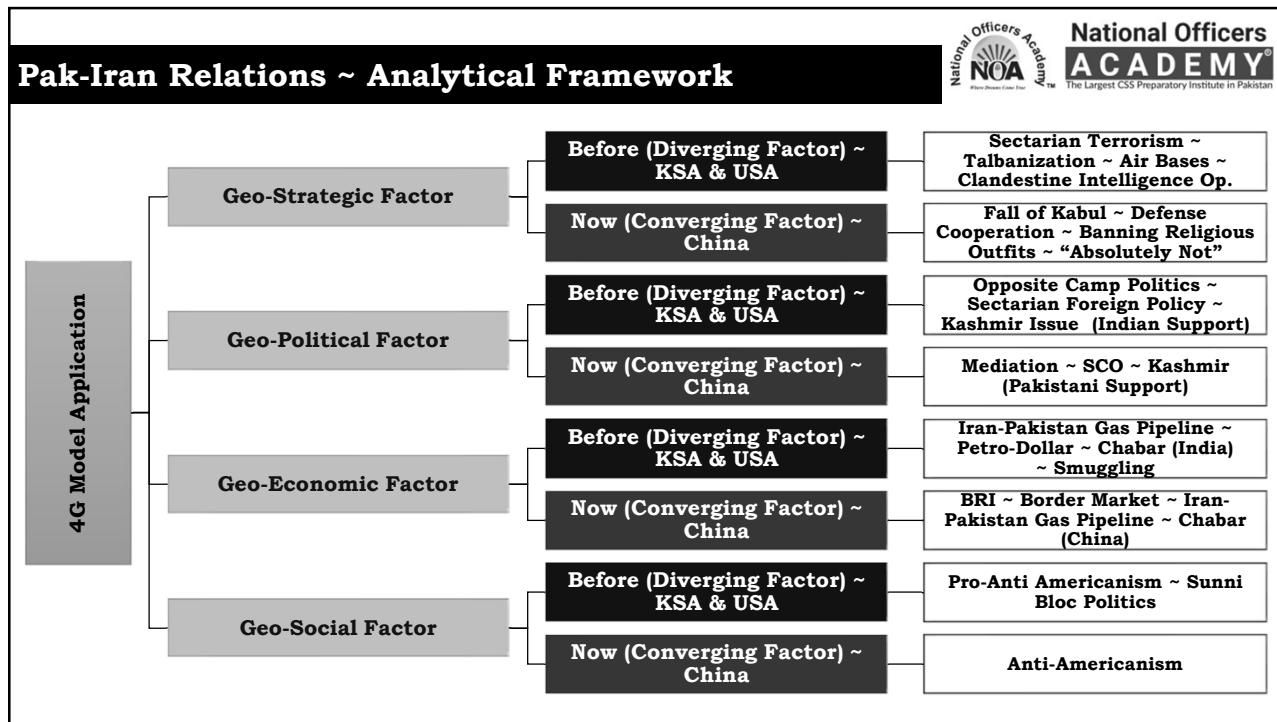
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**Topic: Pak-Iran Relations**

**Recommended Readings**

- **Chapter 5 ~ NOA's Pakistan Affairs Book (Selective Topics)**
- **See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too**

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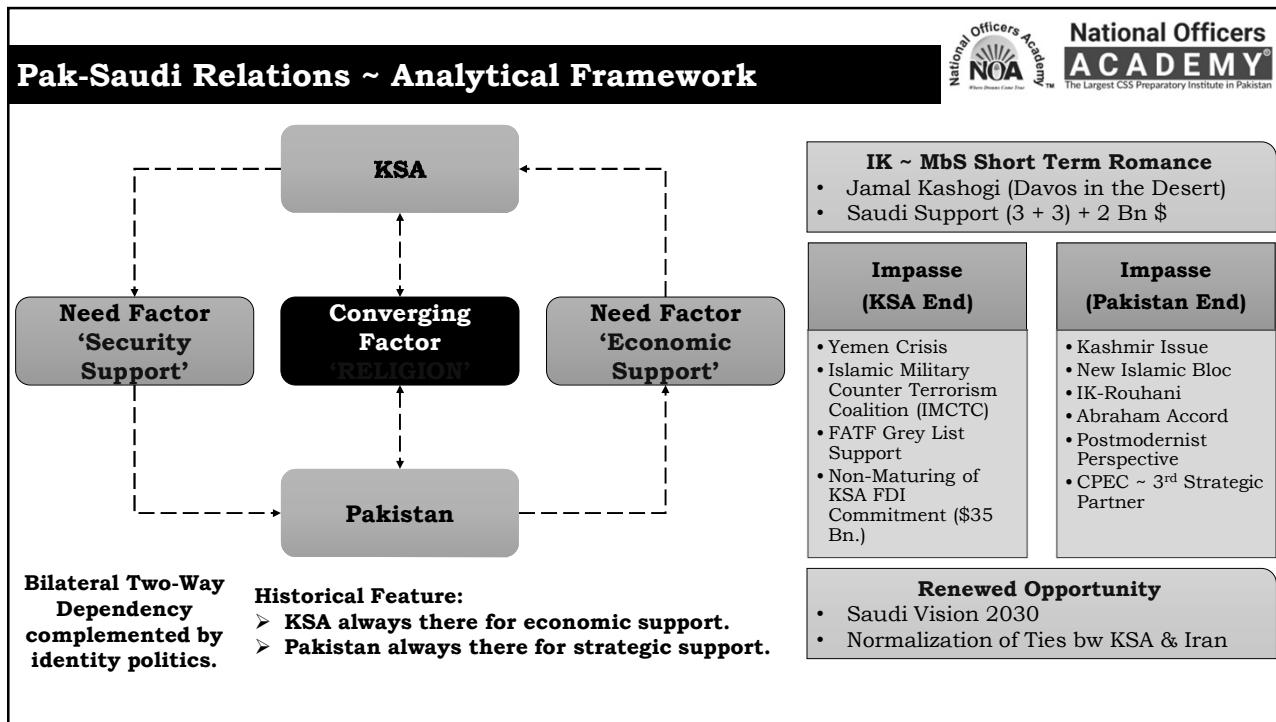
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## Topic: Pak-Saudi Relations

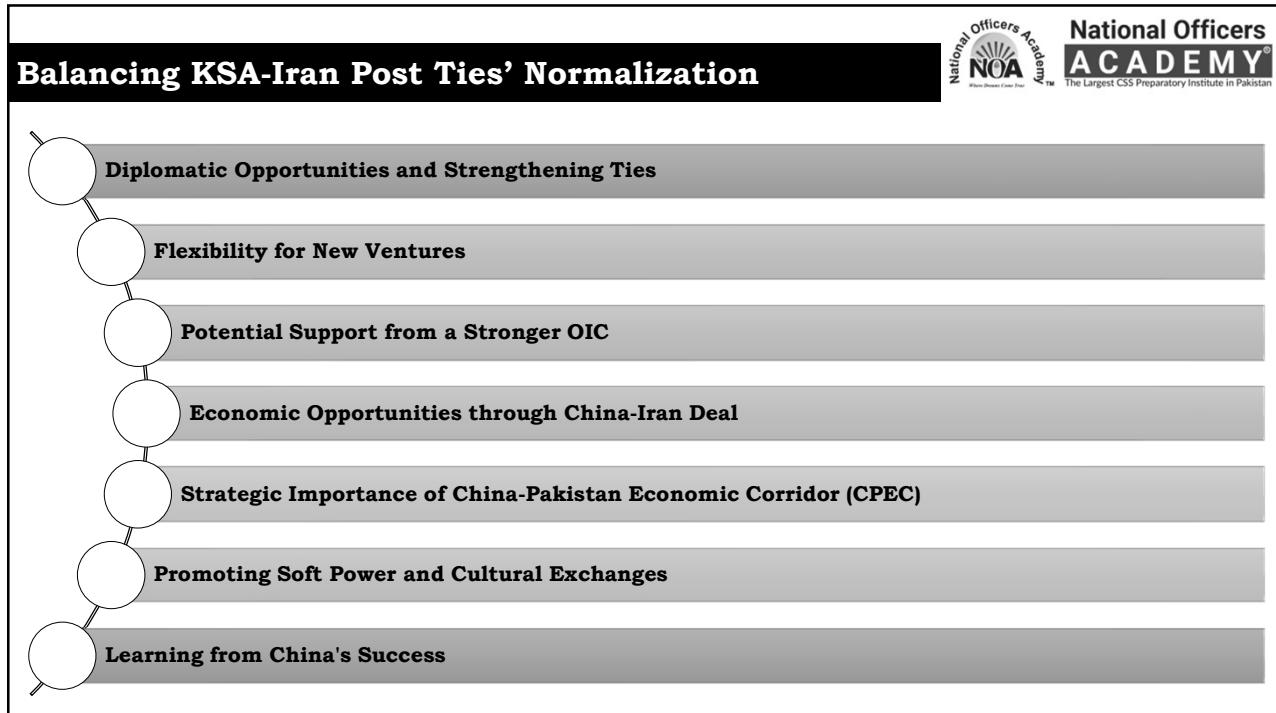
### Recommended Readings

- NOA's Current Affairs Book (Selective Topics)
- See Updated NOA Magazine for Developments too

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## Current Affairs (Relations)

# Thank You