

Global Power Dynamics and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

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It was a bleak morning in Heroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945, when "little boy" hit the city for not to leave anything beyond destruction. The same phenomenon was being repeated by using "fat man" on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. This proved the last nail in the Coffin of WWII with the Surrender of Japan and US managed to build its hegemony over the globe. After not so long, USSR became able to balance the power by its just founded nukes in 1949. In the wake of this, the world entered into a new war, named

the Cold War. It was cold only in the territories of Superpowers. The rest of the world was suffering from its scorching outcomes in the form of proxies. On Dec 25, 1991 USSR collapsed and the world shifted from bipolarity to unilateral order. US has enjoyed the status of only Superpower for more than three decades by smashing its state and non-state enemies, whether openly or secretly.

In the near past, world has shifted from geo-politic to geo-economic order. In the new world order all the states around the globe, are striving for new and most relevant political, economic and strategic ties to be incessant in the race.

Pakistan is also following the same model by diversifying its foreign policy, to stay relevant and privileged in the global power dynamics.

World is slowly undergoing a paradigm shift. Here is a bird's eye view of the illustrative occurrences of the phenomenon.

With the balance of power over the globe, the world entered into a new war, the Cold war. Two Superpower, USA and USSR endeavoured to Smash each other to hegemonies the world. It was the was between two ideologies, Capitalism in the west and Communism in east. The Western States were more Strong wherefore USA used their strength by the platform of NATO against Communism. Wherever Communism wanted to prevail US Smashed it Successfully with the help of its Capitalist allies. Pakistan was its first line ally against Communism in Afghan-Soviet war (1979-1989). Whatever it was, US managed to Smash USSR on Dec 26, 1991 and to build unilateral world order. With the Collapse of USSR the Cold war ended.

The 21st Century is the era of neo Cold war. Unlike the Cold war 1.0, it is a trade war. The friendships and defiances in the modern era, has a strand of economy

behind them. In the changing world, all the States are striving for new and most relevant Political, Economic and Strategic ties to be incessant in the race. All the major economies are trying to hegemonies the world but the most relevant in the race are India and China in Eastern hemisphere. USA is striving to save its hegemony by imposing Sanctions on States like on Russia and Iran or by using different other tactics, as used against China in Indo-Pacific. The growing developments by USA in Indo-Pacific region for the Containment of China are enough to intensify the Conflict between a Super-power and an emerging Superpower. Like the prior Cold war, again the war is between West and East, but this time the nature of the war is different. One cannot evaluate the outcomes at the moment but till now, China has played more safe and successful.

The Indo-Pacific region is witnessing a rivalry between a Superpower and an emerging Superpower. Since long. The phenomenon is getting intense day by day. China is building artificial islands in South China Sea. Thus, with the increasing dominance of China on South China Sea the anti-Chinese sentiments are being increased in these States which claim their maritime territory over there. US utilised the opportunity by signing bilateral defence agreement with all States including Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore and Cambodia. Along with this, an agreement named AUKUS has also signed in Sep 2021. It is a trilateral agreement among Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America to help Australia to develop a nuclear filled submarine in Indo-Pacific ocean. The covert aim of this submarine is the surveillance of China in the region. China responded

with economic escalation. It launched a project by the name of Belt and road initiative, a multi-billion dollars project. China is making its allies in the region by indulging them into the trade ~~rather~~ to equip them militarily.

The international Community is taking note of the Indo-US nexus in the indo-pacific region. USA is utilising India's geo-strategic location to contain China as the both has rivalry with the giant. The nexus includes many projects. Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed in 2016 to provide logistic support to India in indo-pacific region. In 2018 an agreement named (COMCASA) Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement was signed to share confidential information to US by India. An other information sharing agreement was signed called (BECA) Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement in 2020. Along side these agreements US provided

200 drones to India, the Covert aim of which, is the Surveillance of China. Due to its geo-strategic location India is the front line ally of US. On the other end, India is protecting its own economic and political interests by Containing China.

On March 10, 2023, Saudia and Iran agreed to restore their diplomatic relations, as a part of Chinese Sponsored initiative. It aims at reducing tensionⁱⁿ middle east. Saudia and Iran were involved in an ideological war since Iranian revolution. Anyhow, with the Changing world order, they also modified their foreign policies. It is a Chinese Sponsored rapprochement which means that China is pursuing a Successful politics in the region. It is a magnificent Step towards the peace in middle east. An integrated middle east, which seems more close to China, will be an other Centre of power after east and west.

On 24 Feb, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in the escalation of Russo-Ukraine war, started in 2014. The invasion brought an economic disruption, along with many other upheavals, for both Russia and Europe. A big chunk of Russian economy depends upon oil and gas exports. Europe was the major importer of these products. After Russo-Ukraine Conflict, European States along with USA, imposed Sanctions on Russia. The phenomenon enhanced tension between west and Russia. First Russia faced an economic setback but later, it managed to be met with other importers like Pakistan and India. The attempt of western States, to isolate Russia, seems to be foiled by its new ties with other regional States particularly with China. The Sino-Russian ties are not new but in recent years, more precisely, after Russian invasion of Ukraine, it has tightened. Beijing has been careful not to criticize Russia during war and remain an ally. These economic

and political ties threw a curveball at the global world order.

The small developments, in the different regions of the world, are leading the world towards a paradigm shift. The global organizations are very significant to trigger these developments. Here are some most relevant organization and their links with the phenomenon.

Group of 7, generally known as G-7 includes Japan, Italy, Germany, France, Canada, USA, UK and EU as an organization. These were the world's major economies prior to Russo-Ukraine Conflict. With the Russian invasion of Ukraine the European States fell into the shortage of energy which triggered hyper-inflation in Europe along with countless other domestic crises. The major states of G-7 are suffering from internal crises. The phenomenon has raised question on the relevance of G-7 forum. The

non-European States. USA, Japan and Canada cannot compete the emerging powers alone. USA has shifted its Partnership for global infrastructure and investment (PGII) to G-20 forum. It manifests the relevance of the regions South east Asia and the middle east.

G-20 seems to be the most relevant organization in recent times. The States of G-20 contributes 80% to global GDP and possesses 60% land of the planet. US is the leading member of the organization recently. The Sino-US rivalry has not diminished the effectiveness of the forum. In the recent Summit of G-20, held in New Delhi, an economic Corridor with the name of India Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC) was signed which seems to be the part of PGII initiative taken by G-7. It can be proved a counter project of BRI which is being called string of pearls by India. It will give a dynamic shift to global

economic order.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an escalating organization across the Continent. It is becoming most significant competitive of all other organization on the globe. There are States in it, like Pakistan and India, that are historic rivals but are coordinating through the channel. So, it is a matchless example of shift of wars from ideological fronts to economic fronts. Likewise there are States like India and China, which are great rivals of each other but the rivalry is overleaped by the economic interests. Thus, the economic interests have designed the global ties and power dynamics. Pakistan is an active member of SCO. Recently, in the virtual Summit of SCO, hosted by New Delhi Iran officially joined as SCO's ninth member. Saudi Arabia has also applied for its membership. The

restoration of diplomatic affairs between Saudi Arabia and Iran would be the significant opportunity for the forum if Saudi Arabia joined. The tilt of middle east towards the South Asia, through SCO, would be beneficial for Pakistan.

Pakistan has shifted its foreign policy from geo-politics to geo-economics. Unlike past, Pakistan is striving to make new ties with the states that are most suited to its economic growth. Here is an illustration of the shift of Pakistan's Foreign Policy.

Sino-US Conflict is a trade war.

Both are trying to get maximum support by making partners across the globe. China has launched a multi-billion dollars project named

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a major flagship

project under (BRI). US is an opponent of

BRI and pushed Pakistan to withdraw

from the project, but Pakistan remained

intact with its commitment and preferred to protect its national interest. Pakistan is pursuing its national interest by overleaping the pressures and friendships that are aimed at to ruin its interests.

Saudi-Yemen Conflict is not new. The Sunni Saudi government is in conflict with Shia Houthis which is a non-state organization in Yemen. Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan to join Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen in 2015. Pakistani Parliament did not agree to join and Pakistan refused to send its troops. It was a demonstration of independent foreign policy. The intervention of Pakistan in Saudi-Yemen Conflict might have damaged the national interest of Pakistan, as Pakistan has its own diplomatic ties with Yemen. Apart from this, a big chunk of Pakistan's population is Shia Muslims which

feel integrated with other Shia Muslims around the globe. So, the phenomenon might have created a chaos in Pakistan. Thus, the decision of not joining Saudi led Coalition army against Yemen proved fruitful for Pakistan.

Pakistan shares 904 km border with Iran. Recently, Pakistan and Iran introduced border reforms. The then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif and his counterpart Ebrahim Raisi of Iran inaugurated a market along the Pak-Iran border on 18 May, 2023 at Gbd, a town adjacent to Gwadar. It is to facilitate imports and exports between the two states and to stop illegal activities including smuggling through the borders. Iran has never been in the good books of USA and other western states. In recent past, Pakistan was unable to pursue its diplomatic relations with Iran due to the restrictions imposed by Saudi. But as it has shifted

its foreign policy from geo-politics to geo-economic. So it is pursuing a foreign policy that better serves its interests.

Pakistan imported Russian crude oil by 60 USD per barrel in April 2023. The cargo was carrying 45,000 metric tonnes firstly and the next was of 50,000 metric tonnes.

The then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sherrif called the arrival of Russian crude oil a "transformative day" for the crisis-ridden country. After the Western sanctions on Russian the import of the oil by Pakistan demonstrating that Pakistan is striving for the relations that suited best to its interest. The action is evaluated critically by west but Pakistan is no more compromising its national and economic interest.

Palestine-Israel war triggered with Hamas intervention in Israel on Oct 7, 2023. Israel is convicted of war crimes against Gaza.

Humanity is ashamed on, the way Palestinian Civilians are being Slaughtered by Israeli brutal leadership. Israel is being Supported militarily by USA on all fronts. Pakistan has taken an independent Stance on the Palestinian genocide. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to UN, Munir Akram, made a Speech during United Nations General Assembly Session. He denounced "the Israeli occupation is the original Sin. He demanded, on the behalf of whole nation, equal rights for Palestinians. The Phenomenon is the demonstration that Pakistan is no more available to protect Western agendas and interest. It will not be taking any Step that damage its national interest.

In the new world order all the States are Striving for new and most relevant Political, economic and strategic ties to be incessant in race. Pakistan is also following the Same model by diversifying its foreign policy to stay relevant and privileged in global

Power dynamics. The friendships and defiances in contemporary world is based on economy. The economy will decide the new world order. States have overlooked their ideological differences to protect their economic interests. The relevance of G-20, SCO and growing developments under Indo-US nexus are the perfect demonstration of the phenomenon. The US is not the only superpower in the world. The world has entered into an era of multi-lateralism.

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