
PART-II

Propose prospective foreign policy options for Pakistan in the wake of Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. (20)

The 2021 Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan presents regional and global challenges. Elaborate the anticipated policies of the Taliban government and the regional and global response (20)

SUBJECTIVE PART

QUESTION NO 2:

1- INTRODUCTION:-

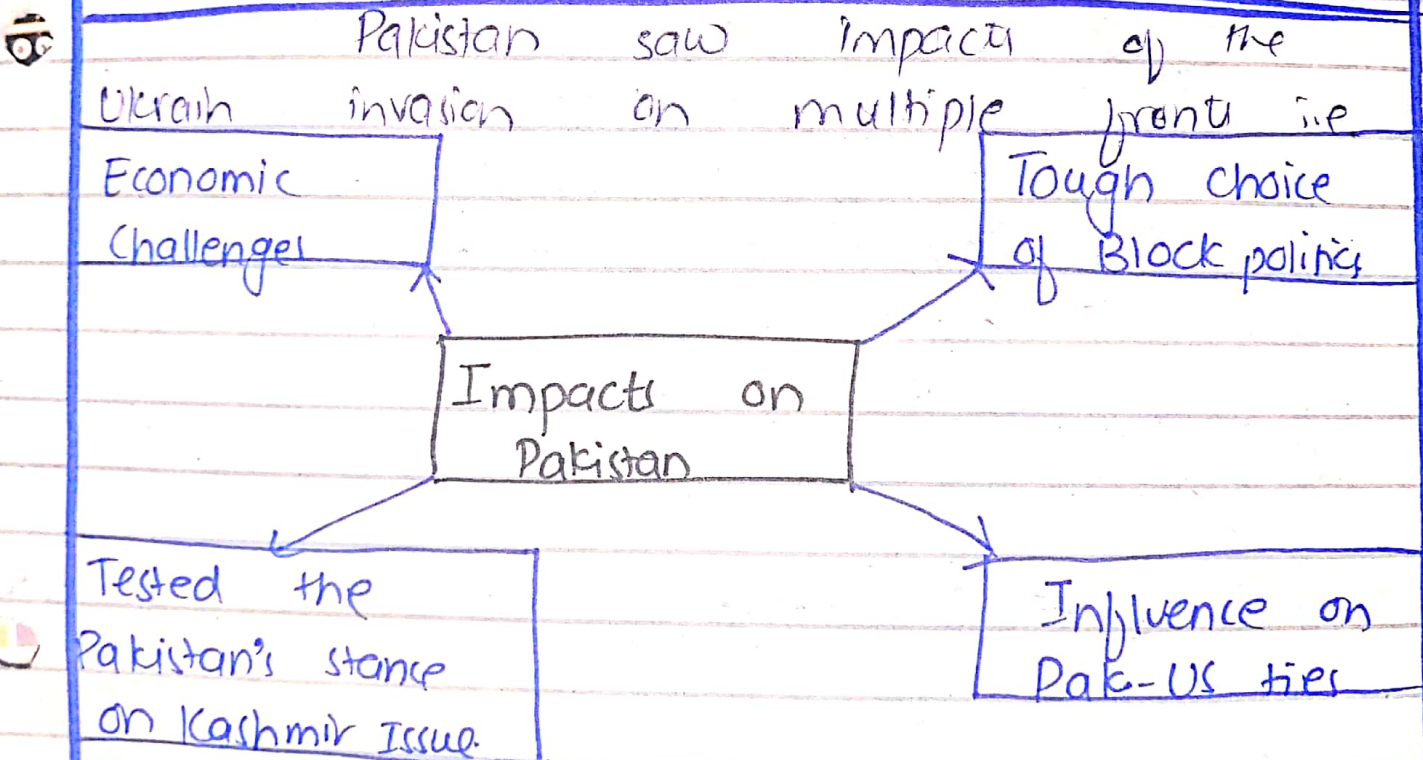
Wars have always been an important actor on play for the display of power. Numerous wars have been fought in human history. Recently, the history repeated itself with new faces of Ukraine and Russia. Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24th February, 2022 caused a shift in global climate. Where West was swift to make Russia pay for its atrocities, Moscow did not bow down to sanctions. The worst impact was seen on global economy as Russia is second largest exporter of oil and the largest exporter of natural gas that run the energy mills of West. Moreover, both countries have been major contributors in grain exports all over the world. Pakistan was not resistant to the global shocks but the ongoing global climate provides the country with an opportunity to revise and reconsider its priorities and follow a foreign policy based on national interests not sentiment.

2- BIRD-EYE OF UKRAINE CRISIS:-

After the fall of Soviet Union in 1991, many surrounding countries gained independence, Ukraine was one of them. Ukraine viewed Russian giant in military terms a threat to their security and aimed at joining NATO. The news felt like a lightning bolt on Russia as it could not tolerate the settling of US troops near its border. The act was seen as a threat to its national integrity and Ukraine was alerted of the consequence. On night of 23rd February (2022) Russia invaded Ukraine, justifying it was asked to invade and a war was erupted. This phenomenon was retaliated by West. Where USA provided Ukraine with military and weapon assistance, it along with European Union countries boycotted Russia at UN and imposed economic sanction. This spiral left long-lasting impact on global economy. Not only energy prices were hiked, the world also seen economic recession. Pakistan whose energy sectors depends on fossil fuels i.e. 60% of generation is by burning fossil fuels. (Economic Survey of Pakistan, 2022) also faced many challenges on economic front. Moreover, higher colonized

global environment was creating the circumstances of Block politics again. So, this crisis not only reshaped the international politics but provided countries like Pakistan an opportunity to set the course of its foreign policy right.

3- HOW UKRAIN CRISIS IMPACTED PAKISTAN:



Q- Economic Challenges:

Economically, energy sector of Pakistan is highly dependent on fossil fuels i.e 60 pc of energy is produced by burning hydrocarbons. So, global shortfall coupled with rising bills of hydrocarbon added to the economic woes of the country. The nation ~~was~~ had no other choice but to buy fuel at higher rate than

caused a major set back to its economic condition.

b- Tough choice of Block Politics:

With emergency of West Vs Russia and China, Pakistan was facing a dilemma to choose a side. Highly polarized international politics were making diplomatic air difficult to breathe for countries like Pakistan. So, the challenge provided an opportunity to Pakistan to revise its sentiment-based foreign policy and not be part of any block politics and establish good economic and diplomatic ties with other states on neutral grounds.

c- Influence on PAK-US ties:

Through back channels, Pakistan was made aware of the consequence if it stayed on any side of the block. There was a chance of disregularities in Pakistan and American ties. As Pakistan needed oil and food at subsidized rate, but any trade with Russia was considered as a defiance to West's sanctions. So, it created a conflict for Pakistan about what she needs and what she can have.

d-Tested Pakistan's Stance on Kashmir Issue:

Pakistan's stance on Ukraine crisis was closely linked with its stand on Kashmir issue. As the country has always highlighted the atrocities of India on the soil of IIOJK. Same way, the diplomatic standing of country would have long lasting impact on Kashmir's illegal occupation by Indian army forces.

4 POLICY OPTION FOR PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY AMID UKRAIN WAR:-

Pakistan can avail many strategic and diplomatic victories due to current crisis by adopting a foreign policy that:

- 1- Protect its national interests
- 2- Respects the national and territorial integrity of countries
- 3- Focuses on peaceful coexistence.

Thus, for balancing ties on both sides, it can adopt following strategic policies that will not only strengthen its soft image but will promote and protect its national priorities too.

a- Respect for territorial integrity:-

As enshrined in Foreign Policy of Pakistan by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, no government should undertake any act that

violates the sovereignty or territorial integrity of any state. So as far as the Russian invasion is concerned, ideologically it condemns any aggressive acts of a state costing territorial integrity of another. The country should not fall short of the principled position as it will strengthen our Kashmir cause also.

2- Exercise caution and balance while

making any big statement:

As the Ukraine-Russia war has created bloc politics at regional level, our representatives should be careful of what they say or preach at international platforms. Though the leadership and Foreign Office of the country have time and again insisted on Pakistan's policy of neutrality in this conflict, but public outrages and informal comments of political leaders are sending clear slogans across the globe. Therefore, to develop a broad-based comprehensive relations with Russia, Islamabad should be careful not only in its policy adoption but also in its propagation through informal means.

- Adopt policy of expanding cooperation with Russia:-

In this crucial time, Pakistan should focus on its national interest that is stabilizing the economy. For this purpose, it needs to better its cooperation with Russia.

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in energy, defence and space sectors. Economic collaboration with Russia be increased to buffer the per reaching impact of war on its food insecurity and energy shortages.

4- Relations with Russia but not at expense of ties with US:-

Pakistan need to recognize that block politics has never served it anything but stigmatization and isolation. So now an opportunity is available to set the course right and not only seek collaborative ties with Russia but strengthen the mutually beneficial engagements with US too as still it is the largest trade partner of Pakistan. In this regards Pakistan should not be 'eager' to chase a black rather learn lessons from foreign policy of India and China to strike a balance in relations with both super powers.

5- Maintaining close ties with China:-

One of the state that has been in highlight during this crisis is China. Pakistan cannot afford distancing from China in economic terms. It is because China has always been there for Pakistan. As recently it pledged to release a

hefty fund for flood reconstruction effort as a token of compensation which other developed countries 'moved under the carpet'. So while keeping a strategic view on Ukraine crisis, Pakistan should keep building, reinvigorating and developing strong relations with China.

5- Mediatory Role:-

Pakistan can play role of a mediator in this conflict to restore regional and global peace. Such initiative will help Pakistan to restore its soft image in the globe. Pakistan can involve regional but important countries like China and India to bring a consensus to the problem globe is facing.

7- Diplomatic Handling of Regional Connectivity:-

Due to sanctions imposed by European Union and America, Russia is facing a set back to its imports and exports. The Pakistan due to its strategic location can cash its this opportunity and provide trade routes to Russia for export and imports through warm water. This will not only strengthen economic cooperation among both countries but will serve long way in regional connectivity and economic growth.

8-

Three-point formula

The three-point formula i.e. ceasefire, negotiation and implementation must be taken as a diplomatic proposition in current Ukraine war. It is a time to urge both countries to bring their issue to table rather than solving them through nuclear war. In later cases, chances of third world war are always which with devastation through weapon of mass destruction. Therefore, stepping towards practical solutions can help the crisis to subside and will provide long-term solutions to the problems.



CONCLUDING REMARKS:-

No doubt Russia-Ukraine war is pushing world towards a global catastrophe either in form of WWIII or the energy crisis or food insecurity. In such times, it is a challenge for Pakistan to strike a balance in its foreign policy options. But the core challenge for the state is the normalization of ties with three but contradictory superpowers of the world. However, Pakistan should weigh its core interests while taking its decision in international relations.

QUESTION NO. 3

ANSWER:

PROLOGUE:

- Afghanistan has been a crucial actor in global political and strategic environment.
- West sees ^{to fix} as responsibility and revenge to make Taliban pay for 9/11 damage.
- Pakistan sees it as a brethren nation.
- China and Russia willing to invest if Taliban revert their somewhat controversial policies.
- India take it as a fair play against Pakistan.
- Taliban took power by annexing Kabul on 5th August, 2021.

2- RELIGION

2- REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

POSED BY TALIBAN REGIME:

Strict standards to follow

Regional And Global Challenges

Issues related to recognition

Terrorism

Prevailing air of mistrust in global environment

Economic condition linked with economic situation of South Asia

Violation of Basic Human Rights

a- Terrorism:

→ With instability at security and economic level, Afghanistan will become hub of non-state actor like Islamic State - Khoran etc.

b- Economic conditions linked with economic situation of South East Asia:

→ Afghanistan economy will impact regional economy. An unstable Afghanistan will pull back the economic progress of the whole region.

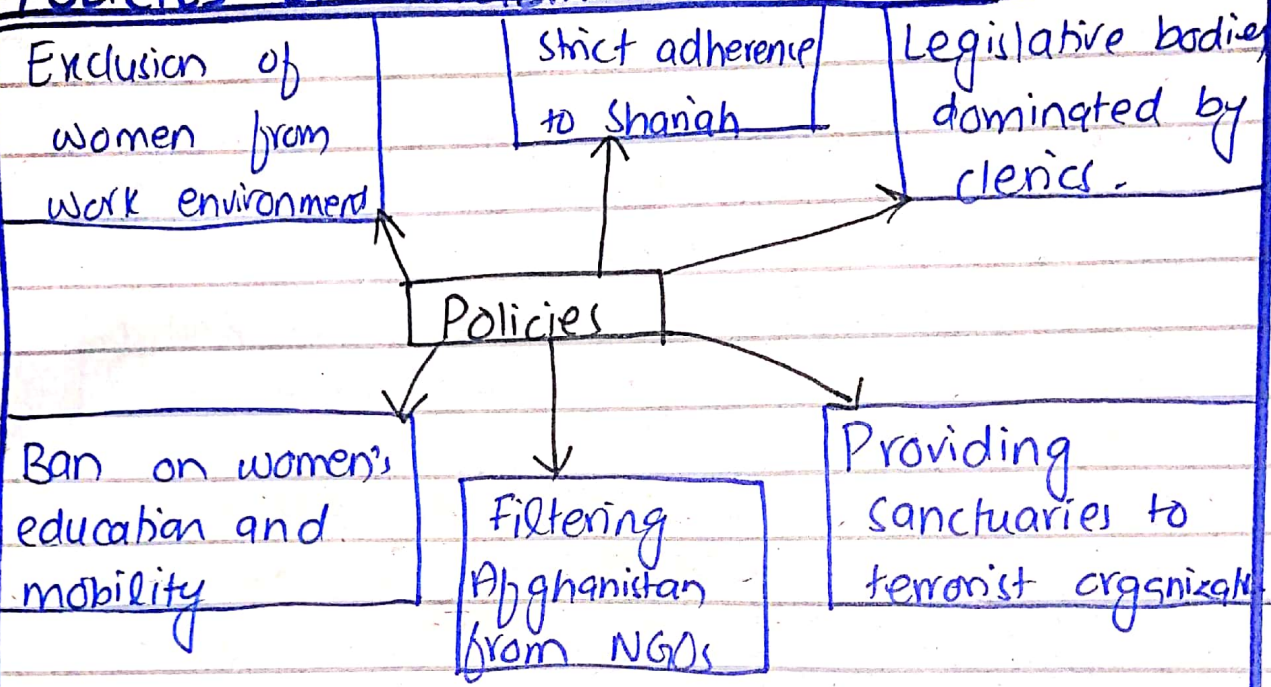
→ Afghanistan provide a linkage to Central Asian Countries so an isolated Afghanistan will impact trade of South Asia to CARS.

c- Prevailing air of mistrust in global political environment:

→ Globally Taliban are viewed as terrorist and oppressor so hardly any country passes above this stereotype and make engagements with the country. This will further isolate it and result can be grave consequence on strategic and economic front for not only region but whole globe.

3-

POLICIES OF TALIBAN GOVERNMENT:



1- Legislative bodies dominated by clerics:

- Most of the governmental decisions are taken by clerics lacking exposure which creates a great gap between world leadership and talibans.
- These religious mullahs lack the skill to tackle ~~new~~ problems of this new age.

2 - Strict adherence to Shariah:

- Shariah is seen as only source of law and its strict adherence is causing lots of human rights abuses and atrocities.
- Taliban have ill-formed institution of Ijma which adds to their backward minds more.

c- Exclusion of women from work environment
→ A major concern of international system.

→ Banning women from such rights is a sheer human right violation.

d. Ban on women's education and mobility:

→ Taliban depriving women of their basic right.

→ First, ban was put on secondary education and later it was extended to higher education.

→ Women can only move socially with a "Mahram" or else they will be punished as per Shariah.

e- Providing sanctuaries to terrorist organization.

→ They have been denying hosting any terrorist organization but US have found evidence of IS-K in Afghanistan.

→ Same ways, they are protecting TTP under the name of brotherhood also.

f- Filtering Afghanistan of NGOs:

→ In late December, Taliban has made it compulsory for non governmental organizations to not have women workers if they want to continue in

Afghanistan, then, packing many helpful NGOs to home.

4- REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO STRICT TALIBAN POLICIES

Regional and International Response

- Reluctance of states to recognize Taliban regime.
- Freezing of assets in USA.
- No proper aid packages been announced to bail them out.
- Taliban are facing isolation.
- Pakistan started fencing due to concern of terrorism.
- No investment because of terrorism. Is being seen as human rights abuser.
- Strict policies of Taliban are tarnishing their global image.

5- EPILOGUE:-

- Taliban should comply with international condition regarding human rights and inclusive government to gain recognition.
- They should try to build cooperative ties with neighbors.
- International watchdogs must be a little lenient with them and not adhere to strict standards in their case.

→ Taliban must be incorporated into global
politics and economy to eradicate any
safe havens for terrorists -

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