

# Changing World Order and Foreign Policy of Pakistan

## Outlines

### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement: World is embracing a new world order with the rise of new challenges like China against US. Therefore mounting challenges to the foreign policy of Pakistan requires a pragmatic approach for nurturing balanced alliances in accordance with its interests.

### 2. Defining the concept of World Order

### 3. Changes in emerging World Order

a. Decaying of liberal world order

b. Global energy crisis shaping new world order.

c. Shifting sands of power from Unipolar to multipolar world.

d. Countries are following their independent foreign policy.

e. Economic resurgence of Asian powers

4. Pakistan Foreign Policy Challenges  
in Changing World Order

a. Thucydide trap of USA and China

b. Hegemonic Pretensions of India  
due to US-India nexus

c. Afghanistan Conundrum: US and  
Taliban blaming Pakistan

d. Downward economic outlook

5. Policy Options for Pakistan

5. How Pakistan is using Foreign Policy  
tool in effective way

a. Shift towards geo-economics approach

b. Pakistan is playing core part  
in regional connectivity

c. Pakistan is following its independent  
Foreign Policy.

d. Redefined National Security

Policy to cover emerging threats

6. Conclusion:

"Whoever controls Indian ocean,  
controls Asia. This ocean is key  
to seven seas. In 21st century  
the destiny of the world will  
be decided by these waters"  
(Alfred Thayer US Naval Strategist).

Current global order is also  
changing according to geopolitics of  
Indo-Pacific. And Indian ocean would  
be center of global affairs  
and will play its role in  
changing world order. Current liberal  
world order is decaying and global  
energy crisis shaping new world  
order. There are shifting sands  
of unipolar world order to  
multipolar and countries are  
following their independent foreign  
policy. At the same time economic  
resurgence of Asian powers is seen.  
Changing world order has also  
posed various foreign policy challenges  
to Pakistan. Like Thucydide trap  
of USA and China and hegemonic  
pretensions of India due to

Indo-US nexus, Pakistan downward economic outlook and Afghanistan Conundrum are also serious challenges to Pakistan foreign policy. Pakistan is using its foreign policy tools in effective way to mitigate the effects of changing world order. Pakistan has shifted towards geopolitical meanwhile Pakistan is also playing core part in regional connectivity. Pakistan is following its independent foreign policy, it has also redefined its national security policy to cover emerging threats. World is embracing new world order with the rise of new challenges to the foreign policy of Pakistan requires a pragmatic approach for nurturing balanced alliances in accordance with its interests.

World order is a pattern which governs the relationship of a countries, arrangement and position of countries in the global power equation.

Changing of world orders means global center of powers will re-align. World have seen different forms of world order. In 19th century world was unipolar, during world wars world have seen multipolarity and after the WWII world was bipolar. But after the disintegration of Soviet Union world transformed into unipolar world order as USA became the leader of the world. But current liberal world order is decaying due to geopolitical and geo-economic changes going on.

Changes in emerging world order are taking place and liberal world order in practice currently is decaying. US led world order which is in practice since the fall of Soviet Union is based on the principles of democracy and ~~democracy~~ capitalism. Due to covid-19 pandemic

and recently Russian invasion  
would have seen sharp changes  
in geopolitics of the world  
According to V-Dem and our  
World into data organization  
only 13% of people residing  
in 34 countries have been classified  
living under liberal democracies.

Global energy crisis  
is also playing its part in  
shaping the new world order. Since  
the start of Russia-Ukraine war  
due to sanctions on Russian  
fossil fuels export oil prices  
have gone up. It has also  
disrupted the world supply chains  
and current harsh winter also  
increased the demand of oil  
and gas, which exacerbated the  
global energy crisis. For example  
China is importing 20% of  
Russian oil and India has  
increased its oil import from  
Russia 8 times in comparison  
to pre-war scenario. This shows  
Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions on Russia  
and disruption in supply chains has

caused this global energy crisis.

Current shifting sands of power indicates world is moving from unipolarity to multipolarity.

The reason for this change is emerging economic and security alliances among the countries. Emergence of China as economic power and resurgence of Russia and other regional alliances are shaping new world order. China GDP has crossed \$18 trillion dollar, just second to USA. (VisualCapitalist.com, "The GDP heavyweights", Dec, 2022). Hence emergence of China, resurgence of Russia and other regional shows power dynamics are shifting.

Many countries around the globe are following independent foreign policy. The major reason of this they are protecting their national interest. In order to secure their future objectives and gaining maximum they are following independent

foreign policy. Turkey and India have procured Russian state of the art missile defence system S-400 despite US Sanctions and concern. Therefore countries are pursuing independent foreign policy to secure their national interest.

Last few decades have seen the economic resurgence of Asian powers. By integrating their economies and following the principles of liberal economic model they have achieved huge success. With overall GDP of \$3tr, ASEAN is now the 5th largest economy, and on the track to become 4th largest by 2050. (Pakistan foreign secretary Sohail Ahmad, "Pakistan - ASEAN Shared future and way forward", 2021). This shows that ASEAN countries appearing as economic giants on world stage.

In a wake of changing world order Pakistan



Foreign Policy facing some challenges like Thucydide trap of USA and China. USA is current global world leader and China as a revisionist want to change the status quo in his own favour. This would have serious repercussions for Pakistan because she has to balance its relations between two world powers. China is strategic ally and economic package in the form of CPEC is underway, at the same time USA is biggest export destination worth \$85bn. Hence Pakistan have to balance between USA and China as the power struggle between two global heavyweights is going on.

Hegemonic pretensions of India in the wake of Indo-US nexus are obvious. Reason for this US want to see India as a counter balance to China in the region. China's

Growing influence in the Indo-Pacific has brought US and India closer as both are cooperating with each other in many fields. USA and India have signed many pacts and are also partners in many regional alliances, like 'two plus two', COMCASA, BECA and Quad. (CRF.org, "US-India Relations,") Hence growing Indo-US nexus is a challenge for Pakistan foreign policy.

Afghanistan, Taliban and US blaming Pakistan for their problems is another challenge for Pakistan foreign policy. The reason for this is US wants to put blame of its failures in Afghanistan on Pakistan. Taliban's regime is going through economic and crisis of its recognition, so they want to put pressure on Pakistan. "Drones are entering through Pakistan to Afghanistan

they use Pakistan airspace". (Afghanistan foreign ministers, 2022). Hence US blame game and Afghanistan pressure tactics are concern for Pakistan foreign policy.

Downward economic outlook of Pakistan has posed serious challenge for Pakistan independent foreign policy. In order to keep with its external debt obligations and avoid risk of default, Pakistan have to negotiate with International financial institutions and friendly countries on harsh terms. This would have serious implications for Pakistan foreign policy. Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by only 2% in current fiscal year ending June 2023 as compare 5.97% last year. (Worldbank.org, "Worldbank: Pakistan economic Slows Down while inflation rises amid Catastrophic Floods", October, 2022). Hence downward outlook of economy is posing serious challenge to Pakistan

Foreign Policy.

Pakistan can use its foreign policy in an effective way by shifting towards geo-economic. Pakistan will be a partner in peace and economic development when it comes to its relations with USA. Pakistan is China's partner in CPEC and also wants to establish its relations with USA on economic lines. CPEC massive bilateral project to improve infrastructure in Pakistan is worth \$65bn. (Britannica.com, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor", Nov, 2022). Pakistan has signed CPEC and shows it is moving from geopolitics to geo-economics.

Pakistan is following its independent foreign policy. Reason that Pakistan has realized in order to achieve its national interest it has to pursue its independent foreign policy. Stance like "absolutely not"

and refusal of shutting down CPEC under the pressure of Brettenwood institutions indicate Pakistan is opting independent foreign policy. "Absolutely not". There is no way we are going to allow any bases anysort of action from Pakistani territory into Afghanistan.

(Aq.com.tr, Pak. Premier says 'absolutely not' to US bases, June 2021). Hence above mention actions of 'absolutely not' and refusal to shut down CPEC, indicates Pakistan is pursuing independent foreign policy.

Pakistan has redefined its national security policy to cover emerging threats. Concept of security has changed in 21st century so Pakistan also moved its National Security Policy. National Security includes non-traditional security threats like economic, cyber, climate related threats. "National security policy covers all internal and external

traditional and non-traditional threats in the spectrum", (Zahid Hussain's "redefining National Security", 2022). Hence National Security Policy 2020 shows Pakistan have redefining national security frame work by focusing more on non-traditional threats.

In a nutshell world order is changing which can be judged by seeing decline of liberal world order. Global energy crisis, transition to multipolarity, economic resurgence of ASEAN countries is also evidence of changing world order. This have posed some challenges to Pakistan foreign policy which includes balance relations between US-China, hegemonic attentions of India, Afghanistan situation and and deteriorating economy. Though Pakistan have used its foreign policy effectively to achieve its national interest. There

are some positive outcomes of it. Shift from geopolitics to geo-economics and also playing key role in regional connectivity.

Pakistan has opted independent foreign policy and reaffirmed its national security posture which is a silver lining in these tough times.