

Topic:

Pakistan's Interest Comes First while Formulating a Balanced Foreign Policy

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Pakistan must design a balanced foreign policy that ensures peace, stability, friendly relations, and cooperation with other states while putting its own geopolitical, geoeconomics, and geostrategic interests at the forefront.

2. A Balanced Foreign Policy: An Overview

3. Formulating a balanced foreign policy while considering Pakistan's interests

- (i) Supporting political settlement in Afghanistan for enduring peace in Pakistan.
- (ii) Constructive engagement with the US and the UK for ensuring safe export destination.
- (iii) Making China a top strategic partner to stabilize Pakistan economically.
- (iv) Political engagement with India for promoting trade and resolving Kashmir issue.
- (v) Joining hands with Iran to amplify marine potential of Gwadar port.

(vi) Maintaining cordial relationship with Russia for solving petroleum, gas, and energy crisis

(vii) Active involvement with Middle East for exporting manpower and getting oil imports

4. Reasons for Pakistan's foreign policy being at crossroads

(i) Rising political instability and polarisation in country case in point: constitutional crisis in Punjab

(ii) Burdening economy with inflation case in point: Pakistan's economy being at verge of default.

(iii) Rising threat of terrorism at western front case in point: TTP attacking ICT and Swat

(iv) Changing world order case in point: Hegemony was between China, the US, and Russia

5. A way forward for a balanced foreign policy by putting Pakistan's interests at top

(i) Avoiding the option of direct confrontation with the west.

(ii) Implementing the provisions of constitution while formulating foreign policy case in point: Article 40 of Pakistan's constitution 1973.

(iii) Stabilising the domestic policies of the country for better foreign policy decisions

(iv) Avoiding bloc politics case in point: Russia
Ukraine war and US-China Rivalry

6. Conclusion