

to avoid such dangerous developments.

use blue and black pens

31/12/2022

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# Changing World Order and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

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Outline:

## 1) Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** The

present global order is at a junction point of change which will have impacts on Pakistan's foreign policy. Relations with important stakeholders can undergo modifications or negative effects. Hence, vigilant steps should be taken to adopt it to the changing circumstances.

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2) Relationship between the emerging world order and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

3) Manifestations of Change in the World Order

a. Challenges to Liberal Capitalist order

b. Samarkand summit as alternative to "Western-Centric Organisation"

c. Redirection of Russia's energy deals towards the east

d. Expansion of bloc-to-bloc cooperation

e. Use of political "sharp power"

f. Emergence of new international currencies

4) Pakistan's Current Foreign Policy

a. Theory of neutrality towards Russo-Ukrainian war

b. Move towards independent

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foreign policy

c. Good relations with China

and the communist block

## 5) Suggestions for future foreign policy formulation

a. Continuing the state of neutrality

b. Policy based on core interests

c. Focus on regional peace and cooperation.

d. Keeping away from block politics

e. Friendship with all, animosity with none

## b) Conclusion

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### Essay:

A country's foreign policy which is the most important of all the factors shaping its relations with the outer world,

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is formulated after thoroughly examining current trends in the global order. As today's world is undergoing a great change, foreign policies will be adopted to meet the needs of the day. In this regard, Pakistan too, will have to revisit its rules which guide the country's undertakings while dealing with global partners. The manifestations of the changing world order can be observed as a total shift from West-centric policies towards those having their direction towards the oriental part of the world. These may include: challenges to liberal capitalist order, Samarkand summit as alternative to "Western-centric organization", redirection of Russia's energy deals towards the

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east, and expansion of bloc-to-bloc politics. Furthermore, the use of political "sharp powers" and the emergence of new international currencies are also among the indicators of change in the global order. As all these indicators have in certain ways relationship with Pakistan's foreign policy, its features are relevant to be mentioned here. Pakistan's current foreign policy is characterized by the theory of neutrality towards the Russo-Ukrainian war, a move (at least in word) towards independent foreign policy and good relations with China and the Communist block. In wake of the recent developments in the international relations, a few suggestions are at hand to be

incorporated while adopting foreign policy to these new trends. These may include: Continuing the state of neutrality, basing the policy on core national interests, focusing on regional peace and cooperation, keeping away from block politics, and acting upon the doctrine of "friendship with all and animosity with none." Simply, the present global order is at a junction point of change which will have impacts on Pakistan's foreign policy. Relations with important stakeholders can undergo modifications or negative impacts. Hence, vigilant steps should be taken to adopt it to the changing circumstances.

The emerging world order has a close relation with Pakistan's foreign policy as with that of any other

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nation. The reason behind this is that in today's world, the policy of isolationism is neither possible nor desirable for the prosperity of the country. Pakistan has trade relations with all the global stakeholders: big or small, in respect of exports and imports of both goods and services. For instance, Pakistan's exports to the United States equalled US \$ 6.08 billion during 2021 (Trading Economics, Pakistan Exports to US, 2022), while the country's imports from the US were worth US \$ 3.83 billion during the same year (ibid). Pakistan has similar relations with China, Russia, Germany, Europe and Middle East. Hence, any changing circumstances can co-relate with the

country's foreign policy.

Various manifestations of change in the world order can be observed which as the chief one may include the challenges put forth to the liberal capitalist order. The capitalist economic order, which dominated the world for the last few decades, especially after the fall of Berlin, seems impotent in front of emerging order.

Among the most effective challengers are: China, Russia, North Korea and Iran. The

document of the recent American **National Security Strategy (NSS)** termed Russia

as "a continuous source of disturbance in Europe" while

China as the "greatest economic rival." The Communist state of



China, moreover, is projected to surpass America by GDP by 2030. However, China has already crossed America in terms of the Consumer Purchasing Power Parity (CPPP) (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2022). In short, the western liberal capitalist order is in throes of challenges posed by the emerging powers.

Apart from challenges to the capitalist order, there are some organizational challenges as adopting Samarkand Summit ~~to~~ as alternative to "Western-centric organization."

The presidents of Russia and China, during their recent meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at Samarkand

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, addressed the leaders of members and observer countries, and vowed to make the organization into an alternative for organizations dominated by the concept of laissez faire. They further related that the western concept was based on total exploitation. Its aim is, they argued, to serve their own interests (westerners interests) which China and Russia want to promote global cooperation and multilateralism. Therefore, Samarkand Summit is termed as a substitute to the already established western organizations.

To further add to the speed of emerging world order, Russia has redirected her energy deals towards the east. Previously, a huge sum of Russia's energy production

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would be exported to Europe. However, after Europe passed sanctions against Russia in the wake of the Russo-Ukrainian war, she retaliated with cutting her energy supply. For instance, the Nord Stream Gas Pipelines (Nord Stream I and Nord Stream II) which have <sup>each</sup> a capacity of 55 billion cubic gas a year, and served 40% of Germany's and Europe's energy needs, have been disconnected. Moreover, Russia has signed deals with China, Iran and India for energy supply (EU Joint Research Council, 2022). In simple words, the new international order is manifest in the redirection of energy.

Not only energy supply redirection, yet another evidence

of change in the world order can be seen in the form of bloc-to-bloc cooperation. The two major world powers have focused their energies on making new alliances to counter each other. The prominent aims of these alliances are to get hold of the world market, reach to the energy-rich areas, gain control of the seas and create an international assertive votebank. As a result, the QUAD, AUKUS, PGII, FBP and the MSP on the one hand, while the BRICS, the SCO, the SAARC and the ASEAN on the other, are the various deals which promote bloc-to-bloc cooperation. To put concisely, new blocks are in the making which shape the nascent global order.

Along with the bloc politics, use of political "sharp power" also play its part in the new order. The concept was familiarized by Christopher Walker and Jessica Ludwig in 2017 which refers to influencing countries not through coexisting but the tactic of alienating. Such developments are everywhere in the world. As a matter of example, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the repressive language by China against Taiwan are practical applications of this power seen currently. In other words, countries use the tactics of alienation to attract the repressed states which make part of the arising global order.

The indications are not limited only to the political field, the new order has its signs also in the economy as is seen in the introduction of new international currencies. The Russia-Chinese alliance is trying to run a dedollarisation campaign. They see rooting out dollars from the international market as the prerequisite of the new development. Therefore, along with signing a deal to use their national currencies in any settlement between them, the two states have also acknowledged the yuan as a possible replacement for the dollar (Usmani, *The Emerging International Order, 2022*). In a nutshell, new currency introduction proves eviden-

tial to the changes world order.

By looking at these international developments, Pakistan's current foreign policy needs a revisiting which presently comprises of traits; the foremost of which is neutrality towards Russo-Ukrainian war.

Upon the invasion of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the western bloc of the United Nations urged the world to pass trade and economic sanctions against Russia. However, Pakistan remained neutral in the case, which means it neither condemned nor endorsed the action. The chief motive behind this was to have good relations with all including Russia. To put concisely, the current policy of the country is based on

staying neutral with regard to international conflicts.

Apart from the doctrine of neutrality, another feature of the country's foreign policy, and quite a new one, is independence with respect to international relations. Since the inception of country, foreign policy, although independent in word, has borne the brunt of foreign control. This can be observed by looking back at the pages of history; the chief reason for which is the economic dependency on foreign loans and grants. Examples of such events may include, but not necessarily limited to: involvement in Russo-Afghan war, participating in War on Terror, and the provision of basis to



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NATO forces in the War on Terror (Hamid, Constitutional and Political History, 3rd Ed).

In short, unlike the past, the recent developments in foreign policy are defined by independence.

Another ground, and yet the most important probably, on which the foreign policy is to be analyzed is: Pakistan's good relations with China and the communist block. Bilateral relations, with the Peoples Republic of China and other Communist nations have showed an upward direction. This tendency towards more involvement between the said nations is mainly due to their core interest. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC), a peaceful Afghanistan, and Russia's unflinching desire to reach to the warm waters are, unequivocally, among the important mutual interests. In other words, Pakistan's relations with the Communist block have more strengthened over the last few years.

Thoroughly analyzing the recent developments in the global order, a few suggestions may be proposed for the foreign policy, which include continuing the state of neutrality. Involvement in foreign affairs may not be prospective for the country as past experiences suggest. The reason is that internal peace, development and economy may be torn at the

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threes if ignorance prevails.  
Pakistan lost \$130 US dollars,  
and 50,000 casualties were  
seen due to involvement in  
the US war on terror (Waisan  
Institute, War on Terror, 2021).

Moreover, Pakistan still has  
to pay the cost in shape of  
terrorism. Pakistan should, the  
course is that, remain neutral  
while adopting foreign policy to  
the new global order in the  
making.

To further head towards  
a balanced foreign policy, it  
should be strongly based on  
core interests of the country.  
Since its inception, policy of  
the country is often affected  
by emotional or other abstract  
grounds which are no more  
compatible in this world of gain-

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and - loss. Core interests may include, but not limited to; internal and external physical security, environmental security, economic security, health, human development, technology and education. In order to achieve maximum benefits, Pakistan should incorporate all these factors within the objectives of making relations with the external world.

Put simply, the ~~multi-dynamic~~ interests should be the sole guide in ~~formulating~~ the foreign policy.

In order to achieve many of the above mentioned goals, focus should be also on regional peace and cooperation.

Regional peace and cooperation should be the top priority if the dreams are to come true. Tumults in the surrounding

Countries have jolted the very basis of peace, security and existence for the last few decades. It may partly be attributed to the unfavorable conditions in Afghanistan, and partly to the flourishing of secessionist groups in the country incited by the eastern rival neighbours. In a nutshell, regional peace and cooperation is necessary for a prospective foreign policy.

Regional peace and cooperation, to take it further, and a balanced foreign policy, can also be achieved by keeping away from bloc politics. After independence, due to security and economic challenges, Pakistan joined the Western camp as opposed

to the communist block. This partisan relationship wrought havoc on the security of the country. As a result of selective relationships, Pakistan became participant in the Ruso-Afghan war and later, in the War on Terror, which still have their effects on the country. Therefore, history can be the best mentor for Pakistan to keep her away from bloc politics.

As a replacement to bloc politics, finally, Pakistan should adopt the policy of friendship with all, and animosity with none. Pakistan, having its roots in the Islamic principles, should make it clear to the world that international peace is the prime

requisite of development. It should assert the policy of resolving any issue through negotiations. The international arbitrator should be prompted to resolve issues like the Kashmir, the Palestine, the tense cross-strait relations between China and Taiwan, and the counter economic scrambling among countries through table-talks. In a word, peace should be the chief principle of Pakistan's foreign policy.

To conclude the whole discussion, the global order is undergoing a change which will have impacts on Pakistan's foreign policy. The features of the changing world order are

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liberal evident in the challenges posed to the capitalist order, the arising of new organizations, shift in the energy and, in the reorganization of international currency. While Pakistan's current policy may be in accordance with the prevailing requirements, changes are needed to be made with the changing international trends. If the above - proposed suggestions are taken into consideration, it will help in moulding the policy on a par with the demanding conditions.