

Pakistan's Foreign policy: Challenges and opportunities in 21st century:

Outline:

1 Introduction.

2- Challenges to Pakistan's foreign policy.

a) Difficulty in navigating between US-China rivalry.

b) Difficulty in availing camp politics because of Russo-Ukraine war.

c) uncertainties emerging from Afghanistan.

d) Political polarization - constant circus of changing National governments.

e) Anaemic economy and dependency syndrome.

f) India's hegemonic designs and fractured socio and economic fabric of Pakistan.

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a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

2) Instability in middle east will pose serious repercussions.

3- opportunities for Pakistan's foreign policy in 21st century.

a) Pakistan is located at a tri-lateral junction.

b) CPEC and regional integration will ~~make~~ help Pakistan in making stable and thriving nation.

c) Pakistan should strike a balance between its geo strategic and geo-economic needs.

d) Pakistan can also increase its horizontal diplomatic outreach as relations with USA had been ameliorated in last two years.

e) Pakistan has a potential to fulfill the strategic needs of KSA. State should pursue KSA to fulfill its economic needs.

4) Foreign policy of Pakistan can be strengthened by taking following

measures

Economic stability.

political uncertainty should
be ended.

Coherent and consistent policy
making.

Non aligned foreign policy.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy has undergone through various change from Romanticism with USA to antagonistic ties with USSR. Historically, Pakistan has taken ill-thought foreign policy decisions which eventually lead to the militarism and economic slowdown. In 21st century, Pakistan's foreign policy is grappling with myriads of challenges. First, camp-politics is **growing at bottleneck pace**. Two super powers are at loggerheads with each other and according to scholars of international relation Pakistan will succ in this rivalry. As trade wars and territorial disputes between US and china are exacerbating. Second, refugees from war **stricken** country Afghanistan will be remained a grief source of concern for Pakistan. Last, anaemic economy **alienation** with india are also posing a biggest challenge to the

Foreign policy of Pakistan. The incessant boom and bust cycle of economics has left Pakistan on the mercy of its guardian angels. As one can not demand a respect from others with **the begging bowl in hands**. Moreover, Pakistan has also various opportunities. First stated is located at the transaction and has a access to middle east, and Central ASIAN Republics. It can get economic gains by engaging with these countries. Second, CPEC has a great potential for economic integration. As South ASIA is the least interconnected and polarized region in the world. Pakistan can also exploit economic trade potential which will be proved helpful for anemic economy. Furthermore, state has to walk on

a tightrope in striking balance between geo-political and geo-economic needs. Last, horizontal diplomatic outreach should be enhanced. Foreign policy decisions can only be ameliorated by economic and political stability. As challenges faced by Pakistan are dynamic and diverse in nature. State cannot deal with the dynamic challenges with the diminishing capabilities. So, economic independence and consistent policies are prerequisite.

Pakistan is facing challenges in 21st century. foremost challenge faced by Pakistan is to strike a balance between superpowers.

- US and china loosely labeled engagement morphed into rivalry after 9/11. Even recent **Nuclear Security Strategy** of Biden administration had confirmed china as the sole threat to rule

based international order. Furthermore
Tensions on Taiwan intensified
after the visit of Pelosi. The
spy-balloon crisis had propelled
two countries towards confrontation.
Pakistan is facing challenges in
balancing. As USA is the strategic
ally of Pakistan. on the other hand
economic needs of Pakistan are
fulfilled by China.

Similarly, second challenge
is to avert camp politics.
The era of camp-politics revived
after Russian unprovoked invasion
against Ukraine. USA had
passed resolution in UN against
Russia. After Russian invasion
the Global South had founded
itself between the devil and
the deep sea. States were
compelled to choose sides.
The thriving economies

and vibrant democracies had
denied to Pico sides. while
Pakistan is struggling because
of its dependence on international
lenders.

Moreover, another challenge
faced by Pakistan ~~is~~ the
uncertainties emanating from
Afghanistan. Afghanistan is
war stricken country. Infrastructure
and economy of Afghanistan
is debilitated. Furthermore, resurgence
of terrorism and extremist elements
in Afghanistan had wreaked
havoc on Pakistan. According
to UN report Pakistan had
witnessed 150 attacks from
TTP. Banned outfit had intensified
IM maximalist activities against
Pakistan since the ceasefire had
been ended. In a similar manner,
political polarization had

Crippled international image of Pakistan.

Governments in Pakistan failed to complete their tenures. The politics of vendetta which was started from the era of Ayub Khan continued during the regimes of Bhutto and ~~and~~ **Muddling** **nineties** had exacerbated the debt distress of Pakistan.

Political stability came to Pakistan when **Charter of democracy** was signed.

The sanguine was temporary. As even today the arbitrary arrests and fraudulent corruption cases against opposition are the deciding norms of Pakistan's politics.

Anaemic economy of Pakistan remained a major obstacle in independent foreign policy. Pakistan's

Politicians had prioritised
their parochial interest over
national interest. As Makhdoom
Ahsan Iqbal stated

"Politics had taken precedence
over economics."

State had witnessed first
boom in the economy during
the era of Ayub Khan with
8% growth rate because
of the support of world
bank. Furthermore, US provided
civilian economic aid. The IMF had
provided loan to Pakistan 23 times.

India's growing hegemony
under the umbrella of Biden
administration is posing existential
threat to Pakistan. Modi's
repressive policies in Kashmir
and atrocities against Muslims
had sapped the chance of
 rapprochement among two
countries. Similarly, **uncertainty**

in middle east is alarming
for Pakistan. The growing
enmity between Saudi Arabia
and Iran had left Pakistan
in an unending sectarian
turmoil.

There are myriads
of opportunities for Pakistan
in 21st century. It is located
at tri-junctions of three important
regions. It include central ASIAN
republics, CARs and South ASIA.

Pakistan can get enormous
benefits from these countries
in terms of natural resources
and its oil needs. Pakistan
is a energy deficient
country while these two regions
are energy efficient.

Secondly, Pakistan
has a potential to
integrate the region through

CPEC. Effort for the integration of region was made by signing SAPTA under the umbrella of South Asian Association of Cooperation but failed.

CPEC can provide enormous benefits to war-torn Afghanistan and landlocked CARs. So CPEC has a potential for economic, political and cultural integration.

on the other hand Pakistan should ensure a balance between its geo-economic and geo-political interest.

Pakistan should not make a tilt towards any power.

Historically, Pakistan joined western allied pact and endured the brunt of USSR.

so state should make a balanced foreign policy.

Moreover, international diplomatic outreach should be enhanced as Pakistan's US ties were deteriorated after US debacle from Afghanistan. The relations were significantly ameliorated when coalition government came to power. Pakistan has a opportunity to enhance its day in international decision making through a vibrant diplomacy.

Lastly, Pakistan should pursue KSA for economic investments as Pakistan had always fulfilled the strategic needs of KSA and KSA had fulfilled Pakistan's economic needs. Pakistan should pursue them for economic investments.

Pakistan can improve its foreign policy by political and economic stability. Frequent changes in regime had only fragmented the state and had rised debt distress of Pakistan. Indigenous economic resources should be exploited by the state and consistent and coherent policies should be followed. Non alignment should be the key which will be proved helpful for stable Pakistan.

Subsequently, Pakistan is facing numerous challenges and opportunities. Challenges include the rising tensions among super-powers. As Biden is rising coalition of democracies against Xi, while Xi had strengthened nexus with the authoritarian regime. On domestic level, political upheaval and incessant changes in

regimes poses major hindrance to independent foreign policy.

Stable Afghanistan is critical for Pakistan which is not stable anymore. Opportunities are also available to Pakistan because of the geo-strategic location of Pakistan. CPEC has a potential to end the economic woes of Pakistan. Lastly, state can increase ~~potentise~~ diplomatic outreach and understanding with the help of US. Economic stability and consistent policies is the major key towards independent foreign policy.