Q define the concept of Strategic Culture and highlight the major determinants of Pakistan's Strategic Culture.
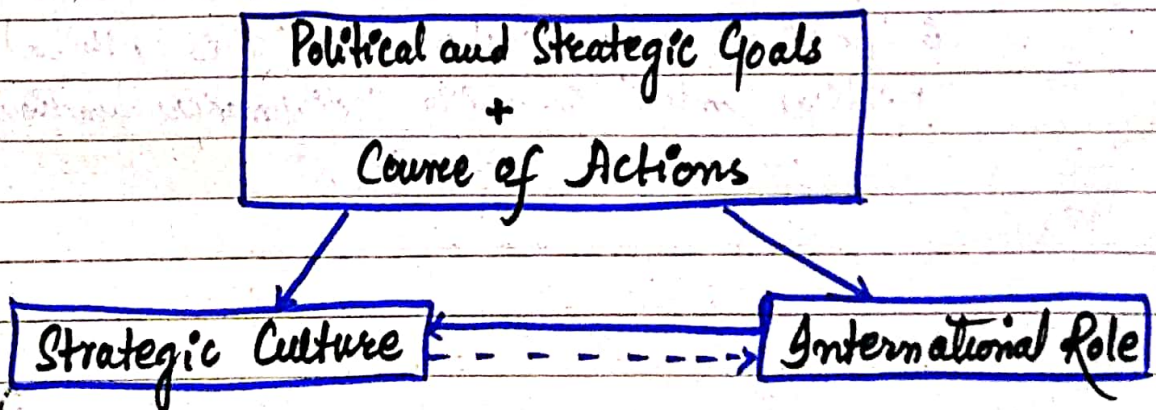
STRATEGIC CULTURE:

Concept of Strategic Culture:

Strategic Culture is a concept in the fields of international relations and Strategic studies that refers to the enduring beliefs, norms, values and historical influences that shape's a nation's approach to Strategy, security and the use of military force. According of Jack Snyder:

"The sum of the ideals, condional emotional responses and patterns of behaviours of the members of national Strategic community have aquired through instructions, immitations and sharing is called 'Strategic Culture'"

Hence, in a simplest definition, Strategic Culture is a set of beliefs, values, norms and attitudes towards the use of military forces.

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┌─────────────────────────────┐
│  Political and Strategic Goals │
│             +                 │
│       Course of Actions        │
└─────────────────────────────┘
        ↓                ↓
┌──────────────────┐      ┌──────────────────┐
│ Strategic Culture │←----→│ International Role │
└──────────────────┘      └──────────────────┘
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Significance of Strategic Culture:

a) Helps in understanding the dynamics of Policy making:

Strategic Culture plays a pivotal role in foreign policy making approach. It helps in understanding the historical and psychological dynamics of decision-making.

b) Shed on the ideological Impacts on Policy making:

Strategic culture is also pertinent to understand the ideological implication, such as, Islamic element and how it affects the decision of policy makers.

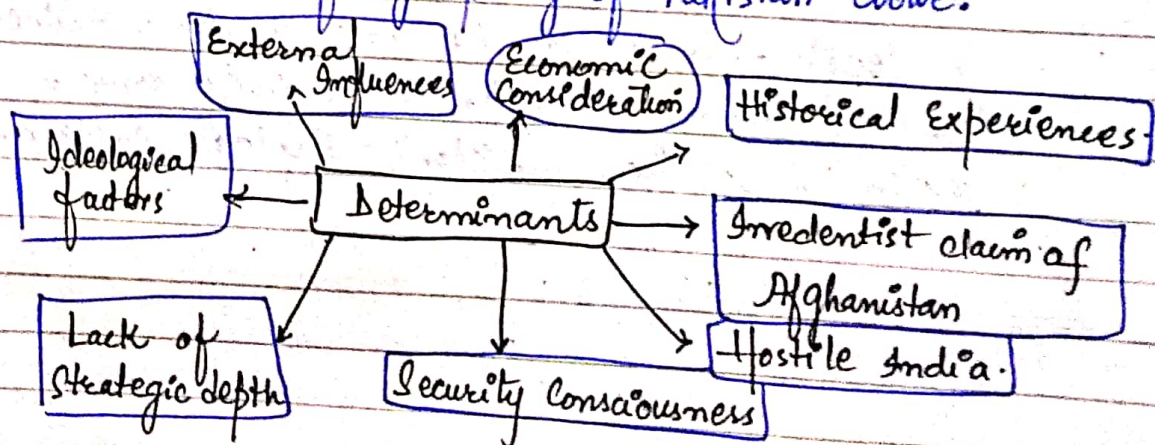**c) Understanding of Socio-Political and Cultural Context:**

The political, social and cultural norms and values put a heavy impact on the strategic culture of a country. Hence, strategic culture is pertinent to understand the socio-cultural and political context in which policy makers function.

Overview of Pakistan's Strategic Culture:

Pakistan is a security conscious state because of its historical experience of wars and betryal from alliances. The Pakistan Strategic Culture is elite military based, because of the strong influence of military in policy making at national and international level. Islamabad faced the decades of military rule after the partition of British India. The reason behind the military dominance in Strategic culture of Pakistan because of the extreme external threats, such as, from Afghanistan on Durand Line - 1893 and India over many wars, one of them is 1948 war on Kashmir Issue and Sir Creek Crisis between Indo-Pak boarders.

DETERMINANTS OF PAKISTAN STRATEGIC CULTURE:

In Pakistan's Strategic culture following are the major determinants on which the foreign policy of Pakistan evolve:

- External Influences
- Economic Consideration
- Historical Experiences
- Ideological factors
- Determinants
- Irredentist claim of Afghanistan
- Hostile India.
- Lack of Strategic depth
- Security Consciousness

01) Historical Experiences:- Wars between India and Pakistan

Pakistan's strategic culture has been significantly shaped by its historical experiences, including the traumatic partition of British India in 1947 and the corresponding conflicts between India and Pakistan. The wars for Kashmir in 1948 and 1965 which had left many security concerns and insecurity among the masses and military elit of Pakistan.

02) Irredentist claim of Afghanistan: ~ Durand Line Conflict~

Pakistan has had many conflicts with Afghanistan in pre-partition and post-partition era's. The most pertinent conflict between both states is over the irredentist claim of Afghanistan on the durand line which was established in 1593. Kabul is not considering it as an international border and is always ready to create hurdles in framing of durand line. Hence, it becomes a potential security concern which shapes the Pakistan's strategic culture.

03) Hostility From India:

India and Pakistan have a turbulent relations from the inception of these two states as an independent states. The India's hostility towards Pakistan is always become a concern for the policy makers. The strategic culture of Pakistan is derived on the basis of India's actions in international arena towards it. For instance, Brahmos Missile strike of India, they claimed it as an accident, & to Pakistan raised many concerns and insecurity in f in policy makers over the policy making towards India.

04) Ideological Factors :~ Islamic Element in Strategic Culture~

Pakistan took independence on the name of religion, Islam. It, however, influences the policy making of Pakistan. The constitution of Pakistan is made up on the principles of Islamic system. Also, the education and curriculum are based on the Islamic teachings and principles. Moreover, the military trainings and educations are shaped by taking in consideration the Islamic wars, Jihad-is-fi-Sabillah and other holy wars. Hence, ideological factors influenced the strategic culture of the country.

05) External Influence on Policy making :
~ US-China Tug of War~

The strategic culture is influenced by the external factors as well. It is because of the Pakistan's geographical importance in international arena. It is closed to Indian-Ocean region, where almost 80% of world trade happens. As, the US-China rivalry to dominate in region, because of its strategic importance, puts a strain on Pakistan's policy making towards their them. Hence, strategic culture is not always solely determined by the internal factors and external factors can also shaped the alignment and balance in policy making.

06) Economic Considerations:

Pakistan is in chronical debt trap from international financing institutions. It, however, also influenced the strategic culture of Pakistan, as, it has plethora of economic issues and resource constraints. From its inception in 1947, Islamabad Pakistan was in extreme economic crisis and took breathe after the green revolution of 1960's. Unfortunately, the crisis in global market and the revolving nature of international super cycle put constraints on economic capability of Pakistan.

Hence, all these factors influence the strategical culture of the country, including spending on defence and regional economic partnerships.

07) **Dearth of Strategic Depth:**

Strategic depth refers to the geographical distance or territorial expanse that a country possesses behind its borders, providing a buffer zones in the event of military conflict or strategic contingencies. Hence, Pakistan has lack Strategic depth because of its narrow territorial distance, as shown in the figure, as compare to its historical rival India.

China

Afghanistan   *Islamabad

large expanse

narrow
expanse.

★ New Delhi

Pakistan   India

Iran

Arabian Sea.

Indian-Ocean