

Question How can the corruption elimination strategy be made part of the governance system of Pakistan.

1- Introduction

A system of good governance is crucial for a just and corruption free society. If the governing structures are not strong enough, corruption spreads by leaps and bounds. Corruption is the mother of all evils. It has gained roots in Pakistani society because of the wrong decisions and weak policies of the governments. The corruption elimination strategy can become part of the governance system of Pakistan by reforming anti-corruption laws, strengthening the accountability systems, raising the salaries of government employees, making the judiciary independent of any influence, and imparting formal and religious education to people.

2- Corruption In Pakistan

Corruption is the biggest hurdle to the progress of any nation. It is a social menace that internally breaks a nation. It is a matter of shame that Pakistan is being ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Pakistan stands at 140th position in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) out of 180 countries in 2022. Corruption has a broad spectrum

in Pakistan. Most corrupt departments of Pakistan are

Police	24%
Wapda	18%
Health	17%
Social services	12%
Judicial services	8%
Revenue	8%
Education	7%
Railways	3%
All Govt Deptt	2%

Source - Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) 2015.

Police performance in the corruption is top ranked every year. The National Corruption Perception Survey (NCPS) 2022 showed Police on the top rung of the corruption ladder.

Police → 1st position
 tendering and contracting → 2nd position
 Judiciary → 3rd position
 Education → 4th position

Source - NCPS 2022

The NCPS 2022 survey showed no confidence in anti-corruption entities including National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

It noted that at national level the majority of people considered anti-corruption institutions role as "ineffective" in curbing corruption in Pakistan.

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Lucrative posts in the departments like Oil and Gas Developmental Corporation (OGDCL), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) are sold for billions of rupees. The buyers of these posts get back their capital along with double and triple interest which is paid out of taxes of taxpayers. This fact is rightly put forward

"Power doesn't corrupt people, people corrupt power" — William Gaddis

3- Major Reasons For Corruption In Pakistan

Lack of Accountability	31.68%
Low salaries	16.54%
Monopoly of Power	16.43%
Discretionary Power	12.61%
Power of influential people	4.59%
Lack of Transparency	9.97%
Red Tapism	4.28%
Others	4.9%

Source - NACS - NAB & Government of Pak.

4- Impacts Of Corruption In Pakistan

- Violation of merit
- Less employment
- No Economic stability
- Less prosperity

- Less respect for rights
- Less provision of services
- Rise in terrorism and crimes
- Rise in suicide cases
- Psychological and social disorders
- Poverty
- Brain drain
- Bad image at international level.

5. Corruption Elimination Strategy as a Part of the Governance

a) Reforming Anti-Corruption Laws

Although there are many anti-corruption laws in Pakistan like the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1947, 1950, 1958 and National Accountability Ordinance 1999, these laws need to be reformed and executed in the true sense to be effective. The PTI government in 2021 enhanced the punishment for corruption to 10 years by amending the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. Similarly all other anti-corruption acts must be reformed to end this evil from root.

b) Strengthening Accountability System

In 1999, NAB was created through the NAB ordinance 1999. This institution was given the authority to launch investigations, inquiries and issue warrants against

people involved in any sort of corruption. Similarly FIA is another department that investigates and prosecutes corruption cases involving public officials, politicians and private individuals. But unfortunately, both the departments receive backlash because of the accusations of corruption within these departments and political interference. It is the need of the hour to make these departments independent, strong and transparent to strengthen the system of accountability.

c) Spreading the Teachings of Islam

Corruption is forbidden in Islam. One of the ways to eradicate corruption is to give a strong dose of religious teachings and moral ethics to all and sundry. According to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH):

“May the curse of Allah be upon the briber and the bribe recipient”

Thus we can purge our society of corruption if we follow the principles of Islam.

d) Eradicating Poverty and Illiteracy

Corruption is an obstacle for the eradication of poverty and vice-versa. Given that the poor have limited opportunity to satisfy their needs, they have a greater chance of trying to access ill-gotten wealth in a bid to gain welfare benefits. In the words of Hadees, “Poverty takes a man near to apostasy (Kufar).”

If the level of poverty is decreased in the society, corruption will automatically reduce. Most of the developing nations top the list of corrupt countries while economically advanced and developed nations top the list for honest practices.

Similarly there is need to give a high dose of religious and moral teachings to people to eliminate corruption from society.

Country	literacy rate	Score on CPI
Denmark	99%.	88
Finland	100%.	88
Switzerland	88%.	84
New Zealand	99%.	88
Somalia	38.17%.	13
South Sudan	31.98%.	11

Source - Transparency International

Above table proves that an educated society is not easily likely to be corrupt.

e) Increasing the Salaries and Incentives of Government Employees

The salary packages of the government employees must be increase plus other incentives like bonuses, allowances, loans and houses should also be provided to employees so that they are financially strong enough and the factor of bribery can be eliminated. Employees in some government departments are paid comparatively less. This situation is said

To be the cause of corruption in administration. Clerks in the court, peons etc in all government departments, police constables and such other employees draw poor salary. This system must be changed and if we don't do something to stop this now, the wheel will keep turning.

b) Observing Merit Policy for all the Appointments

Merit policy should be observed for appointments in all government organizations. The recruitment system should be independent of any influence. Only competent and qualified people need to be appointed to important positions. Unfortunately many jobs in Pakistan are given on the basis of reference. Nepotism is highly observed in every department. The practice of murder of merit is essential to be stopped for a corruption free Pakistan.

g) Developing IT-Based Services Delivery Mechanism

The IT system must be developed and the system of public services must be digitized. The system of tax collection must be automated. All the data of different organizations must be saved in soft form so that their misuse can be prevented.

h)

Ensuring Independence of Judiciary

Judiciary must be made independent of all sort of pressures. Judges must be free of any sort of influence while carrying out judicial actions. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the judiciary is impartial and is capable enough to decide cases justly according to the constitution.

i) Giving Exemplary Punishments

The courts must give exemplary punishments to the corrupt. Iran and China in our neighborhood have set an example in this regard by publicly hanging the corrupt people. We can follow the suit to eliminate corruption at grass root level.

"corruption and bribery are like poison and horrible diseases that need to be put down with an iron hand" - Dawid-e Azam.

g) Conclusion

In a nutshell, for the eradication of corruption from our society, a complete change in the political system is necessary. Corruption is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach.

It is not enough to merely impose stricter laws or penalties. What is needed is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the root causes of corruption, promotes a culture of integrity and ethics, and strengthens institutions to resist corruption.

In last,

"Fighting corruption is not just good governance,
its self-defense, its patriotism"



- Joe Biden

Question Examine China's strategic vision behind "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" also known as One Belt One Road (OBOR).

1- Introduction

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a gigantic infrastructure and economic integration project launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. This project will enable China to attain global leadership, boost its economy exponentially, counter security concerns, and improve energy security.

The BRI project will also help China to sideline US presence in the region and also in the world. Through this project, cultural and educational exchange programs within the partner countries would increase and markets for Chinese products would also expand.

2- An Overview of the BRI

The BRI is huge Chinese plan to build roads, ports, railways and other infrastructure which would enable China to connect to the world.

It is the most expensive infrastructure which would enable China to boost its trade, strengthen its economy and exercise its influence around the globe. It is also called "One Belt One Road" where "One Belt" means connecting China via land to Central Asia, Europe, and the Persian Gulf and "One Road" refers to the 21st century maritime

road based on the Ancient Silk Trade Route which connected Europe, Asia and the Middle East for about 2000 years?"

4-6 billion

Combined Population of all countries involved in BRI

61%

BRI touches 61% population of the world.

\$ 29 trillion

Combined GDP of all countries involved

\$ 6 trillion

Trade between China and BRI countries between 2017 - 2021

\$ 26 trillion

Estimated cost of its infrastructure

\$ 1 trillion

Amount China has pledged

3- China's BRI Priorities

Oil and gas	\$ 38.6 bn
Diversified industrial products	\$ 14.5 bn
Financial services	\$ 14.3 bn
Technology	\$ 12.4 bn
Power and utilities	\$ 11.0 bn
Consumer products	\$ 6.7 bn
Mining and metals	\$ 6.6 bn
Transportation	\$ 5.6 bn

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Real estate	\$ 4.9 bn
Life Science	\$ 2.7 bn
Agriculture	\$ 1.8 bn
Other	\$ 2 bn

Statista — Source Merger Market

4- Development Corridors Of BRI

Currently, there are six corridors in the project. All of them are hubs of opportunities and can play a key role in uplifting the economies of the countries they are present in.

CPEC

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It connects South-Western China to the Arabian sea via Pakistan.

CCWAEC

China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor. It adjoins China and Turkey through Central and West Asia.

BCIMEC

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. This corridor will connect India and China via Myanmar and Bangladesh.

CMREC

It connects China to Mongolia and Eastern Russia. China-Mongolia-Russian Economic Corridor.

CICPEC

China-Indo-China Peninsula economic Corridor. It connects Southern China to the Indo-China region and Singapore.

NELBEC

New-Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor. It consists in developing rail transportation between China and Europe through Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus.

5. Strategic Visions Behind OBOR/BRI

Some of the strategic aims behind Chinese OBOR are as following.

a) Economic Dominance

US is the current economic master of the world. Maintaining a hold on the world markets, it decides the global trade policies, economic sanctions and worldwide aid programs through IMF and World Bank. Unless, China beats US as economic hegemon, it can't take control of the political world. Thus the primary vision behind OBOR is surely to establish economic dominance of China by allowing every road and route to carry its products across the world.

b) Enhanced and Powerful Diplomatic Role in Regional Affairs

US has maintained vital control over the regions of South Asia, South East Asia and the Middle East since after the 9/11. US physical presence in Afghanistan proved a major help in maintaining this control. On the other hand China finds all these regions

mentioned as its essential and undeniable future partners. Without these regions China cannot replace US hegemony. So through BRI China is targeting the regional countries with aid, loans and investments packages like CPEC in Pakistan. This gradual development will bring the regional countries in debt traps of China thus, making its diplomatic role enhanced and powerful.

c) Geopolitical Realignment

With OBOR, China is making geopolitical realignment. China is bringing the regional powers like Russia into its fold. Further countries which were previously under US influence are gradually joining Chinese ambitions. Pakistan is surely one amongst them. China is also enhancing its relations with US friends like Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other regional economies.

d) World Political Dominance

After the collapse of Soviet Union in 1990's, US emerged as the sole superpower and took control of the entire political scenario. Now with China as an emerging power, it will sooner or later replace the US. For that OBOR is quite helpful. Through OBOR China is allying nations not only in Asia but also Africa, Europe and South America.

With the power of allies, China will move for becoming the world's dominant political power.

e) Energy Security

China has to depend on the Malacca Strait for getting its fuel deliveries. The strait has considerable hold of the US and its South East Asian allies. China wants to end this insecurity regarding its energy needs. For that OBOR, will be used. CPEC being a part of the OBOR, is clearly one manifestation and one step in ensuring energy security for China. It will enable China to import fuel from Middle East through its newly developed Gwadar Port under CPEC.

f) Response to "Asia Pivot Policy"

US has long cashed Asia Pivot Policy. It has enjoyed considerable control over Asia along with directing the regional nations to support its dominance. OBOR is in fact a befitting response to Asia Pivot. It is something that will make Asia Pivot relic of past thus, giving China more leverage over Asia to use the regions in its own interests.

g) To Counter-Terrorism

BRI is an excellent tool to eradicate terrorism from the region. As the job opportunities will increase through this project, this will ultimately put an end to terrorism, and crime rates would also decrease.

"BRI created 420,000 jobs, lifted 40 million people out of poverty". (Chinese FM at a press conference on the sidelines of 1st session of the 14th National People's Congress).

h) To Access Major Trade Routes

The BRI project will also enable China to have access to major sea trade routes as the project encompasses the Red sea, Arabian sea, Persian Gulf, Strait of Malacca, Gulf of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and the South China sea. In addition, China is also developing major land trade routes through this project in the partner countries.

i) To Increase Regional Cooperation

The BRI project will foster the connectivity of Asian, African and European countries. Currently there are more than 100 countries in this project which represents $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the world population and more than $\frac{4}{3}$ rd

of the world's GDP. The projects are being undertaken to increase cross-national cooperation between the countries involved in BRI.

In May 2017, President Xi Jinping noted.

"In pursuing the BRI initiative, we should focus on the fundamental issue of development, release the growth potential of various countries and achieve economic integration and interconnected development and deliver benefits to all."

6) Critical Analysis

China is often accused of playing geopolitics in the garb of BRI. However, according to Chinese officials, the project aims only to deepen cooperation and extend development space in the regions of Asia, Europe, Africa, and the adjacent seas.

"BRI is the project of inclusive cooperation, not a tool of geopolitics, and must not be viewed with an outdated cold war mentality"

— Wang Yi — Chinese Foreign Minister

It is also argued that China is growing its influence and control over the developing nations through BRI. The countries which will be unable to pay Chinese Investment loans will be captured in the "Debt Trap". For example, Sri Lanka was unable to repay the borrowed money to China.

4- Thus, China took control of Hambantota Port for 99 years.

Moreover, there are concerns in Europe that Chinese cheap products in the markets will weaken the competition and the quality of goods will also be compromised.

Furthermore, this large scale infrastructure project will surely have an environmental cost. Although China claims that it is working according to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, there are constraints that BRI is causing wildlife disruption, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and depleting the sources of fossil fuels.

7) Conclusion

In a nutshell, BRI is a multi-billion dollar infrastructure project of the Chinese government. Behind this project, China's strategic vision is to emerge as a global leader and to prevent the US's containment policy. Also, this project aims to increase regional connectivity, boost the Chinese economy and strengthen its trade network. Many economic and infrastructure projects are being launched by China in member countries to achieve these aims and objectives.

Question Discuss the instruments and tools of hybrid warfare in the context of Pakistan.

1) Introduction

The previous century has witnessed two of the deadliest wars of human history i.e WWI and WWII. WWII ended with the destruction of two Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the Atomic bombs fired by the US. Also, other countries involved in the war suffered heavy losses. The whole world faced the severe repercussions of the war. After that many international organizations were made to ensure global peace and avoid any conflict in the future. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been signed by majority of the world states to avoid nuclear warfare. In this century countries are therefore using non-traditional methods of warfare to subdue their enemies and this military strategy is termed as "hybrid warfare".

2) What is Hybrid Warfare?

The word 'hybrid' means a "mixture of different things". Hybrid warfare is a blend of different kinds of warfare strategies. It comprises both conventional and nonconventional techniques and tactics of warfare employed. In this warfare strategy methods like fake news, diplomacy, propaganda, criminal activities, civil unrest, economic warfare, cultural warfare, separatist

movements and politics of the targeted country are employed. It is also known as asymmetrical or new generation warfare.

"Every age has its own kind of war, its limiting conditions, and its peculiar preconceptions" — Karl von Clausewitz

3) Objectives Of Hybrid Warfare

The methods and tactics used in the Hybrid warfare are not new. Throughout history, different nations have used such tactics as spreading terrorism, anarchy, controlling resources, and spreading false information to achieve their goals. The main objectives of hybrid warfare are:

- To weaken the enemy without fighting.
- To cease the enemy to pursue its military goals and objectives
- To cause economic losses to the enemy
- To spread civil unrest and anarchy in the enemy's country
- To change the narrative of the people.

"To fight and conquer in all our battles is not supreme excellence. Supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting. The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting"

Sun Tzu Military Doctrine

4) Instruments and Techniques of Hybrid Warfare in the Special Context of Pakistan

a) Deteriorating the Economy

In hybrid warfare, the strategy of deteriorating the economy of the enemy is also employed. For this purpose, often a large number of shares from the stock exchange of the target country are purchased, and then their sales are controlled. Similarly targeted countries are entrapped in debt cycle.

In Pakistan's context financial restrictions, trade embargoes and sanctions have been used by various nations.

For example, the United States suspended military aid to Pakistan in 2018 as a means of pressuring Pakistan to take stronger stance against terrorism.

b) Exploiting Ethnic and Religious Groups

In hybrid warfare the vulnerabilities of the target country are exploited. An ethnic and religious groups are trigger points through which anarchism and unrest can be easily spread. External factors provide financial and logistical support to ethnic and religious groups.

For example, the Shia-Sunni conflict is a major trigger point that is often exploited by enemies to spread anarchy in Pakistan. National cohesion in Pakistan is weak because

of diverse ethnicities. Separatist movements are operational in Pakistan.

For example Balochistan separatist Movement and Balochistan Liberation Army are sponsored by India and other groups.

• Reference: "Balochistan: The Forgotten Conflict" - A report by International Crisis Group (2019).

c) Proxy Militancy

Pakistan has been a victim of proxy warfare, particularly in the form of militant groups operating from its territory. These groups often with the support from external factors, engage in insurgency and terrorism.

For example Afghan Taliban, which has sanctuary in Pakistan tribal areas and has received historical support from elements within Pakistan.

• Reference: The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) report on "Pakistan's role in Afghanistan" (2019).

d) Using Propaganda and Deception

False propaganda is promulgated against an idea, person, or organization to change the perception of general people.

Thomas in "The evolution of Russia Military Thought" on page 588 states that,

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"During the debacle of 1971, India relentlessly propagated a fictitious tale of Pakistan's atrocities against the Bengali population to infuse hatred against state, a strategy which proved highly successful".

e) Targeted Campaigns on Digital Media

This can be manifested in the forms of narrative construction, rumors giving coverage to terrorist separatist organisations and spreading false information to the majority of people in a way that they tend to believe that it is true.

For example, the West and India often see the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project presented negatively in the Western media. India projects the liberation groups of Kashmir as terrorist organizations to international media while completely endorsing the liberation movements active in Balochistan.

f) Diplomacy and International Isolation

Efforts to diplomatically isolate Pakistan on international platforms can be considered a form of hybrid warfare. India and Western countries often tend to defame Pakistan on international forums.

For example, Pakistan is often associated

to help terrorist organizations. A recent example is that after the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in 2021, US officials have regarded Pakistan as a reason for their failure in Afghanistan, and accused Pakistan of providing safe havens to terrorists.

5)

9)

g) Covert Operations

Secretly conducting operations, such as intelligence gathering, sabotage, or assassinations.

6)

For example, The 2011 U.S operation to capture Osama bin Laden in Pakistan was conducted without Pakistan's knowledge, highlighting the use of covert operations.

7)

h) Launching Cyber Attacks

Cyber attacks are launched using information and communication technology to disrupt the cyberspace of a state or organization.

Such attacks not only pose threat to the national security and integrity of a country but also damage its economy.

8)

For example, Stuxnet worm which was discovered in 2010. Stuxnet is widely believed to have been joint ^{cyber} operation conducted by US and Israel, aimed at disrupting Iran's nuclear program. While the primary target was Iran, Stuxnet has global implications including Pakistan.

5) Way Forward for Pakistan to Deal with Hybrid Warfare

a) Strengthening IT Sector

A highly efficient IT infrastructure need to be developed to counter any hybrid attacks and prevent flow of misinformation and propaganda. Defensive and offensive cyber security mechanisms need to be strengthened.

b) Forming a Strong Democratic Government

A strong central government is necessary to crush all the ethno linguistic disputes in the country and bind all the factions of the nation into one whole.

c) Building Coordination and Trust in Nation

Unity and peace must be ensured so that no external force can easily break them into factions. An awareness program needs to be started to counter fake news, propaganda, and other misinformation.

d) Promoting Means to Present Noble Image of the Nation in the World

Pakistan needs to use digital media and diplomacy to portray a peaceful image of Pakistan to the world. For this purpose, regional stability through diplomacy and cooperation with neighboring countries is essential.

e) Reducing Economic Vulnerability

Reducing economic vulnerability is crucial for Pakistan. Pakistan can learn from Greece's experience during its economic crisis and take steps to diversify its economy, reduce reliance on foreign loans, and build strong fiscal discipline.

6) Conclusion

In a nutshell, hybrid warfare is a new generation warpath that includes conventional and non-conventional methods of warfare. Boundaries between regular and irregular warfare are blurring. Hybrid warfare is widely employed against Pakistan, by its enemies. Dealing with it requires a multi-faceted approach that combines military, economic, diplomatic and informational elements. It's essential for Pakistan to continually adapt its strategies to address evolving hybrid threat and maintain a proactive stance to protect its national security and interests.