

Q: Write down the major determinants of Foreign Policy of Pakistan?

Ans: Outline:

1. Introduction.
2. Definition of Foreign Policy.
3. Determinants of Pakistan's Foreign Policy:
  - a. Geography.
  - b. Economic stability.
  - c. Immediate neighborhood.
  - d. Security.
  - e. Leadership.
  - f. Public opinion.
  - g. Historical background.
4. Conclusion.

### 1. Introduction:

Foreign Policy of a country is made to keep the National Interest of the country its top most priority. The country's future dealings with its neighbour and the states around the globe are made in a way that it stabilizes it. Pakistan's policies were always made by keeping the country's stability (political and economical), security, sustainability as priority. The determinants are the factors that are kept into consideration while making a foreign policy; these include Pakistan's geography, economic gains, security, leadership and the opinion of its people.

## 2) Defining Foreign Policy:

"A policy that is pursued by the state, in its future dealings with other states, in order to achieve its own National Interest."

Pakistan's foreign policy was envisioned by its founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as a policy that follows United Nations Charter and is determined to develop and spread <sup>peace</sup> people in its neighborhood and in the world.

"Our policy should be peace with in and peace without, We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial and friendly relations with our immediate neighbors, and with the world at large."

- Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. (15-Aug-1947)

## 3) Determinants of Foreign Policy of Pakistan:

### 1. Geography:

Pakistan has an ideal geographical location, that has a border connected to warm waters of Arabian Sea. This edge to Pakistan has always been beneficial, and has always added to its foreign policy dealings. The country

is appreciated by Russia and Central Asian Republic Countries (CARs) as it gives access to them in the sea. This location is also crucial for China's Dragon Policy i.e. BRIS. Hence, it has always been a major factor while making the foreign policy.

"The country's foreign policy is determined by its geographical location."

- Napoleon Bonaparte.

### b) Economic Stability:

Pakistan has been an economically dwindling country. The policies that can favor Pakistan's economy had always been adapted, but somehow they have not been benefiting according to the expectations. Pakistan's policy post 9/11, ~~else~~ though was a compulsive calculus to protect the country's security, but also economic expectations were attached to it as well. The Pro-East policy with China is also adapted by keeping the economic determinant of the country in mind.

### c) Immediate Neighbourhood:

Pakistan has India in its East, China in its North, Afghanistan in its South-West and Iran in its South-West.

All the major policies adapted by the country have ~~been taken~~ <sup>kept</sup> the security from the neighborhood in mind.

Post 9/11, Pakistan's policy to support USA military was based on many national interests; one of them was to keep the eastern border secure as well. The military set-up in West would have decreased the defensive forces in West, but considering Pakistan a non-NATO ally, it was expected that India would not invade the country.

#### d) Security:

The security of the country is a major determinant of its foreign policy. Pakistan has always adapted the policies that were in favor of the country's internal and external security. The policies be it Pro-West or Pro-East were adapted only to keep the country's security in mind.

#### e) Leadership:

The leadership has an important role in the country's foreign policy. Certain leaders have certain vision and perspective. Nawaz's policies have been Pro-West and PTI's policies have been seen tilted towards Russia.

## f) Public Opinion:

It is also a major determinant in Pakistan's foreign policy making. The social impact is necessary to put in consideration to maintain domestic stability. In Vietnam war, the foreign policy was made keeping the social factor in mind. The similar example was seen during Yemen-KSA war, when KSA ~~was~~ asked Pakistan to send its military support.

## g) Historical Background:

The historical impacts of certain foreign policies also provide a clear vision to people adapt in future policies. The policies adapted by Pakistan, though were expected to benefit the country, had many times left it struggling. Major example is Pro-US policy in War on Terror.

## h) Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policies, like any other state, are made to secure the country's national interest. To attain the maximum gains, certain factors are taken under consideration, they are known as 'determinants of foreign policy'. Pakistan's foreign policy determinants are its security, economic stability, geo-strategic location, the opinion of its people, leadership, and the historical background of country's foreign policy.