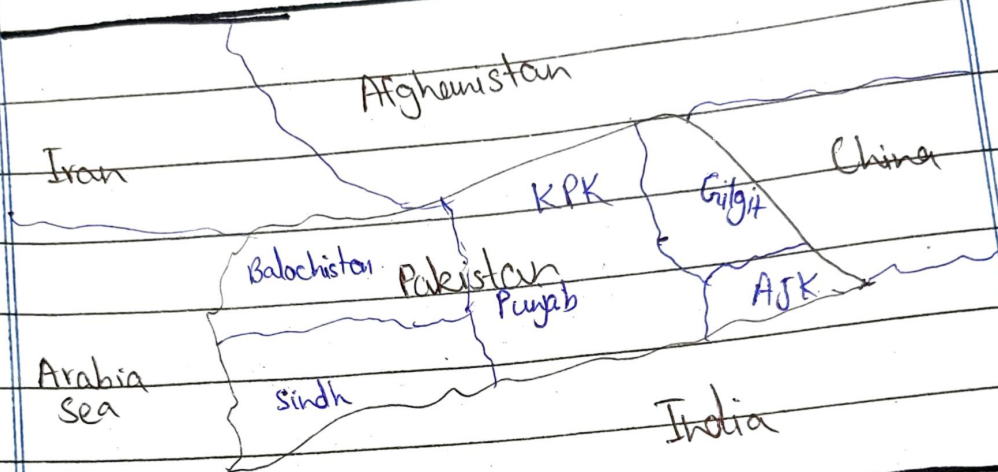


Why did Pakistan join Western defence pacts? What cost does it have to pay for that? Explain.

Introduction

Geostrategic position of Pakistan has always keep it in hot waters. The geographic location of Pakistan is the driven force behind its defense driven policies. After its inception, India's leadership remained stable and tried to destroy a ^{economically and politically} handicapped Pakistan. Afghanistan denied in United Nations to recognize Pakistan. All incidents since 1947 made Pakistan to join Western defence pacts in 1954 and 1955. Resultantly, Pakistan has to give up its independent foreign policy choices. However, key decisions cannot be made

over night but vulnerable situations
can do it. Thus, Pakistan has
to do reforms as it is the
need of hour because it is
now 77 years strong and have
enough power to overcome
consequences of saying no.



Reason for Joining Western Defense Pacts

After Independence in 1948, the
leader of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam
died that imparts the idea

of weak leadership to India
Assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan
in 1951 exacerbates the
situation. Several other reasons
include :-

Indian Annexation of ^{Kashmir in} 1948

The unjustified division of industries, medical services and defence machinery failed the Pakistan to protect Kashmir. Chief Army of Pakistan General Creevey also denied to stop India in Kashmir. This raised the question that if India can annex Kashmir, then it will take no time to breach the territorial sovereignty of Pakistan.

Durand line disagreement

Afghanistan's shah denied to

recognize Pakistan as an independent state at the forum of United Nation. Though, both were Islamic states. Kabul wanted to merge KPK in Afghanistan but back in 1890's, he had already signed a border treaty with British viceroy. According to which durand line was an internationally recognized border.

Political Instability

Pakistan's constitution was Government of India Act 1935 with few amendments. This act gives more authority to governor general, which is unduly used by Malik Ghulam Muhammad. The continue dismissal of prime ministers gave enemies of Pakistan.

a powerful hint of collapsing
Institutions

Christopher Jafferlot in his book
Pakistan at crossroads, writes
that:- "The era in which Pakistan
was about to run on democratic
track was under shadowed by
military rule. The wrong decisions
of Malik Ghulam gave the
way for Pakistan's dependence
on Defense".

SEATO and CENTO

Though, Pakistan had an option
to remain non-allianed in
bipolar world of US and USSR
But, Liaquat Ali Khan choose
US to cope up with possible
security threats from neighbour
states. Thus, Pakistan joined
SEATO in 1954 and CENTO

in 1955. Seato and Cento were US made alliance against USSR. These alliance provides defense machinery and weapons to its members. Pakistan also recieved aid under its shadow. ~~Thus~~, Unfortunately, it proves to be a zero-sum game for Pakistan in long-term.

Cost Paid by Pakistan of joining defense Pacts

Defense Pacts helped Pakistan to improve industries, agriculture sectors and fuelling defense sector. But its cost is still have been paid by Pakistan.

Dependent foreign policy

As Pakistan has always been remained under the influence of aid from America. Any divergent behaviour from America's conditions led Pakistan to sanction. For example, In 1965, Pakistan used America's missiles against India. America sanctioned the Pakistan as these weapons were not allowed to use against India.

Restricted Economic Opportunities

Pakistan is not allowed to deal in other currencies except dollar. Due to heavy loans from IMF, rupee is declining and inflation is rising. Therefore, economic conditions have always

been on stake. Pakistan's fiscal policy is designed in accordance to IMF conditions.

~~India~~ Civil-Military Politics

The Western defence Pacts has permanently added military in Pakistan's democratic government.

This also disturbs the confidence of Pakistanis in its military.

Zulfiqar ali Bhutto paves a way for democracy and to create a civil supremacy but Zia's

Martial law black out its efforts and till today

Pakistan is facing its consequences.

Pakistan Ranks at 118th out of 165 democracies in the world.

This rating has been issued by world democratic index forum in 2023.

Conclusion

It is no use to cry over split milk is a famous idiom. It is time for Pakistan to renew its glory that it gains after independence. Maleeha Lodhi in his book, Pakistan - The search for stability provides comprehensive way to reform the structural and functional negligences. The first step is to lessen dependence on foreign aid. Therefore, Pakistan has to think and analyze retrospectively for future decision making.