

Question

What is foreign policy? What are its determinants? What is the foreign policy making process in Pakistan?

Ans

Introduction

"Foreign policy is not a matter of theology; it is a matter of costs & benefits." - Henry Kissinger

Foreign policy is the blueprint that guides a nation's interactions with the global community, defining its stance on international issues and shaping its strategic priorities. In the case of Pakistan, a country with geopolitical significances & complex regional dynamics, the process of foreign policy making is a multifaceted endeavor involving careful analysis, consultation, and decision making. Through these mechanisms, Pakistan navigates the complex web of international relations, striving to safeguard its national interests, uphold its sovereignty, promote regional stability, & contribute to global peace & prosperity.

2. What is Foreign Policy?

2.2

Foreign policy refers to the set of principles, strategies, & actions a nation uses to manage its interactions with other countries & international organizations.

2.2.1

Think of it as a compass guiding a nation's course on the global stage, encompassing a wide range of issues.

2.2.2

2.2.3

2.1 Scope of Foreign Policy

2.1.1 Diplomacy:

Engaging with other countries through embassies, negotiations & treaties.

2.2.4

2.1.2 Trade:

Establishing economic relationships with other nations

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3.1

3.1.1

2.1.3 Security

Addressing military threats & promoting regional stability.

2.1.4 Development

Providing assistance to other countries & promoting global cooperation

3.1.2

2.2 Importance of Foreign Policy:

2.2.1 Protects National Interests:

Ensure security, economic prosperity, and international influence.

2.2.2 Navigates Global Challenges

Address issues like climate change, pandemic, & terrorism.

2.2.3 Promotes Cooperation & Peace:

Contributes to a stable & prosperous international order

2.2.4 Shapes a Nation's Identity:

Reflects its values, priorities, & place in the world

3. Determinants of Foreign Policy

3.1 Internal Determinants:

3.1.1 Political Leadership:

The vision, priorities, and ideology of political leaders influence foreign policy decisions.

3.1.2 Public Opinion

Public sentiment, attitudes & perceptions towards foreign affairs

and domestic issues can shape government policies and priorities.

Example:

Protests of Pakistani to boycott French products & halt all diplomatic relations with France in 2023 & 2022.

3.1.3 Domestic Politics:

Domestic political dynamics, including public opinion, interest groups, and partisan interests, can influence foreign policy decisions.

Examples

UK Parliament & public opinion, have influenced Brexit decision

3.1.4 Economic Conditions

Economic factors such as trade patterns, resource availability, & economic development goals can shape FP priorities.

Examples

Germany's - export - driven economy has influenced its foreign policy approach towards trade agreements & economic cooperation within the EU.

4. External Determinants.

4.1 Geopolitical Environment:

The geopolitical landscapes including regional power dynamics, alliances, & conflicts, influence a country's foreign policy choices.

Example:

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 & its involvement in conflicts in Ukraine & Syria reflects its geopolitical ambitions & the influence of regional power dynamics on its 'Foreign Policy'.

4.2 International System:

The structure of the international system, including the role of major powers, international organizations, & global norms, shapes a country's foreign policy options.

Example:

China's rise as a major global power has reshaped the international system, prompting U.S. to adjust its FP strategies to counter China.

4.3 Security Threats:

External Security threats, such as terrorism, border disputes, & military

conflicts can significantly impacts a country's foreign policy decisions.

Example

Pakistan counterterrorism cooperation with the U.S. after the 9/11 attacks was driven by mutual security concerns.

5. Navigating the Maze: Foreign Policy Making Process in Pakistan.

5.1 Key Actors:

5.1. Executive Branch:

The Prime Minister sets the direction, while the Foreign Minister spearheads implementation. Other relevant ministries like Defense & Finance also play important roles.

5.2 Military:

The Pakistan Armed Forces hold significant influences particularly regarding national security and relations with India. They often offer input on policy decisions and can even exert veto power in certain matters.

5.3 Parliament:

While its formal role in

Foreign policy is limited, parliament approves treaties, and can influence policy through debates & resolutions. Standing committee on foreign affairs provide a platform for scrutiny & public discussion.

5.4 Judiciary

The Supreme Court can review the legality of foreign policy actions & agreements, ensuring conformity with the Constitution.

5.5 Think Tank & Media:

These groups contribute through research, analysis, & public discourse, shaping public opinion & influencing policy debates.

5.2 Stages of the Process:

5.2.1 Policy Formulation

Analyzing interests, developments, and options. Research of institutions like the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad contributes here.

5.2.2 Decision Making:

Internal deliberations & consultations. The National Security Committee

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chaired by the PM, plays a crucial role. For example, debates within the NSC shaped Pakistan's response to the 2019 Pulwama Attack India

5.2.3 Implementation:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes the lead, using embassies & international organizations.

5.2.4 Evaluation:

Monitoring outcomes & course corrections. Parliament & media can scrutinize implementation.

6 Comparison with US:

US enjoys greater power & flexibility in pursuing its foreign policy goals due to its economic & military strength. While India's federal structure involves more regional input in FP, Pakistan's decision making is more centralized.

7 Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy, like a labyrinth, involves complex interplay b/w actors like the military, parliament & think tanks. Foreign policy is the strategy guiding a nation's interactions with the world, influenced by factors like geopolitics, economics & security. Pakistan navigates the complexities of international relations to safeguard its national interests.

Question

Discuss the Role & Powers of Supreme Leader in Iran.

Ans.

1. Introduction:

"In Iran, power doesn't flow from the people, it radiates from the single source; the Supreme Leader"

In the heart of the Middle East, a singular figure sits atop Iran's political pyramid - the Supreme Leader. Unlike presidents or prime ministers, their power transcends the secular, wielding both religious & political authority. As the highest authority in Iran, the Supreme Leader wields extensive influence over both state & religious affairs, shaping policies, decision-making processes, and societal norms. Established in the aftermath of 1979 Islamic Revolution, the role of the Supreme Leader has evolved into a central pillar of Iran's political structure, transcending mere executive or religious functions.

2. Background & Context:

The position of Supreme Leader in Iran originated after the 1979 Islamic Revolution led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini himself, this role combines political & religious authority, making the Supreme Leader the highest-ranking figure in Iran. Ayatollah Ali Khomeini succeeded Ruhollah in 1989, continuing to hold extensive influence over Iran's governance, policies, & societal norms. The Supreme Leader's authority is grounded in the concept of "Twelve Imams" & "Velayat-e-Faqih", or guardianship of the jurist, allowing them to guide the nation based on Islamic principles.

3. Powers of the Supreme Leader

3.1 Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:

The Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over Iran's armed forces, including the Iran's armed forces, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) & the regular military.

Example:

Supreme leader has the power

to declare war

- Iran - Iraq War in 1980s

3.2 Appointment & Dismissal of Key Officials

The Supreme Leader has the authority to appoint & dismiss key government officials, including the presidents, chief justice & heads of state institutions.

Example:

Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president in 2005 & later dismissed him in 2013.

3.3. Legislative Oversight & Veto Power:

The Supreme Leader has the power to vet legislation passed by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) & veto laws that are deemed incompatible with principles of Islamic.

Example:

The Guardian Council, appointed by the Supreme Leader, reviews legislation passed by the Majlis

3.4 Judicial Authority & Appointment of Judges

The Supreme Leader appoints the

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heads of the judiciary & has influence over the appointments of judges.

Example:

He appointed Ebrahim Raisi in 2019 as Chief Justice.

3.5 Foreign Policy Decision-Making:

The Supreme Leader plays a significant role in shaping Iran's foreign policy, guiding its stance on regional & international issues.

Example:

Khamenei's opposition to JCPOA.

3.6 Religious Authority & Interpretation of Islamic Law

The Supreme Leader is the highest religious authority in Iran & has the power to interpret Islamic Law (Shariah) & issues religious decrees (fatwas) on matters of national & religious significance.

4. Roles of Iranian Supreme Leader

4.1 Head of State:

The Supreme Leader serves as the highest-ranking political authority in

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Iran, symbolizing the unity & sovereignty of the nation.

4.2 Chief Executive

The Supreme Leader holds significant executive powers, including control over the armed forces, security apparatus, & state institutions.

- Appointment of Presidents, CNC, judges

4.3 Guardian of the Revolution

The Supreme Leader is tasked with preserving the principles of the 1979 Islamic Revolution including independence, self-reliance & resistance against Western influence.

4.4 Arbitrator & Mediator:

In times of political crisis or conflicts, the Supreme Leader acts as an arbitrator resolving disputes.

- Ayatollah Khamenei intervened in 2009 presidential election, calling for unity & stability.

4.5 Foreign Policy Decision - Makers:

The Supreme Leader plays a key role in shaping Iran's foreign policy, guiding its stance on regional & international issues.

- Ayatollah Khamenei supports anti-imperialist movements & maintains relations with Syria & Hezbollah.

5. Comparison with Other Countries

While the Supreme Leader holds a unique position in Iran's political system, comparable figures exist in other countries, albeit with variations in power and institutional arrangements.

For example in Saudi Arabia, the King serves as both the head of state & the custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, wielding significant political & religious authority similar to the Supreme Leader.

In countries like Russia & China supreme leaders or party leaders hold unchecked power over the state & society, exercising control over all branches of government & suppressing dissent to maintain their rule.

However, in Western democracies like the United States & the United Kingdom, executive power is distributed among multiple branches of government, with the head of state serving primarily as a ceremonial figurehead or a symbol of national unity rather than as a central political & religious authority.

6. Conclusion:

The Supreme Leader's wide powers in Iran reflect a blend of political, religious, and cultural authority, shaping the country's governance, society, and international relations. This centralized authority contrasts with systems of governance in other countries, highlighting the unique dynamics of Iran's political system.

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Question

Critically analyze the role of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in the development of Muslim Nationalism in South Asia.

Answer

1. Introduction :

Allama Iqbal's towering legacy in South Asia transcends mere poetry and philosophy. His evolving thought deeply intertwined with the burgeoning Muslim nationalism that shaped pre-partition India. Iqbal's emphasis on individual empowerment & self-realization resonates deeply with aspirations of the Muslim community in the face of colonial oppression. Through his impassioned writings and visionary advocacy, Iqbal ignited the flame of Muslim nationalism in South Asia, paving the way for the quest for self-determination & the eventual creation of Pakistan. Thus, his role in the development of Muslim nationalism in South Asia is both profound and enduring.

و مسلمان نے ہی تعمیر کیا اپنا قوم اور
تہذیب تہذیب کے آذر نے تر شوائے صنم اور

2. Background & Context:

Under British colonial rule, Muslims in South Asia experienced marginalization & sought revenge avenues for empowerment. Allama Iqbal emerged as a prominent intellectual & poet whose ideas & activism resonated deeply with the Muslim community. Through his poetry, philosophical works, and political writings, Iqbal sought to address the concerns of Muslims & articulate a vision of empowerment & self-determination. His concepts of Muslim unity, identity, and self-realization played a crucial role in shaping the discourse of Muslim nationalism in South Asia.

3. Early Influences on Iqbal: Shaping His Intellectual Journey

3.1 Educational Background & Exposure to Western Philosophy, Including Nietzsche

Allama Iqbal's educational journey began in his hometown of Sialkot, where he received early schooling in Persian & Arabic. His pursuit of higher education led him to Government College Lahore & later to England &

Germany for advanced studies. During his time in Europe, Iqbal was exposed to Western philosophy, particularly the works of Friedrich Nietzsche, whose ideas left a profound impact on his intellectual development.

3.2 Influence of Islamic Thinkers & Scholars on His Political Thought

Iqbal's intellectual journey was deeply rooted in Islamic thought & philosophy. He drew inspiration from a wide array of Islamic thinkers & scholars including Rumi, Ibn Khaldun, & Al Ghazali, whose works shaped his understanding of politics, society, & spirituality.

The concept of Ummah & Millat featured prominently in Iqbal's political thought. He envisioned a collective identity for Muslims in South Asia.

Iqbal's poem "Tarana-e-Milli" captures the spirit of Muslim Unity, with lines like

میں ہیں ہم سب سے مل کر ایک جہاں ہمارا

4. Development of Iqbal's Political Thought

4.1 Critique of Western Colonialism & Imperialism, drawing on concepts of Ummat, Millat & Pan Islamism:

Allama Iqbal's political thought was deeply influenced by his critique of Western colonialism & imperialism, which he saw as oppressive forces that subjugated Muslim societies in South Asia. Drawing on Islamic concepts of Ummat & Millat, Iqbal argued for the solidarity & unity of Muslims as a means of resisting colonial domination.

In his poetry, Iqbal highlighted the need for Muslims to transcend sectarian & ethnic divisions & unite under the banner of Islam.

The vision of pan-Islamism served as a rallying cry for Muslims in South Asia, inspiring resistance against colonial rule.

4.2 Advocacy for Muslim Unity & Self-Determination, incorporating concepts from 'Asrar-e-Khudi' & His Theory of 'Khudi'

4.2.1 Muslim Unity:

Iqbal viewed Muslim unity as essential for overcoming colonial

Oppression \hookrightarrow achieving self determination.

تفزیق ملت حکمت افزنگ کا مقصود

اسلام کا مقصود فقط ملت آدم

4.2.2 Asrar - e - Khudi

His concepts of "Khudi" explored in Asrar - e - Khudi, played a crucial role. Khudi emphasizes self-awareness, individual potential, \hookrightarrow striving for spiritual \hookrightarrow moral excellence. He argued that cultivating strong individual "Khudi" within each Muslim was vital for collective empowerment.

علم حق را در قضا انزاختی
بر نانی نقد دین در باختی

5. Contribution to Muslim Nationalism

5.1 Articulation of Theories Related to Politics & Nationalism, Emphasizing the importance of Muslim Ummah \hookrightarrow collective identity.

5.1.1 Iqbal as a key Intellectual Figure
Through his poetry, lectures, \hookrightarrow political writings, Iqbal became a crucial

voice in shaping Muslim nationalist discourse. He offered critiques of prevailing political models.

5.1.2 Concept of Ummah:

He emphasized the concept of Ummah, highlighting the global Islamic community's shared faith, history, & destiny. This challenged prevailing territorial nationalism & fostered a sense of transnational unity among Muslims.

5.1.3 Collective Identity

He stressed the importance of a strong collective identity for Muslims, arguing that shared values, traditions, and aspirations could provide a foundation for building a just & prosperous society.

5.2 Advocacy for a Separate Muslim State, Envisioning Pakistan as a Homeland for Muslims to Practice their Faith & Culture Freely

5.2.1 Disillusionment with Colonial Rule:

Witnessing the injustices & cultural hegemony imposed by British colonialism, Iqbal increasingly saw the

need for a separate Muslim state where Muslims could govern themselves by preserve their distinct values.

5.2.2 Two-Nation Theory:

He supported the Two-Nation Theory, arguing that Muslims & Hindus constituted separate nations with distinct identities & aspirations. This fueled the demand for partition & helped create a shared vision for a distinct Muslim nation.

5.3.3 Pakistan as a Homeland

He envisioned Pakistan as a homeland for Muslims to freely practice their faith, cultivate their cultural heritage, & build a society based on Islamic principles. In his 1930 presidential address to All-India Muslim League Iqbal famously declared as the place where Muslims would "dream the dream of freedom" and envisioned a society "who would demonstrate to the world what it means to be Muslims."

6. Legacy & Impacts.

6.1 Influence on the Pakistan Movement by Subsequent Nation-Building Efforts

Allama Iqbal's influence on the Pakistan Movement was profound by far-reaching. His articulation of the idea of a separate Muslim state provided the ideological foundation for the movement, inspiring millions of Muslims to demand political independence from British colonial rule.

Iqbal's poetry & speeches particularly his famous **Allahabad Address** in 1930, played a crucial role in mobilizing public opinion & rallying support for the cause of Pakistan.

The creation of Pakistan in 1947 marked the realization of Iqbal's vision, & his legacy continues to be celebrated as a founding father of the nation.

منزل سے آگے بڑھ کر منزل تلاش کر
 مل جائے تو کو دریا کو سمندر تلاش کر

6.2 Continued Relevance of Iqbal's Ideas in Contemporary South Asian Politics & Society

Despite the passage of time, Allama Iqbal's ideas remain highly

highly relevant in contemporary South Asian politics and society. His concepts of Muslim Unity, self-determination, empowerment continue to inspire movements for social justice, equality, democracy.

Moreover, Iqbal's vision of Pakistan as a progressive, democratic, inclusive nation-state serves as a guiding principle for those striving to build a better future for the country.

7. Conclusion

Allama Iqbal's pivotal role in shaping Muslim nationalism in South Asia cannot be overstated. Through his impassioned poetry and visionary ideas, he galvanized the Muslim community to demand self-determination and ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan.

His legacy continues to inspire generations, underscoring the enduring relevance of his contributions to the political landscape of the region.

دوشاہیں سے پرواز ہے کام تیرا

نرے سامنے آسمان اور ہی ہیں