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## Question No 8

Pak-US relations are born out of a transactional necessity but it is defined by irregular engagements on account of Geo political interest of the former and building economic sinews by the later. Elucidate

### 1. Introduction

Pakistan and USA relationship are based on security driven dilemma. Since the inception of Pakistan, Pakistan always adopted a pro-USA policy while USA maintain ad hoc policies towards Pakistan. The Pakistan-USA relationship have entered different phases during the world situation. Pakistan was among the first few country which wanted to strengthen its relationship with USA and joined the security bloc SEATO and CENTO. During the war of Pakistan and India, USA maintained a neutral stance. Pakistan joined USA in war of terror which lead to an economic loss of and loss to civilian lives of 80,000. Followed by resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan after USSR was defeated in Afghanistan. When Pakistan developed its nuclear capabilities it was sanctioned by Pakistan, USA. Moreover, the economic rise of China is a threat to USA, due to which it is maintaining and strengthening bilateral relationship with India and signing serving bilateral & security pacts. The US policy pivot to Asia and strong India-USA



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relationship have created a room in between USA and Pakistan relationship

## II AN OVERVIEW OF PAKISTAN & USA RELATIONSHIP

1947	USA embassy opened in Karachi
1950	Pakistan joined western bloc led by USA
1954-1955	Pakistan joined SEATO & CENTO to <sup>defeat</sup> overcome communism
1956	Peshawar station Air leased to USA
1971	Pakistan made rapprochement between USA & China
1971-1972	Pakistan withdrew from Seato & Cento
1980s	USA started helped from Pakistan to defeat USSR
1989	USSR was defeated, Pakistan received \$ Billion and modernization of weapons
2000	war on Terror
2010	OBL was founded in Pakistan
2015	Pakistan hosted first dialogue meeting btwn <del>PA</del> Taliban & USA
2020	Doha Peace process
2021	Fall of Kabul.



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### III THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN

Being a nuclear state and because of Pakistan's strategic location, Pakistan has always been in International Politics limelight. In 2001, Pakistan joined the war on terror which costed Pakistan \$ and loss of 80,000 death. Apart from this it has hosted rising extreme, insurgency, proxy wars by India and nuclear culture. The swift withdrawal of USA forces from Afghanistan creates a vacuum which is filled by non state actors. [DAWN News, 2023]

### IV THE TRANSACTIONAL NECESSITY OF PAKISTAN BY USA.

#### i) Spying USSR

Pakistan always adopted a Pro USA policy after its inception but USA only opted for friendly relation when in need. During the cold war era, USA used Pakistan bases for USSR Surveillance which later lead to The event of U-2 get incident.

#### ii) Pakistan joined war on Terror

The war on Terror was not Pakistan war with Afghanistan but was forced to join it. Joining war on terror



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was to develop a friendly fr<sup>ie</sup> with USA. Pakistan took part in several operations and battles to get rid of militants. This also led to a refugees crisis, which Pakistan has been holding since the cold war era.

iii) To train Mujahid<sup>is</sup> to defeat USSR, Pakistan as a location was used

When the war between USSR and Mujahidin started, to keep USA influence, it started to support Mujahidin by offering them with modern technology and training. Hence, a third location was needed, due to strategic location of Pakistan. The Mujahidins were trained in Pakistan. This led to the defeat of USSR which led USA to maintain its hegemony in the region.

iv) Pakistan was used as a mediator between Taliban and USA

Pakistan managed to bring Taliban and USA on Doha Peace Process which set to negotiation and withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.



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## v) US accused Pakistan on No More Mantra

USA have always accused Pakistan to do more before the fall of Kabul. Pakistan had pushed for quadrilateral cooperation but USA criticism on Pakistan was, there is no visible diplomatic tension between the two states.

## VI BENEFITS REAP BY PAKISTAN DUE TO US-PAK TRANSACTIONAL RIS

### i) Provide ~~training~~ training and aid to military forces

Due to Pakistan-USA transactional relation, as <sup>Pakistan</sup> ~~USA~~ ~~joined~~ <sup>joined</sup> war on terror, it got aid and training to its armed forces as Pakistan was used as a third location to give training to the Mujahidins. Moreover the aid received by Pakistan was also used to construct dams like Mangala and Tarbella.

### ii) Helps in securing IMF Approval

USA holds a significant voting share and policy decision making in IMF. Developing good relation with USA, has helped Pakistan to achieve IMF approvals on various events.



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### iii) Helps in developing soft image of Pakistan

Since the war was ending in Afghanistan, Pakistan always emphasized on regional peace and development of bilateral relations to avoid war or escalation in future. Setting up peace talks in Doha Peace process helps in developing soft image of Pakistan internationally which many international scholars recognize the efforts made by Pakistan.

### iv) Lifting of sanctions

As Pakistan was sanctioned to develop nuclear program. The economy of Pakistan was facing financial constraint. But due to joining of war on terror, the sanctions were lifted and Pakistan received billions of dollars in form of aid which improved the economy of Pakistan.

## VII REASON WHY US-PAKISTAN RELATION ARE ON TRANSACTIONAL NECISSTY

### i) LACK OF LONG TERM POLICIES

Pakistan and USA relationship are always based on military and security perspective. Therefore, lack of long term policies hinders the development of relationship between these two countries.



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## ii) PAKISTAN GROWING BILATERAL TRADE WITH CHINA

Relation

The growing economic investment of China in Pakistan is also hindering Pakistan and USA relationship as USA is in another cold war confrontation with China.

## iii) STRENGTHENING OF INDIA-USA RELATION

The strengthening of USA and India strategic partnership is also hindering the USA-Pakistan relation. The increase of bilateral, economic, security relation between India and Pak USA is a concern for Pakistan. USA believe that a strong India will help to counter China in Indo Pacific. The strategic alliance like QUAD, AUKUS and modernization of weapons is threatening Pakistan's interest.

## VII US FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS PAKISTAN

After the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan and since then Biden Administration came in White House, the two countries did not engage with one another for two years. The Biden Administration blames Pakistan for the losses in Afghan war as Pakistan did not cooperate with USA. Moreover, Pakistan seeking to develop relation with Moscow had also antagonized USA. The recent Act Pass by USA That no country shall trade from Russia leading to be sanctioned



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## IX US FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS INDIA

USA have always opted for a hypernated policy towards India. The alliance like QUAD, I2U2 is strengthening USA-India Relation. Moreover, India is enjoying crude oil trade with Russia at discounted price followed by sales of arms and weapons by Moscow. The recent passed Act by USA provides exemption to India in all circumstance. Therefore USA believe that a strong and weaponized India will counter as a threat to China.

## X POLICY OPTION HOW PAK USA RELATION CAN BE STRENGTHENED

### i) Overcoming The mistrust

Pakistan US relation are based on ad hoc basis since 1950's. As Pakistan and US relation are based on security terms and once security issue is resolved the relation turns where they were. Moreover, the issues derived between these years should be addressed.

### ii) Develop trade and economic agreement

US is the biggest exporter for Pakistan, but despite of it, trade levels have remained low. Pakistan and USA can improve their bilateral relation by focusing on new trade agreements.



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### iii) Implementation of policies to counter Terrorism

As security here remained a major concern between Pakistan and USA, policies can be adopted to counter terrorism in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. The operation like Zorb-e- helps in eliminating nonstate actors from Pakistan.

### iv) Stability in Afghanistan

Stability in Afghanistan is not only significant for Pakistan but for all the world. The terrorist organization like ISI, ETIM possess the capabilities of not only conducting attacks in Pakistan but all over the world. Stability in Afghanistan will ensure peace world wide.

### v) Develop aggressive Diplomatic campaigns

Think tank and lobbies play an important role in formulation of US Foreign Policy. Foreign policy makers in Pakistan must invest in meaningful bilateral engagement with the USA.

### vi) Work on social issue like Climate Change & gender equality

Non traditional security threats like Climate Change and gender equality needs utmost importance.

Pakistan and USA can work to ensure to achieve the sustainable goals.



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## Critical Analysis: The need to balance between USA and China

As Pakistan and USA relationship are ad hoc and based on security need, Pakistan needs to reconstitute policy to engage with USA. As India is maintaining its relationship with USA and Moscow despite having sanctions imposed on Moscow. China is a source of financial aid ~~where~~ and development of various projects under CPEC which is the need of the hour for the economy of Pakistan. Therefore, engaging in bilateral and economic agreements can help to reconstitute and strengthen PAK-USA relationship.

## Conclusion

To conclude, the policies adopted by Pakistan since its inception were pro USA. As USA did not support Pakistan in the war of 1965, 1973 so Pakistan left the Security pact seats and Cents. Therefore, Pakistan had engaged in war on terror had faced several economic, social and political problems. USA is the biggest exporter of Pakistan and Pakistan can avail from the opportunity to overcome the mistrust between both countries and reap the benefits of trade, security and political stability like India.