

FOREIGN POLICY OF PAKISTAN

QUESTION NO # 01

Why did Pakistan joined Defence Pacts.
What cost it had to pay for it? Explain

**FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT A
GAME OF MORALITY, BUT OF
REALITIES**

~ HANSMORGENTHAU

Initially, Pakistan's Foreign Policy was independent but, after 1953 it was characterized by multifaceted alignment with the west. Pakistan has joined U.S sponsored defence pacts i.e SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization) and the Baghdad Pact / CENTO (Central Treaty Organization). The main concern to join these pacts was security issues and addressing the social, economic and political grievances.

The core objective of Pakistan's foreign policy ~~was~~ is to develop friendly relations with all. These pacts plays critical role in improving global standing of

Pakistan. Nevertheless, the pacts negatively affected Pakistan, by increasing the cost in all spheres of nationhood, worsened and law and order situation, and increase of extremism and terrorism in the country. These defence pacts did not favour Pakistan, rather it make the country suffer multiple, societal, governance and economic costs. However, Pakistan should follow its foreign policy principle in true essence and not to involve in other countries' matters and remain neutral. Pakistan has already faced the aftermaths of global rivalries. Now, Pakistan should only focus on its economy rather than strategic bilateral and multilateral relations, and strengthen its political institutions. These steps, if take seriously, can help Pakistan come out of its miserable record and prove itself as safe and progressive country in global arena.

WESTERN DEFENCE PACTS: AN OVERVIEW

Western defence pacts SEATO and CENTO were anti-communist pacts, made by the western countries, especially the USA during cold war against Soviet Union to counter the spread of communism.

SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organization) / Manila Pact.

Pakistan joined SEATO or Manila Pact on September 1954. The formation of SEATO was to protect Southeast Asian area against communist expansion. Pakistan joined SEATO because of external and internal chaos comprising security concerns, economic aspirations, and domestic political calculations.

SEATO offered Pakistan Military aid, Economic Assistance and International recognition.

CENTO (Central Treaty Organization) /

The Baghdad Pact.

Pakistan joined CENTO or The Baghdad Pact on September 1955

CENTO was a military alliance formed during the cold war. Its main incentive was to contain Soviet influence in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Pakistan's decision to join CENTO stemmed from a desire to modernize its military, secure Economic aid and counter perceived threats from the Soviet Union and India. CENTO offered Pakistan a package of incentives including Military modernization, Economic Assistance and Regional Security Umbrella.

Analyzing Pakistan's Alignment with Western

Pacts: Insights from Abul Sattar's Pakistan's

Foreign Policy: A concise history ¹⁹⁴⁷⁻²⁰¹⁹

Pakistan's Foreign Policy 1947-2019: A concise

History highlights Pakistan's decision to join Western pacts was a product of its specific security concerns and the Cold War context. However, it also resulted in unintended consequences and ultimately proved to be a

Temporary strategy in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

PAKISTAN'S NEED TO JOIN WESTERN PACTS:

* To counter existential threats from India:

Since 1947, Pakistan and India have fought three wars against each other.

In 1948, the first war resulted in the ceasefire ^{established} by UN; however, it became clear in the minds of Pakistanis that India represented an existential threat to the country. Though Pakistan was a nascent country at ^{that} time; lacking political, economic and military power. Therefore, Pakistan joined western pacts so that, it would be assisted in times of Indian aggression.

* To modernize the defence capability. Pakistan was facing consistent security threats from regional and global powers. An efficient and strong defence system was needed to defend the

boundaries, including modernized army, navy and air force. Joining the western defence pact meant Pakistan would have easy access to the efficient arms and ammunition of the West.

Pakistan is still in its infancy, and so are its navy and other branches of the Armed forces. But this infant means growing up and will grow up much sooner than many people think.

~ Quaid-e-Azam M. Ali Jinnah.

* To strengthen the economy:

At the time of independence, Pakistan had a fragile economy with very little bank balance and a weak industrial base. Joining the western pact meant the provision of aid in terms of economic development which would help to improve its economic growth.

* To develop friendly ties with the western countries:

The core objective of Pakistan's foreign policy is to develop friendly relation

with western countries. After the world war, Western countries stood victorious, so Pakistan was in favour of strengthening its international positioning by allying with western world. Hence, Pakistan joined the western pacts to improve its global standing.

THE COST PAKISTAN HAD TO PAY AFTER JOINING WESTERN DEFENCE PACTS.

* Social Costs: Worsen law and order situations. Pakistan suffered with worsen law and order situation after joining western defence pacts. In the war, the rule applies that "friend of my friend is also my enemy," thus, Pakistan made various enemies by allying with USA during cold war. Pakistan provided USA with its bases, and human power demanding economic aid from U.S.A. At the end of war, America backed off from Pakistan. As America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests"

~ Henry Kissinger

This introduced Kalashnikov culture and made Pakistan suffer with terrorism and Extremism.

* Economic Cost

After joining Western defence pact also negatively affected Pakistan at economic level. After dealing with the enemies of west, Pakistan had to focus on its internal situation which was deteriorated by its participation in the war. To deal with the menace of terrorism and extremism million of dollars were spent on expanding the country's defence capacity. Moreover after carrying out the operation against the extremists and terrorists, thousand of people were displaced creating the need for rehabilitation. Thus, Pakistan had to pay a huge economic cost for joining western pacts.

* Political Cost

Pakistan also faced some political costs. For instance, countries like the Soviet Union supported the Indians

Stance regarding the Kashmir issue in the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, the indulgence in Afghanistan against the Soviet Troops created ill feelings among the Afghans regarding Pakistan. Therefore, it can be said that joining the Western pacts impaired the relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. On the other hand Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

STRATEGIES PAKISTAN NEEDS TO ADOPT TO DECREASE ITS RELIANCE ON WEST

- Instead of relying on International Financial Institutions and western countries, Pakistan needs to rely on its indigenous resources and improve its economic standing.
- The government need to realize the worth and increase budget of social sectors such as health and education.
- Pakistan has to adopt a neutral foreign policy and needs not to

choose any side during any conflict.
- Pakistan needs to work on its political institution like legislature, judiciary and executive

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is known that developing countries must rely on the major powers for social, Political and economic assistance. And at the same time, developed countries use the developing states to extend their vested interests. Similarly, Pakistan joined the western defense pacts to increase its security and tackle the economic crisis but, it lost much of its social and political stability. So, it can be concluded as, it will not be in Pakistan's best interests to be part of western defence pacts again. In future, Pakistan needs to remain neutral and unbiased and focus on its ^{social} economic ^{and} ~~social~~ political concerns.