

Q: Joining the US-led coalition in the war against terrorism has many short and long joining term repercussions for Pakistan.

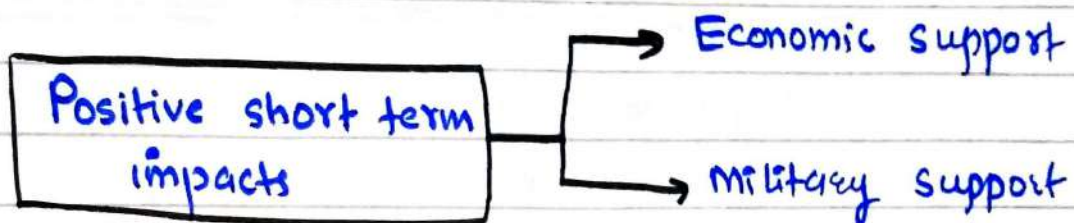
## US-led coalition in war against terrorism

"Bloody Tuesday" in the history of United States of America changed the strategic policies of the world. On 9-September 2011, commonly known as 9/11 attack became a tragic incident; carried by Al-Qaeda, fuelled anger in America. President Bush decided to take strong action against terrorist attack and stated policy of either with America or against it. The president ensured to do whatever it takes to fight against terrorist and eliminate terrorist and international terrorist organizations. Likewise, Pakistan was given option to be either friend or enemy. General Musharraf took pragmatic decision to be an ally of America in war against terrorism. For that purpose, Pakistan provided military bases and full-fledged support to America and it reformed its foreign policy towards Afghanistan.

## Short term repercussions for Pakistan in US-led coalition in Global War against terrorism

Pakistan changed in policy because of strategic benefits and joined the global power in war against terrorism. The short term repercussions include economic and financial support, military support that helped

Pakistan to grow economically and strengthen its military as well. However, US-led coalition also gave negative implications such as strained relations with its neighbour countries, evolution of complex situation on Kashmir dispute because war on terrorism shifted the issue of IOK on backseat.



### Increased military and financial support

When Pakistan decided for coalition with US, it ~~gained~~ received substantial military and financial assistance. Significant US-aid began flowing in Pakistan. This aid included support for education, healthcare, trade, child labour, combating terrorism, and enhancing border security. In 2003, Pakistan received a five year plan aid of \$3 billion which Pakistan had to repay ~~in~~ yearly \$600 million. This financial assistance revived economy of Pakistan. Along with financial growth, US lifted sanctions which were imposed on Pakistan for nuclear program in 1998 and military coup in 1999. USA ~~also~~ improved its relations with Pakistan due to its regional benefits. Trade and investment cooperation further increased through frameworks and

negotiations. President Bush appreciated Pakistan for its support for combating the terrorism and gave it the status of Non-NATO ally of US. The US also approved sale of military equipment to Pakistan including BPC Orion Aircraft and F-16 fighter Jet.

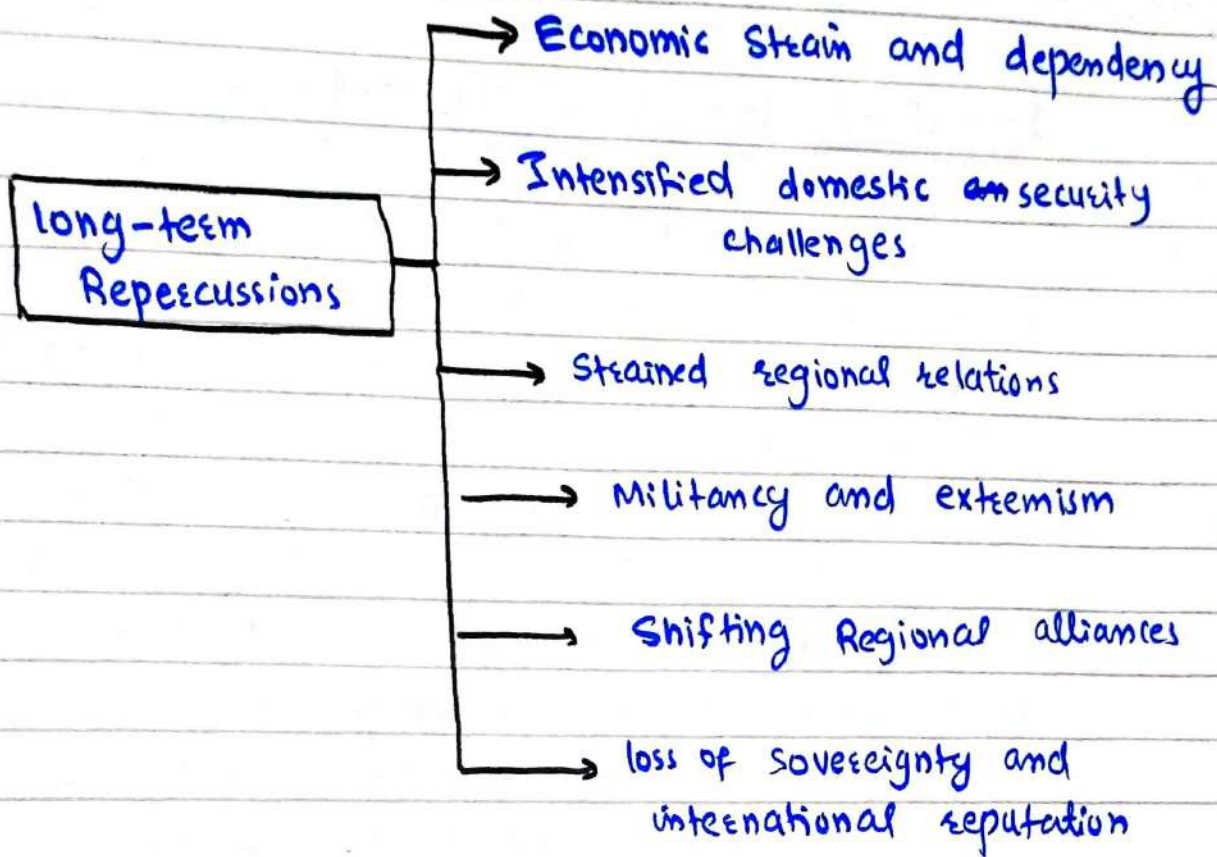
### Negative repercussions due to US-led Coalition

Despite of financial and economic development, there are concerns of outcomes of aligning with US in terms of its foreign policy. Previously, Pakistan supported Afghan Taliban from 1996 to 2001 but now due to US coalition Pakistan shifted its foreign policy that strained its relations with neighbouring countries. USA's interest in strategic war against terrorism undid Kashmir issue that had major significance in the policy of Pakistan. National security is still under threats from India despite diplomatic efforts to maintain peace. The economy of Pakistan has suffered more than achieved due to US-led war that lifted sanctions, financial losses in war and operations against terrorism across the border.

### Long Term repercussions of US-led Coalition in war against terrorism

Pakistan's involvement in US-led war on terrorism had complex and multi-faceted long-term

## Consequences.



## Economic Strain and dependency

While Pakistan did receive US-aid, grants, loans, financial support for development of major sectors - It proved beneficial for short-term during its participation in war on terror, but it has left Pakistan with financial debt and economic strain in long-term. Increased dependency on foreign aid and loan have damaged credibility of Pakistan as well. The long term repercussions include lack of sustainable growth and over-reliance on financial support. However, now Pakistan has revived its foreign policy from economic dependence to more autonomous approach by shifting towards trade and foreign direct investment, broadening of tax-net, improvement of agricultural and industrial

sector.

## Intensified domestic security challenges

During US-led coalition Pakistan fought with various militants and terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda that created domestic security challenges for Pakistan. Rise of terrorist attacks ~~and~~ domestically in Balochistan and tribal areas of Pakistan have challenges Pakistan's security issues. Various religious and political groups in Pakistan, had opposed this coalition due to compromise of sovereignty. So there were protest and unrest in the country. It alienated major segments of Pakistan and created a sense of betrayal especially people from tribal areas. Hence, US-led coalition in war against terrorism has increased security challenges, terrorism, cross border insurgency, militancy, extremism and major factor is involvement of youth that is detrimental for Pakistan.

## Strained relations with neighbouring countries

Pakistan's support for US-war on ~~terror~~ terrorism strained relations with Taliban and Afghanistan. It also led to deterioration of ties with some middle eastern countries that viewed the US actions with ~~skepticism~~ skepticism. Relations with India also remained complicated, as US-led coalition indirectly effected geo-political balance in south Asia. India

viewed this coalition as a means to strengthen ties with US by Pakistan, potentially leading to further instability in Kashmir.

## Militancy and extremism

While Pakistan fought various militant groups along and within its borders, the long-term impact was homegrown militancy and extremism. Groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have strengthened, with many of their leaders and fighters inspired by or directly linked to Afghan Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The war created fertile ground for terrorist organizations and radical ideologies, as many youth of Pakistan, disillusioned by the government, have become receptive for militancy and radicalization.

## Shifting Regional alliances

Pakistan's US-led coalition in war against terrorism brought major shift in its foreign policy towards regional integration and ~~resol~~ resolution of dispute to increase geo-strategic significance by reviving its trade, economy, and security concerns. Pakistan aligned itself with global economies of the world such as improving relation with China and Russia for economic development. CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) has revolutionized economy of Pakistan. Along with China, Pakistan has improved its relation with

Russia to boost trade, economy, culture, technology, industry and energy sector. Pakistan has adopted policy of peaceful relations with other countries and balanced neutral approach toward US and China.

## Loss of Sovereignty and International Reputation

In long term, Pakistan's participation in war against terrorism raised questions about its sovereignty, especially after incidents like US-Navy seal raid that killed Osama Bin Laden in Abotabad in 2011. This operation was conducted by US on lands of Pakistan without its consent, which severely damaged Pakistan's national regional integration and international reputation. The perception of Pakistan as "frontline state" in the fight against terrorism led to both positive and negative reaction. On one hand, Pakistan was seen as major ally of US-led coalition and on other hand, it was accused of involving in terrorism and deception by military and intelligence agencies that they are involved in terrorist activities or supporting Taliban.

## Denouement

US-led coalition in war against terrorism had major repercussions on Pakistan and it revived foreign policy of Pakistan to shift towards

more integral approach, improve relations with neighbouring countries, prioritize its own national interest such as reducing economic dependency on foreign loans, resolution of regional disputes and peaceful and cooperative approach towards other countries. Pakistan's foreign policy has shifted towards more balanced and neutral approach to resolve its economic and security challenges.