

Muhammad Arham

Pakistan Affairs - 2nd Quarter

Question no. 1:

Examine the evolving dynamics of civil-military relations in Pakistan. How have these dynamics influenced Pakistan's foreign policy and national security?

Answer:-

(1) Introduction:

Since the independence of Pakistan, Pakistan's military has been an influential element in the governance and in the foreign policy. This power and strength of military is a result of the political and constitutional crises that were also emerged with the emergence of Pakistan.

(2) Historical perspective:

From 1947 to till now, military is playing role in politics as well as in the security concerns of the country. Back then, the weak political roots of the country allowed the dictators to interfere in the political matters. As a result, the country had faced four major "Martial laws". In contemporary days, military also holds the power to shift any government. Due to this reason, the government has to serve the interest of military at national level.

(3) Evolving dynamics of civil-military relationship:

Recent years have seen a shift towards the civilian

authority, but this remains delicate. For example the rise of Imran Khan in elections of 2018, challenged the traditional power dynamics. But later on, after the creation of friction between the military leadership and Khan's government, he had to go home in 2022 through the use of 'vote of no confidence' with the help of military.

Furthermore, the civilian government is very much concerned with the increasing budget of military which is somehow against the policy and recommendations of IMF. But due to the fear of being ousted, they are unable to cut down their expenditures. Moreover the country's

civil-military balance is further complicated by its geostrategic position with the military perceived as a stabilizing force amidst regional security concerns.

(4) Influence on Foreign Policy:

Pakistan's military plays a significant role in shaping the foreign policy of the country with any other country. It is evident that throughout the history of Pakistan, military always remain on the top to shape the relations with other countries. So the policy is generally based on the past experiences and the future aims. Quaid-e-Azam in his speech, regarding the foreign policy of Pakistan, stated that, Pakistan will conduct a friendly relations with the

world. Neither it will interfere in the internal matter of any country nor it will allow others to damage its sovereignty.

(4.1) Foreign policy with India with respect to Kashmir issue:

Over the issue of Kashmir, Pakistan has fought three full scale wars (1948, 1965, 1972) and a war of Kargil. Pakistan specially its military always portrays India as a terrorist state due to the issue of Kashmir. Whereas, on the other hand, India considers Pakistan as a terrorist state due to the Kashmir fighters who were gone from Pakistan. The military of both countries held each other as a terrorist state due to the issue of Kashmir. However, Pakistan tried many times to solve this conflict through

bilateral means but India has shown no interest in this regard.

(4.2) Foreign policy with US:

Our relations with USA had been in a very up and down movement. After the attacks of 9/11 and the global war on terror, these relations took a flight. President Bush asked Pakistan for its military bases and air spaces to be used against the terrorists in Afghanistan, otherwise Pakistan will be thrown back to the stone age. Similarly, US announced that the countries who will not help them will face its serious consequences. A very famous slogan "Either with us or against us" emerged. Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf became a part of this War on Terror and allowed US to use Pakistani

soil against terrorists. However, in the beginning, this resulted in the flow of foreign aid to Pakistan and Pakistan ~~was~~ also became a non-NATO ally. But later on, this was resulted in the increasing number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

(4.3) Foreign policy with China:

Pakistan has a very friendly foreign policy with China. Being neighboring countries, both countries have good social, economic and military ties.

China is investing in the infrastructure of the country in the form of economic corridors (CPEC). Similarly, during the time of crises and wars with India China ^{had} always backed Pakistan.

Pakistan also ~~is~~ imports major of its military equipments.

ships, tanks and other weaponry material from China. Hence, it is not wrong to say that, due to the economic and military equipments our relations ^{are} always remain beneficial.

(4.4) Foreign policy with Afghanistan:

Relations with Afghanistan, always remain crucial due to insecure border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, after the Global War on Terror, these relations became more worst. Pakistan feels insecure from its western border, which is considered as a safe heaven for terrorists. Till now, a large number of attacks on military and civilian have been carried out from Afghanistan. Daish, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and many other terrorist organisations are operating from Afghanistan. For the security of country and

the region, Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan. But due to their economic disorders and political instability it is very difficult to achieve this goal.

→ (5) Influence of military on National Security:

(5.1) Defense Spending:

The military's dominance led to high defense spending, often at the expense of social and economic development. However, this spending has been justified by the perceived threats from India, Afghanistan and other internal militancy issues.

(5.2) Internal Security:

The military has been involved in many internal security operations along with the other forces, particularly in the

areas of Balochistan and KPK. This has sometimes led to the tensions between the civilian authorities and the military with the allegations of human right abuses.

(5.3) Counterterrorism:

The role of military in counterterrorism and counterinsurgency has been significant, especially in the fight against TTP and other militant groups. Success in many areas have boosted the morale and standing of military but have also led to criticism of burden on the economy.

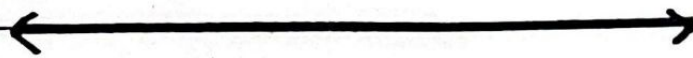
(5.4) Judicial and Media influence:

The military has also been accused of influencing the judiciary and media to maintain its dominance. This has resulted in

the implications for democratic governance and civil liberties in Pakistan.

(6) Conclusion:

The evolving dynamics of civil-military relations in Pakistan have had a profound impact on its foreign policy and national security. Military's dominant role has shaped the country's strategic priorities, often prioritizing security concerns over diplomatic and economic developments. Balancing a civil-military relations continues to be a challenge for Pakistan and it also has a significant implication for its future stability and development.



Question # 2:-

Evaluate the impact of War in Afghanistan on Pakistan's security and foreign policy in the post-2014 era. Discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Pakistan in this new context.

Answer:-

(a) Introduction

War in Pakistan, specifically after 9/11 had a profound impact on the security and foreign policy of Pakistan. This war had continued even after the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2014, shaping Pakistan's strategic landscape in the region.

(2) Historical background:

After the attacks of 9/11, US started a global war against terrorists, specially in

Afghanistan. US used Pakistan land against Al-Qaida and the other militants. More than 100,000 troops and US troops were deployed in the country. However, after the death of Osama Bin Laden, these troops were called back but the situation got worst, impacting many neighbouring countries specially Pakistan.

(3) Impact of Afghan war on the security of Pakistan:

(3.1) Terrorism and Extremism:

The war in Afghanistan provided a safe heaven for many terrorist and extreme groups including Taliban, Daish, Al-Qaida and Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). These groups carried out numerous attacks within Pakistan, targeting civilians, security forces, and critical infrastructure. This increased the threat to internal security and

stability.

(3.2) Border Security:

The porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Durand line) has long been a challenge for both countries. The war in Afghanistan exacerbated this issue, as it facilitated the movement of militants and illegal goods across the border. This causes a significant security risk for Pakistan.

(3.3) Refugee influx:

The war in Afghanistan has motivated their population to leave their lands. Many of people had left their homeland and started settling in Pakistan and Iran. This has caused an impact on the economy as well as on the security of the Pakistan.

(4) Impact of Afghan War on Foreign Policy of Pakistan.

(4.1) Strained Relations with US:

Pakistan's support for US in war on terror came at a significant cost. There were tensions between two countries over the issue of drone attacks and counterterrorism cooperation. The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan further complicated the relationship, as Pakistan faced increased pressure to manage the security situation in the country.

(4.2) Regional instability:

War in Afghanistan destabilize the entire region, including Pakistan and other neighboring countries. This has impacted the foreign policy of Pakistan as it had a negative and complex geopolitical landscape.

(4.3) International Isolation:

Pakistan's perceived support for militant groups and for the nuclear program led to international isolation. The US and other western countries suspected Pakistan as providing grounds for the terrorists that carry attacks against them. A number of sanctions were put on the Pakistan. This hindered Pakistan's economic development and limited its diplomatic options.

(5) Opportunities in the post-2014 context:

After the removal of US and Nato troops from Afghanistan in 2014, the relations between both countries got worsen, however with the withdrawal of America from the region, this led to some opportunities, that could resolve

the mistrust and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(5.1) Improve relationships through table talks and diplomatic means:

With the withdrawal of US troops, Pakistan has an opportunity to improve the relationship with Afghanistan. This could be easily done through table talks and diplomatic measures. This will also enhance the trade and economic cooperation as well as security cooperation.

(5.2) Regional connectivity:

Many economic and security projects are emerging in the region. Pakistan could play a crucial role in regional connectivity initiatives through CPFC. This could boost the economy and trade of the region.

But this can only be done with
~~by~~ the security ^{and peace} in Afghanistan.

(5.3) Counterterrorism cooperation:

Most of the deadly attacks in Pakistan are carried out by Afghan groups and the militants who are operating from there. However, both countries could ~~being~~ work together along with some regional and international organizations to counter terrorism in the region. This would also help to improve Pakistan's security and its image in the international world.

(b) Conclusion:

War in Afghanistan had a profound impact on both, security and foreign policy of Pakistan. But, Pakistan will need to carefully navigate these complexities to ensure its long-term security and stability.