

Discuss the major determinants of foreign policy of Pakistan?

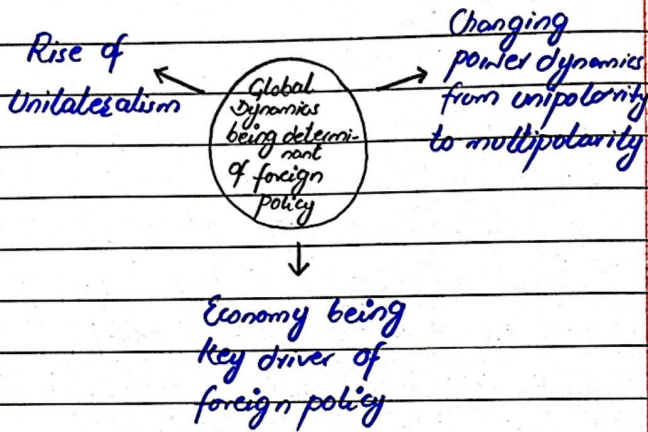
1) Introduction

Foreign policy is a set of policy guidelines for interaction of state at international level. The key purpose of foreign policy is to pursue National Interest. The objectives of foreign policy of Pakistan are security, socio economic development, geo economic development, resolution of Kashmir issue and mutually beneficial relations with all regional states, protecting rights of overseas Pakistanis. Foreign policy is shaped by global dynamics, regional dynamics and domestic situation.

Pakistan's foreign Policy: A concise history

"The primary objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy have remained unchanged since country's independence. Security and preservation of territorial integrity."
(Abdul Sattar)

2/ Determinants of Foreign Policy of Pakistan - Global Dynamics



(A) Changing power dynamics from unipolarity to multipolarity - change in foreign policy

The changing power game of globe is a key factor in determining foreign policy of Pakistan. The world is shifting from US hegemony to multi powered era with Russia, China becoming superpowers, making Pakistan to shift foreign policy accordingly.

(i) Pak-US Relations

Pakistan's relationship with US has been marked by cooperation and tension, primarily driven by security and geo political interests. During **Cold War** and **War on Terror**, Pakistan was key ally of US, receiving military and economic aid.

\$ 7.89 billion military assistance to Pakistan since 9/11, majority of which from "coalition support funds" intended as reimbursement for Pakistani assistance in **WOT**.

\$ 3.1 billion allocated to **economic** and development assistance during some period
(Reference: American Progress.org)

In 2011, US raid to kill Osama Bin Laden without prior knowledge of Pakistan, Trump's cutting off aid to Pakistan calling it "safe havens" for terrorists in 2018, created a rift in US-Pak relations

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, marked another shift in US Pak relations. Pakistan played a role in facilitating peace talks between US and Taliban, but US skepticism about Pakistan's ties to Taliban remained point of contention.

(iii) Pak-China Relations

Pakistan and China share a deep, strategic relationship characterized by strong military, political and economic cooperation. Their partnership often termed as "All weather friendship" is bolstered by CPEC and regional stability while countering India.

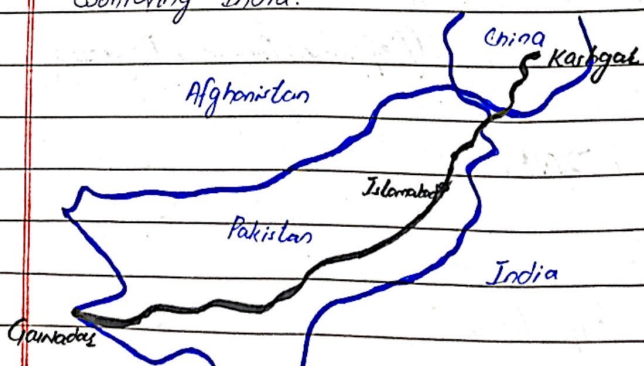
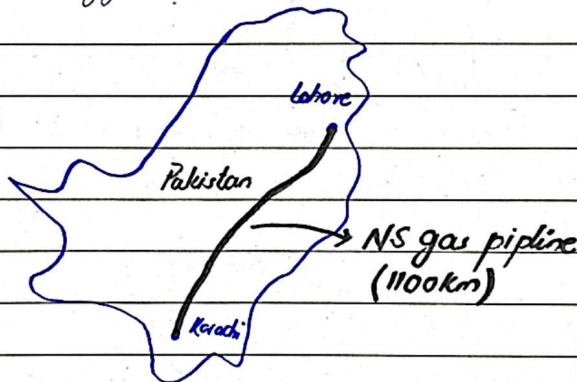


Fig: CPEC (Gwadar-Kashgar route)

(iii) Pak relations with Russia

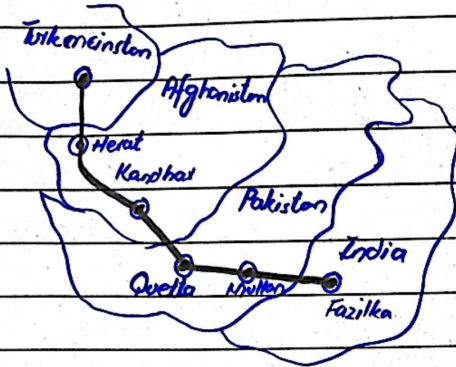
Pakistan and Russia have strengthened their relations in recent years through projects like **North South Gas Pipeline**, military cooperation involving arms supplies and joint exercises and bilateral trade in energy.



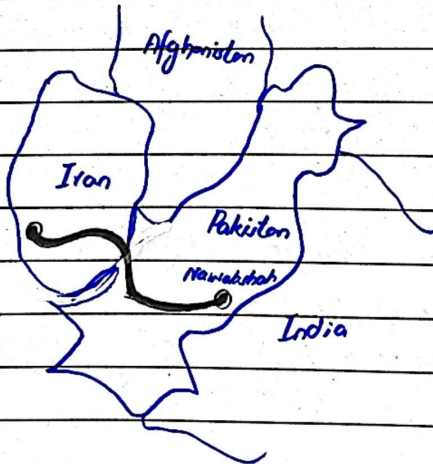
(B) Economic drivers being key of foreign policy surpassing military & Politics

Pakistan's economic needs, including trade, foreign investment and aid, influence its foreign policy. Partnership with China, US, Iran, Gulf countries are driven by

economic interests.



TAPI - Export of Turkmenistan gas to ensure energy stability in Pakistan



3/

Iran Pakistan gas pipeline to deliver natural gas from Iran to Pakistan

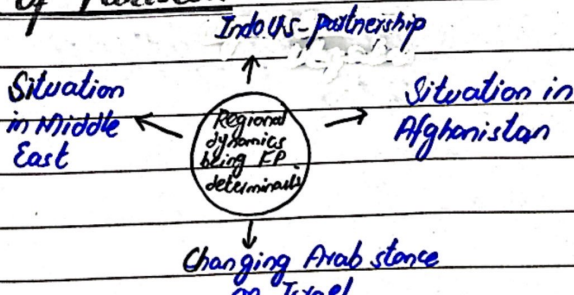
(c) Rise of Unilateralism

The rise of unilateralism has pushed Pakistan to assert its strategic autonomy, balancing relations with major powers like US and China while emphasizing multilateral diplomacy.

“Pakistan has to navigate the complexities of an international order where unilateralism is prevalent requiring a strategy that emphasizes autonomy while seeking multilateral cooperation.”

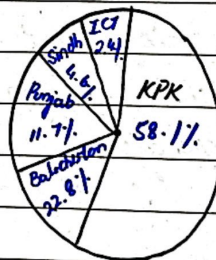
(Shahid Javed Burki)

3/ Regional dynamics being determinants of foreign policy of Pakistan



(A) Situation in Afghanistan - Variable for Pakistan's foreign Policy

Pakistan shares a porous border of 2640km with Afghanistan. It shapes Pakistan's foreign policy by compelling it to manage relations with Taliban, ensuring border security and addressing refugees inflows.



(Source: UNHCR)

Total: 2.5 Million

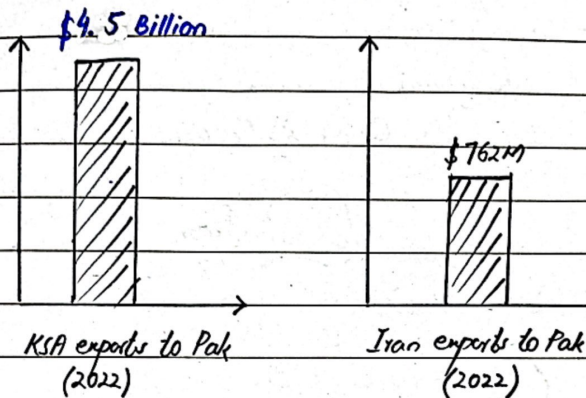
Registered: 1.44 million by NADRA

Fig: Afghan Refugees in Pak

(B) Tension in Middle East shapes foreign policy of Pakistan

The situation in Middle East shapes Pakistan's foreign policy by influencing

its diplomatic relations with key regional players particularly KSA and Iran, as Pakistan seeks to balance its ties amid sectarian tensions.



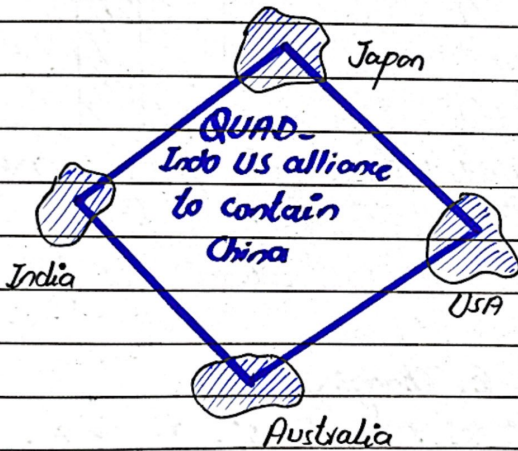
(Source : OEC)

(c) Normalization of Arab-Israel Ties

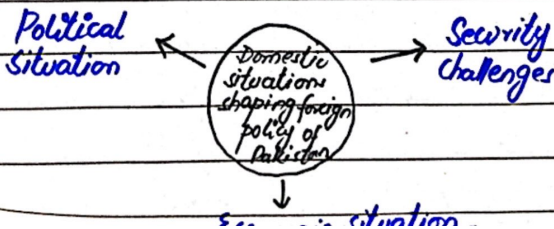
After the recognition of Israel by UAE, Bahrain, Morocco in light of Abraham accords, removal from terrorism list and acceptance of claims on Sahara desert respectively, Pakistan is losing its diplomatic support on Kashmir

1) Indo-US partnership

The Indo-US partnership is shaping Pakistan's foreign policy by increasing security concerns promoting Pakistan to strengthen its military ties with allies like China & Russia.



4) Domestic Situation shaping foreign policy of Pakistan



(A) Security Situation-drawing foreign policy of Pakistan

The security situation inside Pakistan shapes its foreign policy by prioritizing counterterrorism efforts and fostering stability in neighbourhood to mitigate threats.

(B) Political stability influences foreign policy of Pakistan

The political landscape in Pakistan influences its foreign policy as domestic stability and frequent changes in government can shape key decisions.

"Domestic politics heavily influence our foreign policy decisions; it is essential to maintain a balance between national interest and aspirations of the people."

(Hina Rabbani Khar)

