

Question #1

Describe major determinants of Foreign Policy of Pakistan.

1) Introduction :

Foreign policy of Pakistan is based on both internal and external factors to define its relations with other states at global stage. These factors include, geopolitical location of Pakistan, economic concerns, security and defense concerns, ideological principles and changing dynamics of global powers.

Since its independence in 1947, Pakistan has had to shape its foreign policy to deal with its regional challenges and national interests.

Foreign policy is the system of activities evoked by communities for changing behavior of other states.

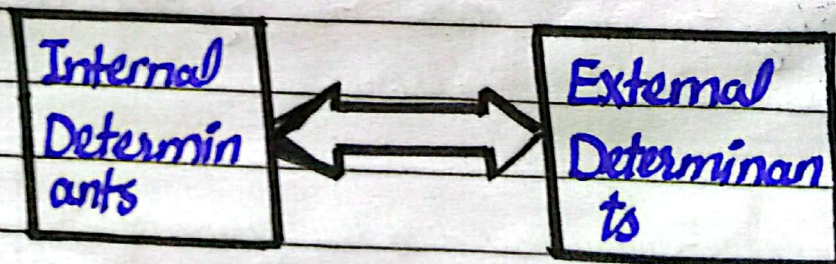
and for formulating its own behaviours at international environment."

George Modelski -
International Scholar

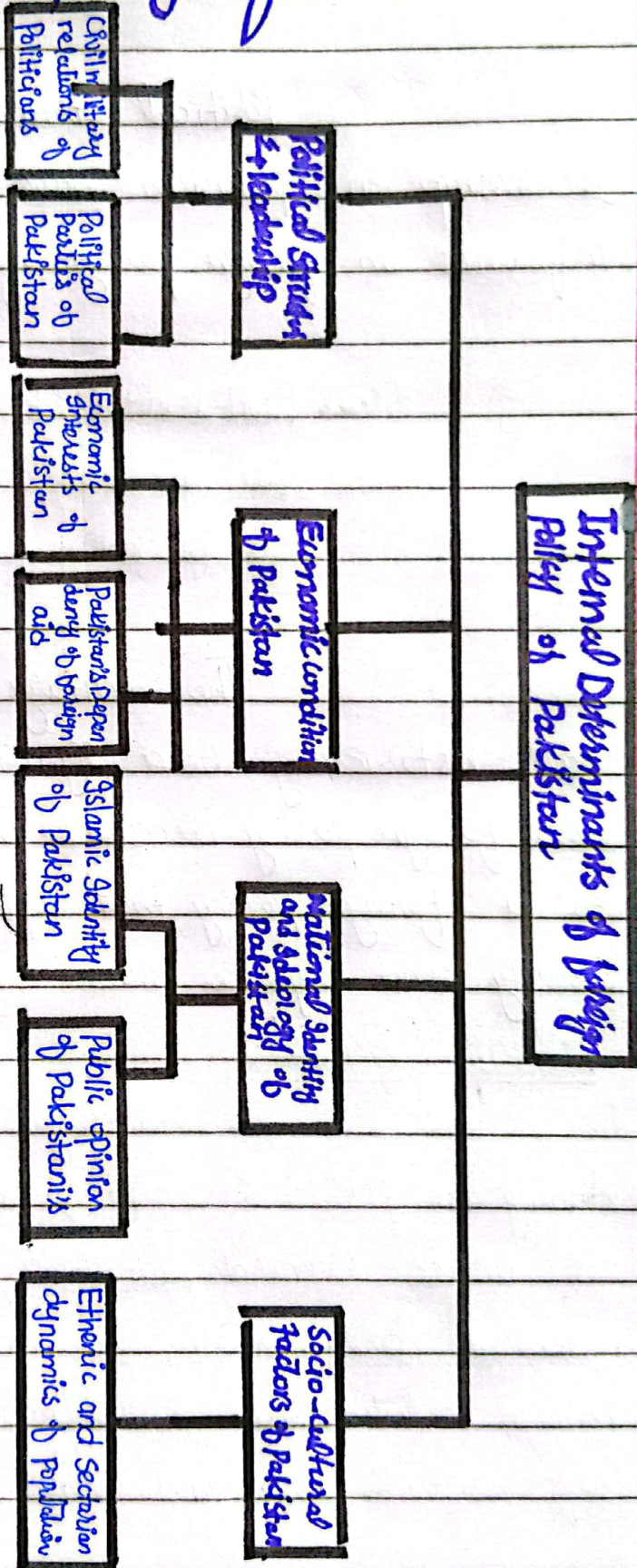
2. Determinants of Pakistan's Foreign Policy :

There are macroly two types of determinants which aids to shape the foreign policy of Pakistan.

⇒ Types of determinants of foreign policy of Pakistan:



⇒ Internal determinants of foreign policy of Pakistan:



i) Political Structure and Leadership of Pakistan :

Political Structure and Leadership in Pakistan have a great influence on foreign policy of Pakistan.

a. Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan influences Foreign Policy of Pakistan :-

The military in Pakistan has historically held significant influence over foreign policy decisions. This has led to a foreign policy that often prioritizes security and defence issues.

Examples gratia:

The military's influence during the period of military rule, such as under General Zia-ul-Haq and under General Pervez Musharraf, shaped Pakistan's foreign relations, particularly its strategic alliances with US and China.

b. influence of Political parties on foreign policy of Pakistan:

Different political parties have varying foreign policy priorities, based on their agendas and leadership. Different parties emphasize different aspects such as, economic relations, security or global engagement, shaping the overall direction of foreign policy.

For Instance:

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has traditionally emphasized relations with West and supporting international diplomacy. Similarly PML-N emphasizes strengthening economic relations with China and improving regional ties. And PTI works for balancing relations with both West and East.

2) Economic Conditions emphasizing foreign policy:

As Pakistan is economically it prefer to keep strong relations with foreign countries for its international trade, foreign direct investment and other economic aid. which will be helpful in shaping its foreign policy.

c. Pakistan's dependency on foreign aid affects FP:

Pakistan has relied heavily on foreign aid, from US and china, and from other countries like Saudi Arabia, which affects its foreign policy-decisions.

For example:

Following the 9/11 attacks Pakistan aligned closely with US in the war on terror to secure substantial military economic aid

d. Economic Interests of Pakistan affects FP:

Economic challenges have compelled Pakistan to seek trade partnerships and investments. Pakistan has strong relations with China because China has become a greatest investor in Pakistan due to its Project of CPEC to improve its infrastructure and provide geostratigical importance which greatly influenced the foreign policy of Pakistan.

For Example:

China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) aims to connect Gwadar port with Xingiang to enhance the trade and international investment which will be beneficial to meet economic challenges.

3) Pakistan's National Identity and Ideology • emphasizes its foreign policy:

a- Influence of Islamic Identity on Pakistan's FP:

Pakistan's self identity as an Islamic country influences its foreign relations particularly with Muslim majority countries.

For example:

Pakistan has been active in organizations of Islamic cooperation (OIC) and has advocated for the rights of Muslims in Kashmir and Palestine.

b. Influence of Public opinion on Pakistan's foreign policy:

Domestic public sentiments often shape foreign policy of Pakistan. Issues such as Kashmir evoke strong nationalist sentiments, compelling the government to adopt more assertive stance against India.

"Public opinion in Pakistan

serves as a powerful force"

- Ahmad Zahid Shahnab
a scholar and researcher -

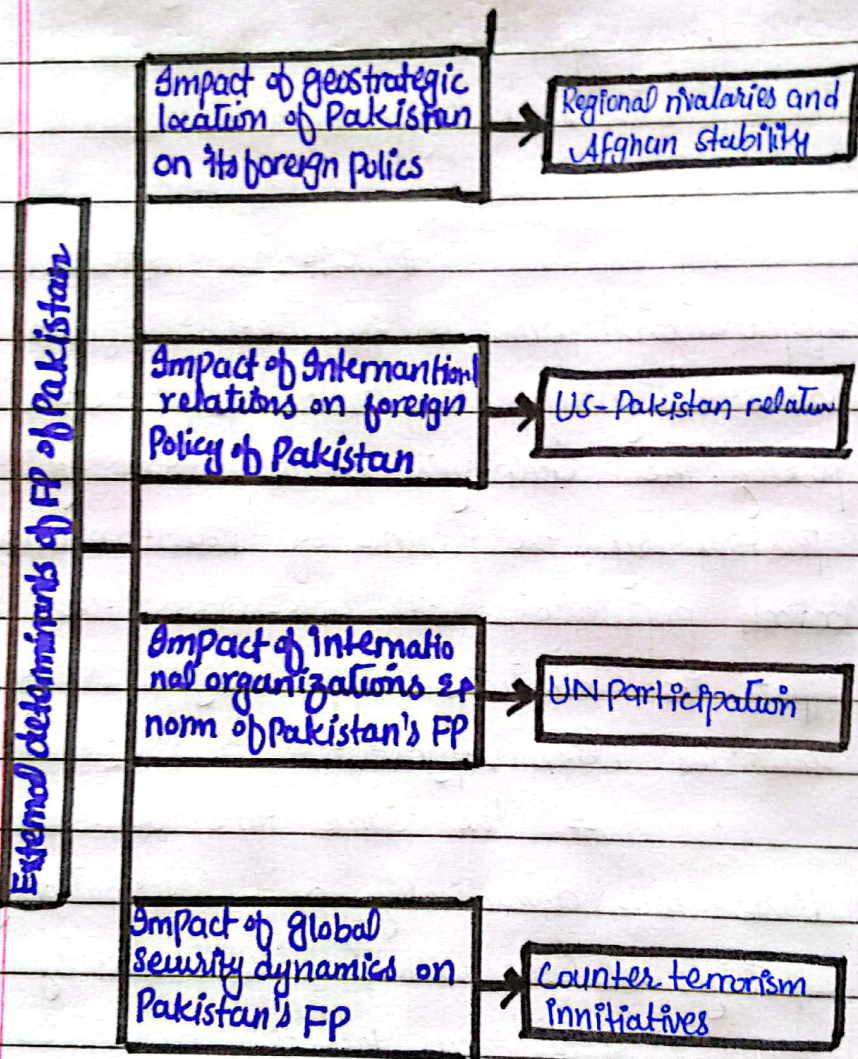
4) How Socio-Cultural factors influences FP of Pakistan?

a. Ethnic and Sectarian dynamics of population of Pakistan emphasizing FP of Pakistan:

Pakistan's diverse population, with various ethnic and sectarian groups can influence foreign policy. The country's ethnic diversity, particularly the presence of Pashtun and Baloch populations with cross-border ties, affects its relations with neighbouring countries like Afghanistan and Iran.

At the same time Sunn-Shia divide both domestically and internationally affecting relations with Saudi Arabia. By navigating these ideas Pakistan aims to maintain stability by shaping an effective foreign policy.

⇒ External determinants of Pakistan's foreign Policy:



a scholar or researcher —

1) Geopolitical Location of Pakistan influences its foreign policy:

a. Influence of regional rivalries on FP:

Pakistan's foreign policy is heavily influenced by its rivalry with India and impact of these rivalries like Kashmir issue and military tensions necessitate alliances with countries like China.

For Example:

The Pakistan China relation has deepened due to their shared interest in countering India.

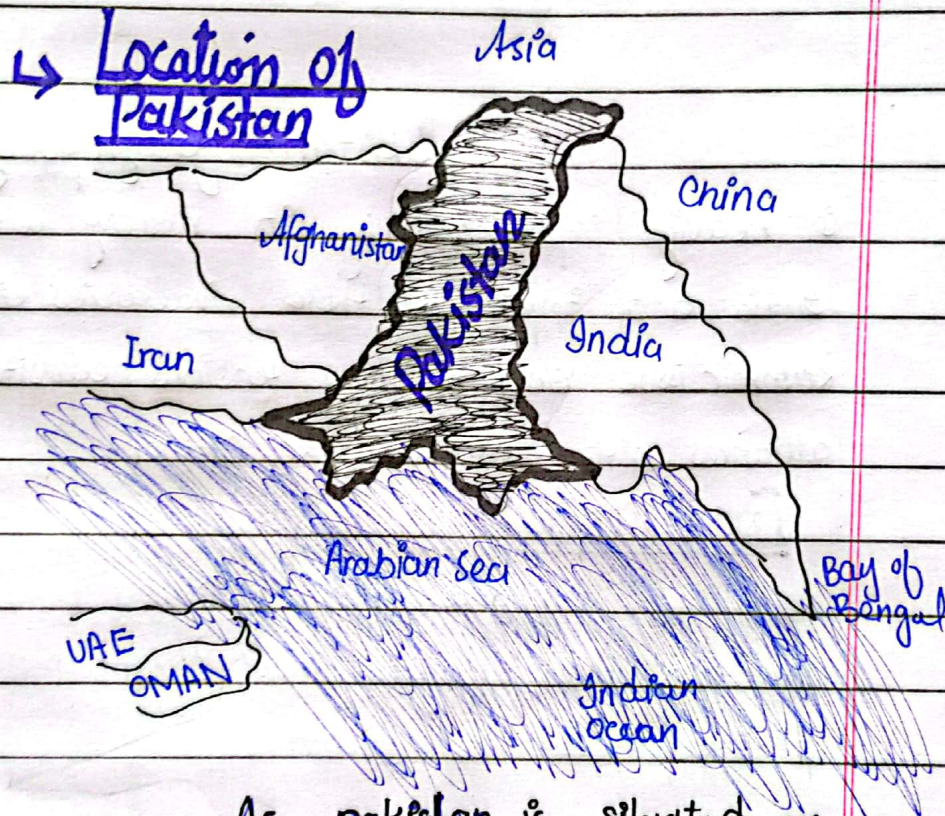
b. Influence of Afghanistan stability on FP of Pakistan according to geostrategic location:

The situation in Afghanistan directly impacts the FP

Date: _____

Day: _____

of Pakistan. The rise of Taliban has prompted Pakistan to engage in diplomatic efforts to stabilize its western border and manage refugees flows, while also addressing security threats from militant groups operating across borders.



As Pakistan is situated on the cross roads of South Asia, Middle East and Central Asia, it influences its geostrategic position along with shaping its foreign policy by emphasizing its relations with border countries like Afghanistan, Iran, India and China.

Day: _____

2) International relations' impact on FP of Pakistan:

a. Impact of U.S-Pakistan relations on FP of Pakistan:-

The relationship between US and China/Pakistan significantly impacts Pakistan's foreign policy across various dimensions like security cooperation, diplomatic alignment and regional relationships.

For Example:

US military aid during the anti-Soviet struggle in Pakistan was pivotal for Pakistan, but

But recent years have seen increased tensions over issues like counter-terrorism and Pak-China relations.

3) Influence of International organizations and norms on the FP of Pakistan:

Day: _____

a- United Nations Participation in Shaping FP of Pakistan:

UN plays a crucial role in shaping FP of Pakistan in areas of Peacekeeping, conflict resolution and international diplomacy. Pakistan has actively engaged with it to advance its national interests, secure international support and to maintain its regional stability.

For Instance:

Pakistan frequently raises Kashmir issue at the UN and UN's stance on this has influenced Pakistan's long term ~~res~~ diplomatic strategy.

3) Global Security dynamics emphasizes FP of Pakistan:

a- Role of counter terrorism
initiatives to shape FP of
Pakistan:

Pakistan's foreign Policy is influenced by its role in the global fight against terrorism particularly in its relation with US driving security strategies, bilateral relations, regional cooperation and its international standing.

For example:

Financial-Action-Task-Force (FATF) to mitigate risks of being labeled a supporter of terrorism.

3) Conclusion:

Foreign policy of Pakistan is influenced by complex interplay of internal and external factors. Internally, political dynamics, economic conditions and national identity while externally regional rivalries, alliances, economic interests and global security dynamics significantly impact Pakistan's foreign relations.