

Propose prospective foreign policy options for Pakistan in the wake of Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

### Introduction.

The Russia-Ukraine war has led to a fundamental shift in the system of global security. Pakistan has been forced by these geopolitical challenges to secure its security and to proactively deal with the threats by tailored defense policies to address threat perceptions emerging from regional, historical, and global context as well as self-reliance in terms of capacity, capabilities, and potential to ensure one's sovereignty and security. Pakistan's stance on Russia-Ukraine war is to remain neutral. Critically, Pakistan - having a long history of politico-economic instability - always designed its foreign policy framework

based on ideology and historical events instead of national interests. Pakistan has taken a turn while formulating the policy determinants and adopted the strategy of independent foreign policy, seeking neutrality in the war situation instead of alignment strategy. The war's economic impacts including global sanctions and export restrictions, may affect Pakistan's energy and food security.

## Ukraine - Russia War: Situational Context for formulating foreign policy of Pakistan:

### 1. Geopolitical Balance.

Pakistan needs to maintain a delicate balance between its relationship with Russia and western bloc, particularly the US and European Union. As a non-aligned state, Pakistan is cautious not to alienate any major power involved in the

conflict.

## 2. Economic Considerations

The war has disrupted global supply chains and energy markets, impacting Pakistan's economy. Rising fuel prices, inflation, and food security challenges have pushed Pakistan to seek affordable energy imports, including discussions with Russia for oil and gas, and Ukraine was a major supplier of wheat to Pakistan, exporting about 1.3 million metric tons in 2021-2022.

## 3- strategic relations with china:

Given Pakistan's strong ties with China, which has a complex relationship with Russia, Pakistan must navigate its stance carefully to maintain harmony in the China-Pakistan-Russia triangle.

## 4- Regional security:

The conflict raises concerns for regional stability, particularly regarding arms trade, defense cooperation, and the risk of escalating tensions.

in near by regions like central Asia.

### Russia-Ukraine War:

Decision taken by Pakistan in formulation of foreign policy.

Amid the Russia-Ukraine war Pakistan's leadership aims for neutrality. In fact, maintaining a neutral stance for formulating foreign policy was facilitated by the absence of direct pressure from either the west or Russia to take a side. So, Pakistan had free will choice and it formulated its foreign policy depending upon the maximization of gains.

Neutral Foreign Policy of Pakistan: Calculation of National Interest

1

## Economic Interests

Maintaining neutrality allows Pakistan to explore options with Russia, potential oil and gas imports, and with western bloc for agriculture or other imports.

2-

## Strategic Relationships

Pakistan ties with US and western bloc are critical for trade, defense, and development. And with Russia for energy and defense. Neutrality helps to maintain the delicate balance between ties.

3-

## Domestic Stability

A neutral foreign policy prevents Pakistan from being drawn into complexities of a distant conflict and keep national resources directed towards internal governance.

Overall conclusion of  
maintaining Neutral foreign  
policy in Russia - Ukraine  
war.

Maintaining a neutral  
foreign policy has proven to be  
very beneficial for Pakistan. Because  
Pakistan has historically balanced  
its relations with both the west  
and Russia, and neutrality helps  
maintain this balance while avoiding  
economic or diplomatic repercussions  
from either side. said by voice  
of America. The countries national  
calculus also includes concerns  
over energy needs; regional security,  
and maintaining good relations  
with both Russia and US.

Future Road map for  
foreign policy of Pakistan  
amid Russia - Ukraine war.

Pakistan may adopt  
prospective foreign policy options

such as good offices, mediation, meeting with regional organisations such as SCO and SAARC, and the role of a third party. A suggestive three-point formula, can be implemented

“ Ceasefire,  
Negotiation,  
Implementation.”

It could be considered as diplomatic proposition in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war.

It is a need of hour to urge Russia and Ukraine to opt for the ceasefire. Pakistan could play its role as a mediator in Russia-Ukraine conflict in reaching an agreement or consensus between the parties.

It will prevail soft image of Pakistan in international community. As Pakistan has been quite prosperous in mediating Doha Accord between USA and Taliban government in Afghanistan.