



BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE & SECONDARY EDUCATION
SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD, SINDH

SUPPLEMENT

Name of Examination: SSC / HSC Part I - II 20
Annual/Supplementary

Subject _____ Paper _____

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Introduction:

US-Pakistan relationship post-May conflict.

Pakistan-US relationship has seen several troughs and crests in its decades-long history. Its cyclical feature has remained transactional and thus volatile. After US's withdrawal from Afghanistan, the last key to Pakistan's strategic relevance and importance in US's calculations vanished simultaneously. However, after Trump's re-election to White House, a gradual warmth between the two countries commenced through military-level engagements for counterterrorism in the region. The relationship witnessed into strategic realignment between the two countries after the May conflict between India and Pakistan. The conflict provided an opportunity to Pakistan to utilize the strategic space it has created in US's interests in the region. The geopolitical boost after claiming air superiority during the conflict was magnified with the following successful diplomatic missions. Moreover, the global hyphehension during the conflict increased Pakistan's strategic ~~strength~~ influence contrary to India's long ingrained isolation policy. Besides,



Unlike India, Pakistan utilized Trump's personality driven politics. Pakistan's prudent assent to Trump's narcissistic politics, and India's stubbornness in not providing assent to Trump's claim of brokering peace during the conflict. By grasping all the opportunities with open arms, Pakistan successfully utilized the strategic space in providing trade deals, ~~favorable~~^{non-punitive} tariffs, joint military exercises for counterterrorism, and contracts with US companies for extracting critical minerals and oil reserves. The May conflict provided an opportunity, and Pakistan with its mature diplomatic and strategic positioning procured the best results.

Pre-May conflict: gradual thaw in relationship after Trump's ascendency.

Just weeks after Trump's re-election to White House, He thanked Pakistan's leadership and military for cooperating in counterterrorism operations in the region. With the help of Pakistan's intelligence agency, terrorists belonging to IS-K were captured; the event helped Pakistan's cause for ~~recept~~ receiving strategic relevance in the region. US's counterterrorism policy recalculated Pakistan's regional importance at geopolitical level.

Hyphenation during the May conflict: Spoiling India's isolationist policy against Pakistan and increasing Geopolitical ~~reach~~ of Pakistan



After Pakistan reestablished conventional deterrence against India during the May conflict, globally Pakistan and India were hyphenated. The hyphenation implied an equal geopolitical importance between India and Pakistan. It ran against India's hegemonic and global power ambitions, and increased Pakistan's regional profile as a substantive power. This global re-assessment of Pakistan's strategic importance opened the doors for forming US interests, contrary to India's long ingrained isolationist policy against Pakistan.

Pakistan's successful diplomatic missions to west and especially in US against India's empty narrative building

India failed to provide substantive evidence against Pakistan for its alleged complicity in Pahalgaon attack. It delegitimized India's illegal and unprovoked aggression against Pakistan, initiating the May conflict. Pakistan's successful defence and decisive air superiority along with plausible diplomatic assertions against India as a destabilizing force for the regional peace, ceased the diplomatic win for Pakistan in United States of America.

Pakistan's prudent ascent to Trump's narcissistic politics contrary to India's stubbornness

To further the interests with America, Pakistan's strategic thinking was quick to ascend at individual level

Trump's ~~an~~ narcissistic tendencies. Trump's repeated claim for a noble peace prize was successfully utilized by Pakistan. ~~Passed through parliament, Pakistan~~. The government nominated Trump for a noble peace prize. It was a masterstroke to further strategic interests by conceding to self-congratulatory tendencies of US president. Contrary to that, India even refused to accept the American involvement for brokering ceasefire between the two countries during may conflict, let alone any nomination. The episode proved helpful by bringing US's and Pakistan's top tier closer than ever before. The current COAs of Pakistan became the first non political entity to have a lunch meeting with US president in white house.

Pakistan's successful solidification of the opportunity by procuring relatively lower tariffs, trade deals, and contracts regarding minerals and oil reserves.

Pakistan under the reciprocal tariff scheme of Trump administration procured relatively lower tariffs of in the region. Engagements between business and commerce related entities between the two countries widened the scope for trade. In addition, the recent joint military exercises along with growing interests in Pakistan's mineral and oil reserves. All these positive outcomes are the result of Pakistan's diplomatic self-positioning as a credible and legitimate force in the region.



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Conclusion: The ~~May~~ conflict between Pakistan and India provided a window for claiming resurgence in geopolitics of the region, attracting global powers' interests. Amid the strategic reboost, US's strategic realignment with Pakistan has huge potential for furthering the national interests at international level. However, history remains evident of the fact that US's interests are time and opportunity bound thus prone to shift after that specific interest has faded away. Therefore, Pakistan's strategic thinking and policy framing must remain vigilant and not too optimistic regarding the renewed US's bonance. Moreover, Chinese and Iranian interests ~~that~~ in the region would be critical of any US's presence in mineral rich provinces of Pakistan — KPK and Balochistan, which border Iran and are significant to CPEC. Thus, Pakistan would have to balance other regional powers' concerns while pursuing the conciliatory relationship with US. Summing up, Pakistan has reclaimed strategic space in White House after May conflict, exploiting India's stubbornness and ~~its~~ diplomatic misadventure of itself.