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Why did Pakistan prefer feelings, emotions and ideology in its Foreign Policy. Also analyze its impacts.

Foreign Policy of a state refers to set of policies, goals, objectives and actions pursued by a state to secure its collective national interest by establishing inter-state relations. A number of factors are at play while formulating such policies. Pakistan, especially during its formative years, tilted towards an emotionally charged and ideology-centred Foreign policy. Consequently, it ignored realpolitik and the pragmatic side resulting in economic dependence and isolation.

Determinants of Foreign Policy:

There are numerous defining factors which may be internal or external in scope. Following are some key ones shaping contours of a sovereign state's Foreign Policy:

Internal:

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| ◦ Geography | ◦ Security |
| ◦ Economic Interest | ◦ Territory |
| ◦ Population | ◦ Leadership Quality |
| ◦ Technological Advancement | ◦ Natural Resources |
| ◦ Media and think-tanks | ◦ Public sentiments |
| ◦ Ideology and Religion | |

External:

- International Law
- Pacts and Alliances
- Global Narratives

⇒ PAK prioritizing Emotional and Ideological Reasons:

Pakistan, since its inception, manifested an increasing tendency towards ideologically motivated and feelings-centred Foreign Policy. These are critical reasons toward understanding the underlying incentives:

1- Legacy of Partition:

The partition was a watershed event, however, it resulted in a bitter and cruel transfer of power. It was characterized with bloodshed on both sides and birthed a never-ending animosity with a crucial neighbour i.e. India.

This legacy returned time and time again to haunt Pakistan in its decision-making. India wasn't just a rival, but an existential threat.

2- India-centred and Kashmir Issue:

India's constant aggression and tensions on borders resulted in Pakistan being over-conscious of India's intentions. On a broader scale, it always

remained chasing India's decisions.

A burning issue that is still shaping key dimensions of our Foreign Policy is Kashmir issue. Pakistan has always voiced Kashmiri's right to a fair plebiscite and developed an emotional nexus.

3- Pan-Islamism:

The state of Pakistan always craved Islamic unity often at the cost of more viable and favourable connected. This is depicted in OIC formation and Pakistan leading the way in voicing muslims struggles across the globe. This led to pursuing a feelings-centred and ideological base of foreign policy.

4- Economic Dependence:

Pakistan, in most cases, remained dependent on foreign powers for seeing it through economic crises. This resulted in emotional attachments and dependency in formulating its objectives and goals.

5- Political Instability:

The political landscape of Pakistan remained crowded with

political upheaval and inconsistent policies. Without a public backed leadership in echelons of power, governments of dictators were found wanting. Hence, they cashed public sentiments by backing emotional and feelings-centred foreign policy.

⇒ Consequences:

When a country prioritizes emotions, ideology and feelings, there is always a looming threat of inconsistencies, blowback and troubles. Following impacts dominated Pakistan:

1- Strategic Miscalculations:

In 1950s, by joining SEATO and CENTO, Pakistan thought it averted the Indian threat. On the contrary, Pakistan was left on its own to combat Indian aggression as US refused to assist. Moreover, Pakistan also faced diplomatic isolation after the Kargil war and particularly ^{during} war on terror at various stages.

2- Aid Syndrome:

Pakistan constantly viewed its allies,

especially US and later China as survivors. This kept the nation from pursuing effective long-term policies and resulted in aid-centred economic structure.

3- Ignored Kashmir Issue:

Despite the fact that Kashmir remained at heart of Pakistan's policy formulation, the world remained neutral for the most part and few sided with India for economic and strategic gains.

4- Muslim World:

Despite Pakistan leading the way and voicing injustices faced by Muslims, the Muslim world did not reciprocate the feelings particularly on Kashmir matter. Pakistan, on the contrary, remained ideological and kept demanding support especially from the Arab world to no considerable impact.

5- Policy Blowback:

On a crucial juncture of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan became a training camp and launching pad for curtailing Soviet

aggression. With US and Saudia backing, it fought them off by sending mujahideen. Ironically, this led to a radical culture and growing extremism in Waziristan and FATA region.

Pakistan remained entrenched in terrorism and its affects are still visible.

⇒ Way Forward:

Taking its experiences as a learning curve, Pakistan should restructure Foreign Policy on:

- Redefined National Interest
- Economic Stability and Regional Connectivity
- Economic and Diplomatic Capital
- Technological Growth
- Mutual interest and Alliances
- Strategic Partnerships

⇒ Conclusion:

The major part of Pakistan's Foreign Policy has been overshadowed by emotional impulses and ideological bias.

Unexpectedly, this did not bode well resulting in policy blowback, economic dependence and isolation at key junctures.

A more realistic shift is imminent to re-define a shining future.