





- Shift from unipolarity (post-Cold War US dominance) → Multipolar World
- US-China Rivalry: Trade war, Indo-Pacific Vs BRI
- Russia-West tensions: Ukraine conflict, NATO expansion
- Middle East power shifts: Saudi-Iran rapprochement, Turkey's rise

## II. Pakistan's Geostategic Location

- "Crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East"
- Historical importance in Cold War (SEATO, CENTO)
- Post-9/11 frontline state in War on Terror.

## III. US-Pakistan Relations

- From close allies (Cold War, 1980s Afghan Jihad) → Mistrust (War on Terror, Drone strikes)
- US tilt towards India (Indo-US defense and US nuclear deals)



- Current transactional relations (Afghanistan, Counterterrorism, IMF)

#### IV- Pakistan-China Strategic Partnership

- "Iron brothers" → CPEC as flagship of BRI
- Defense cooperation (JF-17, naval modernization)
- Economic dependence but also opportunities

#### V- Pakistan-Russia Relations

- Historical hostility → improving ties post-2014
- Military exercises, energy cooperation, gas pipeline projects
- Shared stance on Afghanistan stability

#### VI- India Factor

- Core issue: Kashmir disputes, LOC tensions
- India's strategic alliance with US and Israel



- Threat to Pakistan's Security Calculus.

## VII- Afghanistan Factor

- Taliban Government → mixed implications
- Border management, refugee crisis, terrorism spillover
- Pakistan's role as mediator and stabilizer.

## VIII- Middle Eastern Dynamics

- Balancing Saudi-Iran rivalry while maintaining ties with both.
- Strengthening defense and diplomatic cooperation with Turkey and Qatar.
- Heavy dependence on Gulf States for remittances, energy, and investment.

## IX- Economic Diplomacy & Multilateral Engagements

- Engagement in SCO, OIC, and UN to safeguard national



interests.

- Economic diplomacy: focus on trade, transit, and energy partnership.
- Shift towards geoeconomics as new foreign policy priority.

## X- Challenges & Opportunities

- Challenges: Dependence on foreign aid, political instability, security-centred approach.
- Opportunities: CPEC, geoeconomics pivot, mediator in Muslim World, regional connectivity.

## • Conclusion

- Restate thesis
- Balanced approach: Neither bloc politics nor isolation, but pragmatic engagement.
- Future: Transition from geopolitical compulsions to geo-economic opportunities is vital.



# Essay:

"Nations have no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests." —

**Lord Palmerston.** This maxim captures the essence of international politics where evolving global power dynamics constantly reshape the priorities of states. The contemporary world order, once dominated by unipolar American supremacy after Cold War, is now moving towards multipolarity. China's rise, Russia's resurgence, and the emergence of regional power centres are driving this shift. These shifts are not confined to major powers alone; rather, they ripple across regions. They compel smaller yet strategically located states like Pakistan to recalibrate their foreign policy choices. Situated at the cross



roads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan occupies one of the most significant geopolitical locations in the world. This geography has historically defined its external relations, first as a Cold War ally of the West, then as a frontline state in the War on Terror, and today as a central partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Yet, this strategic relevance comes with challenges: balancing ties with USA and China, managing tensions with India, engaging with Afghanistan, and navigating rivalries within the Muslim world. At the same time, opportunities also exist in the form of regional connectivity, economic integration, and Pakistan's role in multinational platforms such as SCO and OIC. Pakistan's foreign policy, shaped by evolving global power balance dynamics, is



fundamentally a pursuit of balance, between great-power rivalries, regional security imperatives, and the urgent need to transition from geopolitics to geoeconomics, for only such a shift can ensure Pakistan's sovereignty, stability, and relevance in the changing global order.