

Q Discuss the main principles
Objectives and challenges
of Pakistan's foreign
policy in the contemporary
international system?

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Introduction

Pakistan's foreign policy is shaped by its strategic geography, security challenges, economic needs, and ideological foundations. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah clearly outlined Pakistan's external vision when he stated that Pakistan seeks "peace within and peace without". Since independence in 1947, Pakistan has aimed to safeguard sovereignty, ensure national security, and maintain constructive relations with the international community.

Definition of Foreign policy

It refers to a policy created by a state through which state tries to fulfil its national interests within the other states.

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on a principles mentioned in article 40 of Pakistan's Constitution.

Lord Palmerston

twice he remained the prime minister of UK 1860.

According to him

There are no permanent enemies and permanent friends on international community. There are only permanent national interests.

2 Foundational Principles:

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on peaceful coexistence, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in line with the UN Charter, which emphasizes

"Sovereign equality of all its members"

Pakistan has consistently supported the right of self-determination particularly for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as recognized in UN Security Council resolutions.

3 Core Objective of Foreign Policy.

The objective of foreign policy include national security, economic development

regional stability, and international cooperation.

As Hans Morgenthau argues, "national interest defined in terms of power is the main signpost of foreign policy," a concept clearly reflected in Pakistan's external conduct.

4 Relations with Major Powers

Pakistan's relations with major powers are shaped by realism and pragmatism. Relations with the United States have often been transactional especially during the Cold War and War on Terror. In contrast

Sino-Pakistan relations are frequently described by leadership of both states as "higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans," with CPEC symbolizing long-term strategic and economic cooperation

5 Relations with Neighbouring Countries

Neighbourhood relations remain central to Pakistan's foreign policy. The Kashmir disputes with India continue to dominate bilateral relations. Regarding Afghanistan, Pakistan maintains that

there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict", emphasizing dialogue and peace for regional stability.

6 Pakistan and the

Muslim World

Pakistan maintains close relations with Muslim states based on shared religious and cultural bonds.

Quaid-e-Azam envisioned Pakistan as a state that would "stand

shoulder to shoulder with the oppressed peoples of the world."

The Gulf region remains crucial for Pakistan's

economy due to remittances and employment opportunities

7 Role in Multilateral Diplomacy

Pakistan is an active participant in multilateral diplomacy through the UN, OIC, SCO, and SAARC. Pakistan's contribution to UN peace keeping aligns with the UN principle of maintaining "international peace and security". Enhancing Pakistan's global diplomatic standing.

8 Shift from Geopolitics to Geo-Economics

Pakistan's recent emphasis on geo-economic reflects the understanding that "Economic strength is the foundation of national power."

Initiatives such as CPEC and regional connectivity projects demonstrate Pakistan's attempt to integrate foreign policy with domestic economic revival.

9 Challenges to Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Pakistan's foreign policy faces multiple internal and external challenges that limit its diplomatic

manoeuvrability. The most persistent challenge is the hostile relationship with India, rooted in the Unresolved Kashmir dispute, which continues to consume diplomatic and military resources. Regional instability particularly in Afghanistan poses another major challenge due to border management issues, refugee influx, and the threat of militancy spillover.

Economically Pakistan's financial vulnerabilities, debt dependences, and limited export base constrain its foreign policy choices, often reducing strategic autonomy. Moreover Pakistan faces

the complex task of balancing relations between major powers, especially the United States and China in an increasingly polarized international system. International image concerns related to governance, terrorism perceptions and human rights further complicate diplomatic efforts.

As Joseph Nye argues economic strength and credibility are essential sources of national power, a domain where Pakistan continues to face structural weaknesses.

10 Conclusion

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Pakistan's foreign policy represents a continuous effort to reconcile security imperatives with economic and diplomatic objectives. While traditional challenges such as India - Pak rivalry and regional instability remain central, the growing shift towards geo-economics and regional connectivity offers a promising direction.

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Sustainable foreign policy success, however, depends on internal political stability, economic resilience and coherent diplomacy. In the words of Qaid-e-Azam

Muhammed Ali Jinnah
Pakistan seeks
"peace within and
peace without"
a vision that remains
both relevant and
achievable through
consistent and forward-
looking foreign policy
choices.

Respected Sir!

is question ka answer
full detail or 20 marks
ke according likha hai
is ke kitni marks mily
gy or agr mzeed improvement
ki zarort hai then
kindly guide me
Regards!