

QUESTION

Pakistan - Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defence pact. Critically evaluate the causes and implications of the deal.

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION

The evolving security environment of the Gulf and South Asia has pushed old partners to seek new and deeper defense ties. The recent defence pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia marks a significant development in their long standing strategic relationship. Both states have traditionally maintained close military and political cooperation, but the new agreement represents a deeper institutional framework for security collaboration. The pact is considered "historic" because it signals a shift toward more structured defense coordination at a time of evolving regional dynamics.

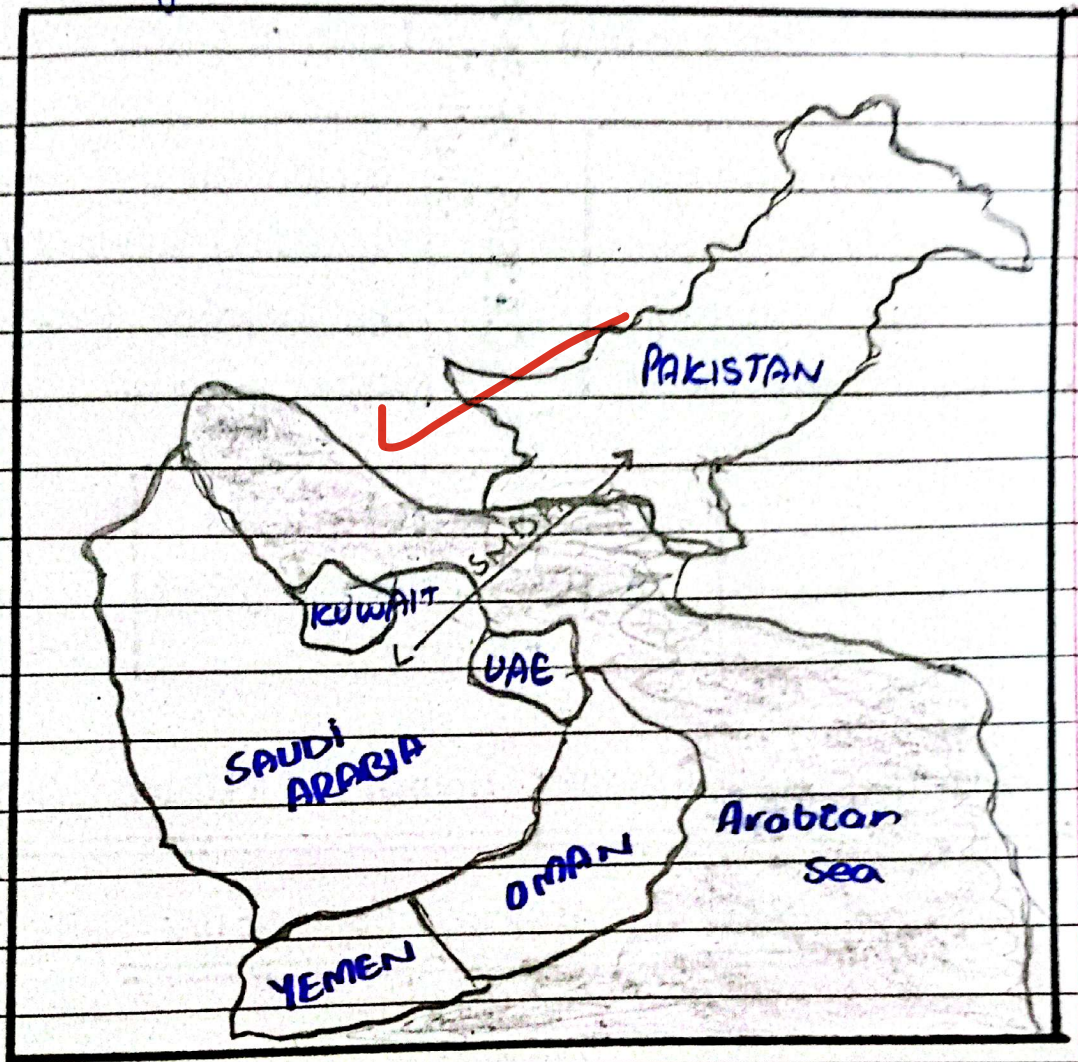
In the Middle East and South Asia. This development carries important causes and far-reaching implications.

BACKGROUND OF PAKISTAN SAUDI DEFENCE

PACT

A major recent defence pact, the "Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement" was signed between Pakistan and Saudi on September 17, 2025 in Riyadh, pledging collective security where an attack on one is treated as attack on both, strengthening the strategic alliance. Pak Saudi carries a long standing relationship encompassing military and economic cooperation as well as cultural and religious ties. In recent years, shift in Middle-Eastern politics including concerns about external threats, responses to Israeli military actions and doubts regarding American reliability as a security guarantor have intensified regional security concerns. The agreement is primarily a political signal of solidarity and strategic

cooperation, rather than an unconditional war guarantee.



CAUSES OF SIGNING STRATEGIC MUTUAL

DEFENCE PACT

The causes that lie behind signing of Strategic Mutual Defence Pact are

Regional Turbulence:

Houthi Strike and
Israel's Attack on Doha

US Security Role

Declining and its
Silence on Doha AttackPAK Seeking Affordable
Oil, Steady Remittances
and New Markets for
its Defence ExportsCAUSES OF SMD
SIGNINGSAUDI Aiming for
Regional leadership
and Defence Self
Sufficiency under Vision 2030PAKISTAN Admiring to counter
India's Growing Regional
Influence1. REGIONAL TURBULENCE: HOUTHIS STRIKE ANDISRAEL'S ATTACK ON DOHA

Rising regional turbulence pushed Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to strengthen their security cooperation. The Houthis repeatedly Saudi Aramco oil factories with drones and missiles, threatening the kingdom's economic lifeline and highlighting its vulnerability. In 2025, Israel's unexpected strike on Doha further shock the Gulf region, showing that conflicts were spreading before traditional fronts. These escalating threats created a

Sense of insecurity for Saudi Arabia. As a result a mutual defence pact was signed.

2- US SECURITY ROLE DECLINING AND ITS

SILENCE ON DOHA ATTACK

In 2025, many Gulf countries began to doubt the strength of the long-standing U.S. security guarantee in the Middle East, as Washington focused more on other global priorities and reduced its direct military engagement. Israel's unexpected attack on Doha, Qatar - a U.S. ally - and initial lack of strong U.S. response made some regional leaders question U.S. security guarantee. Even though Qatar is running U.S. largest military base but still it remained silent on attack. This uncertainty led to find a credible security partners.

3- PAKISTAN SEEKING AFFORDABLE OIL, STEADY

REMITTANCES AND NEW MARKET FOR

DEFENSE EXPORT

Pakistan's economy relies heavily on external support, and strengthening ties with KSA help address key economic needs. Saudi Arabia is also a major destination for Pakistan workers with around 1.4 million Pakistanis working there which increase remittances. In addition, deepening cooperation opens new markets for Pakistan's defence products and services aligning economic goals with security partnerships.

4- KSA AIMING FOR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

AND DEFENCE SELF SUFFICIENCY UNDER

VISION 2030

KSA vision 2030 aims to make the country a strong regional leader and produce most of its military equipments locally. To achieve this, it needs a skilled partners with military experience and expertise and Pakistan's expertise and manpower make it an ideal ally, helping Saudi Arabia build its defence capabilities.

and strengthen its position in the region.

5 PAKISTAN AIMING TO COUNTER INDIA'S

GROWING REGIONAL INFLUENCE

India's growing influence in the region is mainly political, economic and military. It is building strong ties with Gulf countries through trade, defence and investment agreements. This growing influence can shift the balance of power in South Asia and the Gulf which concerns Pakistan and motivates it to seek stronger alliances such as Saudi Arabia.

IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING STRATEGIC

MUTUAL DEFENCE PACT

POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PACT

- BOOST TO PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY THROUGH

GULF INVESTMENT

DATE: / /

The defense pact opens the door for substantial Gulf investment in Pakistan, with Saudi, Qatar and UAE providing between \$75 and \$100 billion. This influx can help Pakistan overcome IMF-imposed austerity, stimulate economic growth, create jobs and boost business confidence, giving the country much-needed financial stability and development space.

• MODERNIZATION OF PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE AND

STRENGTHENING SECURITY CAPABILITIES

The pact will help Pakistan to modernize its defense sector. The pact offers Pakistan, a chance to modernize its armed forces at a time when resources are urgently required to finance the next generation of arms acquisition after the conflict with India in May 2025. Saudi financing will help Pakistan modernize its defense industry and strengthening its security capabilities.

• REDUCING PAKISTAN'S DEPENDENCE ON

IMF'S ASSISTANCE

The pact provides Pakistan with alternative source of funding, reducing reliance on IMF loans and conditionalities. Access to Gulf capital enables the government to invest in infrastructure, industry and social development, easing fiscal pressures and offering a more sustainable path to economic sovereignty.

• ELEVATING PAKISTAN'S REGIONAL AND GLOBAL

DIPLOMATIC ROLE

The pact also elevates Pakistan's diplomatic stature in regional and global politics. Integration into the Gulf Security framework and involvement in initiatives like the Gaza peace plan elevates Pakistan's diplomatic relevance.

This strengthens its role as a key regional actor, improves bargaining power with both Gulf states and global powers and allows Pakistan to pursue both strategic and pragmatic interest in global politics.

NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PACT

• STRAIN ON PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE SECTOR

DATE: _____

While the pact brings opportunities and modernization, it can also strain Pakistan's defense sector in several ways. The participation in the joint ventures require extra funding, training or procurement which could stretch Pakistan's defense budget. Obligations under the pact could require Pakistan's armed forces to commit personnel or resources abroad, which might limit their focus on domestic security needs or other regional threats.

• POSSIBLE CONDITIONALITIES OR STRATEGIC

EXPECTATIONS

Saudi support may come with expectations regarding Pakistan's stance on regional or international issues. These conditions could limit Pakistan's independent decision-making and force it to align with Saudi interests, even when it conflicts with their national interests.

• Pact may cause ISRAEL AND INDIA

TO STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES

Closer Pakistan - Saudi defence ties may inadvertently encourage Israel and India to come closer and strengthen their ties and could deepen militarily and intelligence cooperation. This could place Pakistan's stability at risk.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Pakistan - Saudi defence pact brings with it both positive and negative consequences. On positive side it helps Pakistan to strengthen its economy, modernise its defence sector and counter India's threat. But on the other hand it has some risks also such as - India - Israel ties, effect on independent decision making, strain on domestic defence. Overall the pact offers significant gains but requires careful management to balance strategic benefits with national autonomy and domestic priorities.

CONCLUSION

In the nutshell, the Pakistan - Saudi Defense Pact was driven by shared security interests, economic needs and regional strategic considerations. While it provides Pakistan with financial support, defense cooperation and enhanced diplomatic relevance, it also brings risks with itself. Now overall it is a faithful pact but depends on how carefully it's managed.

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good attempt!!!

improve the references part a bit.....