

Question No:2

Despite share linguistic, cultural, geographical, and economic links, Indo-Pak relation has been mired in complexity due to a number of historical and political events. Explain.

INTRODUCTION:

India and Pakistan shares centuries of common histories, languages (Urdu and Hindi), common cultural traditions and large boarder which enables trade and geographical connectivity. But a long history of political, historical and security related events endures mistrust and conflict between two states. In term of theory, the factors which should facilitates the cooperation overshadows under the influence of mistrusts and conflicts.

As University of Punjab said in their journal,

"Relations between India and

Pakistan have been complicated

due to historical and geopolitical

events which ruptures the structure

of cooperation and continuously hampered normalization."

Historical Factors Contributing in the complexity of the Relations of India and Pakistan:

1- The Trauma of 1947 Partition:

The Partition caused mass migration, riots, significant violence, and loss of life on an unprecedented scale. The violent birth of the two states created deep emotional and psychological scars. Communities that once lived together were separated, reinforcing **us vs them** narratives. Suspicion and fear became embedded in early state policies.

Impact:

The first impression each country formed of the other was through violence and displacement which forms the foundation of mistrust.

2- The Kashmir Dispute:

The Princely state of Jammu and Kashmir became the core territorial dispute. India's claim is based on the Maharaja's accession; Pakistan's on the religious demography and contiguity. Both countries claiming sovereignty.

The dispute has led to:

- Three major wars (1947-48, 1965, 1999)
- Constant militarization along the Line of Control (LoC)
- Insurgency, cross-border accusations and regular violations of ceasefire

Impact:

Kashmir remains the central and unresolved conflict making the normalization difficult.

Political Factors Contributing In the Complexity of the Relations of India and Pakistan:

1- Repeated Wars and Militarizations:

Besides Kashmir related events, the War of 1971 over East Pakistan/Bangladesh deepened hostility.

War has produced

- Strong military establishments on both sides.
- Security centric policy making.
- **Security dilemma:** Each military build-up is seen as a threat by other side.

Impact:

Security dominates politics, reducing space for diplomacy.

2- Cross - Border Terrorism and Insurgency:

Since the 1980's - 1990's incidents of terror attacks, insurgency in Kashmir, and cross-border accusations have hardened attitudes. India accuses Pakistan of supporting militants; Pakistan's denies this and point out the local discontent and India's human rights violations.

Similarly, Pakistan point out the involvement of India's secret agencies in Pakistan's insurgency and terror attack. For example:

The arrest and involvement of Kalboshan Yadav.

Impact: Mutual trust collapses repeatedly when violation occurs.

3- Nuclear Deterrence / Nuclearization:

Both states became nuclear powers in 1998, raising stakes enormously. Even small crises can add complexity and escalated into nuclear confrontation. Nuclear deterrence can prevents full war but creates constant tension.

Impact:

Any diplomatic breakthrough become fragile; leadership fears that any compromise can be exploited.

4- Domestic Politics and Media Narratives:

Headline positions on India and Pakistan are politically popular in both countries. Media often amplifies confrontation, not cooperation. Due to which leaders face public pressure which limits flexibility.

Impact:

Peace efforts succeed temporarily but collapse with political change or crises.

Current Challenges are there which deepens the complexity of Indo-Pak Relations:

1. Water and Resource Disputes:

As after the partition the Rivers of Punjab and Kashmir are shared between the two states. Although the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) 1960 has survived. But the constructions of dams and projects recur disputes. As of the impact of Climate Change the water scarcity adds to the tensions.

Impact:

Economic cooperation is overshadowed by competition over vital resources.

2. Trust Deficit:

A deep-seated trust deficit between the two countries make it challenging to resolve issues.

Impact:

Barriers in diplomatic breakthrough between the two states.

3. Regional Security:

The regions security dynamics, including the presence of other countries like China and Afghanistan, add to the complexity. It challenges the regional stability and the global image of the both countries.

Impact:

The trust issues of the world powers such as USA, Russia which indirectly effects the trade relations.

4. Economic Cooperation:

Despite economic potential, trade and cooperation between the two countries is limited due to historical and political challenges and tensions.

Impact:

Challenges to projects like TAPI Gas pipe line.

Efforts Towards Peace Processes:

Diplomatic Initiatives:

There have been various diplomatic initiatives and agreements aimed at improving peace between the two countries.

For example,

Shimla Agreement and The Lahore Declaration.

People-to-People Diplomacy:

The cultural exchanges and the people-to-people diplomacy have helped build bridges between the two nations.

For example,

Exchange of artists and the Kartarpur Initiative.

Reasons of Failure of Peace Processes:

Numerous attempts have been made like Tashkent, Simla, Lahore Declaration, Agra Summit, backchannel talks, and more made progress but were disrupted by:

- Leadership changes

add more arguments in this part.....

- Terror attacks
- Military crises
- Political mistrust

Impact:

The pattern of "peace attempt → crisis → hostility" continues.

Conclusion:

Despite shared heritage and natural complementarities, Indo-Pak relations remain complex because of historical and Ideological crisis which fueled with the political and the security challenges and policies.

Thus, shared cultural and geographic ties are overshadowed by historical trauma and political-nationalist conflicts.

"Each State interprets the other's defensive moves as offensive"

(IPRI)