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# Critically evaluate US-Pakistan relations under the Joe Biden Administration vis-a-vis the US' Indo-Pacific strategy.

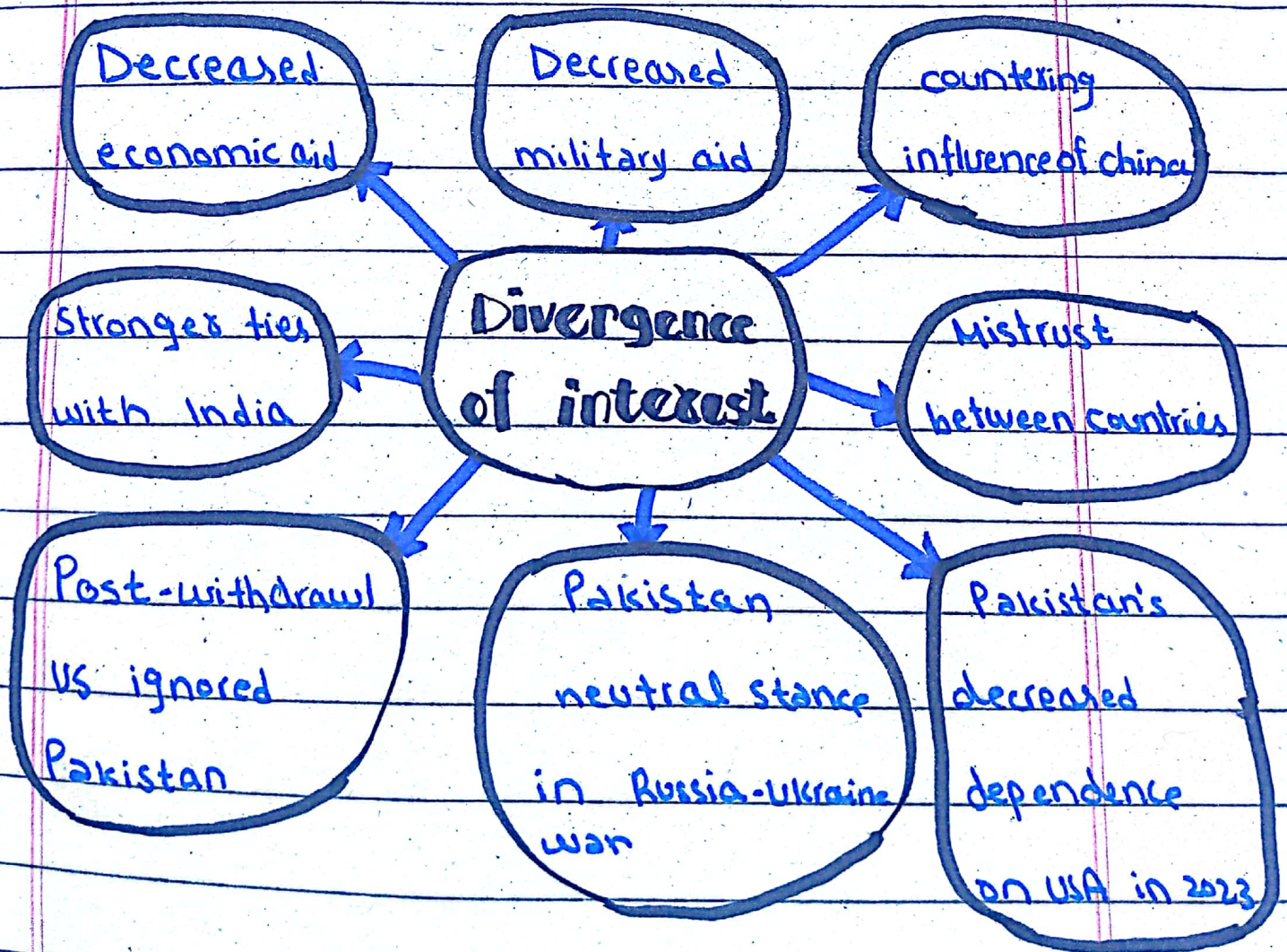
## Introduction:

US-Pakistan relations have always remained dependent on the convergence and divergence of interest of both countries. Under the Biden administration, keeping in view of Indo-Pacific strategy, there was divergence of interest between the two countries marked with decreased economic aids, military aid, countering influence of China in the region, mistrust between two countries, strong ties with the India in the field of economy and technology.

# Critical evaluation of US-Pakistan relations under Biden Administration keeping in view of US Indo-Pacific strategy:

i)

Pakistan and US relations weakened under the Biden Administration due to the divergence of interest between two countries:



## i) Decreased economic aid:

Under Biden administration economic aid reduced from 1.8 billion USD to 900 million USD as stated by IPRI. This decline in economic aid shows shift in priorities and devalue of Pakistan in the foreign policy of USA.

## ii) Decreased military aid:

IPRI stated that military aid to Pakistan by US decreased from 1.2 billion USD to 300 million USD under the Biden administration. There was also decline in the joint military exercises between the two countries. This decline was due to the divergence of interest of USA with the Pakistan. Also Pakistan was not much important for USA in the region.

## iii) Post withdrawal of US-Pakistan relations:

Pakistan has played a key role in facilitating US-taliban negotiation and evacuation of US troops from the Afghanistan. Despite these assistance, US accused Pakistan for supporting some militant groups in conducting terrorist attacks. One of the main point of contention between the two countries was that Pakistan was playing its role to combat terrorism but US was not providing sufficient resource or recognition. This has led to the increased tensions between the two countries.

#### iv) **Mistrust between the two countries:**

After the withdrawal of US troops from the Afghanistan, there was a time of mistrust between the two countries. US was seeing Pakistan as a supporter to the militant

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groups and accused Pakistan in assisting the terrorist groups to conduct terrorist attacks despite Pakistan was ally of US in War on Terror (WOT). While there were feelings of hatred for the US in heart of citizens of Pakistan for conducting drone attacks on the land of Pakistan without the consent of the country.

## D) Countering influence of China:

There was situation of Thucydide's trap between the US and China. China's growing influence in the South Asia and Indo-Pacific is perceived as a threat to US influence in the region. Pakistan is a major ally of China in many developmental projects including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This has

resulted into strained relationship with USA as USA wants Pakistan not to develop closer ties with its enemy China. Moreover, in order to counter BRI, USA with its allies has initiated Built Back Better World (BBBW).

## vi) Stronger ties with India;

India is one of the greater economy and largest market of the world. It also has greater influence in the region as compared to the Pakistan. So, the USA shifted towards India from Pakistan. As said by Lord Palmerston:

"There is no permanent enemy, no permanent friend, only permanent interests."

USA has strengthened its ties with India in the field of economy and technology in order to pressurize Pakistan not to

Moreover, US took Pakistan as a secondary player in the region. So, it developed ties with India in order to counter influence of China in the Indo-Pacific region.

## vii) Pakistan's stance in Russia-Ukraine war:

As Russia-Ukraine war started in 2022 and USA with its NATO allies is supporting Ukraine in this war. Pakistan's stance in Russia-Ukraine war was to remain neutral. This also caused tensed relationships with USA and it was expecting to support Ukraine.

## viii) Pakistan's decreased dependence on USA in 2023:

Pakistan was suffering from severe economic

crisis, debt crisis, inflation, and unemployment in 2023. It seeks assistance from traditional allies including China, UAE, and Saudi Arabia; and reduce its dependence on USA because the world is moving towards multipolarity with multiple economic powers in the world.

## Conclusion:

Hence, under the Biden administration US-Pakistan relations were shifted towards decline due to the divergence of interests. USA's Indo-Pacific strategy includes countering influence of China in the region which decreased the strategic importance of Pakistan in the foreign policy of USA.