

CSS 2024

Q5) Saudi Arabia and Iran both have a significant place in Pakistan's foreign policy. How Pakistan can maintain friendly relations with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, especially after the mediation of China between both the two countries.

Introduction:

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on friendly relations with all the countries - except Israel. The relationship with the Muslim countries - especially Saudi Arabia and Iran will help Pakistan to become more prosperous across the region. Its energy needs, connectivity and regional cooperation with the help of these countries will alleviate the economic disparities.

Importance of Saudi Arabia and Iran in Pakistan's Foreign Policy:

Religious bonding

Cultural bonding

Prospects for trade

gas pipeline

geopolitical prospects in world politics

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah: the founder of Pakistan reiterated that "Pakistan would have friendly relations with all countries; especially Muslim countries"

Given Pakistan's complex regional and local challenges, Saudi Arabia and Iran are Pivotal.

Saudi Arabia Supporting Pakistan

- 1) financial support
- 2) energy resources
- 3) Military cooperation

Iran Supporting Pakistan

- 1) Pakistan's regional security regarding border defense
- 2) general stability

Pakistan builds ties of economic and military cooperation with Saudi Arabia. While Pakistan has an unbalancing act with Iran amidst regional tensions between Sunni and Shia interests

Prospects for Pakistan to maintain friendly relations with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, especially after the mediation of China between the two countries:

Volume of trade with both countries

Pakistan can utilize SCO to enhance security and cooperation

Equal relationships with both the countries are achievable

The Iran-Pakistan Gas pipelines can be complete with Saudi Arabia support

Iran and Pakistan both are members of BRJ, they can engage Saudi Arabia

Pakistan can make a compatible energy route from South Asia to Middle East.

The volume of trade can be increased with both Saudi Arabia and Iran:

The trade volume can be increased through **tri-lateral** engagements in the region. Many exports were halted due to rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. However for Pakistan is excellent to find diversified market trends and opportunities. For example Saudi Arabia has great potential in ~~of~~ facilitating Pakistani exports. A report from **OEC** World disclosed that **\$5.7** millions of Pakistani products were exported to Saudi Arabia in **2022** compared to to **\$4.1** millions in **2017**.

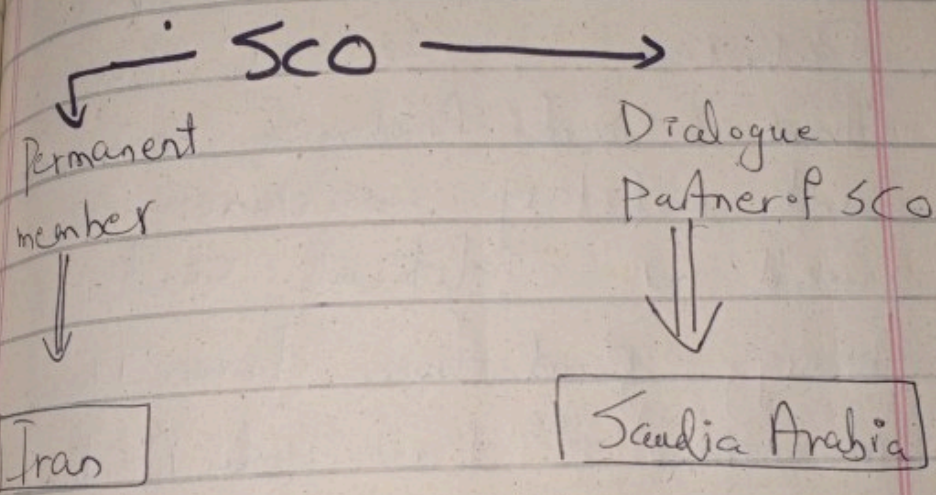
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Pakistan can utilize SCO
to enhance security and
cooperations by using good relations
with Iran and Saudi Arabi:

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under the SCO, Pakistan can
cooperate with Iran and Saudi
Arab at the world level in
safety and security.

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With more active involvement in
SCO, Pakistan can use its links to
these important muslim countries
to create an atmosphere of regional
security and stability

ii) Pakistan can now eliminate the pressure to choose one; equal partnership with both countries are achievable:

After the rapprochement deal, Pakistan is now more flexible in formulating its foreign policy. In wanting to be on good terms with both countries, Pakistan stands to gain from Saudi Arabia's economic and military assistance as well as political and energy float from Iran. This in contrast to Past Saudi Arabia used to put pressure on Pakistan diplomatically to curtail relations with Iran due to their rivalry (PIDE report, 2-23). While the cooperation model with both countries can enable Pakistan to augment its security.

architecture and economic development
and remain non-involved in
Middle Eastern Politics.

Iran - Pakistan Gas pipeline can
be completed immediately with
Saudi Arabia's diplomatic
and Economic Support:

Saudi Arabia's power and financial
resources will resolve the existing
hostile and logistic interstate problems.

" Saudi Arabia can minimize
American's Pressure on
Pakistan due to US's
reliance on its oil "

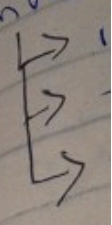
3) Pakistan can use the diplomacy
of Saudi Arabia's economy to
expedite the proceedings of
the pipeline projects, which

guarantees that gas from Iran will be available. This will not only help to alleviate the prevailing energy situation in Pakistan but also promotes the relations among three countries for better development of the region.

Saudi Iran and Pakistan: Part of BRI, they both can engage Saudi Arabia in it for greater and common benefit:

Both Iran and Pakistan are part of Belt Road Initiatives (BRI). They can collaborate strategically with Saudi Arabia to promote regional China aims to integrate Saudi Vision 2030 into its BRI project (Council of Foreign relations)

Cooperation
Saudi
involvement



Pakistan
relations
sectors
and

Partnership
with
Pakistan
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Cooperating Cooperation by including
Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's
involvement could foster:
→ infrastructures growth
→ trade networks enhance
→ strengthening regional connectivity.

Pakistan: By using these
relations, can minimize
sectarian issues between Shia
and Sunni:

Pakistan by utilizing its connections
with Saudi Arabia and Iran,
Pakistan can play a role in
reducing tensions between Shia
and Sunni groups.

According to a report of Dawn,
Iran was supporting Shia
groups in Balochistan near
its borders.

Diplomatic engagement with Saudi Arabia and Iran enables Pakistan to facilitate discussions and collaborations between these two predominant factions, tackling issues and encouraging empathy. The significant influence of Saudi Arabia on the sphere and Iran's position within the Shia Community offers Pakistan a distinctive to mediate conflicts and establish cooperations.

Pakistan can make a compatible energy route from South Asia to the Middle East and Central Asia:

Pakistan can help to create a coherent energy corridor connecting South Asia with Middle East and Central Asia.

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Iran's share of energy
specifically oil reserves
comprise 24% of the
Middle East total reserves
(US energy Information Administration
Report)

This means, Pakistan relations
with these countries can improve
regional trade, energy security
and economic growth and strengthen
Pakistan's role as an energy
transportation hub.

Critical Analysis:

The above
discussions portrays a clear image
that Pakistan will have enough
after rapprochement with Saudi
Arabia and Iran to engage with
these countries in a friendly

manner without the cost of one country over another. These relations with help Pakistan in the domain of fulfilling energy needs & diplomatic support & trade targets and regional support through SCO. Besides this Pakistan's geopolitical position will improve not only in the region but also in the world.

Conclusion:

After the mediators role of China, Pakistan can maintain good relationships with both Iran and Gulf South Arabia. Through this way energy needs will be fulfilled & regional connectivity gas supply & gas supply will be enhanced in Pakistan. Lastly Pakistan's role not only in the region but across the world will be strengthened.