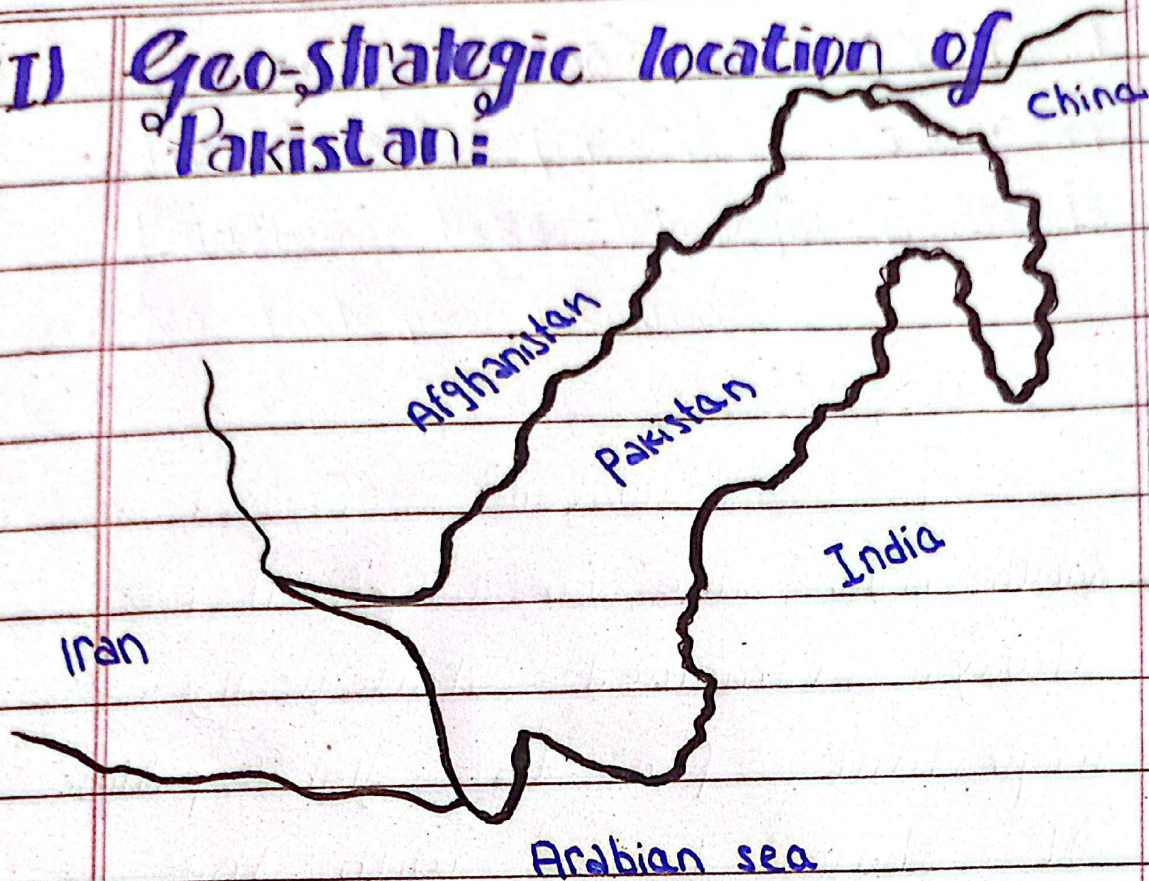


Discuss the Geo-strategic importance of Pakistan. Do you agree that it has greatly affected...

Introduction:

Pakistan is located in South Asia due to which it has always remained strategically important for the global politics. It shares borders with the world largest economies like India and China. It also share borders with Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia through, Wakhan corridor and Arabian sea in the south. Due to this unique location it can become as transit trade hub. Geo-strategic location of Pakistan has greatly affected the development of social and political institution both positively and negatively.

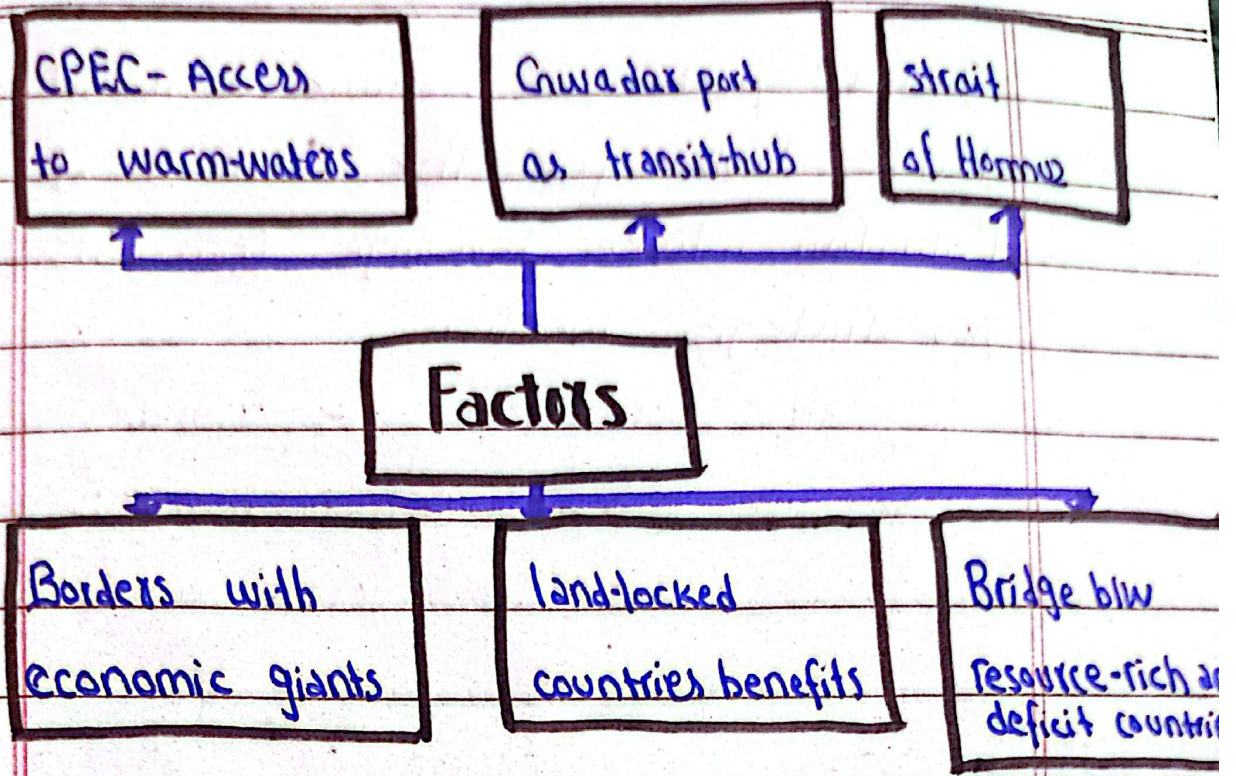
(II) Geo-Strategic location of Pakistan:



Pakistan shares border with China in the North, India in the East, Arabian sea in South-East, Iran in the south-west and Afghanistan in the West.

(II) Geo-Strategic importance of Pakistan:

Geo-strategic importance of Pakistan can be traced from the following arguments:



i) CPEC - China's access to the Warm waters of Indian Ocean:

Pakistan's geo-strategic location is very significant for China as it provide china's opportunity to access the warm waters of Arabian sea and Indian ocean.

"China's rising influence in the Indian ocean is perceived as a threat to India and West." SIPRI

ii) Gwadar port as transit-trade hub for countries:

Gwadar port can become a transit trade hub for the countries if Pakistan take leverage from its geo-strategic location.

"Gwadar port offers opportunities to the countries to exchange their goods with the world." Source: ISSI

iii) Access to Strait of Hormuz and energy security:

The access to strait of Hormuz provides opportunities for Pakistan to meet its energy needs.

National statistics bureau reveals that 8% of the energy needs passess through the strait of Hormuz.

iv) Borders with economic giants and opportunities of development:

As Pakistan shares borders with world's second largest economy China and fifth largest economy India, which provides opportunities of technological and agricultural advancement for Pakistan.

"CPEC enables Pakistan to achieve growth rate of 6% through policy continuation and economic stability." Source : IPRI

v) Opportunities for land-locked countries to access Ocean:

Pakistan's strategic location provides opportunities to land-locked countries like Afghanistan and Central Asian republics (CARs) to access the Indian ocean.

"Gwadar port provides opportunities to land-locked countries to export and imports goods with world." ISSI

vi) As a bridge between resource rich and resource-deficit countries:

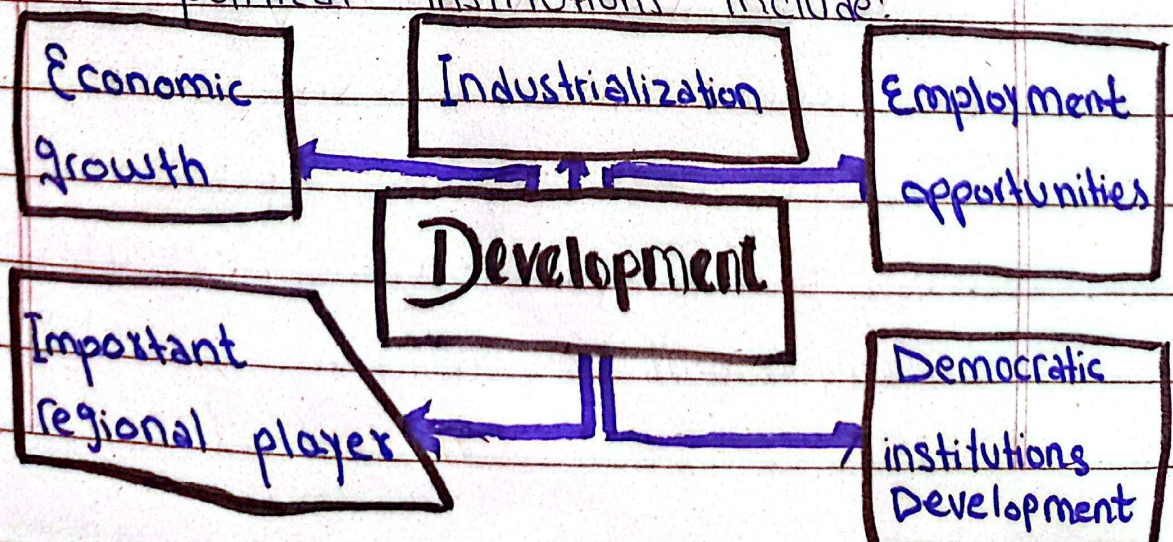
Pakistan can act as a bridge between resource-rich countries like in the Middle-East and larger consumers of resources like China.

"China is trying to access the resources of Middle East through the routes provided by CPEC."

Source: Ministry of planning & Development.

(iii) Positive development of social and political institution due to its geo-strategic location:

Positive development of social and political institutions include:



i) Economic growth via increased trade opportunities:

Geo-strategic location of Pakistan play a key role in the economic growth of Pakistan through the trade with regional countries and others.

"Pakistan's increased trade with regional countries helps to achieve economic stability." Ministry of planning & Development

ii) Industrialization and export-led growth:

CPEC has helped to improve industrial sector of Pakistan. This significantly enhanced the export-led growth in Pakistan.

Steel and Metal recycle plant in Gwadar will produce the \$4.5 billion of metal of export quality.

Ministry of planning, Development and initiative.

iii) Special Economic Zones and employment opportunities:

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has increased employment opportunities for the individuals. This will also produced skilled labor through technical and vocational training institutions.

Allama Iqbal Industrial City has created job opportunities for the citizens. Source: ISSI

iv) Important regional player for the world politics:

As an important regional player in south Asia it has always remained important for the world politics.

"During the 9/11 aid provided by USA significantly helps to improve the economic condition of Pakistan." "Governing the Ungovernable" by Ishrat Hussain

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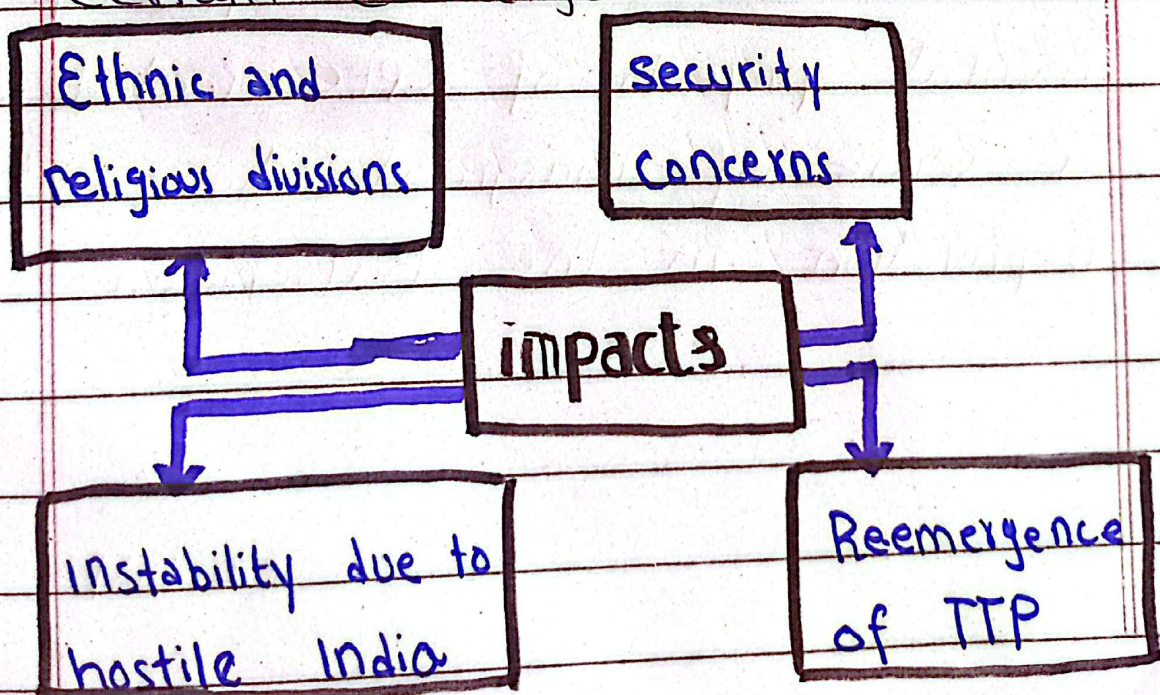
v) Development of democratic institutions in Pakistan:

Geo-strategic location of Pakistan also play a role in the development of democratic institutions in Pakistan

"The USAID programs ensures protection of human rights, transparency and accountability." Source: TPRT

(IV) Negative impact of geo-strategic location of Pakistan on social and political institutions:

Although geo-strategic location leverage Pakistan but it also posed certain challenges:



i) Ethnic and religious division in the country:

The conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia resulted into Shia-Sunni conflicts in Pakistan. Also, the Pakistan involvement in the War on Terror resulted into religious intolerance.

'Pakistan's involvement in war on Terror resulted into religious intolerance and conflicts.'

"Governing the ungovernable" by Ishrat Hussain.

ii) Security concerns due to sense of marginalization:

The uneven distribution of developmental projects of CPEC created a sense of marginalization and deprivation in the Balochistan.

"Attacks has been started on Chinese workers, creating security concerns in country." Source: ISSI

iii) Instability due to hostile India:

India is taking full advantage of the grievances of people in Balochistan and aiding them to conduct hostilities.

"Indian RAW is involved in the recent Taffar Express hijack." DGI/SPR

India is also involved in conducting small proxies, resulting into instability.

iv) Re-emergence of TTP:

As Pakistan shares long border with Afghanistan, this provide ease for the TTP to conduct hostilities in one region and escape into another region.

"Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan should ensure strict regulations

"on their borders to prevent free movement of TTP." ISSI

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that Pakistan's geo-strategic location is very important. It had played effective role in the social and political institutions development. By reducing the certain challenges, it can further leverage from its location.