

Topic: Critical Minerals: A Strategic Tug of War

1. Thesis Statement

Control over critical minerals has become a decisive factor in shaping global power dynamics. Nations that secure these resources strengthen their economic growth, technological leadership, and strategic influence, making critical minerals a central tool in the 21st-century geopolitical tug of war.

2. Global Strategic Competition over Critical Minerals

A. GeoPolitical Rivalry for Resources

- (a) Global Power Compete for lithium and rare earths.
- (b) Mineral-rich regions become strategic influence centers.

B. Major Power Competition for Supply Chains

- (a) U.S., China, EU, Japan securing mining and trade.
- (b) Supply Chains build economic and technological strength.

C. Resource Nationalism and Policy Tools

- (a) Export limits protect domestic industries and reserves.
- (b) Stockpiling minerals shapes and supply control.

D. Minerals and Strategic Alliances

- (a) Belt and Road shaped by mineral partnerships.
- (b) Bilateral deals secure long-term resource access.

E. Economic and Technological Leverage

- (a) Control impacts EV, defense, and clean energy industries.
- (b) Resource dominance strengthens diplomatic bargaining power.

3. Critical Minerals as Tools of Global Economic and Strategic Power

A. Driving High-Tech and Defense Industries

- (a) Minerals fuel aerospace, defense, and green technologies.
- (b) Rare earths enable advanced military manufacturing systems.

B. Strengthening Economic Stability

- (a) Mineral exports bring foreign revenue and investments.
- (b) Strong resource base supports national fiscal strength.

(C) Securing Energy Autonomy

- (a) Critical minerals reduce reliance on imported fuels.
- (b) Supply resilience shields economies from global shocks.
- (c) China's 2021 embargo shows minerals' strategic value.

4. Pakistan's Strategic Role in the Global Critical Mineral Tug of War

- (a) Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan contain lithium and rare earths.
- (b) Cobalt and graphite add strategic value to reserves.
- (c) Resource use can bring foreign investment and inflow.

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(d) Minerals can play industry and technology sectors.

(e) Minerals diplomacy can boost global strategic position.

6. Conclusion