

Write Note On the Post 9/11 Foreign Policy OF Pakistan. What Role do you foresee for Pakistan in Regional and Global Politics in the near future?

Introduction:

The foreign policy of a country defines its relation with other countries. Foreign policy has changed over the time as the world order changed. The foreign policy of Pakistan has always been committed to achieving global peace.

→ As Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said on the occasion of Broadcasting Service on August 15, 1947

"Our Object should be peace within and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial and friendly relations with our immediate neighbours and within World at Large."

This show that our foreign policy has to achieving and supporting the countries for global peace. So, after

the tragedy of 9/11 Pakistan decided to support US in the Global War of Terror.

Foreign Policy in Backdrop of 9/11

On September 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon in the US, where more than 3000 people were killed and financial losses amount to hundred billion dollars. However, the US media accused Osama Bin Laden for this tragedy, they held the Taliban government responsible. Moreover, the Pakistan was being only supporter of Taliban Government had to face restrictions.

At this event, the most powerful country in the world, United States, was filled with Anger. President Bush promised to do whatever it takes to punish them and said that there can be no middle ground in the fight against terrorism. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee charged Senator Joseph Biden said to Pakistan that

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Pakistan has to choose whether it wants to be friend or an enemy.

So, by this warned statement Pakistan had to choose between two bad options. Pakistan decided to cooperate with US against the Taliban. As a result, on September 19, 2001, **Musharraf** while speaking to the nation said that Pakistan's top priority is the country itself, and everything is less important.

Key Elements OF the Post 9/11 Foreign Policy OF Pakistan

The following key elements elaborate the post 9/11 foreign policy of the country.

1) Pakistan-US Alliance in the Global War on Terror (1999)

Pakistan foreign policy for USA was that:

→ Pakistan will join USA (War on Terror)

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as a Non-NATO strategic ally.

→ Pakistan shall provide all strategic assistance to USA, in its military operation in Afghanistan termed as "Operation Enduring Freedom."

Purpose → The purpose of Pakistan foreign policy for the USA was to promote peace and stability, increase international cooperation, and build friendly relations with USA.

"") Complex Afghanistan Policy

The Country virtual alignment with US made it shift from pro-Taliban policy, which it has been maintaining since 1980s. However, the country has maintained the complex relations with some factions of Taliban to protect culture and geographical bonds, long term considerations, and strategic interests in the region.

As Abdul Sattar, the foreign secretary of state, described in his book, Pakistan Foreign Policy 1947-2019 that

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circumspect cooperation in a UN approved action against the Taliban emerged as an appropriate Option.

iii) Balancing position in Pak-US and Pak-China Relations

Country opted a balanced relationship with both long-term strategic partners the US and all time partner China.

Post 9/11 realities encouraged deeper China-Pakistan cooperation, especially economically.

iv) Cautions Indo-Pak Strategy

Pakistan avoided direct confrontation with India despite rising tensions. The country remained wary of destabilizing conflict and opted for restraint.

v) Economic Diplomacy

Although the country did not bargain with the deal, it was mindful of the significance of its contribution to fight against terrorism. Hence, the economic aid from USA and other

countries was primarily based on reciprocity.

As Abdul Sattar, the former foreign secretary of the State said that

US transferred total financial aid amount to \$7.1 billion on logistic support to US forces in Afghanistan.

The country sought to rebuild economy through international partnership and economic aid through the US, IMF and World Bank. This enhanced the trade relations with China and other Gulf countries.

Role OF Pakistan in Regional and Global Politics in the Near Future:

1) Role in Regional Organizations

The country may increase its role in regional organization, such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), SAARC, BRICS and OIC as a part of its economic diplomacy.

→ These platforms have potential to provide opportunities for country

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to influence regional security, trade and political discussions, especially about South Asia and Muslim world

ii) Mediation Role in Afghanistan, Internal Security and Counter Terrorism

Pakistan may play a role as a mediator between Afghanistan ^{factions} and international community. Historically, the country has supported the Afghan Taliban, so country may contribute to initiating dialogues between the Afghan-led government and international community to promote peace and security in the region.

→ Pakistan role as a mediator helps it improve its internal security and promote regional stability by coordinating with the international community for counter-terrorism.

iii) Climate Change Diplomacy

Because of greater vulnerability to the effects of climate change, its

role in climate change diplomacy may increase in the coming year
 → Facing economic challenges and climate change problem, Pakistan may turn to economic diplomacy and international cooperation to present ^{itself} ~~himself~~ reform oriented state.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's choice to support the United States in the War on Terror has had significant negative consequences for the country. However, the US has shown a preference for India and changing geo-political situation has left Pakistan abandoned without recognize its security concerns. However, the alignment with US highlighted path dependency that compelled it to take sides. Taking sides may not be a wise option but it can prove detrimental to its strategic and economic interests.

→ The new vision focuses on regional integration and resolution of disputes in order

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to navigate these challenges.