

Day: _____

Date: _____

Q "Geo-political and socio-economic stability of South Asian region is dependent upon future of Afghanistan" Discuss the statement with reference to Afghan situation post fall of Kabul. Also discuss the role of Beijing and Islamabad in bringing stability in Afghanistan.

1. Introduction

The stability of South Asia has always been closely linked to Afghanistan, often described as the "graveyard of empires" due to its turbulent history. The fall of Kabul in August 2021 and the return of Taliban have once again placed Afghanistan at the center of regional security, economic, and humanitarian concerns. An former UN Security-General Ban Ki-moon stated "Peace in Afghanistan is peace for the region" highlighting its pivotal role in shaping South Asia's geopolitical and socio-economic future.

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2. Afghanistan Post-fall of Kabul: (Scenario Analysis framework)

a) Taliban Return to Power

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
Weak Government, U.S. backed	Taliban control Kabul swiftly	Internal stab- ilization, human rights challenges	Realism/NEO- Realism - power vacuum exploited

b) Regional Security and Extremist Influence

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
Moderate Taliban, U.S. containment	ISIS-K, Al- Qaeda threats dine	Neighboring militarized high- ten vigilance	Security Dilemma- defense triad insecurity

c) Neighboring countries' Balancing Act

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
Strategic competition	Pakistan, China. Iran engage Pragmatically	South-South cooperation, caution own diplomacy	Neoliberal - Cooperation via Institutions

d) Recognition and Legitimacy

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
Taliban isolated	Seeks global recognition (Russia, India)	Conditional legitimacy if reforms occur	Counterterrorism norms shape behavior

e) Geo-political stability Bilateral Relation

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
India-Pakistan rivalry, China corridors	Pak-China cooperation rises; India seen destabilizing	SAARC/OIC secularization trade growth	English School - alliances and norms

f) Geo-political stability

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
"threat crime" legacy	Instability risks terrorism, refugees	Stability enables regional trade	Realism and Critical Theory - Security and Justice Link

g) Border and foreign Invasion Mitigation

Before	Now	Future	IR Theory
History of Invasions	Taliban consolidates neighbors cautious	Local control prevents intervention	Neo-Realism - self-help principle

3. Islamabad's Role in Bringing Stability in Afghanistan (Cost Benefit Analysis Framework)

(a) Revitalizing forum to maximize collective regional peace benefits

Cost-benefit logic show Pakistan gains stability by reviving OIC/ SAARC, while inaction risks realist security spillovers. Neoliberal Institutionalism supports cooperation reducing uncertainty. This aligns with the prophetic maxim: "Reconciliation brings mercy"

(b) Border control and trade support to reduce conflict externalities

Cost-benefit shows disciplined borders cost less than security threats predicted by Defensive Realism

(Waltz). Interdependence Theory (Keohane-Nye) explain how trade incentives reduce military. Pakistan's fencing and trade facilitation create benefits exceeding administrative costs.

(c) CPEC connectivity enhancing mutual economic return for both states

Cost-benefit analysis highlights Afghanistan's entry into CPEC yields high gain-energy, transit, markets-comintant with Liberal IPE theory and Interdependence Theory that cooperation multiplies welfare. Supports the Quranic principle: "Cooperate in Goodness."

4. Beijing's Role in Bringing Stability in Afghanistan (Cost-Benefit-Analysis Framework)

(a) Counter-terrorism cooperation to avoid high security spillover cost

Cost-benefit analysis shows China's engagement prevents expensive spillovers predicted by Realism (Morgenthau) and Security Dilemma Theory (Herz). Cooperation is cheaper than conflict expansion into Xinjiang.

(b) BRI reconstruction investments offering high long-term strategic returns

Cost-benefit frames BRI as high-yield investment, aligning with liberal Economic Institutionalism and Marxist Structuralism, which view infrastructure as a stabilizing force. Material interdependence reduces conflict likelihood according to Commercial Liberalism.

(c) Mediation efforts minimizing

long-term instability and isolation

Conts

Cont-Benefit show China's mediation incurs little cost but prevents future instability, supporting English School (Hedley Bull) emphasis on diplomacy and order. This mirrors the Prophetic ethic of Sufi (peace-making)

5. Conclusion

Good luck!

You have got potential

To encapsulate, Pakistan and China's calibrated engagement in Afghanistan—guided by Realism, Liberal institutionalism, Interdependence Theory, and the English School—demonstrates that cooperative security, connectivity, and diplomatic restraint yield higher long-term regional stability benefits than isolation, rivalry, or coercive postures.