

Pak - Saudi Pact

Introduction:

Pakistan - Saudi Defence Pact or Saudi mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) signed on 17 Sep - 2015.

This pact shows a sort of revival of a long Saudi - Pakistan relations, which were strained due to certain reasons. Until 1960 they were in good relations and offered mutual help.

Reasons for Strained Relation

- > Pakistan joint with India to defend itself against India
- > Pakistan remained neutral in 2015 about Yemen crisis
- > Saudi joined hands with India and U.S, and launched IMEC. In order to outweigh China influenced via CPEC in South Asia.

→ When was treaty Signed:

Pakistani leadership visited Qatar to attend Doha Summit, in order to show solidarity with Qatar on attack of Israel over Al-Uheid

airbase. Over there, Pakistan supported the idea of joint muslim security force with the aim of strengthening its position in middle east by offering defence facilities to middle east. In this way, Pakistani leadership, Field Marshal of Pak and other Pakistani muslim leaders discussed joint security system.

But Saudi Arabia and Pakistan step further and ~~joint~~ signed Saudi mutual Defense Agreement, in Riyadh at "Al-Yamamah Palace."

→ Triggering Forces behind Signing Pact:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was already discussing this mutual defence pact but once Israel attacked on Qatar air base, it speed up signing this Pact. The reason behind Saudi Signing this pact is only defense. Because;

- ① Israel recent attacks on sovereign states in middle east, actually awake Saudi Arabia. Since, Oct 2023, Qatar is the

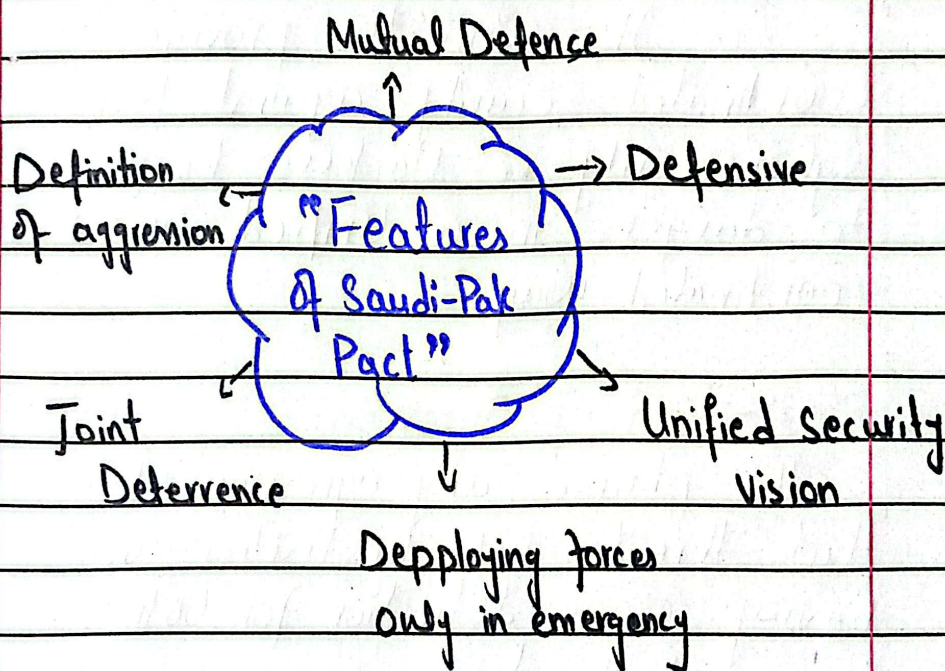
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Sixth one on which Israel attacked.

- ② Iran growing influence in middle east and its attack on Saudi oil facilities in 2019, Abqaiq and Khurais, triggers Saudi to seek defence assistance from Pakistan.

Main features :-



Mutual Defence

The main aim of this pact is to provide support to each other in times of threats or attack. The statement stated that Attack on either state would be considered

as attack on both".

2 Joint Deterrence:

In time of peace, both states will work on joint defense system. Which include:

- Joint Military exercises
- Strengthening air defense
- Sharing intelligence

3 Unified Security Vision

It aims to provide coordinated security against terrorism, Cybersecurity i.e Hackers. Respond to dangers in a unified and coordinated way.

4 Definition of Aggression:

The phrase "any aggression" shows that threats and hostilities are having same definition for both, means both have same security issues.

5 Defensive, not Offensive:

This pact is acquiring defense and unified response, only in times of threats. It does not aim to launch

any attack on any states

6. Deploying forces in time of crisis:

Means they agreed in Pact on matter that troops will not be always on each other's country. But will ~~only~~ be deployed only in time of crisis.

Benefits for Pakistan:

• Strategic Defense Against India:

Pakistan on signing the Pact of SMDA, acquired defense against India. It means India is a biggest importer of Saudi's oil. India imports annually about \$100 billion oil from Saudi, and its economy is greatly depended on it. So, launching any attack on Pakistan, will put its ^{own} economy on stake.

• Pakistan Expanding Role in South Asia

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Signing a Pact with Saudi helps Pakistan to expand its relation with other middle east countries. This also helps Pakistan to maintain its image as a Security guarantor of Saudi Arabia.

• Boosting Defense Industries:

In 2023, A Field Marshal has promised to attract \$75-100bn from Gulf countries in defense domain. Now, this pact helped Pakistan to export its Drones, missiles and other arsenals. In order to this would ultimately, boost its Defense Industry.

For. Example:

Pakistan is already exporting its Shahpar-III Drone to 14 countries. Now this pact will extend its export to Saudi and other Gulf states.

• Reinforcing Pakistan Strategic Mission.

As, Pakistan Field Marshal has envisioned Pakistan as "Resilient Fortren of Muslim World". Similarly,

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former President Pervez Musharraf, also titled Pakistan as ~~Gate~~ "Citadel of Islam". So, by signing Pact with Saudi Arabia Pakistan is actually providing security, defence and protecting broader Islamic Community.

Benefits for Saudi Arabia:

• Establishing relation with China

Saudi Arabia by signing a pact with Pakistan, ~~help~~ can easily establish relation with China - a growing economic states. This would help to outweigh U.S stronger influence in South Asia and middle east.

• Reducing dependence on U.S

United state has been providing immense support to Saudi Arabia, in terms of military cooperation, joint defence cooperation. Since, Israel attack on Qatar and Washington support to Israel, cause tensions ~~or~~ between Saudi and Washington.

Now, through this Pact Saudi Arabia reliance on Western will be reduced to great extent and this will help in creating "joint Islamic Security" mechanism.

- **Gain Military and Nuclear Protection:**

As, Saudi Arabia is a member of non-proliferation treaty and hence, it cannot expand its nuclear arsenal. While, Pakistan does not signed NPT. In this way, Pakistan would provide immense military support and technology regarding military and defense technology.

Through this way, Saudi will be protected from any kind of threats and wars.