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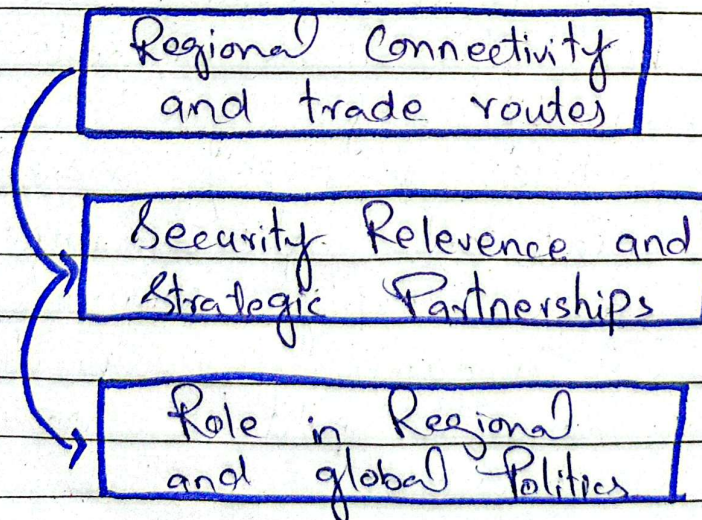
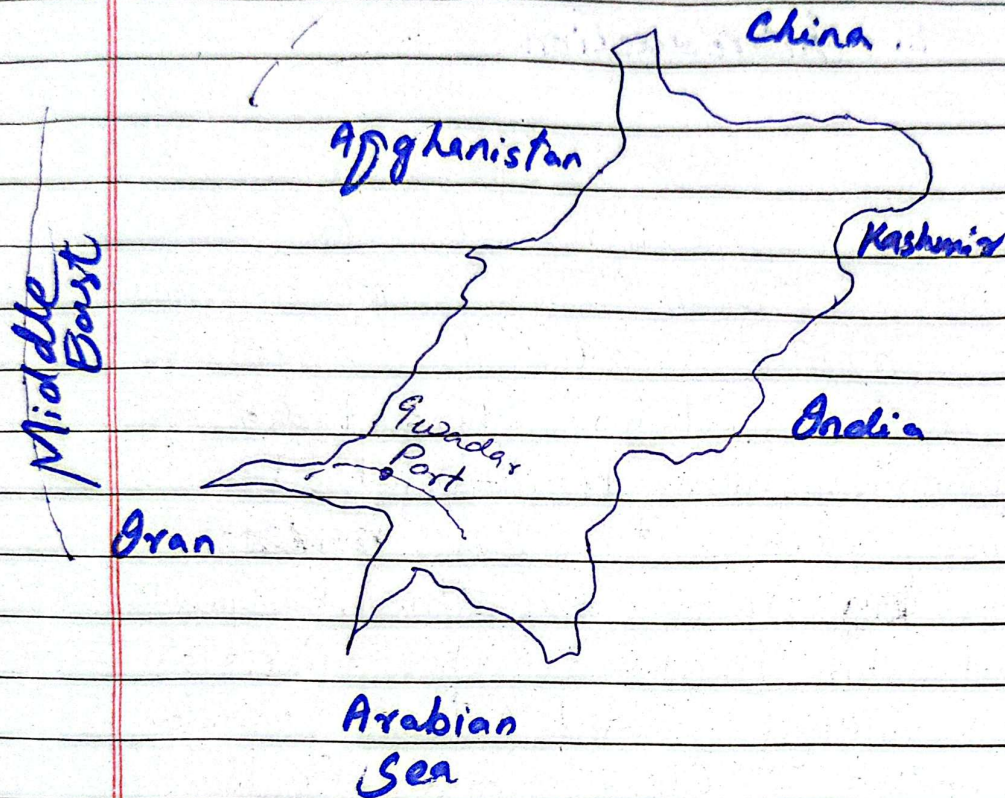
Discuss - the geostatic importance of Pakistan. Do you agree that it has greatly affected the development of social and political institution in Pakistan.

1. Introduction

Pakistan occupies a unique geostrategic position at the cross roads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the middle east. It borders four key states - China, India, Afghanistan, and Iran - and has direct access to the ~~Arabia~~ ~~Arabia~~ Arabia Sea through Qwadar Port. This location makes Pakistan an energy and trade corridor connecting China and Central Asia with the Middle East and global market. However, this very position has also made Pakistan the focus of major global rivalries. Thus, while geography has elevated Pakistan's global importance, it has also deeply shaped and sometimes hindered the growth of its domestic political and social institutions.

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2. Geostrategic Importance of Pakistan. central Asia



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2.1 Regional Connectivity And Trade Routes

Pakistan's geography allows it to serve as a bridge between energy rich Central Asia and energy deficient South Asia. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has made Gwadar Port a gateway to the Arabian Sea. In 2024, China reaffirmed investment worth \$25 billion in CPEC related projects, strengthening Pakistan's role as a regional transit hub.

2.2 Security Relevance and Strategic Partnerships.

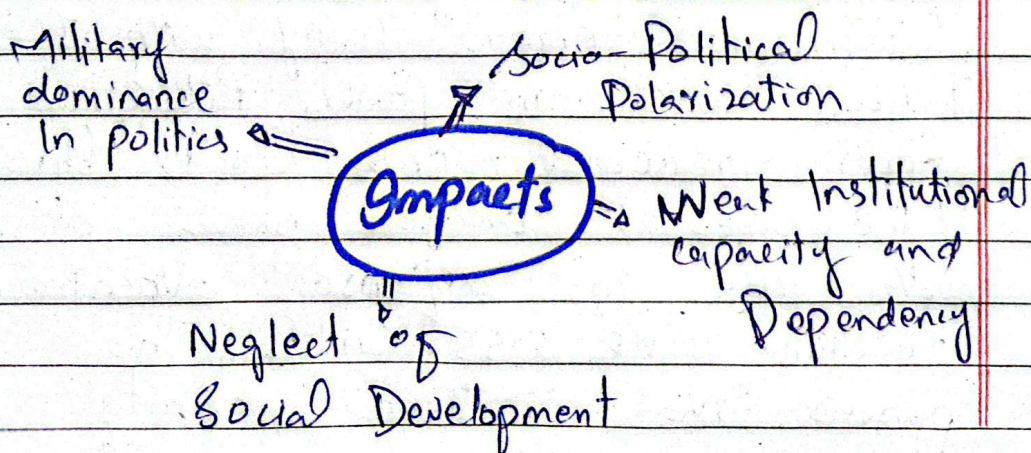
Due to its proximity to Afghanistan and India, Pakistan remains central to global security concerns. It played a frontline role in Afghan Jihad of the 1980s and later in the US-led "War on Terror." Today with the Taliban back in power, Pakistan faces renewed cross-border threats. The 2025-26 budget shows a 20% rise in defense allocation, reaching Rs 2.55 trillion. This proves that national security

still dominates Pakistan's policy making, reflecting how geography continuously drives defense priorities.

2.3 Role On Regional And Global Politics.

Pakistan's alliances have shifted according to global power rivalries. In the Cold War, it aligned with the US; in the post 9/11 era it became counterterrorism partner; and today, it leans toward China. This flexibility shows how Pakistan's location gives it strategic bargaining power. Yet, it also makes the country dependent on external aid and influence - often at the cost of sustainable internal reforms.

3. Impact On Social And Political Institutions



3.1 Military Dominance In Politics

Pakistan's geostrategic position has made the ^{military} most powerful institution in the country. Since security and defence have been national priorities, civil institutions have remained weak. Historically, foreign assistance has flowed primarily through military channels, strengthening its role in policy making. This imbalance has resulted in repeated interruptions of democratic processes and limited the autonomy of civilian governments.

3.2 Neglect of Social Development

Continuous emphasis on defence has come at the expense of social spending. In the FY 2024-25 budget, education expenditure dropped to 0.8% of GDP, its lowest in decades. More than 26 million children remain out of school, while literacy stands at 60.6% overall, with

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female literacy: only 52.87%. These figures from **Pakistan Economic Survey (2024-25)** highlight how social sectors have suffered due to security-centered governance.

3.3 Weak Institutional Capacity And Dependency

Geostrategic importance has also fostered a culture of external dependency. Frequent reliance on foreign aid from US during War on Terror and from China under CPEC has weakened institutional self-reliance. Instead of strengthening domestic governance, foreign funds have often been used to manage short-term crises leaving structural reforms incomplete. As a result, political institutions remain fragile, bureaucratic efficiency low, and accountability mechanisms weak.

3.4 Socio-Political Polarization

Pakistan's location in a conflict-prone region has also deepened internal divisions. Security operations, refugee influxes,

and areas have tensified the democratic public crisis

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and ethnic grievances in border areas like Balochistan and KPK have created socio-political tensions. These challenges restrict the formation of inclusive democratic institutions and divert public resources from reform to crisis management.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan's geo-strategic position has been both a blessing and a burden. While it provides regional importance, it has often diverted focus from social and political development toward security concern. To turn this advantage into real progress, Pakistan must adopt a geo-economic and people-centered approach.