

Does foreign aid help to achieve Economic stability?

Outlines

A Introduction

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- (b) Concept of neo-imperialism
- (c) Thesis Statement

B Conceptualizing And tracing history of foreign aid

- (a) Definition of Foreign aid
- (b) Kinds of Foreign aid
- (c) Concise history of Foreign aid

C Foreign Aid: pills that give short term relief but distort wounds in long term

C-I Foreign loans Increases Debt-burden
Case on the point: Pakistan

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Quote - Amartya Sen

C-III Inflow of external massive assistance destabilize domestic market.
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C-IV Outside help always serves donor interest rather than recipient state.

Case the point: US Energy Aid to Pakistan as counter to Iran

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 Case the point: Pakistan \$150 billion in aid

C-VI → Foreign aid encourages political clientelism

Case the point: Uganda under Museveni

C-VII → Aid promotes consumption over production

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C-VIII → Aid often lacks monitoring and evaluation:

case report: World Bank project in sub-Saharan African and review report 40%

C-IX → Economic stability comes from economic reform, not aid

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D → Foreign aid help to achieve economic stability.

D-I → Aid bridges the Saving-Investment gap
 case study: South Korea 1950s-1970s

D-II → Foreign aid help sustaining foreign reserve maintain:

case study: KSA-Pakistan

D-III → Foreign assistance stabilize economy in time of economic debacle and crisis.

case study : US marshall plan in 1948,

D-IV External grants promotes human capital development

case study : Rwanda - health and education aid after 1994 genocide helped rebuild institution.

E Pakistan and foreign aid Conclusion

Not so compelling argument
You can make better arguments
in this topic.

Avoid unnecessary details
especially in the first argument
Simply write why Aid does not
lead to economic stability

grammatical mistakes

Work on your articulation

Improve sentence structure

Properly use transitional devices to
bring coherence

Stat with attention grabber

Foreign aid is a double edge-swords. On one hand, it provides state much needed help to avert economic crisis. However, on the other hand, it begins a perpetuated cycle of dependency.

This uncertain nature of its imp.

acts sparks a debate on:

its role in host state econo
mic stability. A closer looks reveals
that foreign aid in most cases
plays the role of neo-imperialism.

It is like a pain-killer pill, which
give short term relief but distract
wound in long term. It increases debt
burden, compromises financial autonomy
through conditions, destabilize domestic
market and always serves donor
interest more than recipient one.

Furthermore, over long term it
also breeds dependency instead
of self-reliance, encourages political
clientalism and promotes consumption
over production. Given its visible
negative impacts, some people
argue that external assistance
stabilise recipient states econo
mies. For them, it bridges the saving
investment gap, helps in keeping
foreign reserves maintain and
also helps in stabilizing econo

my in times of economic debacle and crisis. Nevertheless, these are exceptions. In most of the cases, it does not help at all, rendering economic sustainable growth.

Foreign aid refers to any kind of financial, logistical and technical help by a foreign state, organization, or a person for various purposes. Aids can be of various forms, it includes aid, loan and grants.

Unlike, grants - which are mostly given for development projects without a need to repay - loans are always backed by both stringent conditions and interests. State becomes bound to repay loans without interest, compromising state's financial sovereignty. The history of foreign aid is long and complex. In modern time, it started with the U.S.A grant and loan for Europe after Second World War i.e. for post war reconstruction.

In Pakistan's case, it formally sought loan for the first time in 1990s, even though foreign grants and assistance has remained a consistent characteristic of its economy since its inception. It has received

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loans from IMF more than twenty-five times so far and it is still continue with the same face. loans, whether in the form of grants or debts does not stabilize economy. Inspite of stabilizing economy, it impacts country's economy negatively.

foreign aids, when it comes to in the form of loans, it increases foreign debt-burden. It is always followed by high-interest rates and stringent conditions. High interest rate always increases the net amount of loan with the passage of time. While on the other hand, stringent conditions in most of the cases leads to compromised over financial autonomy. Donors in case of loans starts dictating country's financial policies. These policies in most of the cases diverges with the country's domestic market, making it more vulnerable. Moreover, when the debt-increases, it leave no choice with the country to invest on development projects. Pakistan's example is case on the point, more than 48% of its budget goes in repaying foreign loans. Hence, foreign loans increases debt burden to states.

In addition to this, foreign assistance leads to compromising over financial autonomy. Both the loans and foreign grants are condition-bearing. These conditions do not always converge with the country's domestic market, but in most of the cases it diverges with the domestic market making its natural flow destroyed. These conditions do not only remain to financial dictation but they also engulf other spheres of the states, acting like a political tool more than financial help. USA's Energy grants to Palestine to counter IRAN is a case on the point, reflecting the fact that how foreign aids are used as a political tool rather than financial help. Therefore, condition-bearing loans and grants do not stabilise economy.

Apart from this, foreign assistance destabilises countries' domestic market. Not all the loans and grants come in form of payment. Some come in form of military assistance, some in form of food and some in form of technical assistance. When grants or aid comes in the forms of such things that is, also

produce domestically, making domestic production of that commodity more unstable and less competitive. History is full of such examples. Tanzania 'Dutch disease' crisis best illustrating this fact. In 1990s when Tanzania was given a massive aid in the form of food by the U.S.A, it crippled the whole agriculture sector of it and that crisis is later named 'Dutch disease'. Therefore, foreign aid despite making economy stable, it destabilise domestic market.

In addition, outside help does not serve host state interest but lender interest. most of the loans are given to achieve specific political goals. Their intents are not country's well-being or financial stability but political interests, using it as soft tool to exercise power. In recent era, every state has geo-political and geo-strategic interests to achieve. These interest includes countering enemy state, making alliances or tying defense relations. To achieve these, it becomes more possible option for state to use soft-power rather than hard power.

Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia was helping Pakistan not because it was concern with Pakistan's well-being but rather

own defense. Thus, foreign help in most of the cases serves ^{not} country's interest rather than lenders interest.

Besides, foreign aid promotes consumption over production. Most of the foreign aid, whether in form of loans or grants, bear stringent conditions. These conditions, along with other kinds of conditions also include the investment of that loan and grant. State always gives loans and grants with the condition that these loans must back invest in lenders markets, meaning recipient states need to buy whatever they need from lenders states, leaving no option with the state to invest that money in development of country's production sector. Furthermore, loans and grants are also provided in the form of transferring final products, increasing consumption rather than production. U.S.A's loans and grants to Egypt and palestine are cases on the point. Most of the loans and foreign aids comes in the form of final product, which also increases dependency on lenders for maintenance of that product. Henceforth, external assistance despite making economy stable, it increases consumption too rather than production.

Moreover, foreign assistance enhances

corruption and misgovernance in recipient state. In a very few cases, foreign aid and grants are strictly monitored. They often lack robust monitoring system, making it more easy for mismanagement. That mismanagement often result of corruption and misgovernance. In such cases, foreign aid becomes a sword of Damocles. On one hand, it increases country's debt-burden, and on the other hand, it compromises the effective use of that aid. Compelling countries to pay price on two fronts. According to a report published by World Bank that more than 40% of the foreign aid in Sub-Saharan Africa are misused, reflecting the severity of lacking monitoring system. Besides, it also sow seeds of misgovernance and corruption in host state. Consequently, leading not to stable economy.

Furthermore, economic stability comes from structural reforms not from foreign aid or loans. Structural reform includes good governance, effective use of foreign assistance and prioritizing country's production rather than consumption. Unless and until, state takes structural reforms, +

foreign aids, no matter of what quality and quantity, cannot stabilise economic stability. Nevertheless, reforms does not only encounter the effects of external aid but it also helps in getting rid of that monarch. Consequently, Aid without structural reform only deepens country's vulnerability to foreign forces.

The above all paragraphs illustrated the fact that foreign aid does not stabilise economies rather, it in most of the cases curb economic development in a systematic ways. However, some people argue that foreign aid can stabilise economies. The preceding paragraphs shed light on their stance.

External assistance bridges the gap between saving and investment. Every state, in some phases of its economic trajectory, faces budget-deficit. That deficit reduces capacity investment on development projects. In such circumstances, Foreign Aid, whether in the form of loan and grants, fulfill that gap, allowing state to overcome saving and investment gaps. Once that gap fulfilled, a country then with good governance

and structural reforms makes its economy more stabilize and develop. With that development it also easily get rid of future dependency on foreign loans. In such cases, foreign aid serves as a helping-hand, helping country to prosperous. The case study of four Asian-tigers truly support this argument. They all in 1960s went to for loans but the effective use of that loans earn them a label of "Asian-Tiger." Hence without foreign aid, struggling economies cannot overcome economic instability.

Also, forming assistance helps in sustaining foreign reserve maintain. Foreign reserve refers to saving of the country. It plays due role in attracting foreign direct investment and in keeping local currency values in positive terms. When state faces the issue of dwindling foreign reserve, it becomes entirely vulnerable to foreign influences. In such circumstance, foreign interest-free loan helps in keeping foreign reserve sustain. The case study of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia is serving best. Most of the time, when IMF conditions some specific amount

u's of foreign direct investment as a condition for loans, is a step ahead and lends assistance, helping Palestine to fulfill that conditions. Herzegovina, without foreign assistance countries cannot keep majority its foreign reserve intact.

Furthermore, foreign assistance also helps in keeping economy normal at time of crisis. These crises come in various forms, including natural disasters, internal upheaval or from terrorist groups. In such circumstance countries economy always run ineffective to tackle these challenges and threats. Foreign assistance appears as a blessing, helping country to fight with the disaster more effectively.

Syria's case study is case on the point. It was foreign assistance that helps it preventing from total economic collapse when it hit by 7.9 magnitude earthquake in 2021. Although, it was under U.S.A and UN sanctions regimes, it overcome the crisis even with limited foreign aid. Hence, foreign aid helps in during crisis.

To conclude the debate, foreign aid is like poison if taken without cure. In recent time, in most of the

cases, it is serving a new way of colonialism. That is known as new imperialism, in which powerful countries through foreign international organization, insert influence through loans and grants. Its history is centuries back, but modern history is being traced from U.S.A's Marshall-plan for Europe in 1950s. When it comes to the much debated question that does foreign aid help to achieve economic stability? Although some exception existing, most of the cases show negative correlation between foreign aid and economic stability. It is because despite making economy stabilize, it increases foreign debt-burden, compromise countries' financial autonomy, destabilise countries' domestic market and in most of the cases it is used as political tools, serving donor interest rather than recipient state interest. However, there cases that show strong positive correlation between foreign aid and economic stability. A close look reveals that those states that developed were not because of foreign loans but because of structural reforms. Thus, foreign aid that utilizes through structural reforms and good governance can yields positive result, but in long term, it is states' priorities that decide states' economic fate rather than foreign loans, aids, and grants.

• The End •