

Q. 7: Pakistan is located on the cross road of South Asia. Explain its geo-strategic / political importance and challenges.

1- Introduction

The location of Pakistan is of outmost significance strategically and geopolitically. The country's coasts are adjacent to rich gulf countries. Additionally, it is the gate way to central asia. Pakistan also posses many minerals including rare earth which are the need of the future. All of these features make the country geographic position significant regionally and globally. However, this also make the country a ground for geopolitical plays that have harmed it.

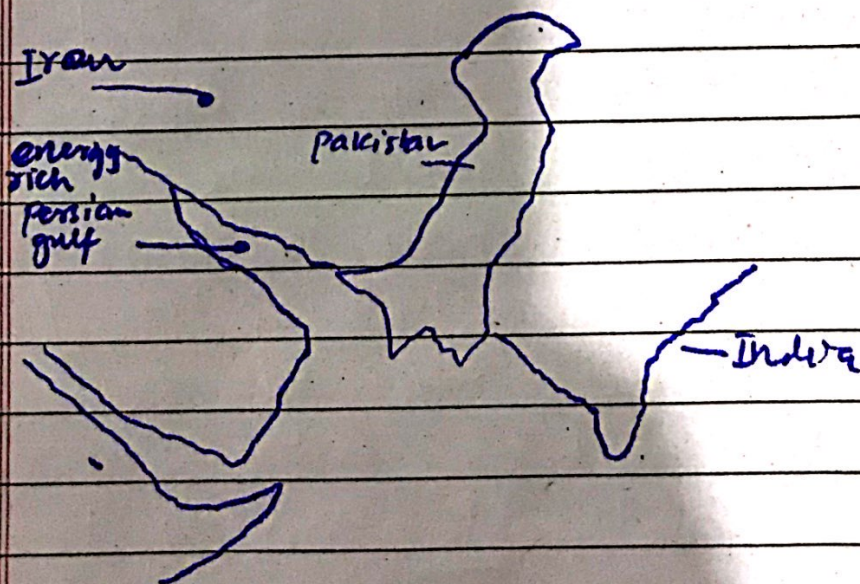
2- Pakistan's geopolitical and geostrategic importance

2.1) Pakistan at a checkpoint near gulf region

Pakistan is adjacent to the gulf region which meet 80% of the world's energy needs. This makes Pakistan geopolitical and strategic importance.

As Pakistan also part of the system which is responsible for security of the Arabian to ensure steady flow of energy to the world.

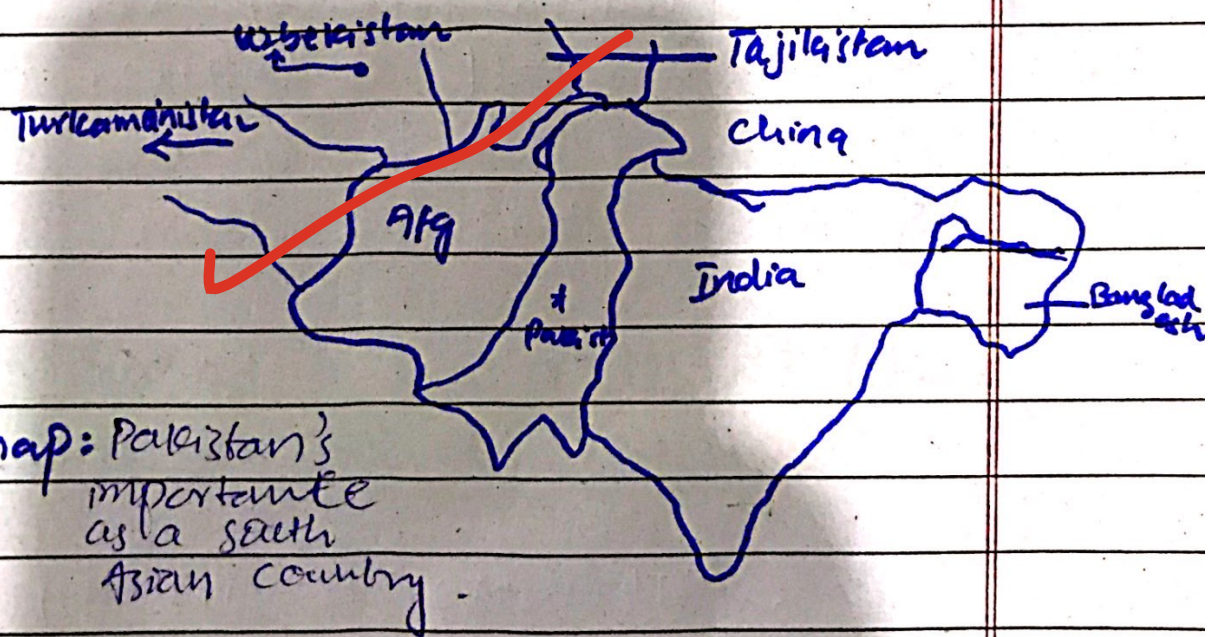
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2.2) Pathway to central Asia:

Pakistan is an important pathway to central Asian imports and exports. Partly because, they can not use trans mainland due to international sanctions.

Central Asia is also rich in gas which is crucial for the energy needs of South Asia. That has to pass through Pakistan. For example, Tapi project and CASA-1000.



2.3) Importance of Pakistan for global economy and supply chains.

Pakistan's geographic location is crucial for future global economy and supply chain. CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), a crown jewel of China's Belt and Road Initiative, would be important transit corridor for global imports and exports. Estimatedly, China, alone, would commence an annual trade of 500 billion dollar. Overall, 1 billion dollar of trade would be done through Pakistan.

2.4) Pakistan: as a balance of power in South Asia:

Pakistan is an important entity in balancing power in South Asia. Being a nuclear power, Pakistan

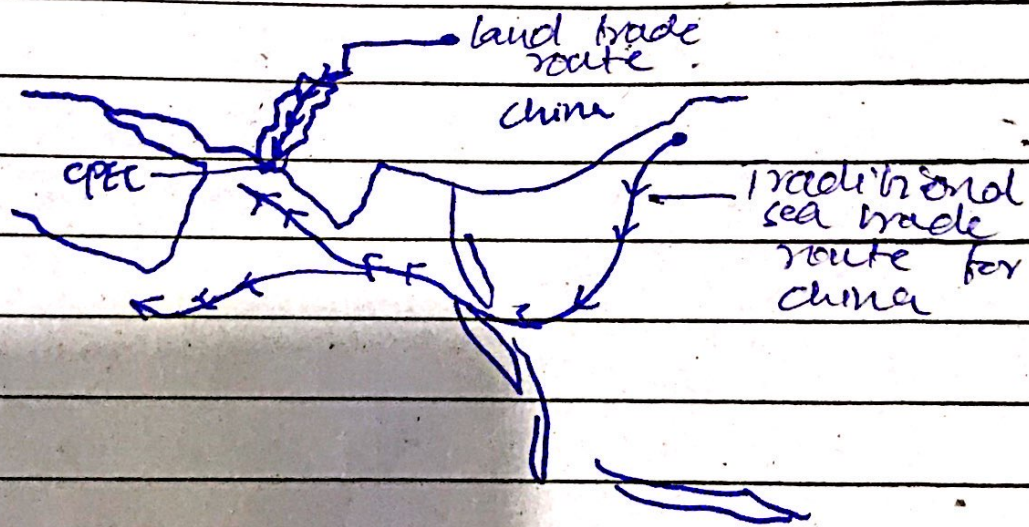
is strong hurdle in India's hegemonic planes for South Asia. For example, an recent essay by Ashley J. Tellis in foreign affairs, endorsed Pakistan's geo power as geo strategic stabilizer in South Asia.

2.5) Pakistan's image as the shield of Islamic world:

Pakistan is the only muslim country which is nuclear armed. which enhance its geopolitical and strategic importance in Islamic world. Its importance enhanced after Israel's blatant attack on Qatar, Iran and other Arab nations which compelled Saudi to sign Mutual Defense Agreement with Pakistan. This has sparked a debate of an urge among other Islamic to seek defense agreement with Pakistan.

2.6) Pakistan importance for global power competition for US and China:

Pakistan is important for power competition between China and US. China is building the largest land transport infrastructure and Pakistan's CPEC is its flagship project. Whereas, it reduces the US influence which controls the sea trade route.



2.7) Pakistan's resource rich ~~name~~ geography:

Pakistan is a resource rich country which enhances its geopolitical importance.

Amid the contemporary mineral war between China and the US, the later signed 500 million dollar mineral extraction deal. Pakistan is seen as ~~as~~ a significant location for rare earth minerals which has also eased mendfencing between both the countries.

28) Pakistan geo strategic importance against terrorism:

Pakistan has a long struggle against terrorism which is why it is a strategic partner with the west against terrorism. For example, this position has also ~~been~~ endorsed by former US general Michael Keurila.

Owing to the contemporary surge of terrorism in Afghanistan after US withdrawal, Pakistan and

the US has assured Pakistan of military help on the side lines of UN meeting.

3- Challenges against Pakistan strategic and geopolitical importance:

3.1) Hostility of India to reduce Pakistan's geo-strategic and political importance.

India is showing hostility against Pakistan to reduce its global surge in strategic and geopolitical importance after May 2025 war with India. Its General in a recent frontline visit indicated towards the possibility of another attack through calling first operation Sindoor 1.0 and 2.0.

3.2) Pakistan balancing between global rival powers (US and China):

Pakistan is diplomatically balancing between itself between the US and China.

A minor error in this balancing act could make relations with the other severe. For example, as India tried to balance itself among strategic rivals which caused it trapped between geopolitical rivals and face 150% tariffs by the US.

3.3) Western economic pressure.

Pakistan has to face western pressure due to CPEC which is perceived a threat by the western world. Being a client of loans from international

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leel western institution; it could face a backlash at a critical period for economic stabilisation.

3.4) Threat of terrorism and Pakistan's security:

Pakistan is struggling with ~~to~~ a severe wave of terrorism. Numerous UN reports have asserted the presence of Tehrik Taliban Pakistan, Al Qaeda and Islam state Khorasan province. ~~South Asia is~~ As a south Asia country, Pakistan is under terrorism because of terrorist @ sanctuaries in Afghanistan and India abetment of terrorists in Balochistan.

3.5) Pakistan surrounded by neighbours considered hostile by the US.
Pakistan is

Surrounded by countries which are perceived adversaries by the US. Such as, Iran, Afghanistan and China. This makes it hard for the country to engage freely with these neighbours. As any potential exchange of relation would upset the West particularly the US.

3.6) Reapproachment between Pakistan and the US and skepticism of Iran and China:

Pakistan and US reapproachment after visit of Pakistan's army chief and prime minister's visit to the US has sparked skepticism in China and Iran. Iran and China see the US as destabilizer in the region. Thus, this

this reapproachment is making hard for Pakistan to diplomatically balance and remove any doubts of neighbouring countries.

Conclusion:

Pakistan geo strategic and political importance is enhanced by its geographic location, strong military and mineral resources.

This ~~has~~ ~~can~~ deviate the country influence in world politics, economy and balance of power dynamics. However, there are also challenges to geo political and strategic importance due global rivalries, regional mistrust and prevailing instability in the world.

good attempt. but the answer is lengthy and might affect your time management,

improve the references and the paper presentation part.