

Global power dynamics and Pakistan's foreign policy (CSS-2020)

Outline

Introduction

Changing Global power dynamics

(a) Rise of China as a potential competitor to US hegemony as it has the second largest economy, largest army, a great global clout and an edge in technological advancement.

(b) Rise of regional powers, like India which has 4th largest economy, 2nd largest army and world's largest consumer market.

(c) Rise of regionalism through regional groupings like BRICS and SCO which have member countries with immense global clout, economy, market and standing armies.

(d) Resurgence of Russia and its flexing of military and economic muscles through Crimean invasion of 2014 and Ukrainian invasion of 2022 and its using of economic integration and energy as a war tool against Europe.

(e) Dwindling US role as the global hegemon under Trump 2.0 as Donald Trump withdrew from many international pacts and organizations like WHO and so on where America was a hegemon

(f) Changing dynamics of Global trade which was mostly dollar centric and now de-dollarization is under way and many regional countries are opting local currencies like Chinese Yuan and Russian Ruble. Intra-SCO trade increased from 463 billion in 2021 to 715 billion in 2024 mostly in local currencies.

(3) Pakistan's foreign policy

(a) To maximize the gains in the changing regional dynamics, Pakistan should adopt a balanced approach in context of relations with USA and China as USA is the largest market for Pakistani exports and China is a crucial partner under CPEC.

(b) To fulfill its energy needs, Pakistan should approach Russia for cheap

Oil, like India and China

(C) Pakistan Should enhance its diplomatic engagements in regional groupings like SCO to leverage economically by bringing more trade and foreign direct investment, and, Politically by getting support on Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and Palestine issues on International platforms

(D) Pakistan Should push for a collective and Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism mechanism where countries with superior technology like China and Russia can help out countries like Pakistan in its fight against terrorism.

(4) Conclusion.

Introduction:

In the recent times, the change in the global power dynamics has become visible with some powers rising and others declining. As the US led Western world order declines, there has been rise and resurgence of great powers, like China becoming the second largest world economy with a huge modernized military. Likewise other regional powers are also on rise and flexing their economic and diplomatic muscles, such as which has the largest population and, by default, the largest consumer market. In the past few years India has been actively engaged on different global and regional diplomatic fronts projecting its soft power. Apart from these, in recent times, global South as whole has been on rise with the rise of regional groupings, such as SCO. Collective efforts at regional platforms indicate the rise of the Global South. With these all, the resurgence of Russia is another proof of the changing global power dynamics. Once viewed as a defeated and disintegrated state, Russia is again projecting its power as a key regional player through its engagement in middle East or its invasion of Crimea in 2014 and Ukraine in 2022. All these suggest that Russia is resurging. As some powers are rising, the long considered global hegemon, the United States seems to be declining under its isolationist president Donald Trump. 2.0. working on its election campaign promises, he withdrew the United States from global institution that it had not made

following the end of Second World War. Such withdrawal shows that America no more has the will and capacity to run the Western Rule-based world order. Consequently, with the dwindling US global power and influence, countries are challenging and changing the rules of global trade and business. Previously, dollar was the only major currency used in global trade and business. However, now, countries like China, India and Russia are maximizing trade in their local currencies. Now, with these all changing dynamics of global power dynamics, Pakistan has to adopt a very carefully formulated foreign policy approach. It has to maintain a balanced approach between all the powers including the declining one as USA is still Pakistan's largest market for Pakistani exports. Pakistan should maximize its gains from all the sides without dropping one for another. For Pakistan, it gives an opportunity to fulfill its energy demands through cheap Russian oil as US was the main hurdle in that way. Furthermore, Pakistan should also enhance its diplomatic engagements at regional organizations to leverage economically and diplomatically. Last but not the least, terrorism is a great threat for all the countries, so a joint Counter-terrorism mechanism should be formed to counter terrorism in the member countries and within the region. To sum these all, the global power dynamics are changing with the rise and fall of powers, so Pakistan should navigate the situation in a balanced way that best serves its national interests.