



CE with Shaharyar Rana

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CURRENT AFFAIRS GUESS PAPER

FOR CSS 2026

1. Discuss the implication of the Iran-Israel war on regional stability and global politics, considering the involvement of international powers like the USA, Russia and China. Also what is the future of nuclear non-proliferation efforts in the region?
2. To what extent does the Saudi-Pakistan Mutual Defense Pact represents a shift from U.S centric security architecture in the Middle East towards a multi-polar defense order involving China and how might this reconfiguration reshape the balance of power in both South Asia and Gulf?
3. Discuss the Contours of Pakistan's strategic relations with India and Afghanistan in details. Do you foresee serious challenges from these neighbors in near future?
4. How has ASEAN managed to maintain regional autonomy and unity amid intensifying U.S-China rivalry in the Indo-Pacific and to what extent can its policy of "Centrality" remain effective in balancing the strategic interests of both powers?
5. In what ways has the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) advanced China's ambitions while reinforcing its geopolitical power in the Indo-Pacific and how this development influenced the strategic responses of the USA, India and QUAD members?
6. Critically examine the contemporary dynamics of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the backdrop of the recent diplomatic and security standoff between the two countries. To what extent has the

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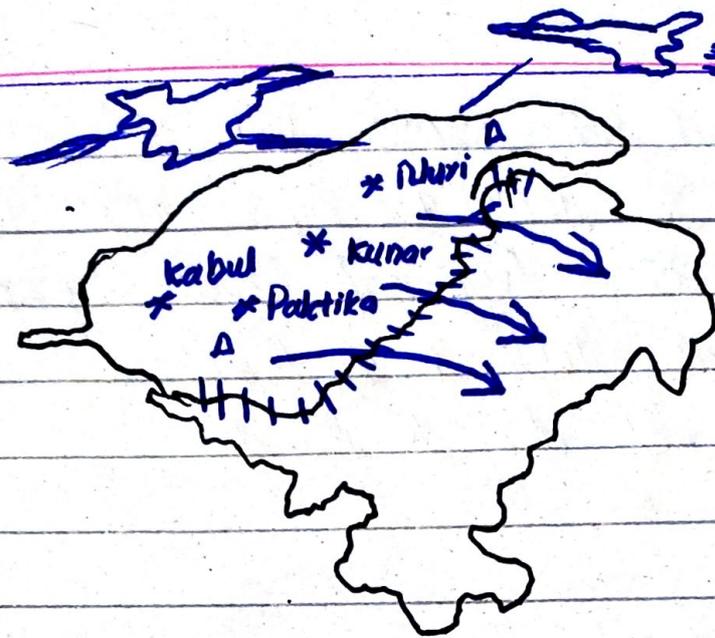
resurgence and cross border sanctuaries of TTP shaped Pakistan's security calculus and policy posture towards the Taliban Government?

Part - II

Q. NO. 6

1. Introduction:

Afghanistan and Pakistan have experienced various ups and downs in their relations. Recently, their relations have entered into unimaginable scenarios. Pakistan blames Afghan Taliban for cross border terrorism which pushed Islamabad to take serious steps to curb terrorism. Pakistan's hard power such as deportation of refugees, raids, ban on trade resulted in Afghan Taliban's cross border attacks. Resurgence and cross border sanctuaries of TTP shaped Pakistan's policy to rely on hard power, involved third party, complete prevention of TTP hideouts and respect for Doha Agreement.



- * Pakistan's raids 2024-25
- ||||| Long border of 2500km
- Cross border terrorism
- Δ Terrorists' hideouts

Figure 0.1 Pak-Afghan map 2025

2. Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the backdrop of the recent diplomatic and security standoff:

1. Diplomatic isolation continues between both the nation:

After the failure of

Istanbul talks 2025 both the nations are isolated diplomatically. For instance, in 2025 Regional Peace Conference in Iran took place, Afghan Taliban had not joined due to Pakistan.

2. Cross border terrorism persistently continues:

Terror networks such as TTP, BLA and IS-K continue crossing the border from Afghanistan. According to Pakistan Institution for Peace Studies (PIPS) since October 2025, terrorists carried out 109 attacks. Thus, cross border terrorism issue continues to bone of contention between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

3. Persistent ban on Afghan transit:

Soon after the border clashes in 2025 and the Istanbul talks failure, Afghan transit continues to be banned. This was how the Reuters Institution

reported that both the sides lost millions of dollars due to borders closure — as Pakist. ISPR said, "Blood and waters do not go together"

Expulsion of Afghan refugees:

Pakistan continues to deport Afghan refugees. According to UNESCO, Pakistan deported 200000 Afghans in 2025.

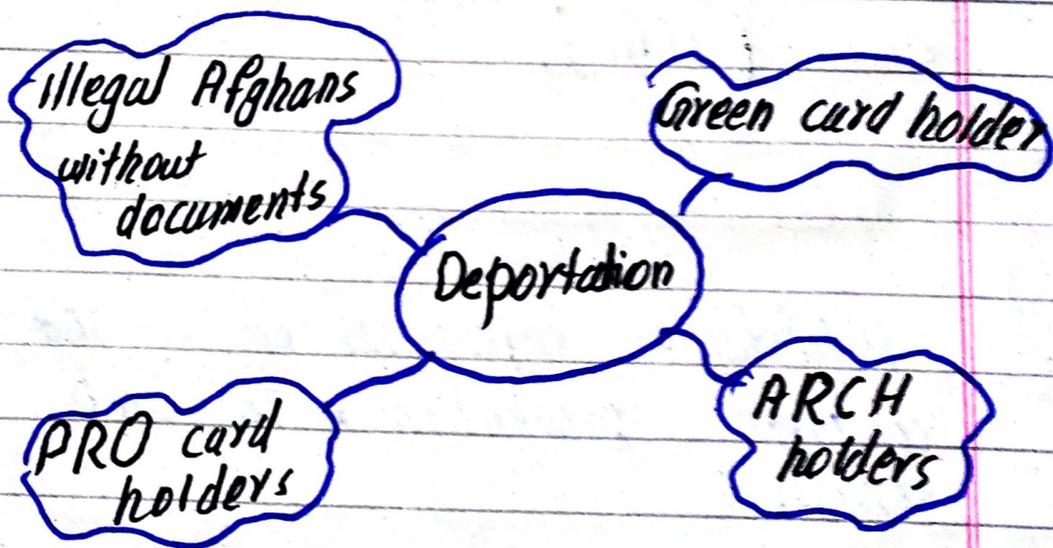


Figure 0.2 chart of Afghans expulsion

3. How much cross border terrorism shaped Pakistan's security calculus and policy posture towards Afghan Taliban:

1. Pressurising Taliban through surgical strikes:

Pakistan for the first time used its air power to pressurize Afghan Taliban. The aim was to prevent Taliban's support to TTP and others [IPRI].

2. Pakistan's emphasizes on the complete prevention • to curb terrorists:

Pakistan fully emphasized on Afghan Taliban to give up supporting terrorists. For instance, in Istanbul talks, Pakistan kept 'cross border terrorism on the top and emphasized TTP to dismantle terror infrastructure.

3. Leverage Doha Peace Agreement to secure its security related interests:

Pakistan not only convinced Taliban 2.0 but she also used the leverage of Doha Agreement 2020 in various platforms - SCO, UNO, OIC and ECO. For instance, Pakistan openly criticized Afghan Taliban for violating Doha Agreement and supporting terrorists.

4. Used hard power to protect its security:

Pakistan used military might to achieve its objectives. For instance, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) carried numerous attacks in 2024-25 with an aim of discouraging Afghan Taliban's support and securing its security.

4. Conclusion:

In short, it

can be said that "The burning of Afghanistan makes Pakistan to feel the same." Both the nations are isolated diplomatically, politically and economically because of the terrorists.

Next question continued...

Q. NO. 1

Introduction:

"The shifting sand of the Middle East always tells different stories"
(Marwan Bashra)

This time the story is full of fear, destruction and bloodshed. It is the story of Israel-Iran 13 Days War 2025 which resulted in casualties, destruction, nuclearization and negotiations. The Israel-Iran war has serious implication on the regional stability and global politics. The war destroyed peace, created energy crisis, spread nuclear risks of radiation and cause the failure of world order. In the future, there seems hope to contain nuclear proliferation through nuclear

deals, involvement international negotiation
and much more.

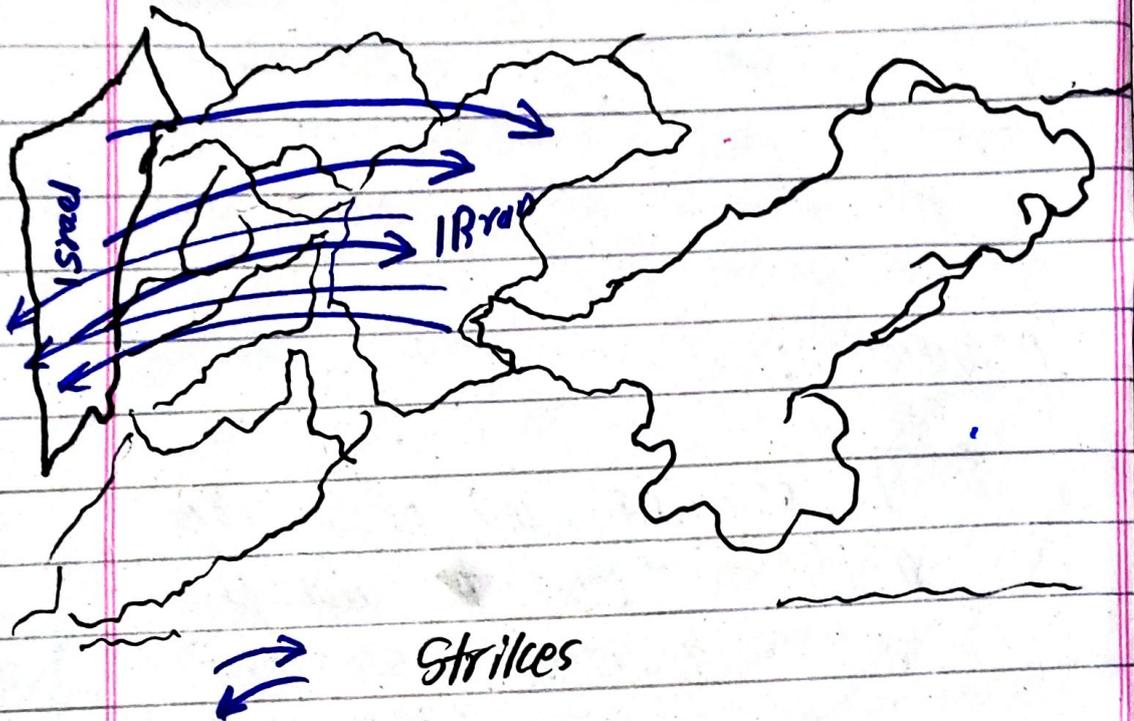


Figure 0.3 Israel-Iran war and
the violation of GCC nations'
sovereignities

2. Implication of the Israel-Iran
war on regional peace and
global politics, considering the
involvement of international players:
1. Violated the sovereignties of nations!
Israel-Iran. war

resulted in the violation of regional countries' sovereignties. For example, Israeli Air Force striced numerous times from the skies of Lebanon and Syria against IRCCG infrastructures. Similarly, Iran retaliated through drones, missiles and batteries, violating the sovereignties of others.

2. Increased divisions on global level:

The United States involved in the war created divisions on global level. For instance, The U.S Air Force's B-2 bombers on Iranian nuclear plants - Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan resulted in criticism not only from China and Russia but also from the European Union.

3. Caused casualties in the region:

Iran - Israel war not only destroyed infrastructures but also

the conflict caused deaths. According to International Crisis Group (ICG), 1200 people died in Iran and 30 died in Israel. many more injured across the region.

4. Risks of nuclear radiation:

After the bombing of Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan nuclear plant. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) noted that Natanz power plant produced nuclear radiation.

3. Future of nuclear non-proliferation efforts in the region:

1. Complete suspension of IAEA:

After the achievement of ceasefire, Iran fully suspended

the monitoring terms of IAEA because Israel justified her aggression on the basis of IAEA Resolution 2025 as "pre-emptive strikes". So, in near future there seems no hope of nuclear rectification.

2. Failure of the U.S-Iran nuclear rounds:

Iran-the U.S.A were persistently involved in nuclear deal when Israel attacked. For examples, the 8 Round on Nuclear talks was near to take place in Oman between the U.S and Iran but the Israeli strikes suspended the deal. Thus, Iran rejected to sign a deal in the future.

3. Failure of the nuclear non-proliferation regimes:

Nuclear regimes such as NPT and IAEA failed

to reduce the spread of nuclear technology. In the future, not only Iran but also GCC nations will try their best to achieve nuclear weapons.

4. Critical analysis:

Iran-Israel war ^{has} horrible implications for the region and world. It will not only harm peace but also the war will involve regional and global players. The Israel-Iran war has already indicated about the spread of nuclear and bloodshed in the Middle East. Thus, Israel-Iran war is one of the horrible wars in the history of the Middle East.

5. Conclusion:

In short, Israel-Iran war resulted in destruction, bloodshed and isolation, impacting in the world order.

Q. NO. 2

1. Introduction:

Giden, an Israeli journalist, scholar and the author of "Punishment of Gaza" noted that the sandy environment of the Middle East is uncertain. Exactly, it was 17 Sep. 2025 when the entire world amazed to know about the development of Saudi-Pakistan Mutual Strategic Pact (MSP). The pact clearly represents a shift from the U.S centric security architecture in the Middle East towards a multi-polar defense order involving China and shape balance of power in both the South Asia and the Middle East. Thus, it is one of the best pacts NATO styled to promote cooperation in security.

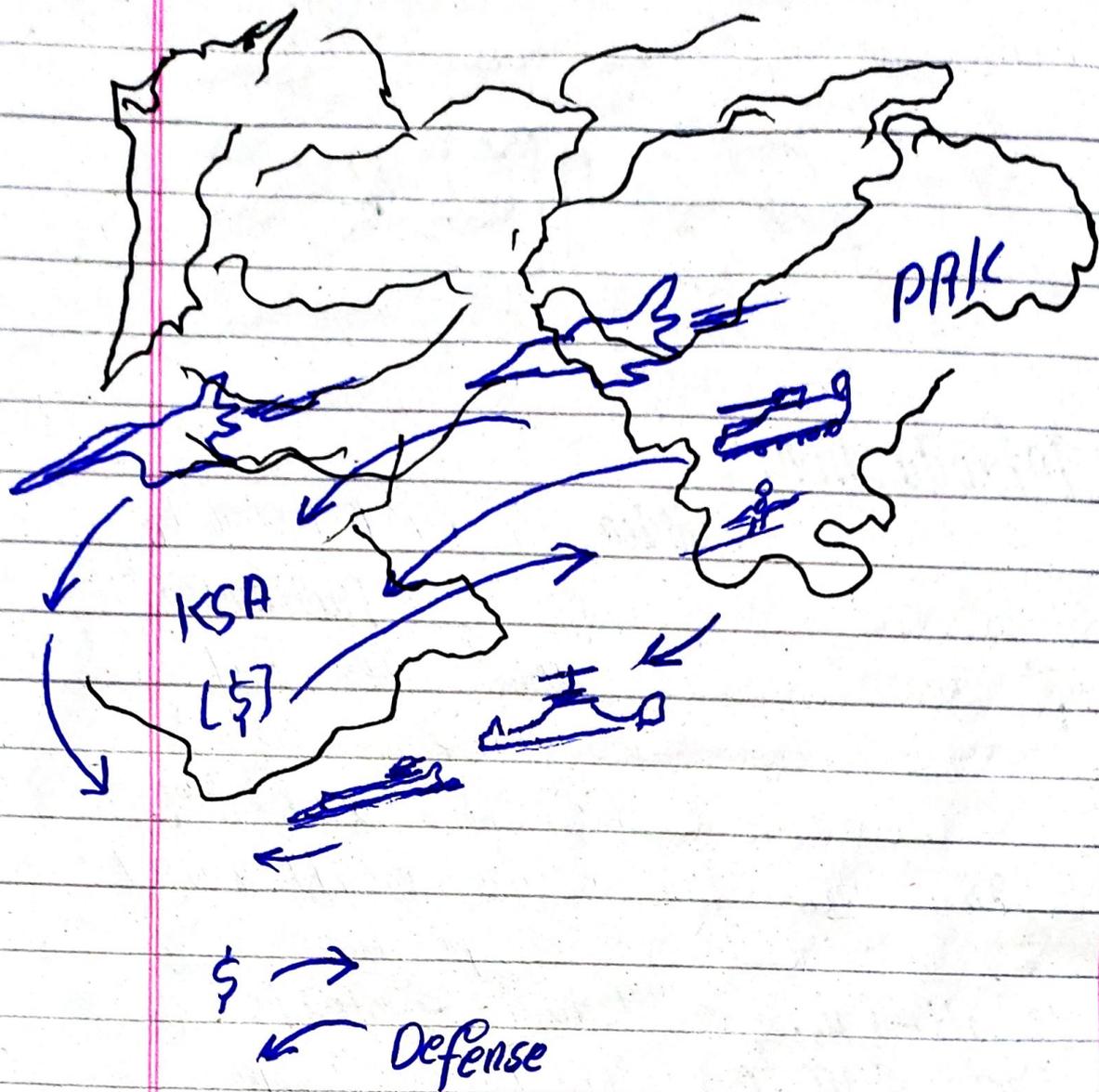


Figure 0.4 cooperation under
KSA - Pakistan Pact 2025

2. How the pact shape the balance of power in both the South Asia and the Middle East:

1. NATO styled theme discourages aggression:

KSA - Pakistan pact 2025 is NATO styled. For instance, A-1 of KSA-Pak Pact states an aggression against one nation, will be considered against both the countries. This discourages traditional and non-traditional risks to both the nations.

2. Enhances deterrence through mutual cooperation:

The pact creates deterrence through military exercises, intelligence sharing and combination operations. Thus, these cooperations discourage in the South Asia - India against Pakistan and Israel against KSA.

3. Pakistan's nuclear umbrella to KSA:

Pakistan under

under the pact now expands its nuclear umbrella to KSA. This protects KSA from the aggression of Israel.

4. Boosts economic cooperation

The pact enhances economic cooperation between both the states, reducing the economic crisis in Pakistan.

5. Fosters intelligence sharing against security threats:

The pact enables to share intelligence on security threats. This will enable both the nations to over the threats timely.

6. Economic stability through investment:

The pact can empower the KSA-Pakistan ties through economic cooperation. It can enable Pakistan to become the leader in innovation of defense equipments under SIFC.

3. Critical analysis:

KSA-Pak Pact is one agreement with countless opportunities. It enables both the nations to prevent threats and enhance military capabilities. Thus, KSA-Pak Pact is one of the most important pacts.

4. Conclusion:

In short, the agreement is full of opportunities and enhances cooperation in all wells of life.

Q NO. 3

1. Introduction:

Sir William James noted in his book "A Brief History of Pakistan" Pakistan has been surrounded by the giant powers. India since the creation of Pakistan poses threats to Pakistan in the context of terrorism, water war, nuclear threats so on and so forth. Besides, Afghan regimes have also joined India to harm Pakistan. In the future the threats will persistently continue to grow. Therefore, India and Afghanistan pose threats to Pakistan.

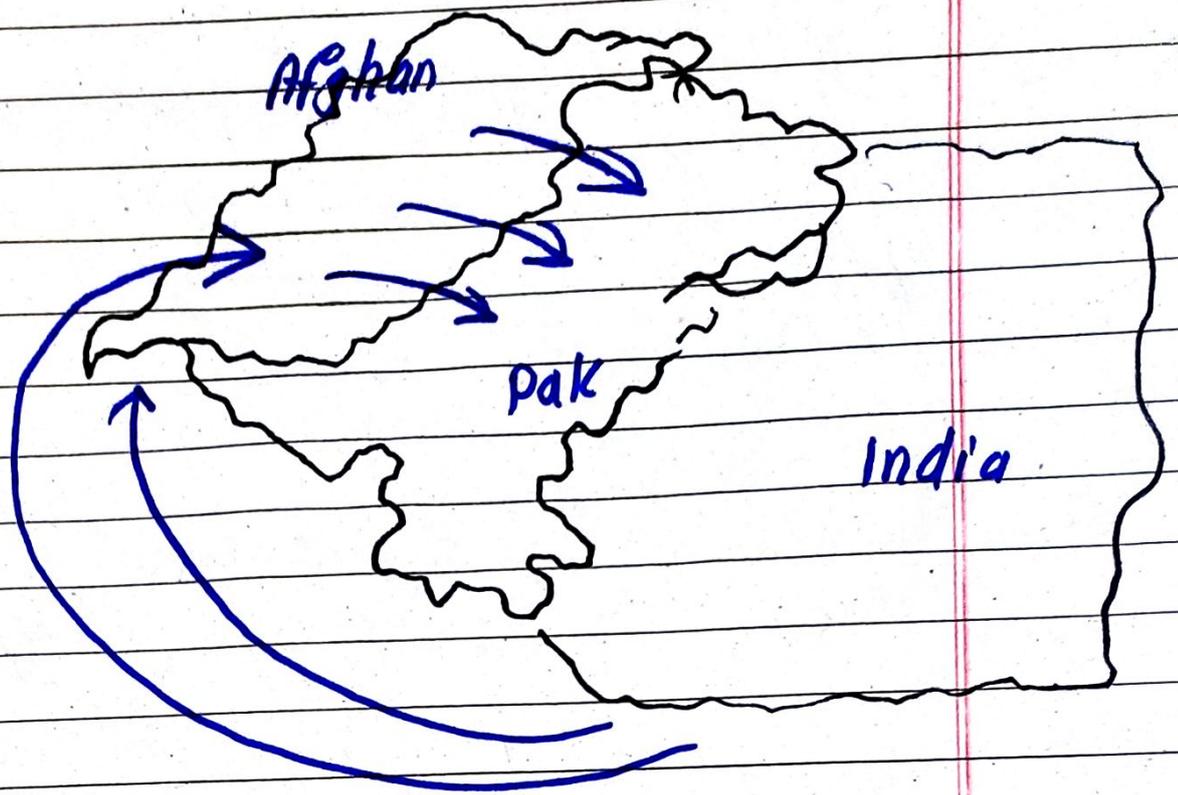


Figure Indo-Afghan alliance against Pakistan

2. Pakistan's strategic relations with India and Afghanistan:

1. Keeping Afghanistan isolated from India:

Pakistan aims to keep both the neighbours isolated for strategic purposes.

Date: _____

Day: _____

2. India as a military threat:

Pakistan politically views not only India but also Afghanistan as militarily threats.

3. Economic competitions and gaining Afghanistan's support:

Pakistan considers Afghanistan to be a future partner in CPEC. At the same time, it views India-Afghan relations as threat to CPEC in future.

4. India's increasing naval capabilities:

Pakistan not only contains India in the sky but she also reduces Indian threats in oceans.

Date: _____

Day: _____

3. Future challenges from both the nations:

1. Cross border terrorism:

Pakistan will experience cross border terrorism not only from Afghanistan but also from India. Because RAW funds terrorists across the region.

2. Politicalization of water:

Both India and Afghanistan will politicalized water against Pakistan. For instance, India already violated Indus Waters Treaty and Afghanistan has planned to build dam on Kabul river.

3. Border clashes from both the neighbours:

Border clashes are expected from both the neighbours in the future.

Date: _____

Day: _____

4. Critical analysis:

Pakistan shares linguistic, religious, political, cultural and historical history not only with Afghanistan but also with India. So, Pakistan should use negotiation and diplomacy to prevent wars and tensions in the future as Shahid Akhwan Abbasi said "We cannot change our neighbours but we can change ourselves to approach them"

5. Conclusion:

In short, Pakistan considers both India and Afghanistan differently. This treatment results in wars and tensions