

QNO2

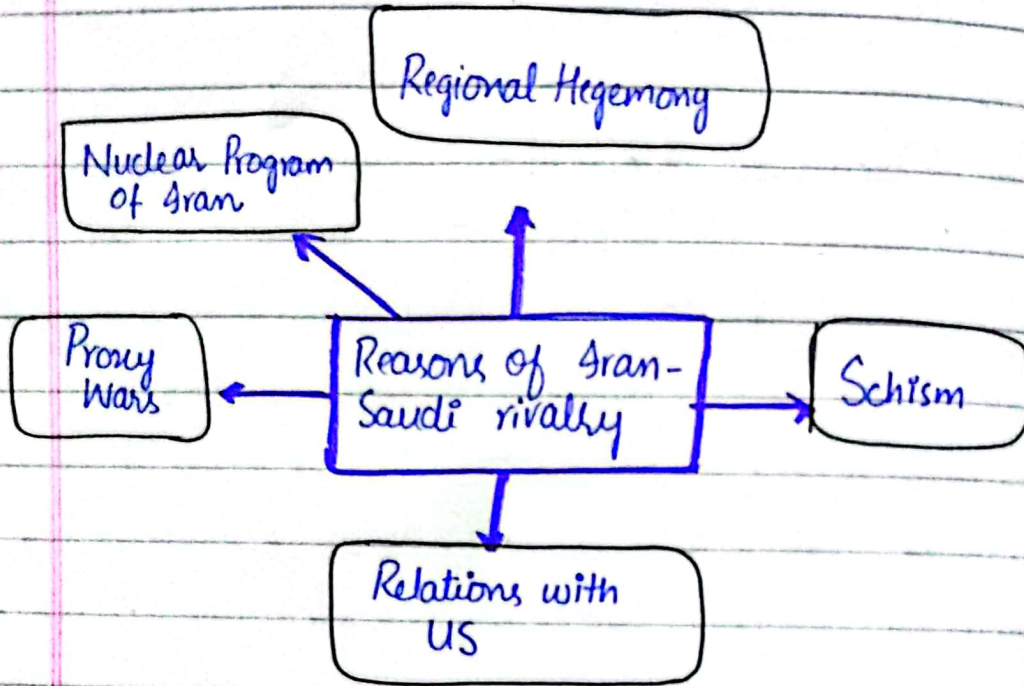
SAUDI-IRAN NEGOTIATIONS

Background:

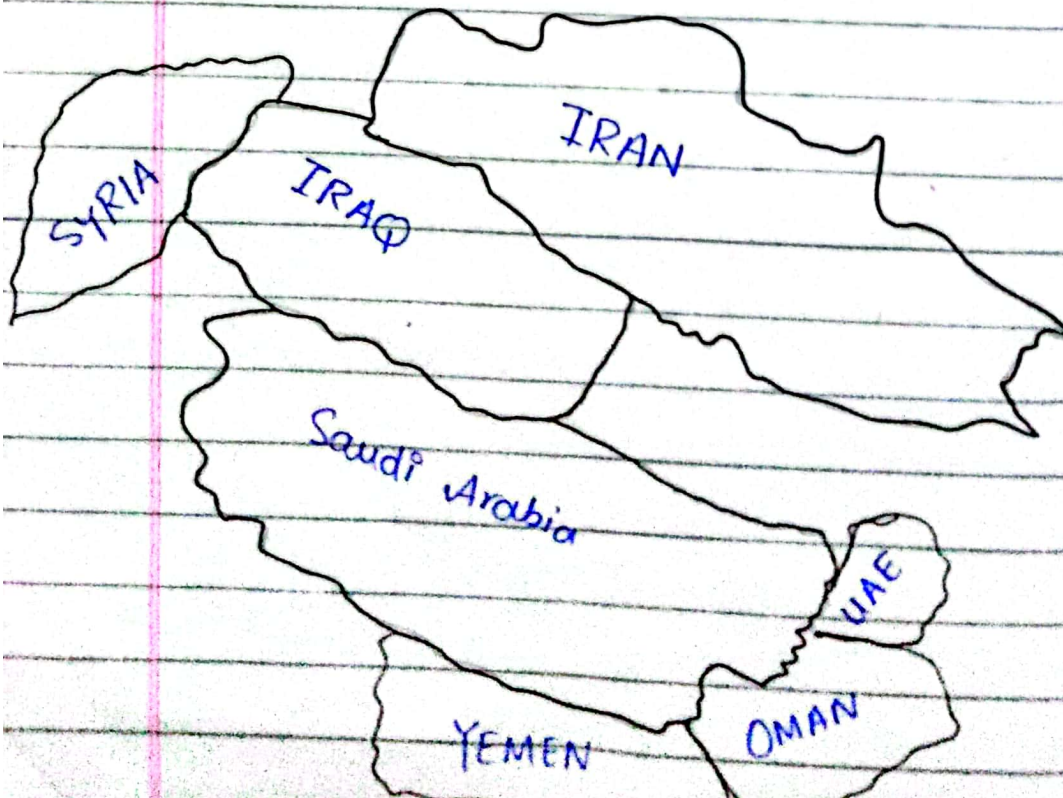
Both Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Republic of Iran have been geostrategic rivals. This rivalry continued for many years. And during this rivalry tenure, both countries were always on the way to harm each other. Both two major Islamic countries blamed each other as 'Terrorists'. Both countries shut down their respective embassies in each others countries and were always in the opposite blocs.

But after having rivalry for many years, both countries started realizing that this rivalry would not be in the favour of any country. And reconciliation has become inevitable. So China played role as a mediator and brokered a deal between two rivals.

Reasons of this rivalry.

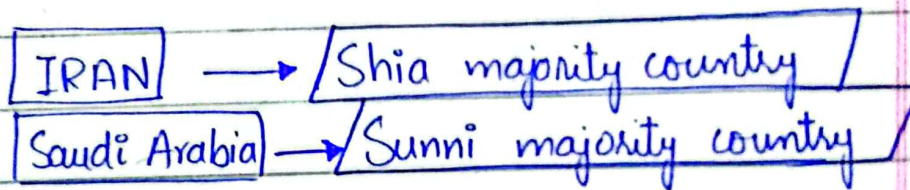


i) Regional Hegemony



Both countries are geostrategic rivals and want hegemony in region. Both countries have resources of Oil and Gas. Both want dominance in their region to have a big say in the regional politics and regional economy. So this race of influence caused many tensions between both countries.

(ii) Schism: Shia-Sunni Conflicts



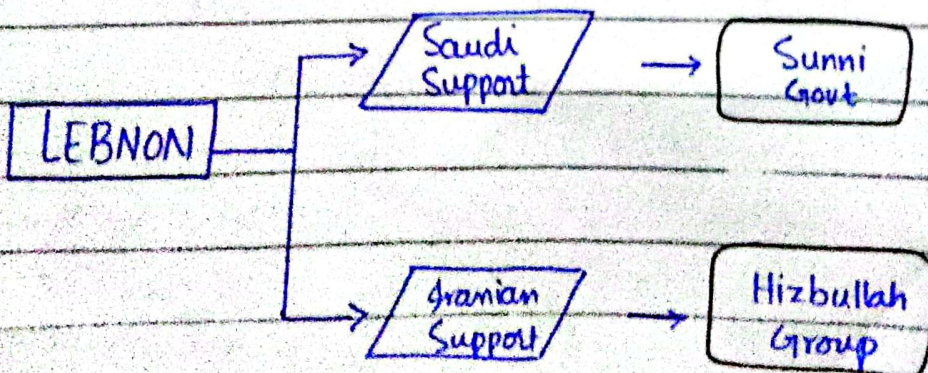
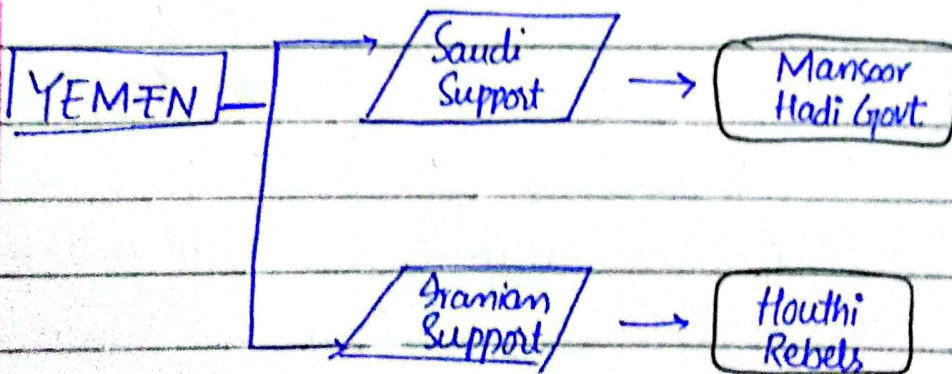
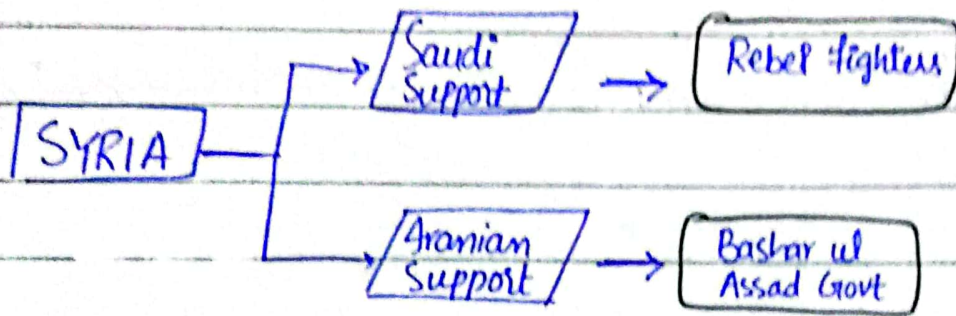
Both countries are also divided over religious differences. Iran considers the Shia community in Saudi Arabia is oppressed. And a prominent incident that took place back in 2016 when a famous Shia cleric Nimr-al-Nimr was sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia. Protests erupted in Iran. People set Saudi embassy in Iran on fire. And that was the end of

their diplomatic ties.

(ii) Proxy Wars

Both countries never waged any direct war but involved in proxy wars across the middle east region. In other middle east countries both support opposite factions.

For example in



Saudi Arabia accused Iran of supporting Houthis group against Iran and attacks on Saudi oil refineries.

iv) Iran's nuclear program

Saudi Arabia considered Iranian nuclear program as a threat. And supported US and west sanctions on Iran. And also worked for isolating Iran on every international forum.

v) Relations with US.

US has a long history of influence in middle east.

KSA → Strategic Partner of US

Iran → Rival of US

So close relations of Saudi Arabia with Iranian rival further tensed the relations.

Saudi Iran Rapprochement :

After facing severe effects of this rivalry, both countries came forward to normalise the relations. China played an important role in brokering deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

So on March 10, 2023 with Chinese efforts both countries restored relations after seven years.

China's role as a mediator

China played a crucial role to bring two ~~and~~ rivals close to each other.

Although many other Islamic countries including Pakistan tried to act as a mediator between two regional rivals.

But the diplomacy of China was very influential to due this intricate task which many countries including US could not do.

There are many reasons due to which China is more reliable mediator than China. And

there are:

China's approach is geo-economic not geostrategic.

China has a

different approach towards especially middle east. China wants the to

avoid the economic opportunities of

the region while US wanted a strategic dominance due to which the situation

of middle east became horrible. so because

of approach, China is more powerful mediator

China's slogan: Invest not invade

Unlike US, China has no history of

invading countries in modern world.

China believes in investment and

economic progress. China wants to include

more and more countries in its BRI

project. So this behaviour enhance

China's image influence in ruined

middle east.

No involvement of China in

regime changes.

China has never been involved in regime change operations in any middle eastern country. China considers it as the country's internal matter.

iv) China an emerging superpower

Another reason which enhances China's role as a mediator is China's emerging economy. China is about to become a new global super power. This further strengthens China's position.

v) China's influence on foreign policy of other countries:

Unlike US, China never forced other countries to make their foreign policies according to Chinese desires.

vi) China: a strong voice of Global South

The way China is working to uplift the economic progress of region is unprecedented. China wants to reduce influence of Global West. This makes China a credible mediator especially in Global South.

Conclusion
So because of US' historic
role and short sighted policies towards
middle east, it has lost its
importance as a mediator. And
this place is well taken by
new emerging global power China.
China's policies and efforts towards
regional progress makes it a reliable
and powerful mediator than US.

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US and China: Danger to international Peace

Introduction

The pace with which world is moving from 'Unipolarity' to 'Multipolarity' is increasing tensions among US and other emerging powers of the world. China and US both are in the race to have more and more dominance in the world. This desire of both countries is not only amplifying the tensions among US and China, but also posing a serious threat to the peace and stability of the world.

Role of US and China in

trade:

Both US and China the

two giants of international trade, are on the way to have a trade war. The companies of both countries are in great competition with each other. Both want to control the international trade.

During the government of President Donald Trump, trade war became intermingled. President Trump put high tariffs on Chinese products to to limit them in American market. In retaliation, China also put tariffs on American products. These kind of behaviours posed a serious threat to the international trade. Putting high tariffs could disturb the prices which can deteriorate the stability and peace of whole world.

US - China rivalry: A new cold war

As the world

suffered a lot due to the cold

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the cold war between US and Soviet Union. And world does not want to enter in a new global cold war.

But US-China rivalry is dragging the world towards a new cold war. This approach is a huge threat to the peace and progress of ~~the~~ world.

Role of China and US in Taiwan conflict.

Taiwan, a small island near China.

China → Taiwan, a part of China

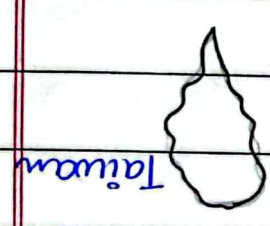
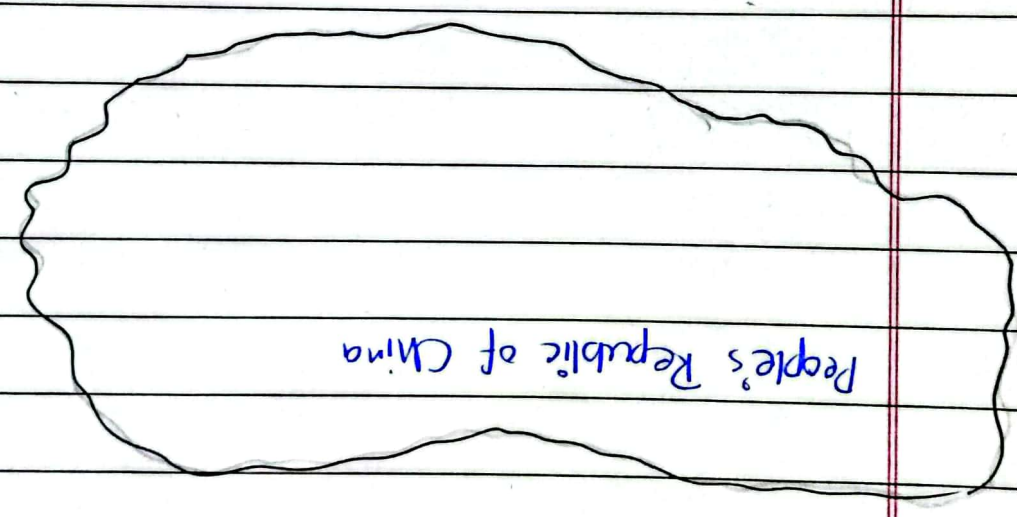
US → Taiwan, a sovereign country

This small island has brought two global super powers and nuclear

powers in front of each other. China is of the opinion that Taiwan is an integral part of

Taiwan is an integral part of

China. And if any country tries to interrupt, China would consider it the violation of its sovereignty. China has proclaimed that it would use every possible mean to merge Taiwan back in China.



While US has promised the defense of Taiwan. In recent years, US govt signed billion dollar of defense agreements with Taiwan. The conflict of this small island has potential to bring US and China face to face. So

because of this conflict, both

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US and China are endangering the world's peace.

Role of US in middle east

The US short sighted policies towards middle east deteriorated the regional peace. US invaded Iraq, as a result millions of innocent Iraqis died. US role in Syria, Yemen and other parts of middle east depicts that US, being a super power is a major threat to world's peace. As it ruined stability of middle east and then did not make any solid plan to restore peace.

Role of US in Afghanistan.

The invasion of US in Afghanistan changed the scenario of whole world. It could justify its aim to end terrorism but further enhanced

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troubles for the world. Still US
is unable to achieve peace.
But further not accepting Taliban
great and by isolating them
posing a great threat to the
peace of world.

Role of US and China in Russia Ukraine war.

Both are supporting opposing factions.

US → supporting Ukraine

China → supporting Russia

In spite of making efforts to stop
war, both are making things
difficult for countries who are
dependent on the resources of Ukraine
and Russia for energy sector
and food.

World is facing increase in
energy and food products. This is
a serious threat to peace of world.

US China role in South China Sea :

US is against China's claim about the South China sea and 9 dash line strategy. Both countries have deployed forces of their countries in South China sea. If war erupts there, this would pose a serious threat to peace of world as 1/3rd trade will be directly impacted.

Way Forward for diplomatic settlement :

1) Ending trade war

As the peace

and progress of whole world is

directly linked with the trade.

Both countries should come out of this trade war. US must accept

the progress and growing economy of

China. So instead of imposing tariffs,

both countries should make competitive

products

Solution of Russia-Ukraine war

As this war is impacting severely the underdeveloping countries so both US and China come forward with mediatory skills to find a solution of this war.

South China conflict.

Both countries have

different claims. China's claims are

historic and US claims are legal.

China must understand that other

nations living at the coasts of

South China sea also have rights

over the water of this sea and

their economies are connected with it.

So both countries must make a

compromise over this conflict.

End of lobbies and propaganda

Both countries must understand

that war and conflicts are

not any ways to live in

this globalized world. So both

and making lobbies and propaganda against each other and should work together for the peace of world.

Use of diplomacy to foster relations.

Both countries must understand that entering into a new cold war is not a wise option. So both can use their best diplomacy to foster relations.

Conclusion:

US and China, currently playing a negative role towards peace and prosperity of the world. But it would be in the greatest interest of whole world if they end their rivalry and work together to restore and maintain peace in the world.

Saudi-Iran Rapprochement: A setback for Israel and US

QNo6

Introduction

After a long rivalry of 7 years, Saudi Arabia and Iran have normalized their bitter relations on March 10, 2023 with the help of China. This rapprochement was a shock for many countries and had mixed effects on the world. Many countries welcomed this deal and many were unhappy with this rapprochement because of their own interests.

This rapprochement largely affected US and Israel for many reasons.

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FOR ISRAEL

The deal badly

impacted the sentiments of

Israeli people. Because this

rivalry was always beneficial

for the Israel and Israel benefited

a lot from this rivalry. But now

end of rivalry shocked Israel.

"This agreement between Iran and

Saudi Arabia is a complete

and dangerous failure of

Israel's Govt's foreign policy."

(Yair Lapid, Israel's opposition leader)

There are many reasons for the
angry sentiments of Israel.

1) Iran: An evergreen threat
to Israel

Iran is strictly against the

illegal settlements of Israel's in
Palestinian territories. And Iran
has openly warned Israel to
attack and to end this country.
Also Iran has nuclear
technology and increasing its
defense capabilities. So the improved
relations between Iran and KSA
scars Israel of any possible threat
from Iranian side.

(ii) Israel's recognition :

Israel wants

to extend ties with Muslim

countries to gain recognition from

them as a sovereign country.

So when Iran and KSA

were in the opposite blocs, Israel

leveraged a lot from their

strategy and fostered ties with

many other Muslim countries which

were against Iran. But now this

deal hampered Israel's wish to

get recognition from whole Muslim
world.

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Arabs war and Palestine issue :

As in history Israel had waged a war with Arabs. Israel never wants Muslim world to unite because this would be a leverage to the Palestine issue. Rivalry between two major Islamic countries was hampering Palestine issue. But now the way Arab nations are uniting, Israel fears a war with Arab over Palestine issue.

Economic interests of Israel.

Israel wants to foster economic ties with KSA and

other Muslim countries. But

uniting Muslim world is posing a threat to Israel's dream

Israel is angry over deal because

now it cannot gain advantages which it was gaining from this rivalry.

FOR USA

1) KSA : no more strong strategic partners.

USA never made any serious effort to normalise relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This

rivalry was also benefiting USA. But new rapprochement hampered US interests also as KSA is drifting from US bloc to Chinese bloc which will be a threat to petro dollar.

2) Isolation of Iran.

USA has

long tense relations with Iran because of Iran's nuclear program so US put many

sanctions on Iran and wanted to isolate Iran internationally

KSA was also supporting

isolation of Iran and it was

in US favour. But now this

impacted US dream to isolate Iran because now US' major strategic ally i.e. KSA would start trade with Iran.

(iii) US' support to Israel.

US has

always supported Israel over every legal and illegal action because of Israel's influence on US economy. So this rivalry was benefiting US' support to Israel which now has come to an end. So US internally not happy over deal.

iv) Diminishing dominance of US in middle east.

US had long

history of influence in middle east. It influenced the regimes of many countries. US invaded Iraq and so long it enhanced only the difficulties of the region.

Now middle east has also understood that peace can only be achieved by co-operating with each other not with US' help. So this deal deteriorated US dominance in region.

Increased role of China in geopolitics:

As China brokeed this deal which US could not do for so long. This enhanced the China's role at geo level. China emerged as a credible global mediator. This deal is worrying US because of China's growing influence in the region.

KSA - China ties:

KSA is fostering relations with China. And entering into Chinese bloc. So US has lost one of its strategic partners.

so US openly did not condemn
deal but welcomed with a
heavy heart.

Conclusion

This deal whose brought
happiness for regional and whole
Muslim world, a US and
Israel are suffering a lot
because of this deal so this
deal is actually a manifestation
of failure of foreign policy of
Israel and USA.

3)

Q7: Economic, Political and Constitutional Crisis of Pakistan

Introduction

Pakistan is going through severe economic, political, and constitutional crisis in the long history of the country. Pakistan nearly escaped a sovereign default. Multiple challenges have beleaguered the country and are bringing new problems for citizens with every new day.

Economic Challenges of Pakistan

1)

Loans:

Pakistan relies a lot on foreign loans to run its economy. But this year it became hard for the

country to gain a loan from IMF. Due to instability of the country, IMF was not releasing a tranche of \$1.3 billion. And Pakistan came to the verge of default. Friend countries were also reluctant to give aids and loans to Pakistan. After a lot of efforts from govt. of Pakistan 9th review became successful and IMF issued a \$1.3 bn tranche. And total loan on Pakistan has increased to \$130 billion.

Foreign Reserves:

Pakistan is facing the shortage of foreign reserves. Pakistan does not has dollar reserves in its bank. In 2023, before getting a tranche from IMF, Pak had only foreign reserves for the imports of four months.

Current foreign reserves of Pakistan = \$ 8.73 billion

(iii) Slow GDP Growth:

Pakistan's GDP growth is very slow. Even during COVID-19 it was in negative.

Year	GDP
2019	-1.97%
2023	0.29%

iv) Decrease in FDI.

Foreign direct investment has decreased in country. Due to severe restrictions and ungenerally business environment companies are reluctant to invest in country. A famous petroleum company Shell has left the country.

v) Decrease in Remittances

Due to various reasons, Pakistani leaving in abroad are not sending the estimated remittances to the country.

Political Issues

Not a single

1) Regime changes.

PM of Pak has been able to complete a 5-year tenure. Now in April 2022, again an elected govt. was sent to home under vote of no confidence. which brought a political crisis.

2) Absence of opposition in NA:

The opposition resigned from NA and House was working without opposition, an important organ of democratic system. This brought administrative issues in political system.

3) Victimization of political leaders,

In spite of focusing on real problems of Pakistan, the only concern of Pakistani govt is to politically victimize

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Their opponents and further
fostering political crisis.

4) Lack of consensus among
political elite:

Our political elite is divided
on their different agendas
and are not focusing on
the conditions of poor people.
This weak consensus is bringing
political crisis.

5) Violent political protests and
rhetoric:

Due to political differences, the
nation is divided and are
protesting for the support of
their political parties. This
makes them violent.

May 9 Riots is a clear manifestation
of deep political crisis of
Pakistan

Constitutional Crisis

Elections in KPK and Punjab

Assemblies:

PTI Govt dissolved

the assemblies of KPK and Punjab

demanding for early elections.

According to Article 224 of 1973

constitution caretaker govt is

bound to conduct elections in

90 days. But govt refused to

do so on various pretexts violating

constitution and orders of judiciary.

Timeline of caretaker govt.

Caretaker govt can only be

in govt for 90 days after

the dissolution of assemblies

But caretaker governments of

Punjab and assemblies are

in govt more than 90

days and are violating

constitution.

(iii) No local bodies elections.

Article 140 A of constitution

ensures the formation of

local govt in Pakistan to

transfer powers to the

grass root level. But govt has

failed to comply with these

orders of supreme document.

(iv)

Obscurity in constitution.

Govt. opposes the interpretation

of constitution by judiciary

and other law makers. There

is obscurity in our constitution

v)

Counters Bills:

PDM coalition govt passed

'Official Secret Bill' and

'Army Amendment Bill' which

violates the fundamental

rights of citizens guaranteed

by our constitution

Way forward to overcome
crisis.

- 1) Political Stability
- 2) Following constitution
- 3) Focusing attention of Pakistan
to enhance economic growth

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