

Pakistan Affairs

QNO.4

Population Growth in Pakistan

Introduction:

Pakistan has been ranked as fifth most populous country and this is because, since the emergence, Pakistan neglected the issue of rapid population growth. Due to this negligence, today Pakistan is facing huge pressure on national resources. To avoid the catastrophes due to this population explosion, Pakistan has to realize the need of the time and should devise such strategies which are helpful to overcome this issue. Addressing this problem

of population growth, is the only way forward towards sustainable economic growth.

Why population growth problem has been neglected since emergence of Pakistan.

“Total population of Pakistan is 241.49 million.”

(census 2023, National Bureau of Statistics)

This huge increase in the population of Pakistan is creating a lot of problems today. This is because Pakistan has not been able to address this problem. Here are some reasons for this:

a) Early crisis of Pakistan:

Since emergence with Pakistan is grappling many problems such as security issues, economic issue etc. When Pakistan

came into being, the major concern of authorities was to overcome the administrative issues. Therefore, population growth problem remained neglected.

b) Islamic teachings about population growth:

Pakistan is an Islamic republic. Therefore, people consider as there are no clear teachings of Islam to control population so Pakistan should also not take steps to control population.

c) Social taboos and Stereotypes, of not openly talking about population growth:

Pakistani society is often considered as a conservative society. Here people do not consider adequate to openly talk about population growth. Therefore due to different social stigmas

attached with this problem, it remained unaddressed.

d) Lack of family planning awareness and use of contraceptives :

Government has not been able to provide public the proper guidance on family planning. The use of birth control pills is also not encouraged in Pakistan. Therefore, population growth remained an unaddressed problem.

e) Lack of resources to fund population control programs:

Pakistan is already going to severe economic crisis, and these crisis are present since the emergence of Pakistan. As the population control programs require funds. Therefore, Government left it unaddressed problem.

Effects of population growth on socio-economic climate of Pakistan:

Population explosion is affecting Pakistan's each and every sector. Socio-economic climate of Pakistan has been badly hampered by population growth. Here is how, Pakistan is suffering from population growth:

a) Pressure on national resources:

Due to rapid increase in population, Pakistan's resources are under extreme pressure.

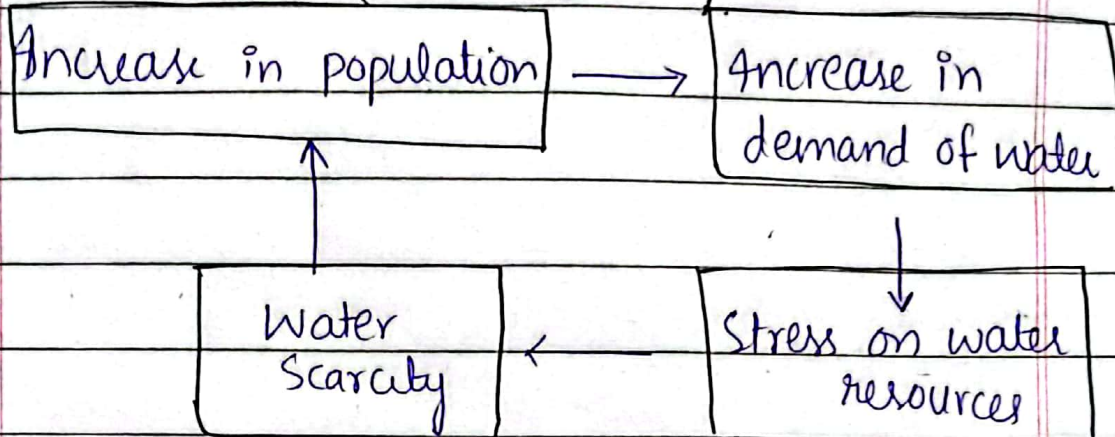
Resource distribution has also become an issue. This has also resulted a tiff between provinces and center.

b) Water scarcity:

Pakistan's water resources are under stress as the level of water under

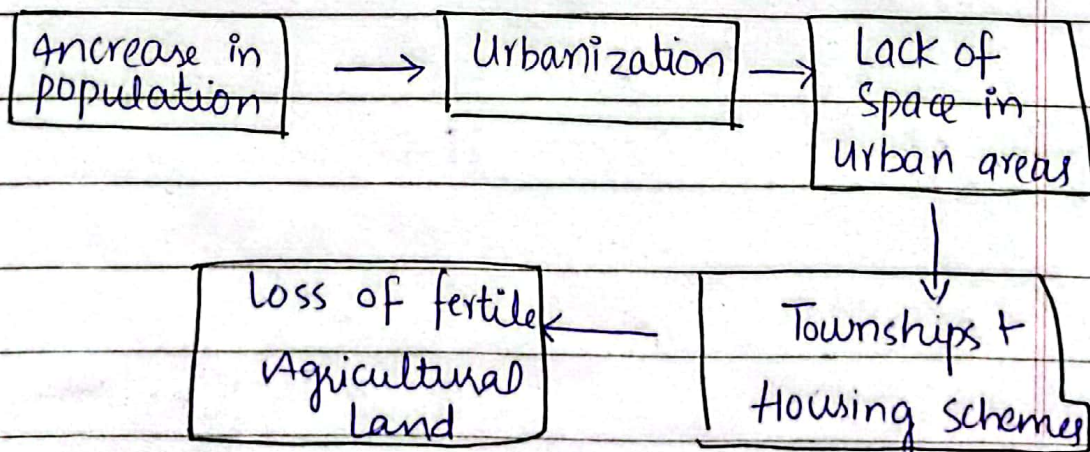
is also decreasing.

"Pakistan is world's 3rd most water stressed country."
(World Bank)



c) Urbanization :

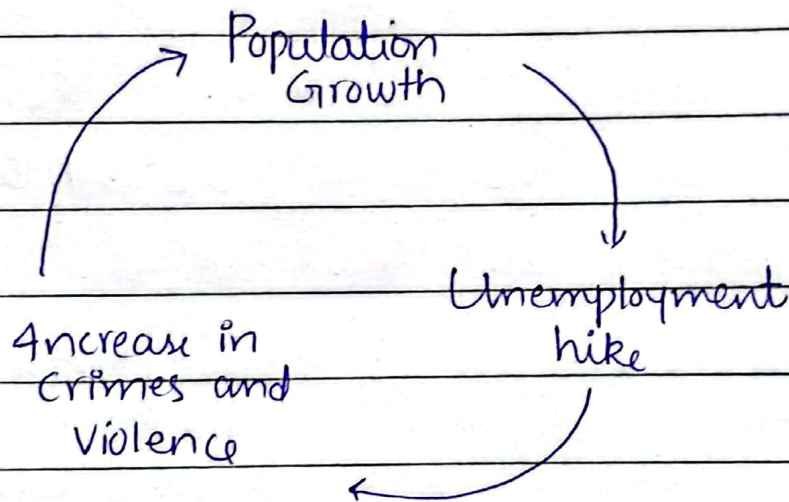
With the increase in population, Pakistan is facing the problem of Urbanization. This trend has increased the population of urban areas.



d) Unemployment:

With the increase of population, more and more unemployed people are also increasing in our country.

“The percentage of unemployment among university graduates is 31.”



e) Lack of provision of quality education to people due to population growth:

Pakistan's educational system is already fragile and incompetent. With the increase in population educational

facilities provision would further become difficult.

"Pakistan has highest number of out of school children in the world which are more than 20 million." (World Bank)

¶) Population growth also causing Brain Drain in the country:

As many people do not see their future secure in Pakistan so they are leaving the country and are moving abroad to find better opportunities.

Population Growth → Brain Drain → Depriving Pakistan of skillful and educated labour.

Conclusion:

Population Explosion is hampering Pakistan badly. Government should not leave this unaddressed but should devise proper strategies to overcome the problem. Pakistan should learn from the experience of other countries. In this way Pakistan can step out of this problem.

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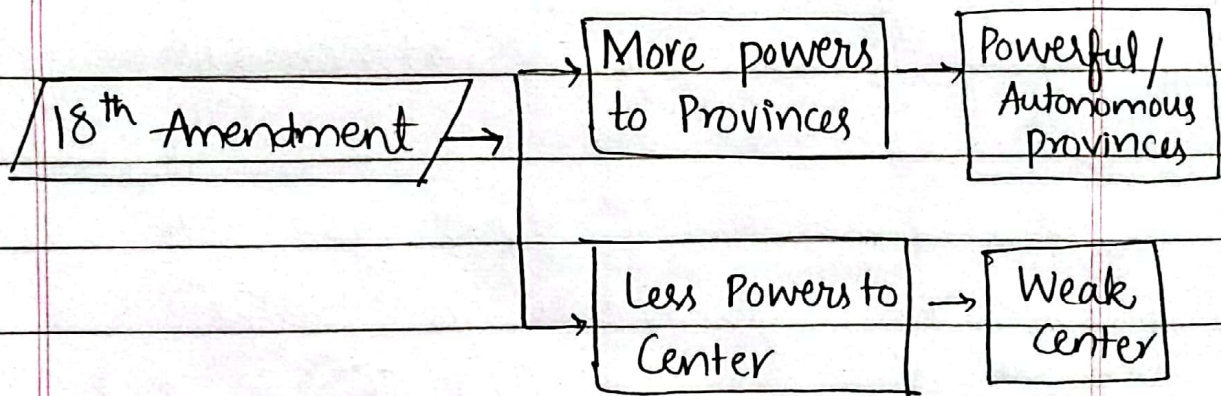
18th Amendment and Center Province Relations

Introduction:

18th amendment in Pakistan's constitution of 1973 has altered the federation of Pakistan by empowering provinces. Weak center and autonomous provinces has brought many problems to Pakistan. This has caused rifts between center and provinces many times which is hampering the integration and essence of federation in Pakistan. This amendment has become a reason for political strain between provinces and center.

18th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan:

In 2010, Government passed 18th amendment in constitution of Pakistan. At that time, it was considered that this amendment will strengthen the political system of Pakistan as abolishment of 58-2B was a step forward to empower the elected Government and Prime minister.

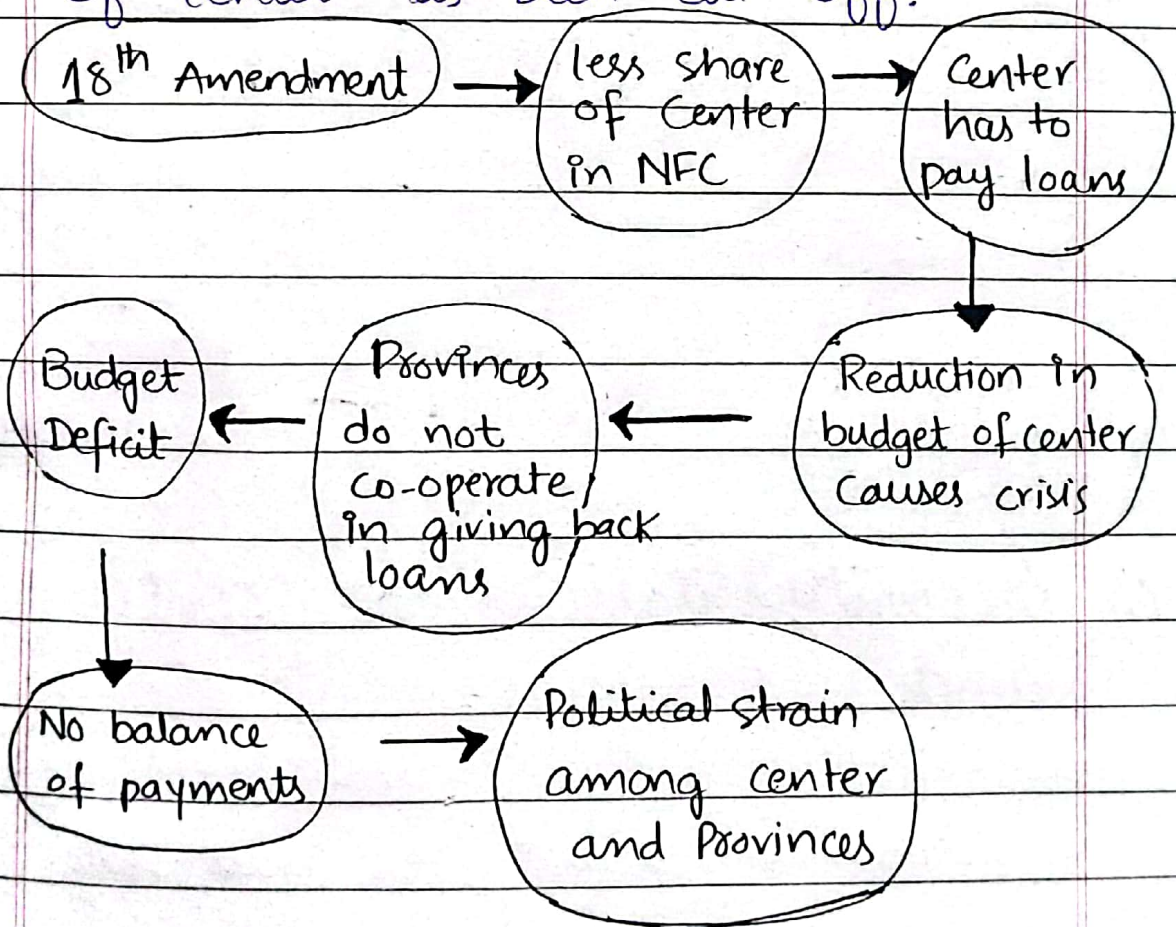


But over the time, this 18th amendment has become a reason of political strain among center and provinces. Therefore it has led to the start of a discourse to giving back some subjects to center.

How 18th amendment is causing political strain between center and provinces.

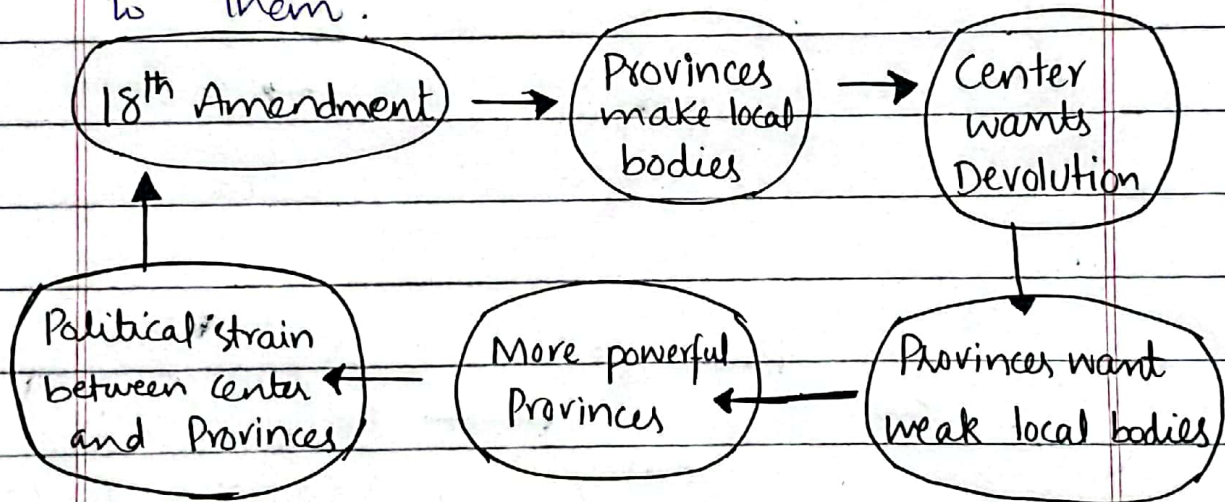
a) NFC Award and resource allocation :

According to 18th amendment, provinces will have more share in 7th NFC award as compared to center. The budget of center has been cut off.



b) Local Body elections and weak local Governments :

According to 18th amendment, provinces are free to conduct local body elections. ~~But~~ Center also instructs provinces to conduct local body elections and to make local Governments. But provinces are not interested to empower local bodies so that they should not be answerable to them.



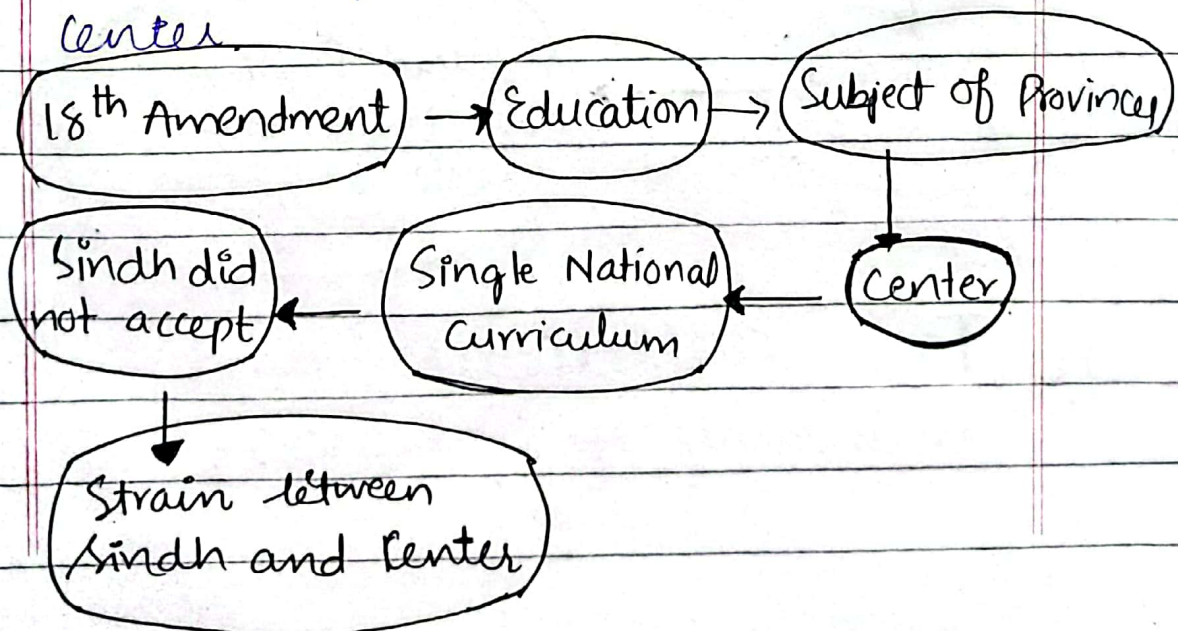
c) Security Policies of center and provinces :

As Pakistan has been a security conscious state and is still grappling many security related problems. But after

18th amendment, security policies of the country are also not centralised. Provinces are autonomous about the securities and laws of their ~~own~~ provinces. This also sometimes causes political strain between center and provinces.

d) Educational policies and center province rifts:

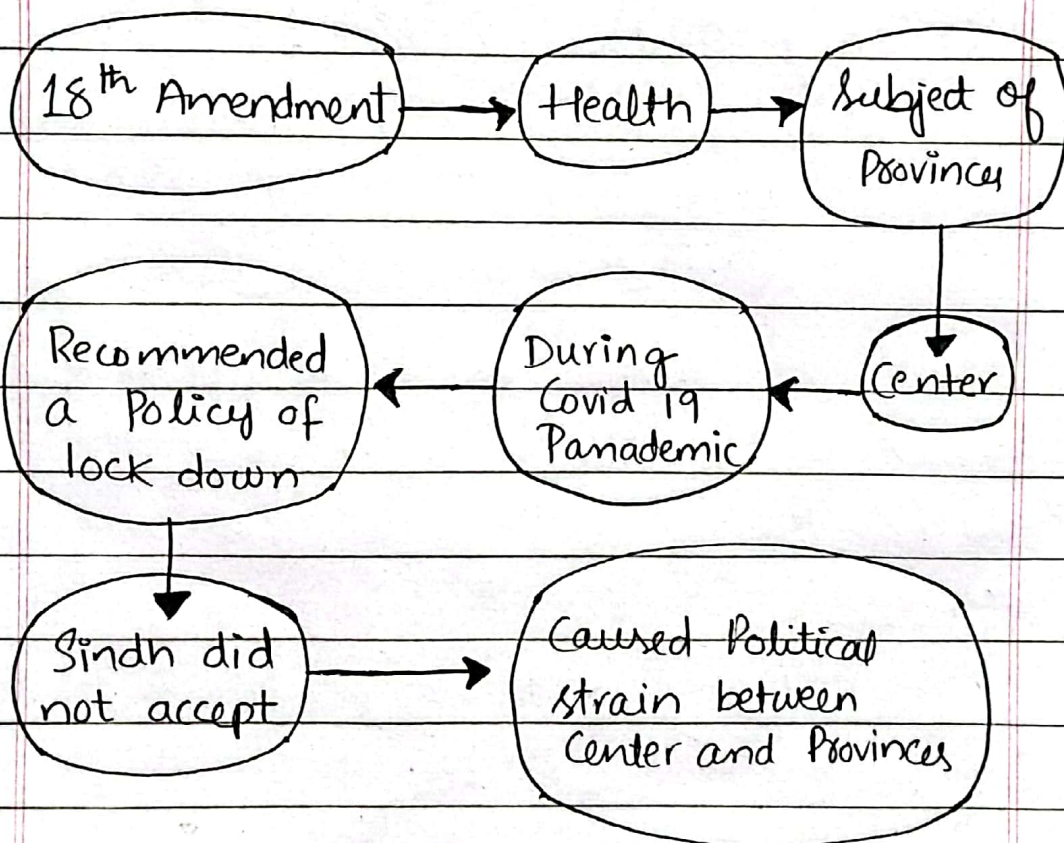
18th amendment has handed over the subject of education to the provinces. This has also caused strain between center and provinces when provinces do not accept educational policies of center.



f) National Health policies and center province relations:

18th amendment

also handed over the Subject of Health to provinces. Provinces are autonomous to make their own health policies. Sometimes when health policies of center are not accepted by provinces it causes strain.

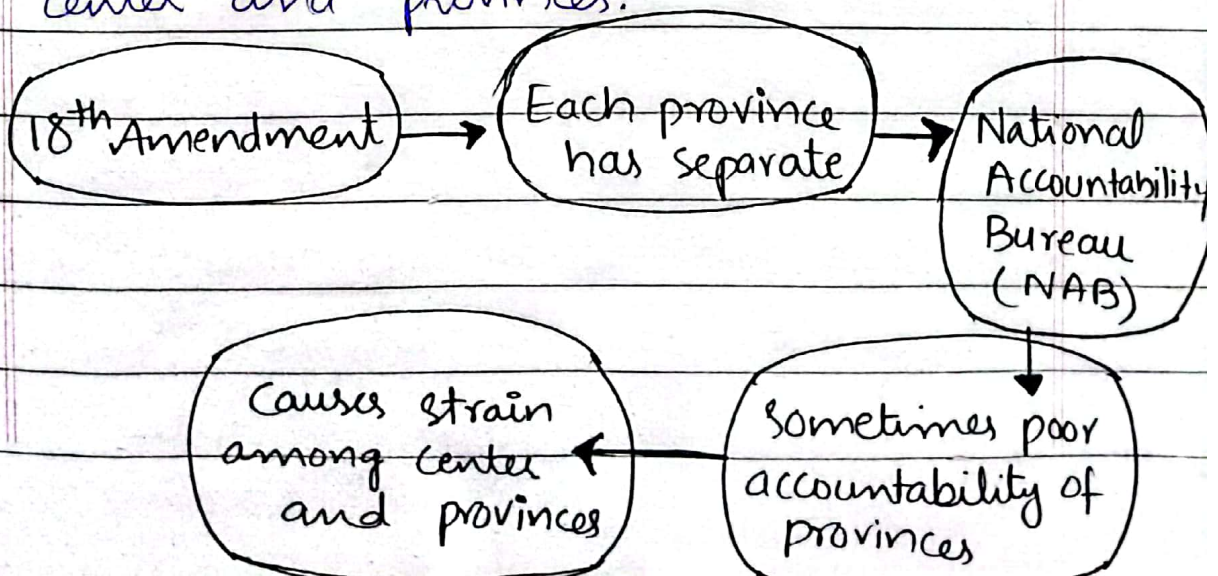


g) Tax collections and autonomy of provinces:

After 18th amendment, tax collection is no more centralised, Provinces are autonomous to collect their taxes and ~~this~~ ~~has~~ they have full authority to control their taxes utilization. Sometimes less tax collection and tax theft also causes strain between provinces and state.

h) Accountability processes and strain among center and provinces:

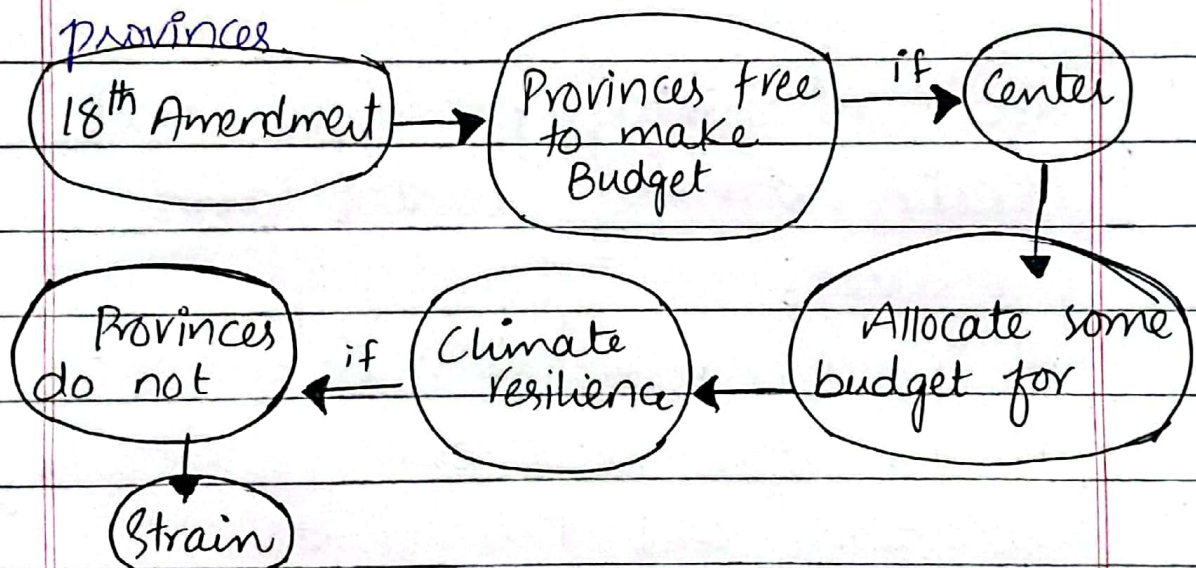
After 18th amendment provinces have their own accountability institutions and this sometimes becomes a source of strain between center and provinces.



i) Budget making autonomy of provinces causing center province rifts:

After 18th

amendment, each province is free to make its budget. Sometimes the allocation of budget to various development programs causes rifts among center and



Conclusion: Due to 18th amendment, center-province relations are deteriorating. To avoid this and to ~~not~~ maintain national integration, legislators should work over the flaws of this amendment so that it does not become a source of political strain among center and provinces.

QNO8

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Pak-US Relations, Geo-
political interests of US
and economic interests
of Pakistan”

Introduction:

Pakistan has a long history of US relations with ~~China~~ US. Initially the relations were diplomatic apparently but both Pakistan and US had their own interests. Today Pak-US relations are defined by the geo-political interests of US and economic interests of Pakistan. Over the time, these relations saw highs and lows, but both also benefited a lot from each other.

Start of US-Pak relations and interests of both States.

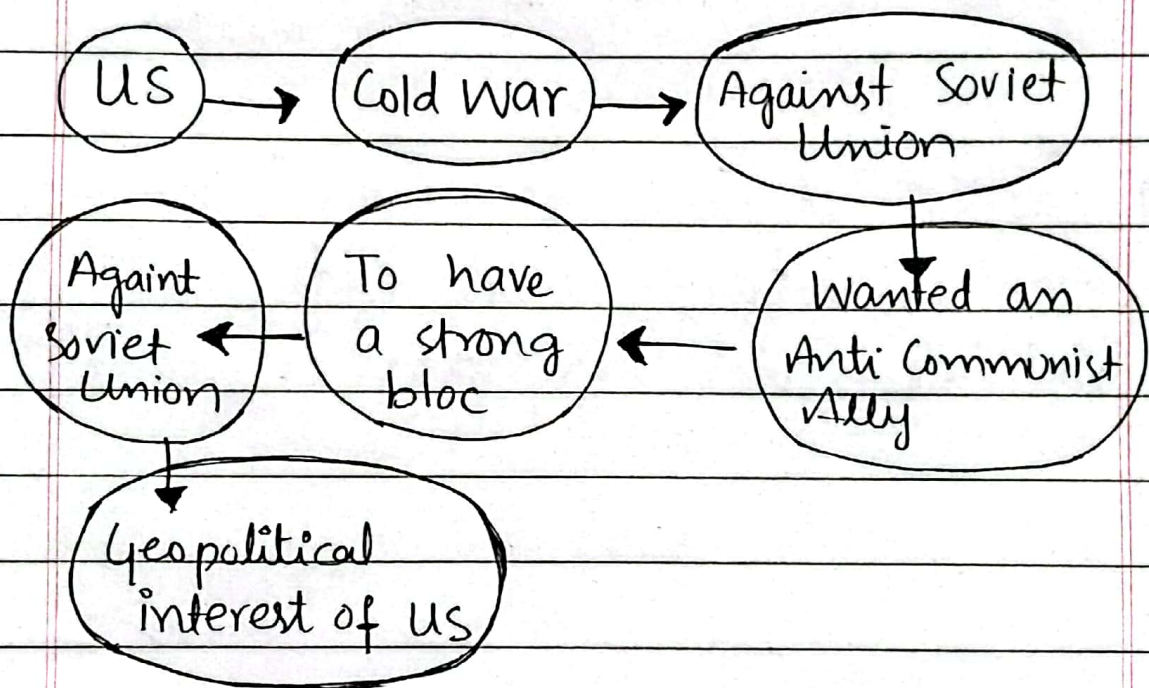
Pak-US relations started when Pakistani prime minister 'Liaqat Ali Khan' visited US in 1950. Pakistan had its own interests being a 'security conscious a fragile nascent state' and US also wanted an ally in the region during its cold war with Soviet Union. This is how the relations between Pak and US started.

Geopolitical interests of US in Pakistan:

a) Pakistan, a nascent democratic state could be beneficial against the Communism.

US ~~is~~ is against the Communist form of system.

At that time, US was facing a cold war against Communist Soviet Union. US wanted a strong bloc of democratic and anti communist states in the region.



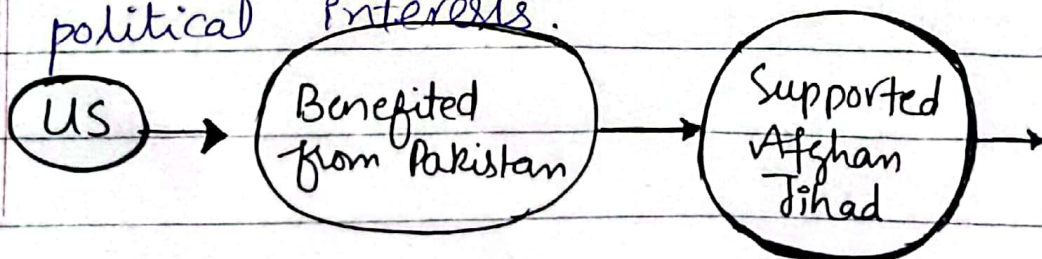
b) Pakistan's ideal geo strategic location, beneficial for US.

US had geo political interests in US - Pak relations because of Pakistan's ideal geo strategic location. Pakistan is at the

crossroads. Pakistan is the neighbour of all those important countries which are also important for US. Therefore, establishing relations with Pakistan, US are benefited itself from ideal geo strategic location of Pakistan.

c) Soviet Union invasion in Afghanistan and role of Pakistan in Afghan Jihad.

In 1979, when Soviet Union attacked Afghanistan, US found it a golden opportunity to dismantle Soviet Union, but this was not possible without Pakistan. US took advantage of the situation and strengthened its relations with Pakistan and served its own geo political interests.

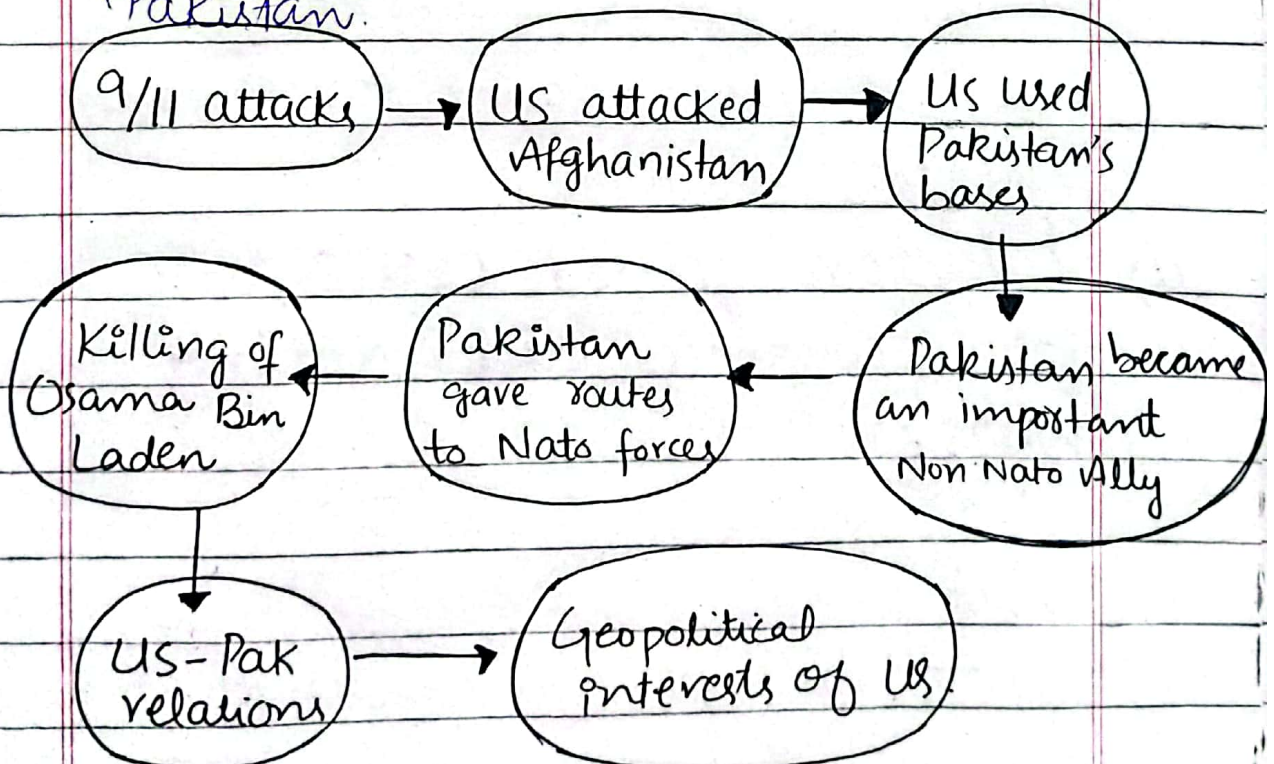


Made Pakistan an important ally

US geopolitical interests to dismantle Soviet Union.

d) War on Terror, and Role of Pakistan to serve geopolitical interests of US:

After 9/11 attacks, when US decided to take revenge from Al-Qaeda, they were aware of the fact, war in Afghanistan is not possible without the help of Pakistan. In this scenario, US strengthened its relations with Pakistan.



e) US-Pakistan relations and China's hegemony in the region:

After 2021, withdrawal from Afghanistan, US-Pak relations deteriorated. But still US wants Pakistan to serve its geopolitical interests in region to challenge China's hegemony in the region.

b)

► Pakistan's economic interests in US-Pak relations

Pakistan has always been economically weak state. Therefore Pakistan always benefited itself from US-Pak relations for economic interests.

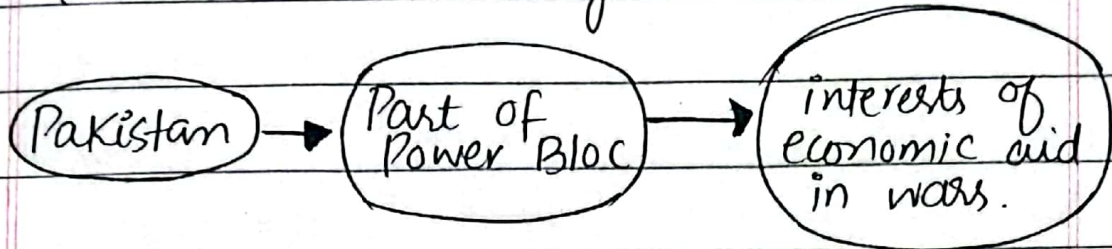
a) Pakistan joined CENTO, SETO for economic aid during wars;

Pakistan being a security conscious state, wanted a strong support in case of India-Pak war. In this context, Pakistan

became a part of a Power bloc.

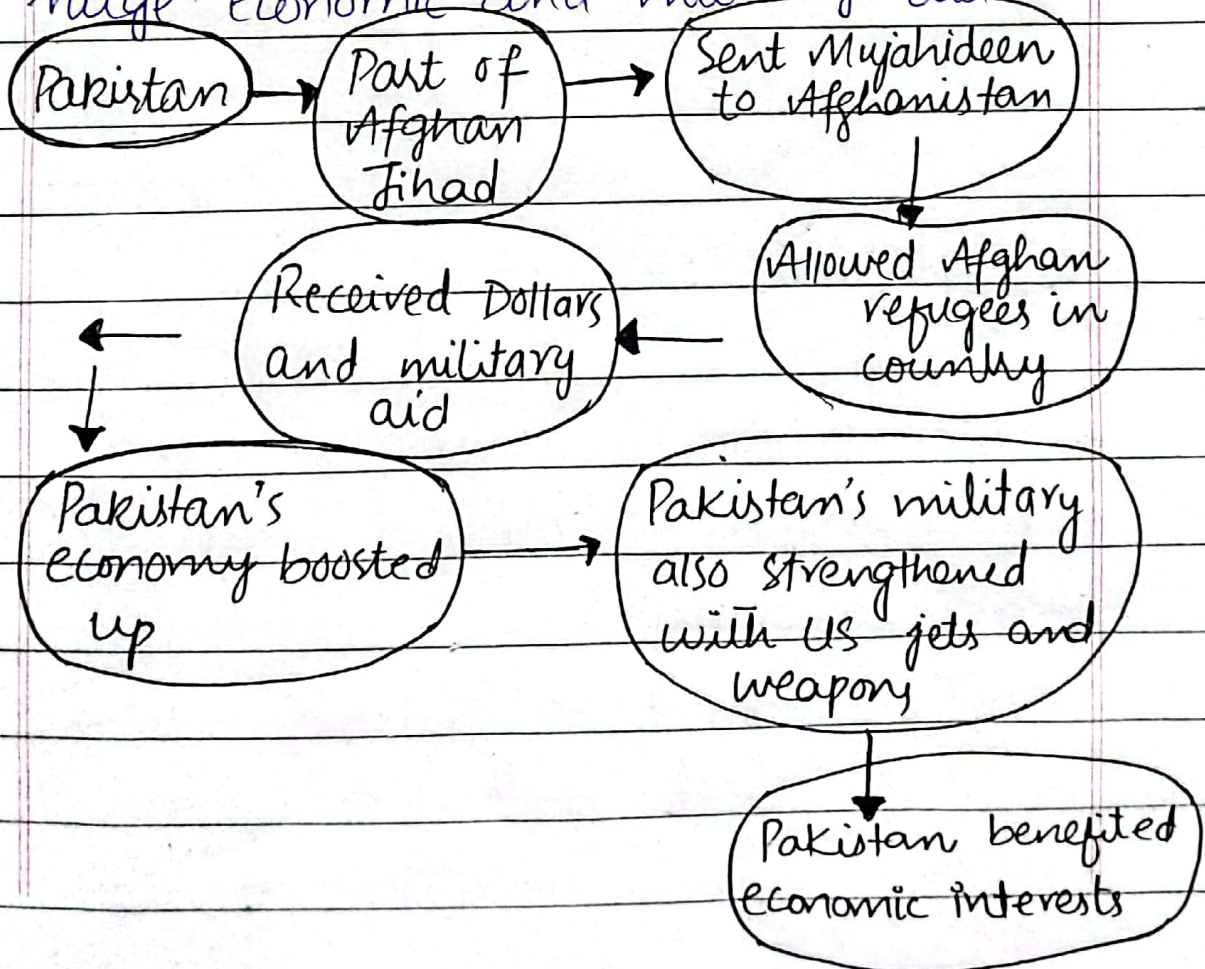
1953 → Pakistan joined CENTO

1955 → Pakistan joined SEATO



b) Pakistan a part of Afghan Jihad and accepted economic and military aid from US.

Although supporting Afghan Jihad also had Islamic sentiments But in this context Pakistan received huge economic and military aid.



c) US war on terror, Pakistan turned against Taliban and helped US for economic aid:

Pakistan was a supporter of Taliban regime but after 9/11, US pressurized Pakistan, so for economic interests, Pakistan fought against Taliban. Pakistan received huge amount of dollars.

d) IMF and influence of US on Pakistan's loans from IMF:

Pakistan has took loans from IMF which is not possible without the consent of US. Therefore, from US-Pak relations Pakistan also benefited from IMF bailout programs.

Conclusion:

Although Pak-US relations are born out of transactional necessity but both always benefited their own interests. Pak-US relations historically based on interests so both countries should further strengthen relations as both are important for each other.

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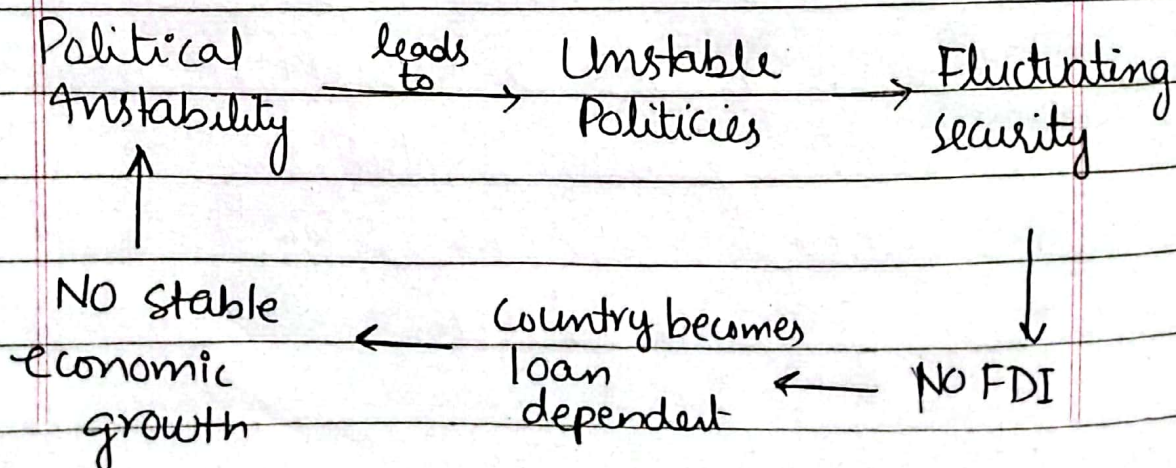
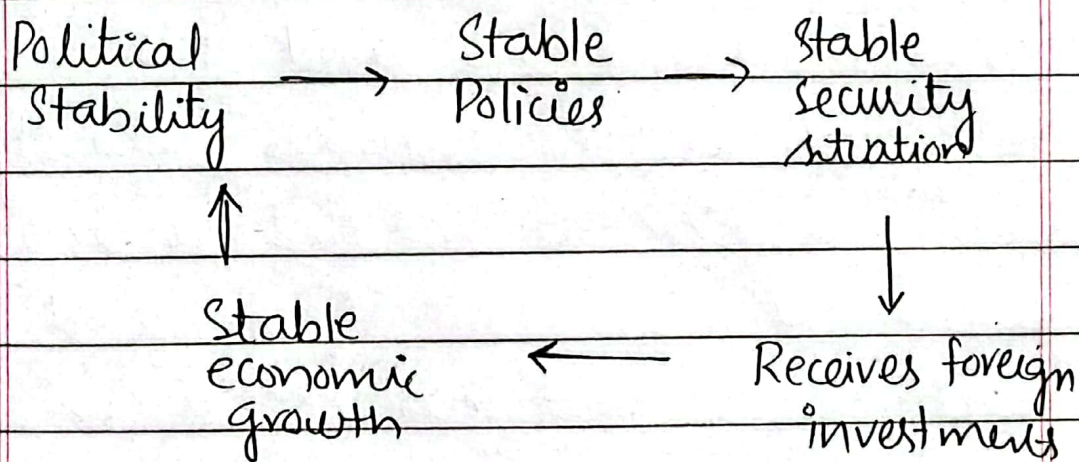
"Pakistan's Economic Stability and its Political Stability."

Introduction:

Pakistan's political arena has not been stable since its emergence and this has led to the economic instability in the country. To overcome economic issues, Pakistan took loans and foreign aids but has not been able to understand that political and economic stabilities are linked. To make a sustainable economic growth, stability in political atmosphere is certainly indispensable.

How political and economic stabilities are linked:

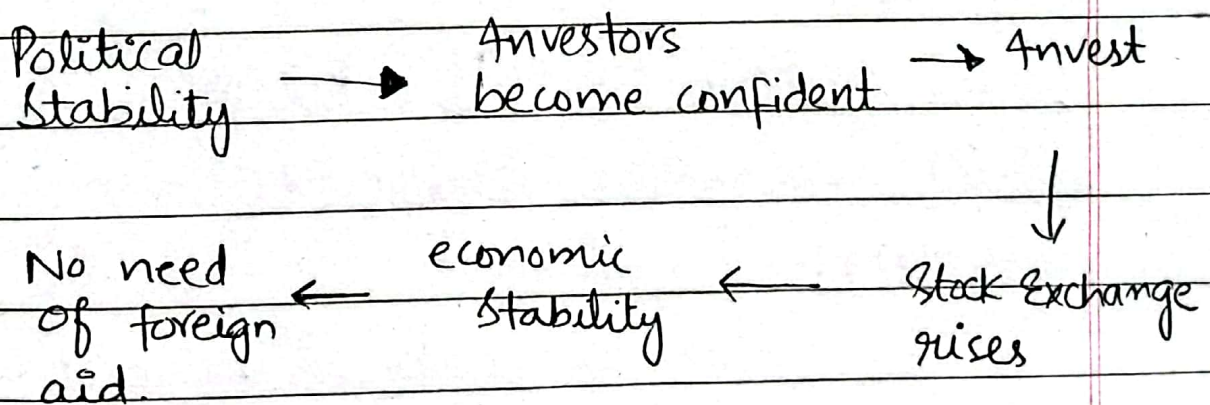
Political stability of a country is a manifestation of a strong political government and strong policies of Govt. When a country is ~~eco~~ politically stable, it gets investments and becomes politically stable.



How Pakistan's unstable political atmosphere is hampering economic interests:

a) Political stability and confidence of investors in Stock exchange.

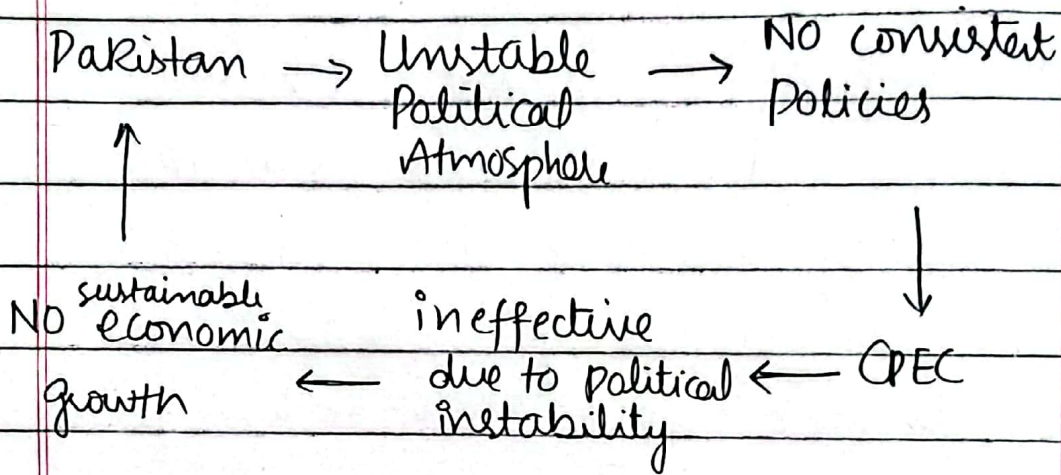
Pakistan's economic stability is not linked with an foreign aid but with political stability because it increases the confidence of investors ~~is~~ to invest and stock exchange improves.



b) Political stability reflects the stable economic policies of country:

Pakistan's economic stability is not linked with foreign aid but with consistent policies of a stable political Govt.

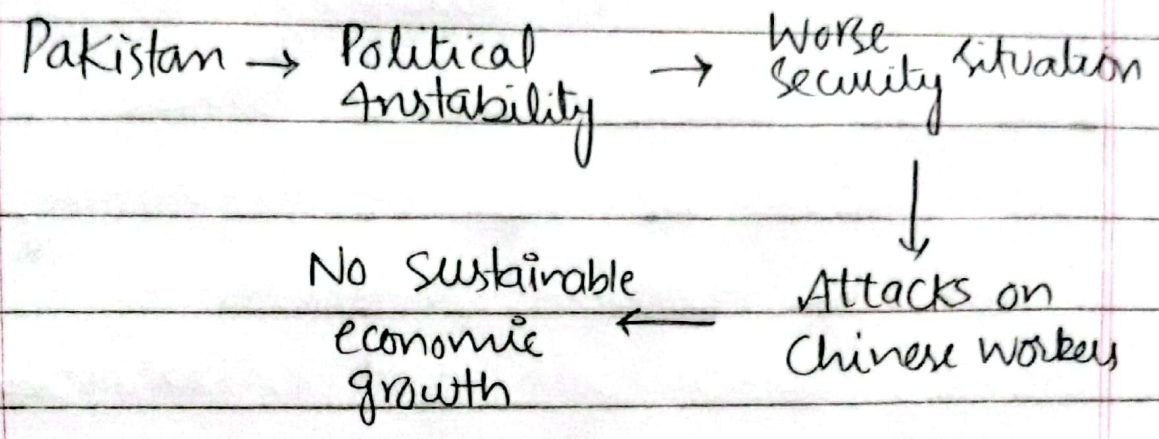
Example:



c) Political stability ensures safe security situations which ensures stable economic growth.

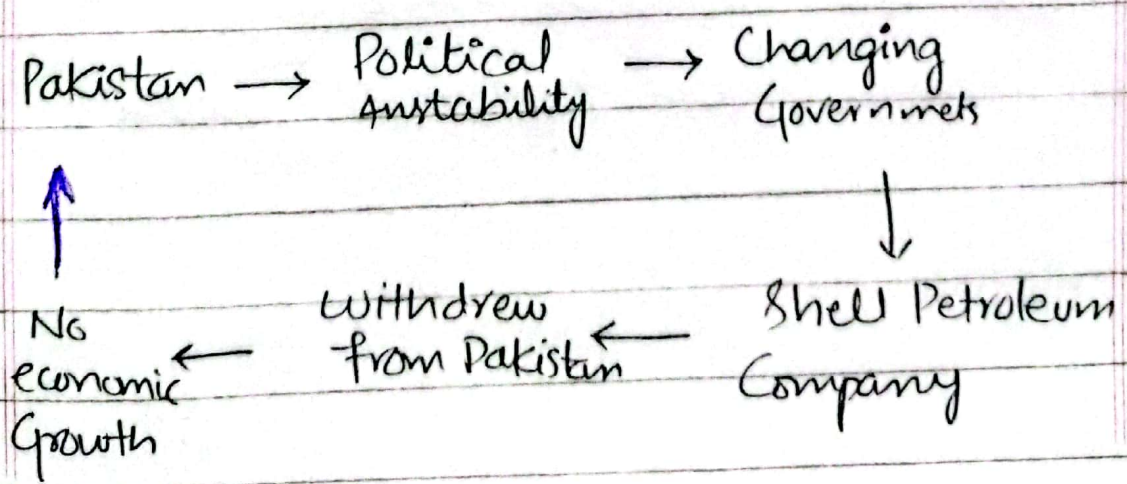
Due to political instability, Pakistan has suffered anarchy, extremism, terrorism in country. which hampers economic growth of the country so country becomes depended on foreign

aids. So foreign aids do not ensure stable economic growth but stable political atmosphere.



d) Stable political situation attracts FDI which no foreign aid can:

Foreign Direct Investment can only flow into a country if it is politically stable, otherwise it will be dependent on foreign aid.



e) **Political Stability and economic structural reforms to get rid of loans and foreign aid:**

If Pakistan is politically stable then a stable Govt would be able to structurally reform the economic problems of Country which will lead to sustainable economic growth.

Conclusion:

This is how a stable political atmosphere can ensure stable economic growth and can end Pakistan's dependence on foreign aids and loans. Pakistan should focus on political stability to have stable economic growth.