

Questions

In this increasingly multi-polar world there is the rise of the rest. But has there been a potential decline in U.S. hegemony, or has it maintained its global role as a leader? Give your arguments

Q no 7

Introduction:

"The 21st century will be defined by multi-polarity, a world of several great powers, none will be dominant/hegemon. The United States will be the most powerful actor, but it will face serious challenges from China, Russia, India and others".

(Dale Walton). This statement is mirror image of current global political scenario, where the USA is superpower but it is struggling to maintain its status-quo due to rise of other nations, specifically China. Global events such as, global economic crisis of 2008, abashful retreat from Afghanistan and constant struggle against policies of formidable China in Indo-Pacific-Region.

~~regions~~ have been a great blow to her status of sole super-power of the world. However, there are no clear evidence available to substantiate the point that, USA has lost its glory. But current scenario represents the bloodless competition between the two giants. In coming paragraphs let's analyze the positions

of global standings and their strategies² to counter each other's move.

Position of USA in global scenario:

After the end of Cold war, USA became the uncontested sole hegemon of the world. She maintained her position for almost two decades. USA took some unfathomable decisions which gave China a required time to come closer to USA. Those decisions are, unnecessary invasion in Iraq, utilizing too much resources in Afghanistan and economic crisis of 2008. Furthermore, the recent policies of USA such as deep involvement in Russia-Ukraine war, creating alliances in Indo-Pacific region, QUAD, AUKUS, are indicating USA's fear towards China and she is ready to go to any extent to defend its position. From the above arguments it can be comprehended that USA is trying to maintain its positions and struggling to control her powers which is rapidly slipping from her hands.

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Rise of China: A hope of multipolarity.

On the other hand China has gained the world attention rapidly. After becoming the part of World Trade Organization, China has now become the 2nd largest economy of the world, becoming ~~also~~ the factory of the world, producing and exporting all kinds of material at cheaper rates.

Furthermore, China has also increased its defence budget enormously, China's defence budget is \$224.8 billion. China's defence budget is closely linked to its economic juggernaut and security demands due to rise of USA's led bloc posing direct threat to China.

China has also made it clear about her ambitions, she is not willing to compromise on her sovereignty. China considers Taiwan as her sovereign part and willing to combine it with China at any cost. Along with Taiwan, China is not willing to compromise on South-China-Sea and territories inside line of actual control.

At the same time China has also started bloc politics and luring countries in her orbit, expansion of BRICS and SCO is 'valid' example in this regard.

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USA, still a hegemon in the world.

After looking into the positions of both nations, it is time to decide who is currently the hegemon of the world. China is in the race but USA is still leading. USA is 247 years old country and has seen many ups and downs, USA has confronted many super powers in her life, Spanish empire to Ottoman empire and from British to USSR, and have always triumphed.

USA is super power because it has the most advanced educational system in the world. When a reporter asked former US president Barack Obama, is USA still a super power? He replied, as long as USA is providing quality education to its pupils, it will remain the super power. USA has the most renowned universities and producing highest number of Ph.D scholars annually.

Apart from education, USA holds the best soft power in the shape of Hollywood and entertainment. Based on the box office revenue, the total earnings of the USA in Hollywood movies in 2022 was around \$7.37 billion, and based

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on the net worth of the Hollywood film industry, the total earnings of the US from Hollywood movies in 2023 were estimated at \$ 42.5 billion, and other entertainment platforms collected the revenue of \$ 145.7 billion.

USA also holds the most important thing which determines the authority of a country, that is Bretton Woods System. Organizations of IMF and W.B are mainly controlled by USA, and can manipulate any country in order to receive funds from these organization. China has created a reciprocal institute known as Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank which is still not ripe enough to bear fruits.

Furthermore, USA is part of most important organizations such as NATO and G.7. These two organizations are the two most important decision making bodies which can make or break a country in the world. China is trying to lure countries but still it is unsuccessful in creating a bloc of such strong calibre.

Conclusion =

USA - China both are in a race, a race to outclass each other. Both countries' leadership should not forget that there are other important issues, such as rising poverty, hunger, climate change, conflicts and wars. To solve such issues both countries need to work together because they are big issues to be ignored. If such issues get out of hand there will be no humanity left to cheer their powers.

Question =

The provision of F.16 and other strategic weapons by US NATO to Ukraine would result in the escalation of the war. How do you see this situation and what are the options with Russia and NATO to defuse the alarming situation?

Introduction

It has been 18 months since February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. During the initial days of war it was considered that it will be a limited war for limited time frame to achieve the limited objectives by Russia. But all those predictions failed, because now winning is the only option and there is no plan B for both sides. Both countries have placed all their stakes to win. There are multiple factors that have made this war a long war and nobody can predict when it is going to end. Pouring of weapons and military aid for Ukraine from NATO countries show that western allies want to win it at all cost. In coming paragraph let's analyze this war scenario and understand what are the factors that have made this war a must win situation for both sides.

Russian Stance: Why it was necessary.

According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the disintegration of USSR

is the greatest geo-political disaster of the 20th century. He has sought to restore Russian influence over its former Soviet republics. Most of the former Soviet states such as central Asian states, and Caucasian states, are under Russian influence, but not Ukraine. Ukraine is neighbour of Russia and has shown interest in joining the anti-Russian bloc of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If Ukraine joins NATO it will officially become the part of anti Russian campaign and anti-Russian missiles can be deployed in Ukraine which can target Moscow and St. Petersburg in less than 1 minute.

Moscow cannot compromise its security and sovereignty. It is not possible for Russia to acquiescence such a draconian scenario, so this war become inevitable.

2 Losing war is out of question.

This is latest conflict after the end of cold-war. This war is just like race of moonlanding of 21st century. Why it holds so much importance? Lets understand in coming paragraphs.

a

What if Russia lose!

If NATO allies manage to win this war it will be a humiliation for Russia. In such scenario USA/NATO will gain the confidence to expand the NATO on their own terms without any fear. Second, NATO will not be confined to Europe it will rush towards Asia, specifically towards Indo-Pacific region. Third all the other alliances of USA/Western backed countries such as AUKUS, G7, QUAD will get impetus to expand. Fourth, Western countries will get license to mold the Russia according to their own terms. Fifth, Russia-China backed alliances such as BRICS, SCO will lose its potency. Sixth, all countries under Russian influence will change sides sooner. Seventh, Chinese mega projects like Belt and Road Initiative will be under threat because all countries will be reluctant to join Chinese projects. Eighth, India will get license to join Western alliance because China will come under NATO's target and it is highly likely the India may become the first South Asian NATO member. Ninth, alarming situation will be created

for Pakistan. These're just hypothetical assumptions. !!

b What if NATO backed Ukraine lose!

If Russia manages to win this war, it will be considered as the last nail in the coffin of USA's hegemony. First of all NATO will stop its expansion, it may be possible that few NATO countries leave the bloc. Second, Russia will try to create her hegemony in Europe. Russia will try to establish friendly relations with all European nations to isolate USA and decrease the potential of NATO. Third, organizations such as BRICS and SCO will expand towards west. Fourth, projects proposed by west such as Build Back Better World (B3W) or Global Gateway will be under jeopardy. In such scenario China will achieve her desired outcomes. These are the reasons how this war is important for both parties. The one who wins will be considered as the one who wins the second cold-war.

3 Measures to diffuse the escalating scenario:

There are some measures through which this escalation can be mitigated.

a Using Good offices of neutral countries.

It is the most viable option to diffuse the tensions. Turkiye along with UN had brokered the grain deal to export the grain is a valid example of using good offices. Neutral countries such as South Africa, Singapore, Qatar, Switzerland, etc. can play very important part to end this ongoing conflict.

b Mutual dialogue and understanding.

Despite using all resources to fuel the war all those resources must be utilized to end the war, all the grievances of both countries must be listened and dialogue should be started.

c Role of UN,

UN can play an important role in ending this conflict. UN under chapter 7 of United Nation Charter take all necessary measures to start dialogue between them.

d Role of Citizens,

USA ended its campaign in Vietnam after public pressure, in this case people around the globe can demonstrate their protest against war in favour of peace to end this escalation.

Conclusion:

It is unfortunate that in this era of technological superiority and advancement in science and research, world community has failed to stop a single war. Due to this war hundred of people are suffering everyday and thousands of them have died. Millions of people have been displaced. In this war both sides are only interested in achieving their vested interest without taking into consideration of people. May both sides end this war for the sake of their citizens.

Question =

Problems in the power sector has resulted in unimaginably expensive electricity that has far reaching negative implications on the economy, social and political life of the country. Critically evaluate the statement and suggest workable recommendations.

Introduction:

Power sector is the backbone of any country's economic powers. Power sector is the fuel that steer the country out of economic downfall. After the industrial revolution countries started to give importance to their power sector to fuel their industries. With the passage of time power sector has evolved, state-of-the-art methods are now available to produce energy. Unfortunately it is not the case in Pakistan. Pakistan is suffering from energy crisis in this technologically advanced era. Due to problems in power sector Pakistan is facing myriad of problems. Lets analyze those problems in detail in coming paragraphs.

1. Power sector crisis and its far reaching consequences for Pakistan.

Energy crisis is just like a domino effect. For the downfall of economic development. It is the basic block that creates a chain reaction and makes all other blocks fall. Possible negative

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outcomes of Pakistan's energy crisis are explained in following paragraphs:

a Reduced Industrial Output and Productivity:

Pakistan's energy crisis will reduce the industrial output because industries need power for production and almost all Pakistani industries use no renewable energy sources for production. If there is shortage of power production or if government increases the prices of power, industries will cut short their production growth. This will affect the overall output and productivity of the country's economy.

b Increased Inflation and Poverty:

When industries curtail their productivity this will create a gap in the supply and demand of products. There will be high demand of products and low supply. In such scenario companies increase the prices of their products. One thing led to another and high inflation will take place in the country. Inflation is the root cause of poverty,

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because inflation also creates a gap between income and expenses. Masses will not afford necessary items of need, this situation may lead to protests and in worst scenario, riots.

C Reduced Trade and Investment:

When industrial output decreases, government also faces the gap of income and expenses. Government has not been able to earn as there is less productivity, due to less industrial output, the country fails to manage its export ~~the~~ items and earn. At the same time country's imports have risen to fulfil the demands of masses. This has increased country's expenses manifold.

2 Workable solutions to end this crisis.

Root cause of expensive electricity is Pakistan's dependance on oil for producing electricity. This has made Pakistan vulnerable of two things fluctuation of oil prices globally and fluctuation of dollar prices in open market. Pakistan imports oil from ~~the~~.

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Arab countries in dollar (international currency), whenever there is any change in oil or dollar prices it directly affects the energy prices in Pakistan. To avoid such situation once and for all Pakistan must take the following steps.

a Invest in Renewable Energy sources to avoid dependence on fossil fuels.

First and foremost thing is to invest in renewable energy sources such as, installing solar panels and wind turbines. Such investments will reduce the dependence on imported oil and gas, lower the greenhouse gas emissions and will also create job opportunities for local.

b Stopping the electricity theft at all cost.

Electricity theft is the major issue of Pakistan energy crisis. Due to this theft, power sector — fails to recover the actual charges, it increases the cost of electricity for honest consumers who bear the burden of subsidizing the theft. To stop this theft, DISCOs must be empowered with magisterial

charge and imposing of fines and ^{it} imprisonment on the culprits must be implemented to overcome the threat.

C Maintenance of Power Stations

Maintenance of power stations is one of the possible solutions of energy crisis. According to World Bank, Pakistan's power sector suffers from high technical and commercial losses, which amount to about 18% of total electricity supplied. These losses are mainly due to poor maintenance of power stations, transmission lines and distribution networks. By improving power stations Pakistan can reduce the losses and increase the availability of electricity to consumers.

d Construction of Dams

Construction of dams have multiple advantages including generating electricity. It is unfortunate that Pakistan has not constructed any dam for 50 years. If dams are build, they can increase the generation of hydro-electric power. Few notable dams such as Bhasha

Dam can generate 4500 MW of electricity. Mahmand Dam 800 M.W, Kahola 1,124 MW, Karot 720 MW of electricity. Pakistan must focus on constructing dams to eradicate power crisis.

Conclusion

Power crisis of Pakistan is not a new phenomena, it is happening for quite some time. It is unfortunate that no successive governments have managed to control this crisis. If above mentioned steps are taken in honest manner, this crisis can end for good. Let's hope that these crisis end soon because ultimate sufferer is poor person not elites.

Question = China and Pakistan
are celebrating the decade of
CPEC. Critically evaluate success
and failures of the project.

Introduction:

CPEC is a connectivity project of two countries, China and Pakistan. This project allows China to use Pakistan's ports as a crucial link to reach markets around the world and avoid the busy Malacca Strait and threatening Indian seas. CPEC started in 2015, when Chinese president Xi-Jingping visited Pakistan. Both countries signed 51 agreements to work on building modern roads, rain roads, fibre optic cables, energy infrastructure, developing Gwadar city, etc. In grand ceremony on 31 July 2023, China - Pakistan celebrated the successful completion of 10 years of CPEC. Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng, representing president Xi-Jingping read out a congratulatory letter from President Xi. For the past 10 years what ~~is~~ mega project has achieved and analyze what are ~~the~~ its failures in coming paragraphs.

I Ten years of CPEC: an overview

CPEC is highest Foreign Direct Investment by any country to Pakistan since its inception. It is the grandiose

project of \$62 billion in which ~~projects~~²⁰ ~~like~~ multiple projects are included, lets analyze how such projects have impacted Pakistan.

a Impact on country's economy and power sector.

CPEC has helped Pakistan to deal with its energy shortages which have been holding back its economy. The project includes building different types of power plants like coal-fired, hydroelectric, solar-electric and wind turbines which has added a lot of electricity to Pakistan's power grid. The project has helped Pakistan deal with its ongoing energy shortages by adding almost 6000 MW of electricity, this has boosted economic activities in the country. CPEC has helped Pakistan develop its Blue Economy by working on the Gwader port which will be an important trade route to China and other countries.

b Impact on country's social problems.

CPEC has build special economic zones that bring new technology and create jobs. They expect to make more than 2 million jobs by 2030. CPEC has been a great help for Pakistan in dealing with its problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality, so far project has created

100,000 jobs opportunities for young people and provided training and skills for many workers. It has increased Pakistan's health-care and education systems by building hospitals, schools, vocational training centres. CPEC has addressed Pakistan's environmental challenges like climate change, water scarcity and environmental damages. It introduced renewable energy technologies like wind and solar power. Project has improved Pakistan water management by building dams, reservoirs and irrigation networks. Chinese foundations have established school for girls, specially for daughters of poor fishermen, providing them with quality education. In Thar desert, province Sindh, where women were underprivileged and less educated, CPEC power projects created opportunities for them. Now women can drive dumper trucks and supply meals to companies operating there, empowering them and improving their lives.

C Impact on Pakistan's Agricultural Sector:
CPEC is also focused on developing the agricultural sector. Pakistan can diversify its agricultural export such as products like sesame seeds, rice, etc. Because China has stated advanced

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agricultural technology with Pakistan, like drip irrigation systems and pest control techniques, which have improved crop yields and reduced water waste, leading to more agricultural production and income.

Current phase of CPSC focuses on developing agricultural sector, socio-economic projects and partnerships for research. CPSC can make a big impact on Pakistan's agricultural sector which is significant part of the country's economy and employ large number of people. The project aims to bring modern farming techniques, better water management and higher crop yields for crops like cotton, wheat, rice.

2 Possible failures of the Project.

As far as the benefits this project has provided to the country, this project has drawn some drawbacks and failures too, such as:

A Less focus towards social development:

Chinese authorities have given very least focus towards the social problems of people living in Pakistan, particularly in Baluchistan. Most of the Baluchis

don't consider this project useful for Balochi people. This is because there is lack of communication between Pakistani authorities and them. In 2021 thousands of people in Gwadar protested due to the presence of huge Chinese trawlers on beaches. This was directly affecting the lives of local fishermen. For successful development of project strong communication is required and there is need to communicate the positives of this project to local population. Furthermore, school and health facilities should be constructed in backward areas, and special economic zones. Such 'initiatives' will give a boost to local labourers, who cannot afford good health facilities and education to their children.

b Failed to Stop Terrorism; Targeting CPEC.
Since the inception of CPEC, foreign elements have tried everything in their capacity to sabotage this project. Since 2014 multiple attacks have taken place on Chinese workers and projects, still both countries have failed to establish any framework to stop terrorism. In this regard, both countries need to work on

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joint intelligence sharing and mutual security measures must be taken to stop foreign elements from sabotaging this mega project.

Conclusion

CPEC is proof of life long friendship, an unbreakable bond between two countries. CPEC is the priceless gift given to Pakistan by China. It is the responsibility of Pakistani authorities to do everything to save, preserve and utilize this gift. Pakistan should realise its importance because this is not just about connectivity and infrastructure — rather it is proof of everlasting friendship. As Xi-Jingping has said about CPEC, "It is a testament to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan and it represents a shining example of regional cooperation and connectivity."