

Mock - Sept 2023

Q2) 1) Introduction :

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend". The widely used proverb accentuates the significance of proactive politics. Little did anyone know that it be practiced at a ~~wider~~ broader scale such as that of regional dynamics and international politics. USA, in a bid to contain China, is employing the aforementioned proverb and leveraging the historically terse ties between China and India to ~~maintain~~ maintain its global hegemony.

2) Pakistan's deteriorating ties with US :

In the wake of the hasty, impromptu withdrawal from Afghanistan and the growing relations between Pakistan and China, USA has revisited its foreign policy and taken a tilt towards India. Pakistan, initially did not give much heed to this new development, for it was premised to be aimed at containing China, but much to

Maxim.....

the dismay of Pakistan, this latest development involve dire repercussions for Islamabad.

3) How US-India strategy to contain China is hurting Pakistan:

3.1) India appeasement Policy followed by US:

USA's new strategic partner, India, holds much significance for USA's hegemonic supremacy. China, who is considered to be a genuine contender for global superpower, poses a serious threat to US. Since USA ~~can~~ cannot engage in full and direct military confrontation with China, for such an event can induce widescale devastation never witnessed before, it has to resource to India to do its bidding. USA is aware that India holds primary for its interests. That is why USA is ~~the~~ adopting policies to appease India. Since Kashmir is the bone of contention between Pakistan and India, USA's support to to India in this matter would

give the country an edge over Pakistan. Furthermore, India - Pakistan rivalry is no surprise to anyone, and this would only provide an impetus to USA for establishing anti-Pakistan policies. A recent statement reflects the turn in US-Pakistan relations, where the president of US Joe Biden said: "it (Pakistan) maybe the ~~most~~ one of the most dangerous nations in the world". The statement sent shockwaves throughout Pakistan's political landscape, for it unraveled the changing foreign policy of US.

3.2) Sanctions on China can hurt Islamabad:

Sanctions imposed on China can have repercussions for Pakistan. Pakistan's fragile economy relies heavily on China for sustenance. Hence sanctions on China can leave the economy of Pakistan in predicament. There are primarily two ways how this can impact Pakistan. Firstly, if US imposes direct sanctions on China, the latter's economy will take

a toll and it might not remain in a position to generously help Pakistan. Secondly, GF is not only on China but US imposes sanctions on its main trading partners as well, it will beget devastating ramifications for the already teetering economy of the country.

3.3) Trouble will IMF bailout packages:

There remains no ambivalence that US wields a strong influence on IMF. In retrospect, the assistance of USA has been ~~an~~ indispensable for ~~the~~ securing the much needed loan agreements b/w Pakistan and IMF. Without the role of USA, these bailout packages would be hard to obtain. This was also seen in the last year where the country had to struggle for more than a year to secure a staff-level agreement for a mere \$ 1 bn. loan. This is obviously a major challenge and can be ignored only at great peril to the country.

3.4) GSP+ status hangs in the balance:

Pakistan has been endowed with GSP+ status from European ~~EU~~ Union since 2014. This fruitful incentive lets Pakistan sell its merchandise in European market ~~with~~ while also avoiding much of the taxes. Since USA wields influence over EU, it can persuade the Europeans to withdraw this incentive. This would be a massive blow to the precarious economic conditions of the country.

4) What can Pakistan do to circumvent these challenges:

4.1) Engage in Diplomacy with USA:

In recent times, especially after withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pak-US relations have been on a downward spiral. Pakistan did not dispell American's belief of the former supporting Afghans during the war against terror. Such ~~a~~ widely held notions

have taken a toll of their relations. It is high time for Pakistan to engage in diplomacy with US, not only to dispell the misconceptions, but also to foster cordial relations.

4.2) Ameliorate ties with India:

Another major obstacle challenging Pakistan is the historically hostile relations between Pakistan and India. Pakistan should take the first step and approach India for the normalization of ties. This is a rather daunting task that will need much time, but this single development can pave the way for a stable Pakistan.

4.3) Ensure CPEC faces no challenge:

CPEC, argumentatively the panacea for most of the country's woes, should be the center of attention ~~for~~ of the government. Albeit Pakistan should engage India and US in diplom ~~more~~ in a bid to improve ties, it should apprice China, largest stakeholder

of CPEC, that the continuation of this project will suffer from no disruptions. Maintaining the cordial and friendly ties with China should always take precedence over ties with others.

5) Conclusion:

There remains no ambivalence that this new development has left Pakistan in a stew. However, with meticulously planned strategies and adopting robust measures, this challenge can be surmounted. The solutions embodied in this answer have the capacity to steer the shipwrecked country to safer shores.

1) Introduction:

It is an established axiom that economy is the backbone of any thriving nation, functioning as a sturdy defense to multitude of challenges faced by a country. Pakistan, however, since its inception, is grappled with severe economic challenges that continue to plague the country hitherto. Some of the factors that have had a dire impact on the economy of Pakistan are as follows:

2) Economic, Political and Constitutional Crisis:

2.1) Energy Crisis:

The energy sector of Pakistan has long suffered from inefficiencies, high transmission losses, and inadequate investment in the energy infrastructure. This energy crisis leads to frequent power outages and price volatility, hindering industrial productivity which in turn

Maxim.....

exacerbates the economic crisis.

2.2) Tax Collection and Narrow Tax Base:

Pakistan faces challenges in tax collection, with a large informal sector and low tax compliance. The narrow tax base limits the government's revenue generation capacity, making it challenging to fund essential public services and development projects.

2.3) Low Human Capital:

Despite having a sizable population, Pakistan's human capital is hindered by inadequate investments in education and health care. The lack of skilled workers and a healthy labor force limits economic productivity and innovation.

2.4) Agriculture Dependency:

Pakistan's economy heavily relies on the agriculture sector, which is ~~is~~ vulnerable to climate change, water scarcity, and market fluctuations. Over dependence on agriculture makes the economy susceptible to shocks in this sector.

Day / Date

2.5) Security Concerns:

Security concerns are one of the, if not the foremost, important hurdles to a thriving and prosperous Pakistan. The ongoing security challenges, including terrorism and regional instability, pose risks to business operations and deter foreign investment.

Example of the severe nature of Security Concerns

The Peshawar mosque attack, which is considered to be the most deadliest attack after APS, is a manifestation of these militant activities. This attack was executed in a mosque when a suicide bomber blew himself up, claiming lives of as many as 84 people, while more than 200 were left injured.

2.6) Policy Reversals:

The business policies, established by the government, are marred with inconsistencies, abrupt changes, and even reversal of the policy altogether. In such a precarious

Maxim.....

ambience, businessmen are deterred from investing.

2.7) Economy susceptible to broad-range of External factors:

The economy of Pakistan is vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in global commodity prices, international trade dynamic, and geopolitical tensions. These external factors can erode investor confidence

2.8) Political Instability:

Frequent changes in government, weak governance and political uncertainty have induced an unstable business environment, leading to reduced investor confidence and reluctance to invest in long-term projects. This, in turn, recedes the already dwindling economy of the country.

Example:

A quintessential example of political instability

is the current political crisis that ushered when a coalition of 11 political parties ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan, plunging the country in a deep rooted political and economic predicament that is perpetuating hitherto.

2.9.) Fiscal Challenge :

Pakistan faces significant fiscal deficits, increasing public debt, and challenges in managing public finances effectively. This weak fiscal position limits the government's ability to invest in infrastructure and social development projects.

2.10) Smart Monetary Policy :

The State Bank of Pakistan faces challenges in implementing effective monetary policies to control inflation and stabilize the currency, which impacts overall economic stability. Hence there is a dire need to introduce and implement policies that ensure and support economic growth.

2.11) Brazen Violations of Constitution:

In retrospect, the constitution of Pakistan has recurrently been, with impunity, violated by civil and military leadership alike. This gross practice, however, has proliferated in recent times. Such violations tarnish the sanctity ~~and~~ of constitution and sets abysmal precedents for generations to follow.

Example:

A recent and a quintessential example pertaining to such a violation is the dispute encompassing punjab elections. Despite the stipulated time of 90 days, enshrined in the constitution, and the supreme court's judgement on the matter, the polls could not be held since it contradicted with the government's interest.

3) Recommendations:

3.1) Encourage Foreign Investment.

The embattled financial sector is in
Maxim.....

divine need of foreign support. The government needs to revamp its policy and aim to embellish the country for foreign investment by endowing special incentives to international businessmen.

Example :

In the face of turbulent economic challenges, President Erdogan initiated a citizenship by investment scheme, pursuant to which foreigners could be granted citizenship status for investment as low as \$ 400,000 in the country's real-estate sector.

3.2) Investment in Human Capital :

The country need to give precedence to human capital. This translates to improving health, education sectors. This would not only empower individuals to harness their true potential and work towards the betterment of the country, but would also foster foreign investment.

3.3) Political Dialogue:

In our blinkered milieu, sensitised informed discourse can set the tone for congruence. Engaging in such discussions can lead to consensus building and better governance.

3.4) Reconciling Foreign Policy:

Engaging in constructive diplomacy and maintaining positive relations with neighboring countries and the international community can enhance economic cooperation, trade, and investment, which can contribute to economic stability.

3.5) Good Governance:

Strengthening institutions and promoting transparency, accountability and rule of law are indispensable to address political and constitutional challenges. Strengthening anti-corruption measures, ensuring independent judiciary can help to restore public trust in governance.

4) Conclusion :

The causes, of the severe ongoing challenges, embodied in this answer is only the tip of iceberg. There are countless other factors that contributed to the contemporary crisis. There is no single panacea that can navigate the, nearly default, country to thriving hub of ~~the~~ excellence. However, with meticulous planning and implementing robust measures, the shipwrecked country can still be steered to safer shores.

1) Introduction:

Taiwan has long been a bone of contention between the US and China. Over the course of history, the US has changed its policy towards Taiwan many times, however the recent visit of Nancy Pelosi, speaker of House of Representatives of US, to Taiwan has once again brought this issue to attention.

2) Background:

China has drawn 9 dash lines over the South and East China sea. These lines are imaginary lines and the Chinese claim all the territories and islands within these lines as their territory. According to China these areas were once a part of the great Chinese empire and therefore should be considered a part of China. Taiwan is an island which happens to be situated within these 9 dash lines, and this is where the issue stems from.

3) One country two system policy:

China, in a bid to unify these territories under mainland China, propounded a One Country

two system policy, which was soon established with Taiwan. The policy stipulated that China composed of two parts, Mainland China, which would be governed by the communist party. The other part, Democratic Republic of China aka Taiwan. Under this system, Taiwan was granted complete internal autonomy including their own paramilitary, currency, economy and their desired form of government system i.e democracy, on the condition that Taiwan would endorse China's supremacy and its claims over the island. The agreement also stipulated that the defense and foreign policy of Taiwan would be supervised by main land China.

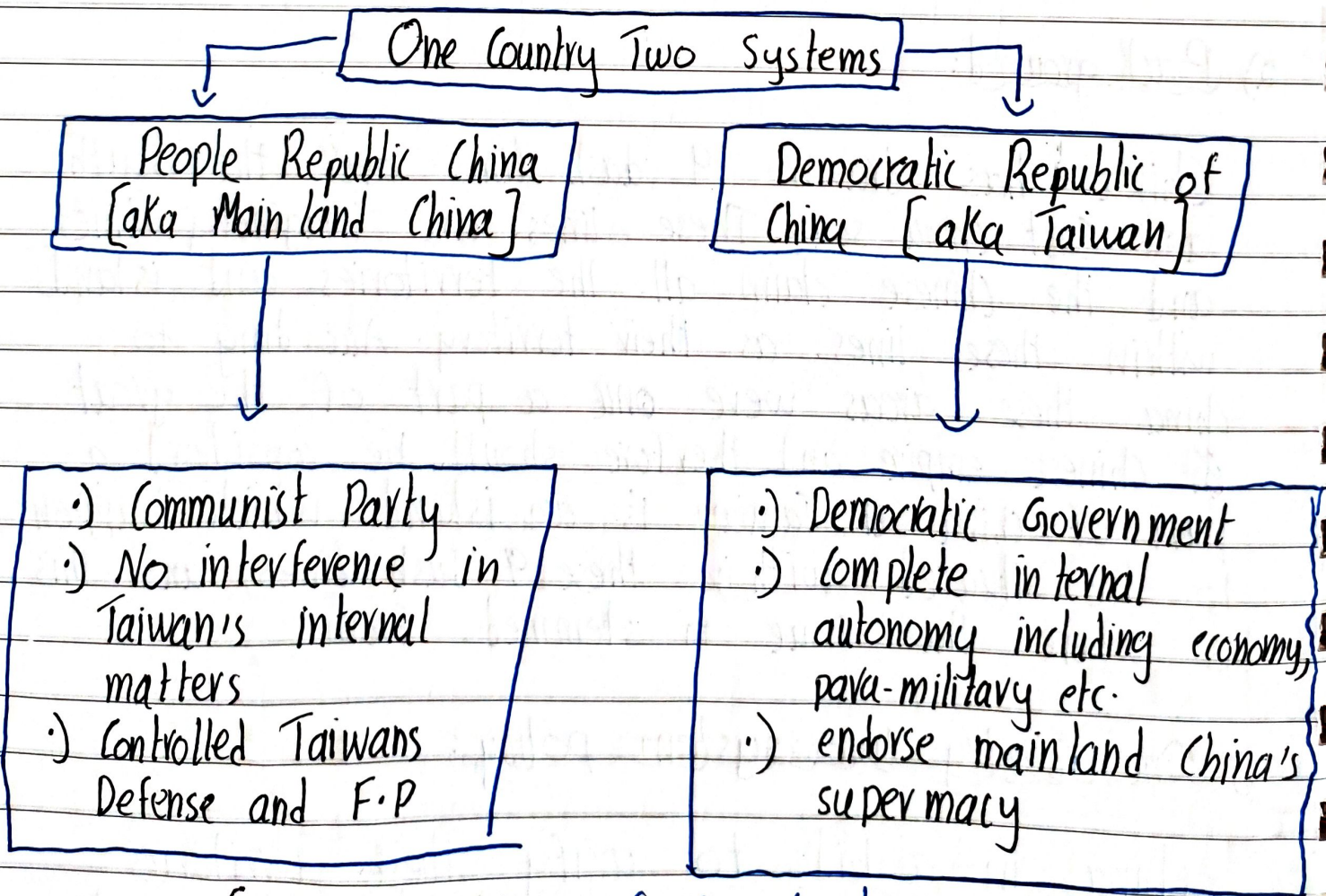


Figure: Overview of one country - two system policy

4) US stance over Taiwan:

In 1952, USA established a clear policy pertaining to Taiwan, where in it clearly stated that ~~the~~ it would defend Taiwan from any aggression. This was made apparent when US conceived the SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization] agreement, in an attempt to contain China. However, in 1970's the USA altered its policies towards China. This is because Henry Kissinger, Secretary of the state, was of the view that engaging China was imperative to containing USSR. In 1979, USA also endorsed Taiwan as a breakaway of China, and thereafter China devised the One Country two system policy and vowed not to initiate unprovoked attack on Taiwan. The policy on Taiwan of USA, became ambiguous once the threat of USSR was dealt with, however, in recent times, USA has once again adopted its 1950's policy relating Taiwan, which is evident from Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, despite China's apprehensions. This visit has once again brought the two nuclear states at logger heads.

5) How USA's policies are sabotaging China's Policies:

5.1) Nancy Pelosi's visit:

The detrimental impact of US ~~police~~ policies on ~~the~~ that of China's can be discerned by Nancy Pelosi's ~~to~~ visit, which not only reignited a dwindling conflict but has resulted in severe consequence for Taiwan is the shape of China's reprisal. Pelosi's visit despite China's grievance,

albeit termed as a personal visit by White House, ~~it~~ indicates USA's change in stance from the 1979 Policy.

5.2) Defense Deals:

In 2019, ~~the~~ erstwhile president of USA, Donald Trump ~~is~~ signed a \$19 bn deal with Taiwan, whereby the USA sold weapons to Taiwan worth the stated amount. This was a clear violation of the One Country two system Policy, where in China reserved the right to supervise the defense of Taiwan.

5.3) Strategic ambiguity to strategic clarity:

There has been a swift change in USA's policy from strategic ambiguity to strategic clarity. US has commenced direct deals ~~and~~ with Taiwan, previously conducted through Beijing. This has raised concerns in China, who expects foreign deals with Taiwan conducted through itself.

5.4) Invitation to Taiwan for participating in democratic conference:

To the dismay of Beijing, Taiwanese president has been invited to attend a ~~a~~ virtual democratic conference by the USA. These growing ties of Taiwan with the west is a source of agitation for China, who deem such

actions as a threat; to China's sovereignty.

5.5) Biden's stance on defending Taiwan:

Biden's remarks when asked about Taiwan's defense in a 60 minutes interview, were akin to that of adding fuel to the fire. Biden clarified America's stance, wherein he asserted that US would defend Taiwan in an unprovoked attack from China. This clear stance indicates that US is challenging China's supremacy over Taiwan.

6) Implications:

These actions did not go unnoticed by the Chinese government, who have retaliated in an aggressive manner.

6.1) Massive Military Deployment:

China has commenced a massive military deployment around Taiwan, surrounding it. This includes full naval fleet consisting of aircraft carriers, submarines, warships. Beijing has also conducted military drills in which Chinese jets have entered Taiwan's air space. Moreover, there have also been tests done sea to sea missiles have been fired over Taiwan.

6.2) Assertion of Traditional stance:

China has reinforced its traditional stance on the 9-dash lines, making it clear to the US that territories within these lines belong to China including Taiwan. The heavy military deployment indicates that anyone who challenges the claims would be met by coercive military might of the People's liberation army. It also implies that Beijing is willing to go to any length to protect its sovereignty.

6.3) Possibility of a war:

There is a possibility that a war breaks out between the two countries. Taiwan is of great significance to both the countries since its economy is interlinked with both countries. ~~There~~ There is a slim chance that the situation can exacerbate to the point where both countries engage in direct confrontation. This will not only have dire impacts on the two states but for all the region.

6.4) China's stance on Taiwan:

China has strengthened and clarified its stance on Taiwan, ~~at~~ warning the US about China's retaliation if provoked. The aggressive stance

that China has opted for can be discerned from a statement issued by the foreign minister of China, wherein he stated that the US is playing with fire.

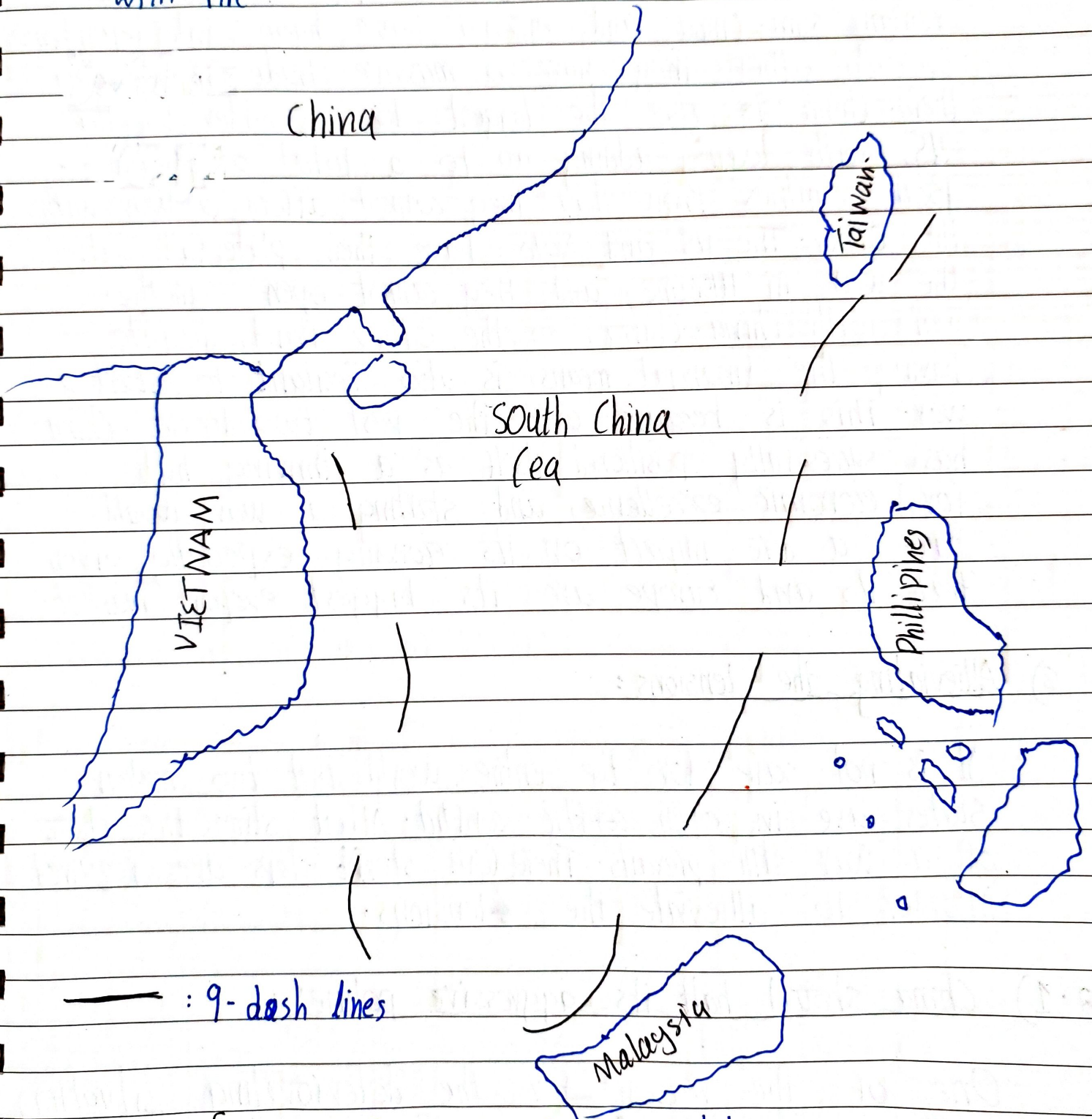


Figure: Overview of 9-dash lines in South China Sea.

7) Analysis:

Although both the nuclear armed countries are at daggers drawn, chances of a full-fledged war remain slim. China and America have huge interdependencies on each other. They have a massive trade ~~is~~ between them. China is also the largest loan provider to the US, with loans adding up to a total of \$1.5 trn. Both countries know that they cannot afford a war with the other. The US and Nato have their plate full with the war in Ukraine, and they cannot start another war with China. China, on the other hand, despite having the financial means, is also hesitant to start a war. This is because over the past two decades China has successfully positioned itself as a thriving hub for economic excellence, and starting a war would have a dire impact on its economy, especially given that US and Europe are its biggest export market.

8) Allieviating the tensions:

It is not safe for the entire world that two nuclear states are in open ~~conflict~~ conflict. Albeit slim, the chance of a war still prevails. Therefore swift steps are required in order to allieviate the tensions.

8.1) China should halt its aggressive policies:

One of the reasons for the deteriorating situation is the aggressive policies of Beijing. In the recent

years there has been a sudden change in china's policies. China is, albeit not publically ~~ann~~ announced, trying to nullify its two system one country policy and persueing a move of a ~~one~~ one country one system, which is evident from the situation in HongKong. If peace is to prevail, china must stop this transition in their policies and adhere by the agreed form government in Taiwan

8.2) US intervention must stop:

The US intervention has only exarrevbated the crisis. China being a military and economic might, reserves the right to have its sovereignty respected, just like any other country. US intervention in china's internal matters should be stopped and US should uphold its policy of 1979.

8.3) Taiwan should limit its relations with US:

Taiwan, being a the major stakeholder, should be cognisant about how its growing ties with US are upending its relationship with china. Taiwan should avoid being part of conferencies and defense deals, in a bid to keep china's aggression at bay.

8.4) Continuation of One Country two systems:

All the stakeholders should follow the

One country two system policy. This policy was adhered by for many years and helped to maintain peace and prosperity, therefore the logical conclusion is to uphold this policy ~~to~~ in order to secure a peaceful future.

9) Conclusion :

The exacerbating situation relating to Taiwan bring risk of global destruction. The situation is multifaceted and requires all the stakeholders to indulge in negotiations, if the situation is to be kept from deteriorating. The solutions mentioned ~~we~~ above have the potential to steer the countries out of this crisis, therefore should be pondered over.

(Q5)

1) Introduction:

The 21st century is witnessing the resurgence of Russia. The USSR disintegrated in 1991, leaving USA as the sole Hegemon in the world. However commencing 21st century, Russia is in active pursuit towards growing its influence and repositioning itself as a major power of the world. The attack on Georgia, involvement in the Syrian conflict and Annexation of Crimea in 2014 speaks volume of the surging influence of Russia.

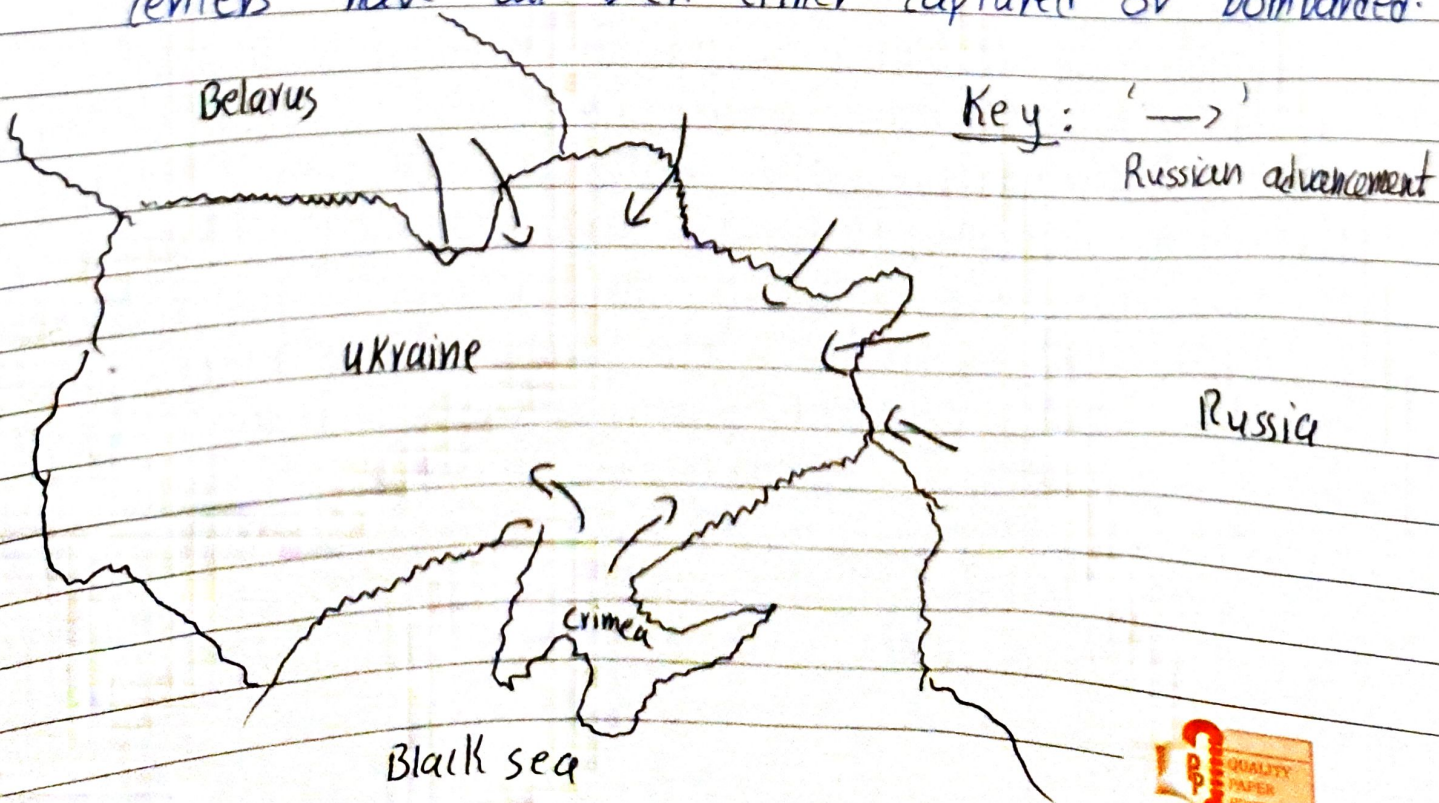
2) Determinants that instigated Russian invasion of Ukraine:

Being a former soviet Union state, Ukraine's growing relations with the west was concerning for Russia. Despite once being a part of soviet-Union, the majority of population of Ukraine is pro-west. Same is the situation in the parliament as well, where Vladimir Zelenskiy, on the basis of pro-west slogans, was able to secure 2/3 majority. Further move, the growing trade relations, increased border relaxations European countries, increased military purchases and finally the anticipated but

very real threat of Ukraine joining Nato, pushed Russia to its boiling point. Ukraine's ~~pro~~ unwavering pro-west rhetoric despite Russia's ~~grei~~ grievances ultimately culminated into Russia's aggression commencing 24 Feb, 2022.

3) Current status of ongoing war in Ukraine:

Russia deployed 200 000 troops including Navy, Artillery, airforce, infantry and armored corp. The attacks were launched from the eastern and south eastern fronts and also from Belarus. After the initial attack Russia was able to capture Kherson, Dombask and Luhansk, which were then declared as break away regions. Russia was also able to seize most of the ~~east~~ coastal belt along black sea including sea ports & naval bases. Civil nuclear reactors, air bases, highways and urban centers have all been either captured or bombarded.



4) Measures already taken by US-led Nato:

4.1) Successful armament of Ukrainian Army:

The role of Nato in providing arms and other intelligence has proved effective for Ukrainian resistance. The west left no stone unturned to help Ukraine, whether it be weaponry, intelligence or financial aid. The intelligence, in particular, has borne ~~fast~~ fruitful results, allowing the Ukrainians to pinpoint major Russian targets and then launch a coordinated onslaught to maximise the inflicted damage.

4.2) Sanctions on Russia:

US and West have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia to restrict ~~their~~ its economic activities. These sanctions have landed a significant blow to Russia as most of the European nations and the US

have ~~introduced~~ ^{introduced} either completely or, introduced cuts in Russian imports. Being the largest exporter of oil to Europe, these sanctions have taken a serious toll on Russian Economy.

5) Provision of F16 to Ukraine:

Denmark and Netherlands, After the sanction of USA, have decided to donate the first F16 fighter jets to Ukraine. There will be a total of 19 Fighter jets to be sent to Ukraine, and their delivery is expected to be as soon as new year.

6) Escalation of war:

6.1) Statement of Russian ambassador

In the wake of this latest development, Russian ambassador Vladimir Barbin said, "By hiding behind a premise that Ukraine itself must

determine the conditions for peace, Denmark seeks with its actions and words to leave Ukraine with no other choice but to continue the military confrontation with Russia. The statement highlights that the escalation of the war is likely to rise after this development.

6.2) Russia's Nuclear card:

Russia, since the outset war, has not been shy of resorting to nuclear threats. This was witnessed when the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, gave the green signal to his military chief for the use of nuclear paraphernalia if the situation demanded. This threat was taken lightly at the time, however with this development, Russia might recourse to such means in order to expunge any offensive contingencies emanating from across the border.

6.3) More European countries can be engulfed in the war:

With Denmark and Netherlands undertaking this serious venture, the expansion of war to their peripheries would come as no surprise. Russia would not hesitate to expand the scope of war if and foreign weaponry induces serious damage to Russian soil.

7) Ways Forward:

7.1) Engage in diplomacy:

Nato, Russia and Ukraine should engage in diplomacy and reach a unanimous agreement that protects the rights and interests of all. This can go a long way in diffusing the situation.

7.2) Ukraine should revisit Foreign Policy regarding Europe:

As one of the former USSR states, Ukraine's closeness to Europe did not go well with Russia. This is a high time for Ukraine to ponder over its gratuitous

growing ties with Europe, and
revamp its foreign policy.

7.3) Russia's adamant stance on
wheat export should be revisited:

Russia, in a move that could have led to the donation of F-16s by Europe, closed wheat exports from Ukraine. As Europe already suffers from high inflation in the wake of this invasion, its resorting to such extreme measures, such as donating fighter jets, should come as no surprise.

8) Conclusion:

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused a upheaval through out globe, inducing record breaking inflation and commodity shortages. The solutions embodied in this answer seems to be a few of many ways through which peace can prevail.