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Date 21 - sep - 23

Question number 8

The expansion of BRICS would have reaching geo-economics and geo-political Implications

→ INTRODUCTION:

Recently, the importance of BRICS has become manifolded. Growing American sentiment on Ukraine, Dollar hegemony, increasing debt-interest of in-debt countries, finally paved the way for its expansion. The addition of new six states including oil rich Arab countries have paved the way for possible prospects. This could change the geo-economic and geo-political status quo dominated by western countries. However, there still remains existing stumbling blocks to reach full potential.

→ BACKGROUND:

The official establishment of BRIC took place in 2001.

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The platform was initiated by China and Russia to boost regional trade. South Africa became a full member in 2010. George O'Neil, a prominent economist, gave a prognosis that by 2050, BRICS would dominate economic domain. However, the 2007 recession proved to be a hindrance in the way. Fast forward, 6 countries have become permanent members of BRICS. Such actions have become a hope to alter the existing status quo.

BRICS + 6 :

{ Brazil, Russia, India,
China, South Africa
+ 6
Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran,
Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina }

Geo-Economics Implication :

1: De-dollarization: In order to alter dollar diplomacy, BRICS + 6 has decided to initiate their own currency to be used for internal trade.

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2: **Foreign Reserves:** Currently, most of the foreign reserves are in dollars. By introducing new currency in global market, most of countries would opt for new currency as foreign reserves.

3: **Intra-regional trade:** The platform accounts for almost 42 percent of population and 32pc of global GDP as per the economist. They are striving to mould the path of trade regionally and inter-regionally. With most of the global population intra regional trade would be effective.

4: **Relief to debt burden countries:** Many countries are burdened over by growing dollar rate causing neck-breaking sum of debt. In fact IMF and WB use debt traps to influence developing countries for their own interest.

5: **Oil diplomacy:** Most significant achievement of BRICS + 6 is by far inclusion of oil rich countries. This exponentially increase the possibility of reduction of American influence over oil.

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GEO-POLITICAL IMPLICATION:

1: Fading influence of

America: The realignment of countries in one platform has started deconstruction of American influence. With the onset of new century, US sanctions would have no say.

2: Iranian influence: For

decades since 1979, Iran remained isolated due to American and UN sanctions. By becoming a permanent member of BRICS, Iran has paved the way for new possibilities.

3: From uni polarity to

multi polarity: BRICS has shown the world that the status quo intact since the end of cold war is about to part away. The new powers at global level are Russia, China and India respectively.

4: Arab Gulf: Arabian

peninsula has shown tilt towards

South instead of North. The politics over oil would have paradigm shift causing a threat to western countries.

MAJOR HURDLES:

Despite the promising potentials, BRICS + 6 is still occupied with myriad of hurdles.

1: Chinese and Indian

clash: The war of 1962 between India and China proved to be a breaking point in their relation. A milieu of mistrust prevails between the two global powers.

2: Consensus over common

currency: Unlike the platform has decided to produce a common currency to dominate dollar, a clear path is still cloudy. Looking at the diverse financial system and difference in economic growth, it still needs to bring a way out for common currency without hurting the economy of any member.

Strategic partnership could impact the function of CPEC.

countries...
existing
full potential.

→ BACKGROUND:

BRIC

The official
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3: Hegemonic concerns of India: India has always had a hegemonic motive on every platform. Many scholars argue that the real motive behind India is dominating its own interest instead of collective gain.

4: Diverse cultural and historical backgrounds:

All the countries have different cultural and historical backgrounds. Hence, their financial and political system may also vary. Under such circumstances, consensus building would prove to be of great hindrance.

→ CONCLUSION:

The west is alarmed by the actions of BRICs. It is deemed to be a counterweight to G7. For decades G7 and western countries have dominated the global political and economic sphere. BRICs 16 is a platform that could drive the system towards collective gain for each country. However, such goals require comprehensive and collective efforts to deal with the hurdles that could serve as hurdles.

its influence.
BRIC project by China
Africa and Europe.
strategic partnership
function of CPEC.

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Question number 2

US - India growing strategic partnership

"There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan"

(Muhammad Ali Jinnah)

→ INTRODUCTION: American is in an unifying domain of containment of China. It is letting no stone unturned for the cause. India - US partnership is one of tools. The recent visit of Indian Prime minister and the deal can help to reduce Chinese influence in the region. However, it has aggravated insecurity in Pakistan. Pakistan has measured strategic depth in terms of Indian threat. Nuclear and arms deal is damaging interest of the country.

→ BACKGROUND: Historically, Pakistan and US has had clientelistic relations. From moving being most-

deemed CPEC its influence. CPEC BRJ project by China to Africa and Europe. US-Indian strategic partnership could impact the function of CPEC.

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allied ally to most sanctioned ally,
the relations distressed. On the other
hand, India and Pakistan have
fought 3 full scaled wars and
strived to destabilize Pakistan.

Rouse: Pakistan at the
cross road.

Under the historical account,
insecurity to Pakistan is a
real cause impacting Pak-US
relation.

IMPACT ON PAKISTANI INTEREST:

1: **Border insecurity:** India
has time and again tried to
infiltrate borders of Pakistan.
The Kulbushan Jadav and Abhinandan
cases are prominent. Such strategic
partnership would enhance insecurity
among security forces and political
leaders.

2: **The Kashmir cause:**
In order to strengthen the bond
with India, US has turned a
blind eye over Indian oppression
in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan is

BRI project by
Africa and Europe.
strategic partnership cell
function of CPEC.

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a strong advocate of right of self determination which is ignored by international community and America.

3: The Afghanistan

condem: In order to hinder ^{Chinese} influence in Afghanistan, India is in constant effort to secure a deal with Taliban government. Having access to Afghanistan soil, India could support the separatist movement in Baluchistan.

4: Ignorance towards

Pakistan: American government in order to pursue relation with India, has ignored the non-NATO member. This ignorance has caused internal turmoil and economic down fall.

5: A threat to CPEC

Project: US has always deemed CPEC as a threat to its influence. CPEC is a part of BRI project by China to link Asia, Africa and Europe. US-Indian strategic partnership could impact the function of CPEC.

2: The Kashmir
in order to strengthen the
with India, US has turned a
blind eye over Indian oppression
in occupied Kashmir - Pakistan

6: Arms race between India and Pakistan

US and India has signed deal
of arms production at Indian
soil. Calculating the risk of
security and integrity, Pakistan
would choose to modernize its
conventional weapons into more
sophisticated and lethal ones. Thus
leading towards arms race.

7: Disappointment towards America:

The recent visit
of Modi to US and the deal
with India have raised the
idea of American deception. Neither
the government, nor the people
have good perception towards the
US. Such grievance and disappointment
could prove devastating for these
relations.

WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN:

1: Reconciliation with India:

Decade of enmity has costed
nothing but loss to both countries.
Specially Pakistan. Pakistan need

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follow the path of moderation. For instance, Sino-Indian conflict is intact but countries continued their trade. In case of Pakistan reconciliation and diplomatic and economic ties would serve as major wound.

2: Cordial relation with the US: Pakistan Foreign Policy must focus on ways out to rebuild trust with US. It must be understood that US is a global power and sovereign country having all rights to engage with countries freely. Therefore, we must focus on building interest based trade valued relations instead of depending on clientelistic relations.

3: Neutral stance: History has shown us that diversifying towards single block could be devastating. Indian stance is exemplary that mentioned its neutrality thought cold war. We must adopt neutral policy as the AIT towards west would be all-weather friend china.

leads to

2: The Kashmir case
In order to strengthen the bond
with India, US has turned a
blind eye over Indian oppression
in occupied Kashmir - Pakistan

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4: Internal political

stability: A country with internal stability and economic growth can influence global happening. In order to maintain security owing to threat of India, we must ensure political stability. Recently WB released a report stating political instability the root cause of economic turmoil. Therefore, effort must be made for political and internal stability.

CONCLUSION:

US - Indian strategic partnership would remain intact to counter Chinese rise as global power. Indeed, Pakistan would be impacted on multiple course. However, we must focus on opportunities which could help Pakistan. For instance Pakistan could adopt for an independent foreign policy which was not possible being an ally. On the other hand it is a critical juncture to secure relations with India foregoing all the source part.

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Question number 3

Problem in power sector

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed"

(Mahatma Gandhi)

→ INTRODUCTION:

Poor policies, corruption and institutional failure have resulted in power generation collapse and expensive utilization of oil. The bubble of high bills burst over the populace. The costly generation of electricity has jeopardized the social, political and economic life. Industries have shut down, mistrust on government institutions has become apparent and frustration of masses is uncontrolled. There must be immediate and effective measures to lead the grievances of masses and provide effective solution to electricity availability.

with ...
Hind eye ...
in occupied Kashmir - Pakistan

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BACKGROUND: Since inception, our leaders did not provide much focus to power sector. It took a decade to formulate policies and ago to highlight the problem. The background of expensive energy dates back to 1999 deal with IPPs. The deal was for three decades until 2034. The shift from hydroal power to thermal power and agreement to pay for capacity charge led to high energy prices and circular debt.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS:

1: Impact on industries:

Industry is backbone of economic development. Long hour load-shedding and high price electricity has resulted in unproductivity. In early 2000s when the power problem became apparent, Pakistan lost its credibility in industries and client countries. Trade had to move to other countries for these orders - Bangladesh and India.

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2: Set back to entrepreneurship

A recent report from engineering department argued that most of the potential startups fail in early stages due to hindered electricity and high bills. The young entrepreneurs do not have enough revenue due to slow production to even opt for alternative options. Resultantly, death to hope of entrepreneurship.

3: Abating Exports: Due

to inefficient productivity in many industries, the country do not have enough to export products.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

4: Mistrust over institutions:

When the grievances of the population are not heeded, an environment of mistrust cultivates. This shatters the hope of population and society is frustrated to the extent that could prove threatening for national integrity.

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2: **Electricity theft**: When people do not have enough income to meet their basic requirements, they choose for illegitimate means such as poverty theft.

3: **Growing number of suicides**: Poor situation of the country is suppressed to the extent that most of them choose to end their life as they do not have means to pay the bill.

4: **Poverty**: The rising price of electricity has left population with two options, either to feed yourself or your children or pay your electricity bill. This has increased in poverty.

5: **Education**: The cumulation of population has led to parents to exclude their children for education as they have to pay for electricity or feed two meals a day.

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POLITICAL IMPACT:

1: Circular debt: High energy prices push the state into quagmires of circular debt. Recently, Pakistan paid \$4.2 bn in circular debt.

2: Trade deficit when industries do not function properly, exports reduce and imports increase which is a death blow to financial stability.

3: National integration: Population has become frustrated with the incapacity and corruption of the state. If it is not taken into account, national integration would become questionable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following are feasible options for dealing with energy crisis.

1: Use of hydroal power for energy generation instead of thermal power.

2: Progress towards IP gas pipeline must be ensured.

3: Deals with IPPs must be re-negotiated.

4: Accessibility to solar panels to ensure clean power generation.

CONCLUSION:

Currently, we are at the brink of multi-faceted problems. Energy crisis and high prices are specially the result of political negligence. We must understand that a country is reliable on energy for development. The current government must formulate a comprehensive, calculated and long-term plan to ensure clean, cheap and accessible energy.

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Question number 7:

In the increasing multi-polar world . . . :

INTRODUCTION:

The world is a head of multipolar world. The status quo of unipolar world remained intact for decades. However, China, Russia and India have emerged as super powers. China is primarily leading the way. All the circumstances have reduced the influence of America to an unprecedented level. Unlike there are few examples of growing influences, yet it still remains a global leader with fading power.

BACKGROUND:

The end of cold-war titled America as sole-super power. Being the sole super power, the interference was manifolded. For instance the war in Iraq, the 20 years war in Afghanistan and sanctions on Iran. However, with the rise of other powers this hegemony seems to be fading away. The

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Recent example is mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March 2022. The incapacity to stop Russian-Ukraine war is also a case in point.

THE RISE OF MULTIPOLAR WORLD

1: Chinese note: China follows the policy of Pansheel meaning five principles.

- (a) Non interference
- (b) Independence
- (c) mutual co-existence
- (d) Respect to sovereignty
- (e) No use of threat

Under this policy, it pursues a diplomatic effort to maintain friendly relations - Following spheres make China a global power.

① Economic growth:

China is the second biggest economy in the world after US.

② Political Influence: peaceful

diplomacy in contrast with BRI have placed it among friendly powers

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enhancing its influence many fold

(4) BRI: Belt and Road Initiative. - the example of Chinese influence and long-term objective. Currently 105 countries are involved in project.

2: Indian Growth with its unexpected economic growth, India has become a global economic power. The contributing factors are following.

(1) Population:

Most of the population in India is educated with hardworking middle class that have secured positions.

(2) IT industries:

IT sector of India has become so advanced that now it is called silicon valley of Asia.

(3) Industrial production:

India has put much investment in industries and has become an industrial power.

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3: Russia: Russia has grown again from the ashes of fall of Soviet Union. The power of natural resources, geography and arm production are leading factors.

POTENTIAL DECLINE IN US HEGEMONY:

1: Russian Ukraine war: US has come to realize that it does not poses such influence as before when countries continued trade with Russia despite sanctions. It also does not have means to stop war.

2: Gulf countries: The mediation between Saudi Arabia and India was a proof that China now holds influence and it has potential to resolve conflicts. The fading influence of America in Gulf countries is apparent.

3: The 20 years war: The most significant event of fading American hegemony was evaluation of American troops from Afghanistan.

... following to maintain
... global power spheres
... China's growth is the second
... economy in the
... Political

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without securing concerned interest.
It impacted credibility of American
Foreign.

↳ Use of alternative

currency for trade. In
March 2023 Russia and China
agreed to trade between them in
their respective currencies instead of
dollar. This was a relevant example
of fading American hegemony.

CONCLUSION:

The rise of
multipolar world is not a
buzzword, it is happening. Though
America is struggling to contain
China, other powers are on rise.
It is the global principle that no
single power structure can
dominate for life. Instead,
America must accept the rise
of multipolar world and focus
collectively with other powers on
issues such as poverty, hunger,
climate change and terrorism.