

Name Dua Fatima
Pakistan Affairs

Q. 2 Introduction

The Aligarh Movement's focus was education, yet it was important politically, socially and economically as well. The movement brought the Muslims of the subcontinent closer to modern education and scientific knowledge. This, in turn, helped the Muslims become politically mature as well. After the war of 1857, it was mostly the Muslims who were under fire. The British blamed them for the war. Through the Aligarh, the conception that Muslims are rebellious was tackled. Hence, Muslims were able to improve their position both educationally and politically as a result of the Aligarh movement.

The Educational Character of the Aligarh Movement

i. Devotion to education

As part of the Trinity policy proposed by Sir Syed through the Aligarh movement, devotion to education was prescribed. The Muslims

of the subcontinent were encouraged to focus on acquiring modern education. Education was deemed essential for the overall training and grooming of the Muslims.

ii) Building a School

Through the Aligarh movement, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan built the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental School. This school later on became a college and then eventually became the Aligarh University in 1911. This university produced many intellectuals and political workers.

iii) Establishing the Scientific Society

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established the Scientific Society in Gorakhpur. This society conducted scientific research and produced research-based pamphlets and papers. The purpose of this society was to improve Muslims' knowledge about science and development.

iv) Acquisition of Scientific Knowledge

Through the Aligarh movement, the Muslims were encouraged to acquire scientific knowledge. This helped the Muslim become more aware of the developments around them and exhibit confidence and wisdom.

How the Aligarh movement was not devoid of politics

i) Aloofness from politics

As part of the Triple Policy, Sir Syed recommended aloofness from politics to the Muslims. This was done in order to divert the energy of the Muslims towards constructive activities.

ii) Publication of books

During the Aligarh movement, Sir Syed published books such as the *Loyal Muhammadans of India*. He wrote this book in order to make the British realize that the Muslims were loyal to the British and have in fact helped them.

iii) Enabling the Muslims to become a part of the Civil Service

By encouraging Muslims to acquire education, the Aligarh movement improved their probability of securing a job in the civil service. As civil service and politics are connected, the Muslims serving as civil servants would have been able to cater to the political demands of their community.

The combination of education with politics through the Aligarh movement

It was through the Aligarh movement that education became intertwined with politics.

i) Producing future leaders

The Aligarh University played an important role in shaping the personalities of the future leaders of Pakistan. The university produced political leaders like ~~Chaudhry~~ ^{the} ~~Mohammad~~ Ali, Jinnah brothers, Liaquat Ali Khan

and some other prominent leaders

ii) Promotion of the Two-Nation theory

The educational aspect of the Aligarh movement made the muslims of the subcontinent conscious of their differences with the Hindus. It was through a process of enlightenment that the muslims realized that they were distinct from the Hindus. This later on gave rise to the Two-Nation theory.

iii) Improving muslims knowledge about politics

The Aligarh movement helped muslims understand politics through education and knowledge. The muslims were able to carry out their political activities in a more effective manner as a result of the training and knowledge they received at the Aligarh university.

Conclusion

To conclude, it is true that the Aligarh movement was qualifyingly educational in its nature. It was, however, as a result of the movement's focus on education that the Muslims were able to conduct their political affairs in a successful manner in the future.

Introduction

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an ambitious undertaking initiated by China. The initiative would, indeed, promote development and prosperity by connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. This would be beneficial for these continents. Countries in Europe are economically developed, while countries in East Asia and Africa are in the process of developing economically. By covering all these countries under its ambit, the BRI is expected to untap the potential for economic development they hold.

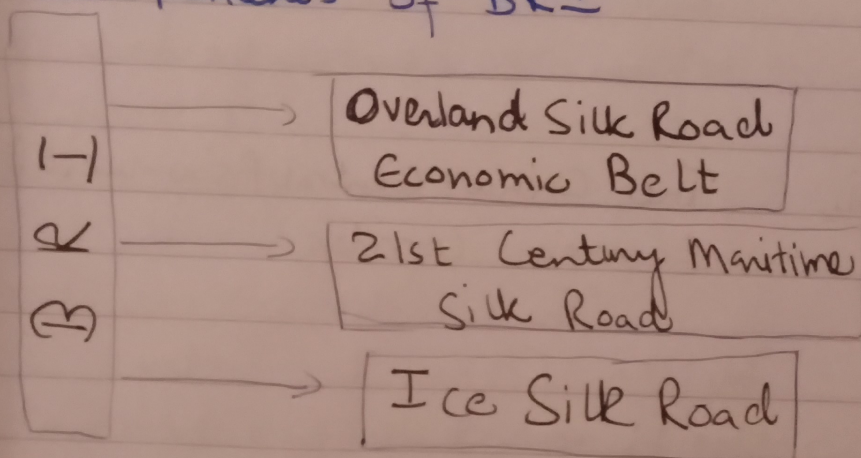
What is BRI?

BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) is China's \$1 trillion plan for economic and trade integration on a large scale. The project would be integrating 152 countries of the world. Through this integration it aims to develop and help the countries it is covering a pathway to prosper. The BRI aims to revive the Silk Road.

route of ancient times. This initiative was unveiled in 2013 by Chinese Premier Xi Jinping.

BRI is the largest infrastructure investment project since the Marshall plan.

Components of BRI



Projects under BRI

New Eurasian Land Bridge (NELB)

This bridge will run from western China to western Russia through Kazakhstan. From there on, freight railways will connect China to Europe in 18 days over a 12000kms long route. In other words, through this exporters in China would gain access to markets in Europe.

ii) The China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC)

This corridor will run from Northern China to the Russian Far East. It would provide a route for trade within this region and would enhance economic integration between the countries the route crosses.

iii) The China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor

The corridor will run from Western China to Turkey. It would cover the energy rich Central Asian countries and the economically developed West Asian countries. This would help these countries move towards progress and prosperity, through cooperation.

iv) The China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor

This Corridor will run from Southern China to Singapore. It would be covering important

route. This would help foster economic exchange in the region and move it towards prosperity and advancement.

(ii) The Bangladesh - China - India - Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor

The corridor will run from South China through India all the way to Myanmar. It would play an important role in the economic integration of the region and would also improve trade and commerce in the sea & coasts.

(iii) China Pakistan Economic Corridor

This corridor will run from China to Pakistan's Gwadar Port. It will bring in an investment of \$ 60 bn in the country and improve its infrastructure and in districts. Ports, roads, railways and power plants and industrial zones will be built under this Corridor. Pakistan would serve as a transit route and could make billions by providing its services to China.

Criticisms of the Belt and Road Initiative

While the Belt and Road initiative helps the countries of the regions it covers reap many economic benefits, there are some drawbacks, too, which this initiative brings to the forefront.

These drawbacks include:

- i) Debt trap diplomacy
- ii) High rates of loans
- iii) String of Pearls Theory
- iv) Neo Colonialism

The combination of these drawbacks does not really make the Belt and Road Initiative a win-win cooperation for all. The beneficiaries of the BRI are likely to stay indebted to China for its investments and loans.

China's ambitions with regard to the Belt and Road Initiative

China wishes to project its soft power through the BRI. Moreover, it intends to change the global balance of power by gaining economic supremacy. The initiative would bring many trade routes

thus, it has logistics benefits for China

China would also be able to grow its economy sustainably with the help of this project. It would also become energy secure, which would benefit its economic growth prospects greatly.

Conclusion

By opening up export markets to China, the Belt and Road Initiative would help the country immensely. It will also promote common development and prosperity across the continents it covers, but to a certain extent. Certainly, economic connectivity and growth would improve as a result of ^{the} Belt and Road Initiative. However, it is China that will benefit more than any other country which is a part of this initiative.

Q5. Introduction

The growth of population in Pakistan is a cause of concern. The population of the country is increasing at an alarming rate and has already crossed the mark of more than 240m. This would undoubtedly put pressure on the limited socio-economic resources which the country has. Moreover, there would be added pressure on the infrastructure and means of service delivery in the country. Pakistan would have to search for ways of controlling its growing population and finding ways to accommodate its already existent population.

The growth of population in Pakistan

i)

Social Dimension

Pakistan has been experiencing rapid growth in its population. This is due to the subjects of birth control and contraception being a social taboo in the country. These subjects are not openly

discussed in the Pakistani society
Moreover, early marriages are still
common in the rural areas of the
country leading to a high birth
rate.

ii) Religious Dimension

The religious cross-section
of the Pakistani society believes
that a child is a blessing from Allah
and the birth of a child must not
be interfered with. Also, that Allah
will provide sustenance and livelihood
to every person who is born.

iii) Economic Dimension

Certain families, especially in the
rural areas of the country have large number
of children. They prefer having more children
as they can help them do their manual
work for example, on agricultural lands
in the fields, carpentry work, etc.

iv) Political Dimension

Population growth is not one of
the top priorities of the Pakistani government.

A critical perspective on population growth in Pakistan

In recent times, Pakistan ranking from world's 6th most populous country has jumped up to the 5th most populous country of the world. This is owing to the previously mentioned factors and some other reasons.

Education is one of the major reasons behind a high population growth rate, which currently stands at almost 3%. The people of Pakistan must be educated with regard to not just family planning but also about the wider social, economic and political issues affecting their lives.

This will help the citizens of this country make better and more well-informed decisions with regard to their present and future lives. Moreover, counselling is also required to make people realize the consequences of an increased number of people in the country.

Effects on the country's socio-economic climate

↓ Pressure on resources

An increased population would place unwarranted pressure on the resources of the country, which are limited. People would ruthlessly compete for their share of the resource, which would make existence hard for all.

↓ Impact on infrastructure

With more people requiring space to live, move, and develop, there would be pressure on the infrastructure of the country as well. Thus, the infrastructure would be adversely affected.

↓ Food Insecurity

With more mouths to feed, food is likely to become scarce as a result of an increase in population. Moreover, more food items might have to be imported to cater to the increase in demand.

(iv) **Water Scarcity**
Water is fast becoming a scarce resource in the country with further increase in population. Water available per cubic meter is likely to decrease.

v **Availability of facilities**
Facilities like health, education, and basic amenities would not be readily available for all as a result of an increase in population.

vi **Catering to the Youth Bulge**
Sixty percent of the people of Pakistan are below the age of thirty. Each day more and more people are added to this age bracket. With this rate of increase in population, it would become difficult to provide education and employment to this

Youth bulge.

Conclusion

The growth of population in Pakistan must be properly managed. At present, the population of the country is increasing at a rapid rate. This rate must be kept in check. Otherwise the pressure on the already limited and depleting resources of the country would increase. And eventually drastic measures would have to be taken to deal with the population explosion in the country.

Introduction

It is evident that China is looking to expand not just economically but also diplomatically. Hence, China's becoming the first country to name an ambassador in Afghanistan post-takeover of 2021 should not come as a surprise.

In recent times, China has been active in the middle Eastern region as well, by brokering Saudi-Arabia - Iran re-approachment.

This serves as a precedent for similar initiatives to be taken by China in the future. China's role in Afghanistan does position it as an influential actor in the region. However, the move by China could also serve as a sign for other nations to build a relationship with Afghanistan, but mostly this serves China's own diplomatic ambitions.

China's diplomatic ambitions

i) Positioning as an influential actor in the region

By naming an ambassador in Afghanistan, China is, indeed, positioning itself as an influential actor in the region. South Asia is in close proximity to China; thus, in order to build a healthy relationship with the countries of this region, it is essential to make a courageous move.

ii) Importance of Afghanistan for China

Afghanistan is a strategically important country for China. As it can provide China with access to the Central Asian market. Moreover, a stable Afghanistan is critical for the stability of the South Asian region. A stable South Asian region would be beneficial for China.

iii) Prospects of investment in Afghanistan

A politically stable Afghanistan would be critical for China. China can look for investment opportunities in the country. However, these opportunities would emerge only when Afghanistan has its political house in order.

iv) Development in Afghanistan

As Afghanistan is a war-torn country, it is in dire need of development. China could build its diplomatic relationship with Afghanistan based on collaboration with the country on its infrastructural development projects.

v) Filling in the gap left by the USA

As the USA is isolating itself from interference in the political issues of the a country or a region, China is aiming to fill the vacuum left by the once omnipresent US. Hence, with the withdrawal of the

US from Afghanistan, China has room to build a healthy diplomatic relationship with the country.

vi)

Diplomacy in middle East

China has already demonstrated its diplomatic intentions by enabling and acting as a mediator for **Saudi-Iran** **re-approachment**. This serves as a precedent for China for future diplomatic undertakings. The Saudi-Iran re-approachment is also proof that China wants to play an active role in political diplomacy.

A possible sign for other nations to establish ties with the Afghan government

vii)

Motivation for the USA

China's move to name an ambassador in Afghanistan could motivate the USA to reestablish ties with Afghanistan. The USA would certainly not want China to have a strong presence in

Afghanistan - This would be against US strategic interest in the region.

ii Possibility of China - Pakistan - Afghanistan tri lateral

Pakistan already has an established relationship with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. At times, this relationship is not quite cordial. China can help bring Pakistan and Afghanistan closer to each other. In fact, a tri lateral partnership can be developed for the mutual benefit of the three countries.

iii, Opportunity for Central Asian countries

If China can see hold in Afghanistan, the nearby Central Asian countries could be encouraged to do the same. The Central Asian countries which are rich in energy resources could benefit from trade with gas rich Afghanistan and

Vice versa.

Conclusion

China's naming an ambassador in Afghanistan is indicative of China's increasing diplomatic ambitions. It is a signal to the world that China is not only seeking to be economically relevant, but would also like to venture into the political arena and create a positive impact. Yet, in spite of this, the move by China can motivate other nations to establish ties with Afghanistan - This would be beneficial for the region and the country.