

continued to support Assad government in Syria. It made two military bases in Syria and supported Bashar-Al Assad diplomatically, militarily and financially. The reason of the support, obviously, Russia wanted to make it possible presence in the West-Asia to counter the hegemonic ambitions of the U.S. . However, Since the start of the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia withdrew many of its soldier from Syria to fight against Ukraine. This development weakened the Assad's government and the rebels utilizing opportunity started actions against autocratic government of Syria.

⑪ Israel - Palestine War and Weak Iran

The rebellion started against Assad regime led by Muhammad Al-Jolani at the time when Hez-

Hezbollah signed a ceasefire with Israel. The latter had destroyed Hezbollah's leadership and decision making capabilities as well as its communication system in pager attacks. On the other hand, Israel's continued to fight against Iran witnessed in Israel's attack on Iran's consulate in Damascus and killing of Ismael Haniyeh at Iranian soil. This provocation of Israel has weakened Iran's capabilities to support its regional allies. Hezbollah and Iran are only supporters of Assad's government in Middle-East. Using Iran and Hezbollah engagements with Israel, rebels groups joined together to advance their interest in the country.

(iii) America and Israel's Ambitions and Their support for Rebellion Groups

America and Israel were

geo-strategic ambitions in the Syria. Iran using Syrian soil provided military assistance to Hezbollah to counter Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza. Furthermore, due to Russia's troops withdrawal, the vacuum was filled by Hezbollah in the southern parts of Syria was evident the Israel strikes in Syria's southern part. The Hezbollah presence in the Syria was existential threat for Israel. Therefore, America and Israel started support for Kurds group which led to the downfall of the Bashar-Al Asad.

(iv) Turkey and The Millions of Syria's Refugees

Turkey on the other hand holding three million Syrian refugees which fled to the country during Asad's oppression against this people. The refugee crisis in Turkey

halted socio-economic development of Turkey and President TAYYIP Erdogan wanted to repatriate Syrian refugees which could only possible with the downfall of autocratic government of Syria. The country started support HTS to advance its interest to change political scenario of the country.

Implications of the Downfall of Assad's Regime

There are multiple implication of the downfall of Assad's regime such as

① Israel's Expansion towards Syria

following the fall of the Assad government, Israel started its territorial expansion at the Golan heights which was annexed by Israel in 1981 and militarized UN created buffer zone. Further more, Israel struck hundreds of

missiles on the Syrian territory and destroyed all defensive capabilities of the country. The main aim of Israel is to make Syria neutral to expand its genocidal campaign. As Israel Times writer; "Now the only enemies of Israel are Iran and Hezbollah, shows the former has achieved its national interest."

② Russia's Presence in the Middle - East has become Nightmare

Syria was the only country in the West-Asia that allowed Russia to make its possible presence in the country. Both have same interest in the region to counter America's presence and influence in the oil riched Arab - states. However, this event gave severe blow to Russia since 1989. Now it is impossible for Russia to make its influence in the Middle-East. As Russia started to withdraw its naval warships

and soldiers out of the country.

③ Destruction of "Axis of Resistance" of Iran

Iran and Hezbollah are only players in the region to halt Israel and its western allied interest in the Palestine. This was only possible because of Assad's presence in the Damascus. However, the event destroyed the "axis of resistance" of Iran and it would allow Israel and its foreign backers to continue their geopolitical interest. The possibility was also ensured by Donald Trump by saying, "let Israel done its work"

④ America's Presence and Influence in the Region

The events allowed America, an anti-Russia, to ensure its presence in the Syria following

the withdrawal of Russia. The western governments are also engaged with HTS leader Muhammad Al-Jolani to make, so-called, country political stable. These engagements and Antony Blinkin visit to Turkey shows that America wants to make newly government an ally.

Conclusion

With the fall of Assad's regime the new challenger in the region came with new opportunities for global powers to shape their foreign policy and interest. The leaderships of Iran and Russia were the only losers of the event. However, the future of Middle-East now in the revision whether inclusive or coercive the time will tell.

Question 4

Introduction

The second decade of 21st century is often called as the era of revival of multipolarity with the newly entrance of China as a global player. However, since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both Russia and China became closer to advance their interest, new world order, and both have same ambition to change U.S. influence over the world. To accomplish their interest both started economically, strategically and geo-politically collaboration to ensure their safe arrival as global hegemon.

The Interest of Russia and China

Both China and Russia have same geo-political interest - "Transformation

of World Order" - but their policies are critically contradict to each other. One rise by announcing "Belt and Road Initiative", however, Russia came again as global power by safely annexing Crimea in 2014. However, their interests allow them to participate on the same platforms and both pledged support to strengthen each other against mutual threats.

The Collaborations of China and Russia to Change U.S. led world order

① Economic Collaborations

Since 2014, following Russia's annexation of Crimea, it came under severe Western sanctions. Russia wanted to enter into new market for its hydrocarbon industries. China was the only economic power at that

time which allowed Russia to sell its energy to China. However, this partnership strengthened during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to Economist, Russia provides gas to China at 44 percent discounted rate, in return, China has provided 15 billion dollars of dual-use equipments to Russia. The sanctions of U.S. allowed Russia to strengthen its partnership with China and allowed countries to rise against hegemony of U.S. which is mostly started from "sanctions"

ii) Geo-Strategic Collaborations of Russia and China

The U.S. "Pivot to West-Asia" 2012 allowed both countries to collaborate at geo-strategic level.

The U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific induce existential crisis to China and Russia. The former claims the whole

South China Sea, and the latter has 'Mutual Defense Treaty' with North-Korea. Russia, Iran and China, according to Foreign Affairs, participate every year in a Naval Drill in the Gulf of Oman. Furthermore, Putin has also condemned U.S. policy of Taiwan at many events. Moreover, as per Economist, Russia has provided many industrial tools and plants to strengthen China domestic production of weapons, drones and AI-^{operated} generated warfare system. This provides strategic leverage to China over U.S. defensive capabilities in South-China Sea.

iii) Geo-Political Collaborations of China and Russia as Revisionist States

China and Russia are both a part of BRICS and

SCO, both as per Western perceptions, are considered as Anti-West alliance. Both countries strengthen each other political position at global level. Being political partner, China, has not condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as European countries and Donald Trump asked China to bring Russia on the table in order to decide the future of Ukraine. However, China shows reluctance by saying "It is the domestic matter of Russia," has not taken any efforts, "politically," to bring on the table.

The Future of the U.S. led World Order

It is not wise to decide the future of the U.S. led world order. However, the economic growth of China and U.S. tariff policy shows that the Chinese

leadership has intent and capabilities to change current world order.

Further more, U.S. engagements in wars and weak European allied support allow both China and Russia to revise U.S. led so-called "liberal World Order"

Conclusion

The growing economic, strategic and geo-political collaboration of China have shakened U.S. led World Order.

Both countries have same national interests which allow them to collaborate with each other to accomplish their goals.

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Question 7

Introduction

West-Asia has history of conflicts due to great power politics. The October, 2023 was a trigger point to initiate new conflict in the region. The event is marked by foreign support and changing regional dynamic in the favor of the some. As war is going in the heart of Middle-East there are multiple beneficiaries as well as losers of the ongoing crisis. Each state has its own geo-strategic ambitions in the conflict.

The Beneficiaries and Losers of the Ongoing Conflicts of Middle-East

- ① America lost Influence over Arab's Countries

America is one of the Western backer of Israel. It has provided 101 billion dollars of aids and military support to Israel since October 2023. The America policy of Israel has gutted the gap between the former and Arab's countries like Saudi-Arabia.

The Saudi-Israel normalization of relation has unprecedented halted. The leadership of Saudi Arabia saying that "Saudi Arabia will not recognize Israel until Palestine becomes independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital"

The statement of MBS - leader of Saudi Arabia gave severe blow to U.S. in its efforts of reconciliation.

iii) Israel and Hizbollah Peace Talks show A weak Zoinist State

Israel has crushed top leadership of Hezbollah by killing

"Hassan Nasarullah" and other top leadership and destroyed communications system of the group to weak its capabilities. However, the morale of the Hezbollah fighter has not vanished, forced Israel to make cease-fire deal ^{with} ~~to~~ Hezbollah in November, 2024. Israel knew that Hezbollah could pose existential threat to Israel.

(iii) China's Reconciliation Drive to Bring Al-Fatah and Hamas at the same front.

In the mid of the 2024, ~~the~~ china brought Al-Fatah and Hamas at the same front and reconciled their leadership to promote inclusivity and better future for Palestine. This drive of China impressed not only Palestinians and Iran's "axis of resistance" but also Arab's countries. And proved to be the future influential player.

of the region.

④ Saudi-Arabia and Iran Partnership

After the revolution of Iran 1979, Saudi Arabia and Iran were strategic rivals in the region. The ~~partes~~ Palestine-Israel conflict brought both countries at the same forum. Both have same interest, to halt Israel atrocities in Gaza, that provided diplomatically support to each other. After Ismael Haniya's death in Iran, Saudi government asked Israel; "Saudi Arabia will not allow Israel to attack against Iran by using Saudi air space." The statement was evident that both have dismantled old rivalries.

⑤ Global Public Opinion Against U.S.

The Hamas-Israel conflict has changed global public opinion

against U.S. The latter, the so-called champion of liberal world has proved in the conflict that national interest is far more important than humanity as Malek Lothi writes

"When the question of state's national interest comes, moral takes back seats"

The U.S. approach to Palestine has triggered student led protest all over Western world especially Columbia University. The students of the university took to the streets second time since U.S. - Vietnam war.

⑦ Popular Opposition Against Netanyahu and A War Criminal

The government of ~~Netanyahu~~ Netanyahu faces domestically and internationally condemnation. Domestically, the people want new leadership and even cabinet minister

has turned against him the resignation of his foreign Minister is evident that. On the other hand, Israel declared UN (Antonio Guterres) a "Persona Non Grata" which was severe attack on international system. Furthermore, ICJ has declared Netanyahu a war criminal turned Israel's image as a serial killer.

Conclusion

The conflicts in West-Asia has proved ~~is~~ changing regional dynamics and beneficaria as well as ultimate loser of the region. The U.S. approach to M.E and China's pursuit of peace showed that real beneficaria and loser of the region. Furthermore, Israel killing of innocent people mostly are women and children showed the atrocities are being committed by Israel.

Question 8

Introduction

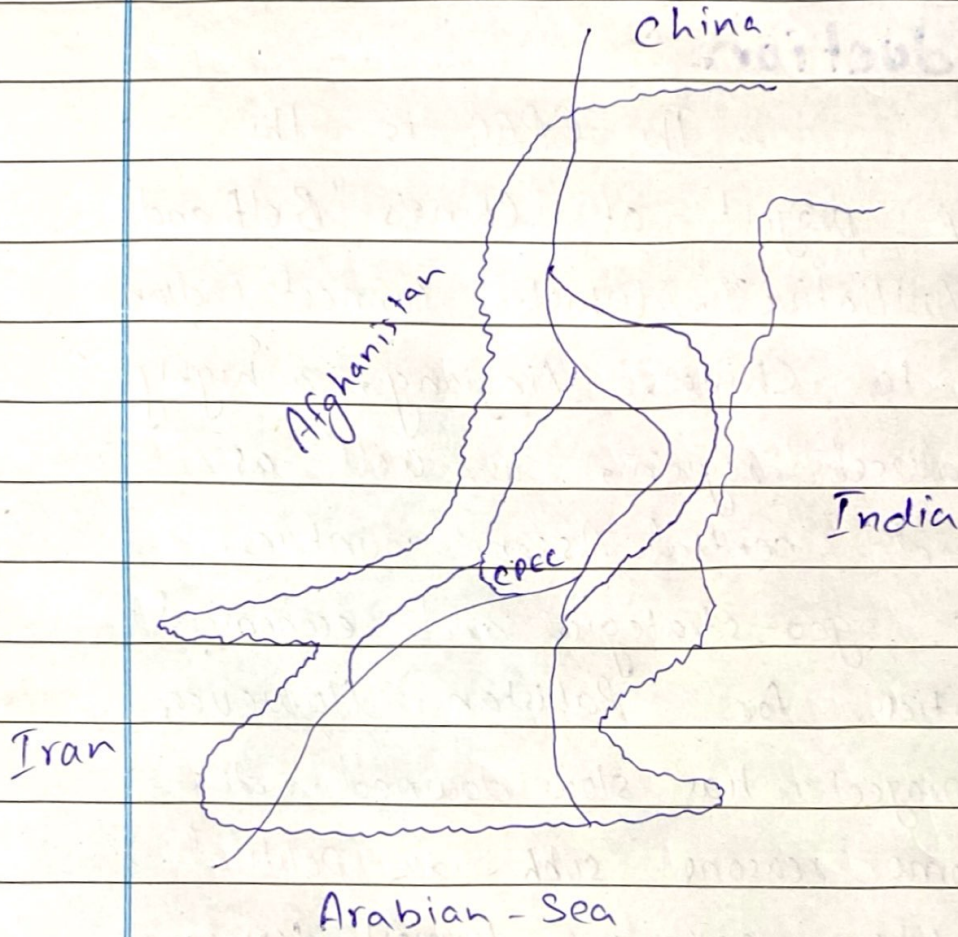
The CPEC is the flagship project of China's "Belt and Road Initiative". Which connect Indian Ocean to China's Xinjiang, a highly industrialized region, as well as landlocked central Asean countries.

Provides, geo-strategical and economical opportunities for Pakistan. However, the project has slow down due to some reasons such as political instability, economic turmoil, terror attacks on Chinese national and geo-political dynamics. In contrast, some actions can strengthen the CPEC phase II position in the Pakistan.

The Reason of slow down operations of CPEC

There are multiple reasons for the slow

down of CPEC operation is such
at



① Political Instability of Pakistan

Since 2022 Pakistan has been in constant state of political instability with frequent change of government and political motivated protests all over Pakistan, halted foreign direct Investments

and confidence of Chinese government to initiate the delayed projects of CPEC. China wants Pakistan a political stable country in order to advance their interest in the Pakistan. Every new government has its own policies and engagements with Chinese government. This ultimately made China skeptical about Pakistan.

ii) Economic Turmoil and Low GDP

Economic Turmoil is one of the reason of slowing down CPEC project. In April 2024, Pakistan was about to default. However, IMF's 24th and 25th bail out package medium and long-term respectively, saved the country. While Pakistan has also roll overed 12 billion dollars of China's loan. At the same time country's low GDP growth - ranging 2-2.5 percent -, according to Economic Survey,

Compromised Chinese investments in the projects which require almost 5 to 6 percent of GDP growth.

③ Terror Activities Against Chinese National.

In 2024, so far, two terror attacks has been materialized against Chinese national; one in Dasso power project and other in Karachi near airport. The

Chinese's "One Child Policy" does not allow it to lost a single man of the country which is only sole bread earner of the family. As per ISPR, there were also foreign involvement in both attacks wanted to derail Pakistan-China tie.

④ Geo - Political Challenge

China is considered as one of the U.S. rival in

Western-Hemisphere. This initiated a tariff war and direct China containment policy by U.S.. As Pakistan being geo-strategically important ally of both America and China. It is one of the main challenge of Pakistan's foreign policy to maintain balanced relation with both. As Donald (U) once stated that

"China is the Past and we are future of Pakistan"

shows the geo-strategic and geo-political game behind back door.

Recommendations For CPEC II for Being Materialized.

① Revision of National Action Plan

National Action Plan was formulated in 2014 following

APS attach. Although all political parties were taken to board, but it would have been more beneficial to include provincial government in the plan. Because every province has its own challenges and complexities.

② Political Reconciliation with Mutual Trust and Respect

Political reconciliation can only be possible by mutual respect and trust for every political party. It can only a way to win confidence of Chinese investment in the country.

③ Balanced Foreign Policy Approach

The SCO head of government summit in Pakistan has proved that the Pakistan foreign policy approach is balanced. However certain actions