

Q2.

Introduction

National sovereignty and territorial integrity is vital for a well-functioning international system. Upon violation of these two, the relations between states are likely to deteriorate which recently happened between Iran and Pakistan. The first strike was committed by Iran on Pakistan followed by a counter-strike. These series of events may destabilize the region which would benefit some actors. The beneficiaries of these tensions include the IS-K group, Israel, India, the US and the west in general. However, through targeted and all-encompassing strategies, de-escalation may unfold and normalcy achieved.

Reasons for Iran-Pakistan tensionsTerrorist groups wreaking havoc in Iran and blame on Pakistan

Iran's immediate reason to strike Pakistan was the fact that terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Adl are using Pakistan's territory for operations against Iran. These terrorist groups have committed terrorist attacks which have led to several casualties

and made Iran insecure. Thus, Terrorism is the main reason for the deteriorating relations.

Sharing a border made attacking each other easier.

Pakistan and Iran share a 595 km border which made air strikes easier as short range missiles could be used. The alleged terrorist group was allegedly operating in Balochistan which was struck and Pakistan also attacked the western region of Iran which has head was close to the country.

Also the already simmering relationship due to unfinished gas pipeline.

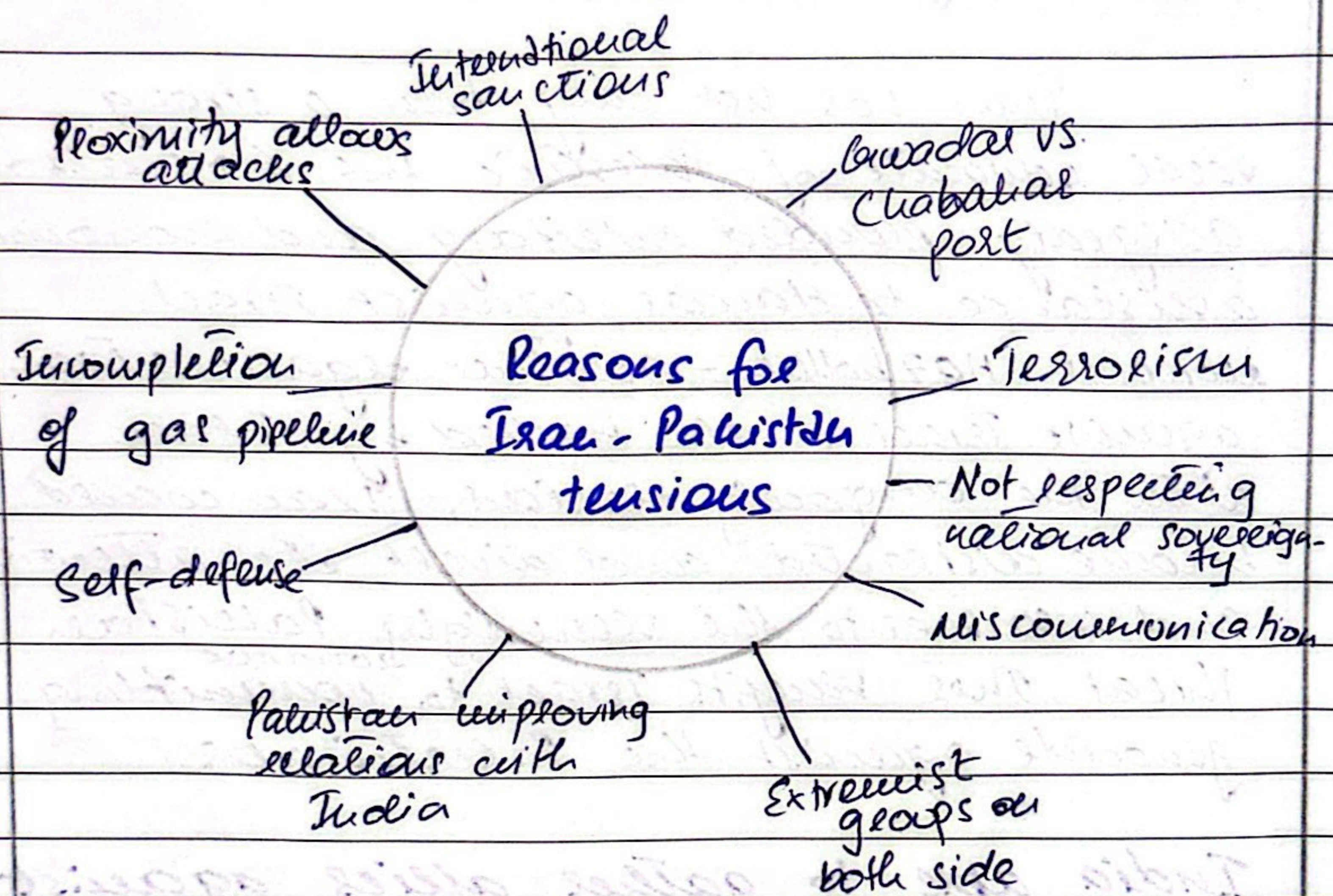
A pre-condition already existed between Iran and Pakistan as a gas pipeline due to be completed was stalled by international sanctions. Iran claimed and demanded that Pakistan pay \$18 bn if the pipeline was not completed by March 2024 which was not possible. Hence, deteriorating relations fuelled the attacks that recently took place.

Ties with the US and Iran's disapproval

The US and Iran are openly hostile towards each other. Pakistan has tried

to maintain good relations with the US which haven't been seen positively by Iran. Hence, this fueled the ~~decrease~~ degradation of the relations and was an underlying reason for the attack.

10 Reasons for the tensions: A summary



Beneficiaries of the Pakistan - Iran tensions

US turning Iran a rogue state and justifying sanctions

The US benefits from the Iran - Pakistan tensions because it ~~is~~ terms the nation, a rogue nation. It could use this to stop the nuclear

program in Iran as it could claim that once Iran develops nuclear power, it would become a threat to the international community. Hence, the US benefits from the tensions to a large extent.

Iran distracted from Palestine cause which benefits Israel

Iran has not only been a strong vocal advocate of Palestine but has also allegedly provided military and economic assistance to Hamas against Israel. Moreover, Hezbollah - another organisation against Israel is also backed by Iran. With the ongoing tensions, Iran would become distracted and divert its attention and resources to the seemingly Palestinian threat. This benefits Israel to committing genocide against the Palestinians.

India able to gather allies against Pakistan

India and Pakistan have been adversaries since its independence in 1947. Recently tensions have increased after the revocation of article 370 and 35A of the Kashmir states. With Iran's relations with Pakistan deteriorating, ~~Pakistan~~ India would have an ally on Pakistan's western border. This is

beneficial for destabilizing the country or to carry out espionage and surveillance.

One such instance was the Kulbushan Yadav case of 2016 where India had sent a spy from the Iranian border into Pater's Balochistan and this may happen more often.

The IS state benefiting from Iran's distraction

The IS state is against the Shia-majority Iran. Hence, they would benefit from the simmering tensions between the two. The IS could continue carry out attacks such as the one twin attacks on Qasr Soleimani's tomb which in January 2024 which killed 103 people. The IS would benefit by ~~benefiting~~ weakening Iran which would be struggling with its poor relations with Palestine.

Beneficiaries of the Pakistan-Iran tensions

India

- Allies against the enemy-Pakistan
- Undermine Assad
- Increased surveillance
- Stronger international and regional network
- Greater influence

US

- Stop nuclear deal
- Stop improving Saudi-Iran tense relations
- Increase influence in region
- Greater help to Israel



Israel

- continue genocide
- eliminate Hamas
- defeat Hezbollah
- take over Palestine
- Undermine Iran's international status

IS

- Destroy Israel
- Kill Shia population
- Establish and expand Caliphate
- Attract more recruits against Israel

ways to deescalate tensions and attain normalcyPrioritize dialogue over violence

Iran and Pakistan should formalise an agreement that dialogue and non-violent means would be utilized before violence ensues. The tensions between the two can be largely attributed to miscommunication and lack of dialogue. Some progress has been seen on this front and should continue.

Allow intermediaries to reduce tensions

After the attacks on 16th January 2024, Turkey and China offered mediation between the two. These offers should be taken as the presence of an intermediary would help reach a logical compromise. This would be a good measure for attaining

normalcy.

Compromising attitude in the spirit of Islam by both parties

Both parties should approach the matters causing tensions with a compromising attitude. Each can not receive all their demands and a logical method needs to be adopted. Hence, in the spirit of Islam - the two Muslim states should adopt compromise for peace (Amin Valliani, The way to peace, 2023).

Adoption of spirit of brotherhood

To attain normalcy, the similarities between the ~~two~~ two rather than differences should be focused on. The principles of Islamic teachings should be adopted such as "Indeed, all Muslims ~~are~~ are brothers" (49:10). This would ensure better ties, collaboration and normalcy.

Improving trade ties

The two countries could work on economic ties. The ~~the~~ border shared between the two means that trade would be easy and beneficial.

to both. For example, oil and gas could be imported and Pakistan could export textiles and agricultural products to ensure stronger ties. According to liberalism, when economic collaboration ensues, conflict is unlikely which could be applied in this case.

Use of regional organisations

Pakistan and Iran are members of the SCO which could be used for attaining good relations. Both can carry out counter terrorism operations through RATS segment in the SCO and solve the main problem causing tensions - terrorism.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Iran-Pakistan tensions is caused mainly by terrorism but social, economic and political factors also play a part. The beneficiaries of this tension are the US, Israel, India and the IS among others. The way to move forward and attain peace and normalcy is to adopt normalisation, compromise, economic ties and use diplomacy along with regional organisations such as the SCO.

Q5.

Introduction

The relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have consistently been on a downward trajectory. This can be blamed largely on terrorism and atrocious attacks committed by the TTP and the ISKP which is using the Afghanistan soil to carry out their attacks on Pakistan. Due to the constant attacks, Pakistan decided to repatriate Afghan refugees who were illegally present in the country. These tensions will likely become worse as reconciliation is not adopted by both parties, terrorism continues to increase and Afghanistan refuses to accept any responsibility for what is unfolding on their land.

Pak-Afghan relations in the wake of terrorism and repatriation

Pakistan's point of view: relations move from bad to worse

Pakistan sees Afghanistan as infringing on their national sovereignty by harbouring terrorist groups and facilitating their attacks on Pakistan by their actions. Pakistan has strong evidence and reporting by its intelligence

agencies that the attacks are carried out from within of Afghanistan, but these are constantly denied and undermined by the Afghan Taliban which has led to relations with Afghanistan going from bad to worse (Muhammad Amir Rana, The cross border challenge, 2023).

Closing and fencing Pakistan-Afghanistan border

In order to protect themself, Pakistan will continue to maintain a strict border control. People moving in and out of Pakistan will be monitored and many Afghans will be denied visas. In addition, the Afghan border is almost fenced and this will be completed to prevent movement of people.

Trade and Economic Ties take a tumble down

The terrorist attacks by TTP and ISKP have and will continue to adversely impact the economic relations between the two countries. Afghanistan and Pakistan have the potential to revive their economies through trade and economic collaboration but security and stability takes precedence over

everything. (Aizat Ahmad Chaudhry, Pak-Afghan relations, 2023). Hence, their relations may continue to deteriorate.

Increased poverty due to repatriation

The Pakistani government announced that Afghan refugees that were illegally residing in Pakistan should voluntarily leave the country before 1st November 2023. Many Afghans had no prospect of employment and no financial resources to sustain themselves. This will lead to increased poverty in Afghanistan which would strain the country overall and lead to deteriorating relations.

Hunger and malnutrition of Afghan refugees and degradation of relations

The millions of refugees sent back were all hungry and will continue to face hunger and malnutrition. The World Food Programme (WFP) in Pakistan is critically underfunded and cannot sustain the influx of 10 refugees which has the potential to destabilise Afghanistan's society further straining relations between the two.

likelihood of increased terrorism

The increasing hunger and poverty and the ~~state~~ degradation of the relations between the two countries would fuel terrorism. Poverty and hunger makes populations vulnerable and a breeding ground for extremism. The repatriated Afghans could be constituted as a pool of recruits which ~~can~~ would further increase terrorist incidents. This would deteriorate relations further.

Opium trade may make a comeback

Afghanistan's opium market was booming before it was outlawed by the Taliban. However, poverty may lead to it being revived to earn an income. This may find its way into Pakistan and increase the illegal activities and disrupt the social fabric of the country. Overall, the relations ~~to~~ would falter and the situation may only get worse.

Revival of the Kalashnikov culture

The Kalashnikov culture was prevalent during the war on terror where increased accounts of weapons found their way into Pakistan, particularly

in KP (Anatol Lieven, Pakistan: A Hard Country, 2012). This may happen again as weapons are necessary for protection against increased ^{terrorist} attacks. This may be largely due to the terrorism increasing in Afghanistan, which will cause relations to become worse.

Pakistan may look to the US for assistance and another war may unfold.

The COAS of Pakistan recently visited the US in December 2023 where security matters among other things were discussed. This may lead to increased engagement and Pakistan becoming part of another war on terror. This is possible as according to The Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) violent militant extremism increased by 57% in 2023. This year 2023 saw the highest terrorist incidents in 6 years which points towards an impending war on terror.

Critical analysis

The situation unfolding may be bleak but it can be remedied through collaboration and engagement.

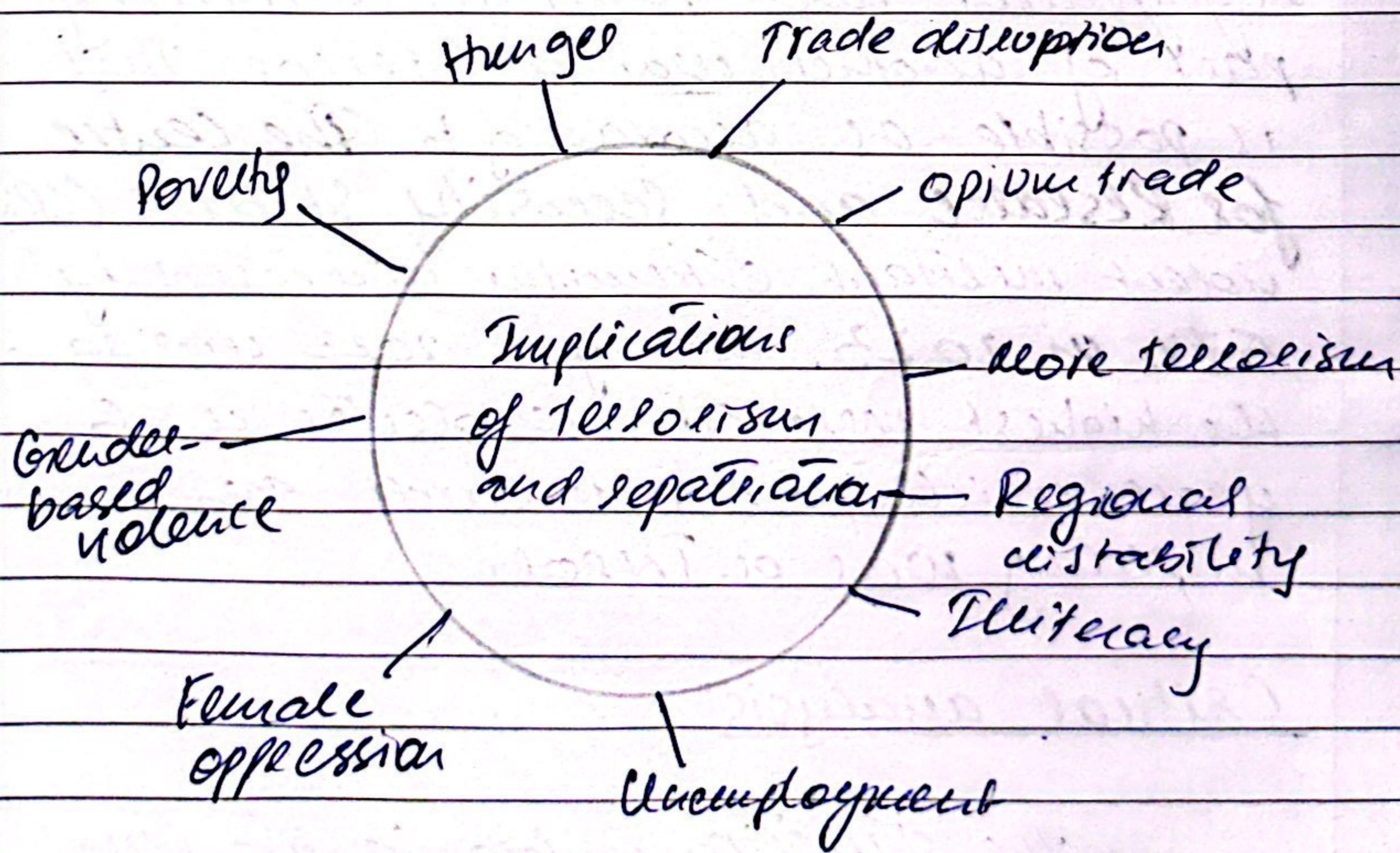
Pakistan and Afghanistan could forgo their stances and adopt compromising tones.

Afghanistan could do more to mitigate the ~~terror~~ terrorism threat posed to Pakistan by not allowing sanctions to TIP and ISUP.

Moreover, a fatwa can be announced that attacking Pakistan is un-Islamic to prevent religious extremism. hastly.

Pakistan could adopt a kinder treatment of the refugees and collaborate with the Afghan government for their sustainable repatriation and promote general good relations through economic ties.

Summary of what may happen in the wake of terrorism and repatriation



Conclusion

In conclusion, the Afghan-Pakistan relations may likely become worse. This may be due to terrorism, increasing economic ties being severed and ill-treatment of Afghan refugees. A positive outcome may come from increased engagement and fighting terrorism together.

Q6.

Introduction

A race to stay below an increase of 1.5°C in temperature has ensued globally. Nations have started to increasingly feel the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly the Global South. The developing countries have contributed minimal amounts to the degradation of the environment and have suffered the most. Hence, the loss and damage fund advocated for in COP27 seems to help struggling developing countries who have suffered from various natural disasters caused by climate change. This presents opportunities of welfare and progress which Pakistan could particularly benefit from.

The Concept of Losses and Damages

The financial damages of natural catastrophes

The losses and damages entail the financial impact of the natural disasters caused by climate change. These disasters will have an impact on the country and damage infrastructure which would cost money to rebuild. Hence, the loss and damage fund facilitates these countries.

Payment by the industrialised countries

The main culprits of climate change are the industrialised countries including the US and China. These countries are obligated to pay for the damages caused by their actions and suffered by the developing world. Hence, the losses and damages are paid for by the industrialised countries who contribute the most to climate change.

Objective is to compensate the suffering nations and promote progress

The objective of the concept of losses and damages is to bring a general consciousness of the problems

faced by environmentally struggling countries and help them achieve progress ~~and pay for~~ by paying for their losses and damages. Countries cannot afford such large sums to counter or recover from natural disasters such as Pakistan who cannot come up with \$30 bn to recover from the floods of 2022. Hence, this concept seeks to attract resources for them.

Opportunities of the practical materialization of the Loss and Damage Fund in COP 28

Global economic growth

There has been a slowdown in global economic growth to ~~around~~ 3.1% for 2024 (IMF). This may fall further due to increasing natural disasters. A loss and damage fund may lead to progress ~~is~~ still being achieved as stumbling blocks are removed. Countries may be able to thrive economically by taking ~~for~~ the available loss and damage fund to recover from the financial losses of natural disasters. Overall, economic growth may be achieved.

Global poverty reduced

The world has seen an uptick in poverty which can be blamed on environmental factors to a large extent. According to the World Bank, 700 million people approximately live in poverty around the world. Through the loss and damage fund these people could be provided with means to move up the social mobility ladder.

Increase literacy rates

Natural disasters and generally in extreme environments lead to illiteracy increasing. Schools, educational institutions are largely damaged in environmental disasters and hinder people from attaining an education. Through the loss and damage fund, literacy could be improved as more resources would be expended on education and rebuilding educational institutions.

Reduction in Gender gap and decreased gender

women are the major victims of natural disasters along with transgender people. Usually resources do not reach them. This loss and damage fund would lead to abundant resources available for all

and reduce the gender gap. In particular, transgenders find a lack of employment and increased isolation in natural disasters as they are mainly involved in begging and prostitution (Zaki Abbas, Climate change 'a threat multiplier' for already vulnerable transgender people). This could be tackled through the loss and damage fund.

Distribution of wealth from the rich North to the poor South.

Gender equality and financial progress could ensue. The global north would no longer hoard resources and the south would not be consistently poor. The wealth would be distributed and equality could be achieved in the economic realm. The ~~loss~~ loss and damage fund is mainly beneficial to the global south (Ajaz Ahmad, A triumph for the global south, 2023)

Benefits to Pakistan from loss and damage fund

Reduce illiteracy making the country

The floods of 2022 cause a collapse of the education sector in many places. For example, in Sindh

schools were completely destroyed and children were no longer able to attain an education. To put it into perspective, the illiteracy level in Thatta district is 74%. (Forgotten schools, 2023). Overall, funds could be invested to revive the education sector and decrease illiteracy by making majority of the 23 million of out-of-school children (World Bank) go to school.

Economic revival of a struggling economy

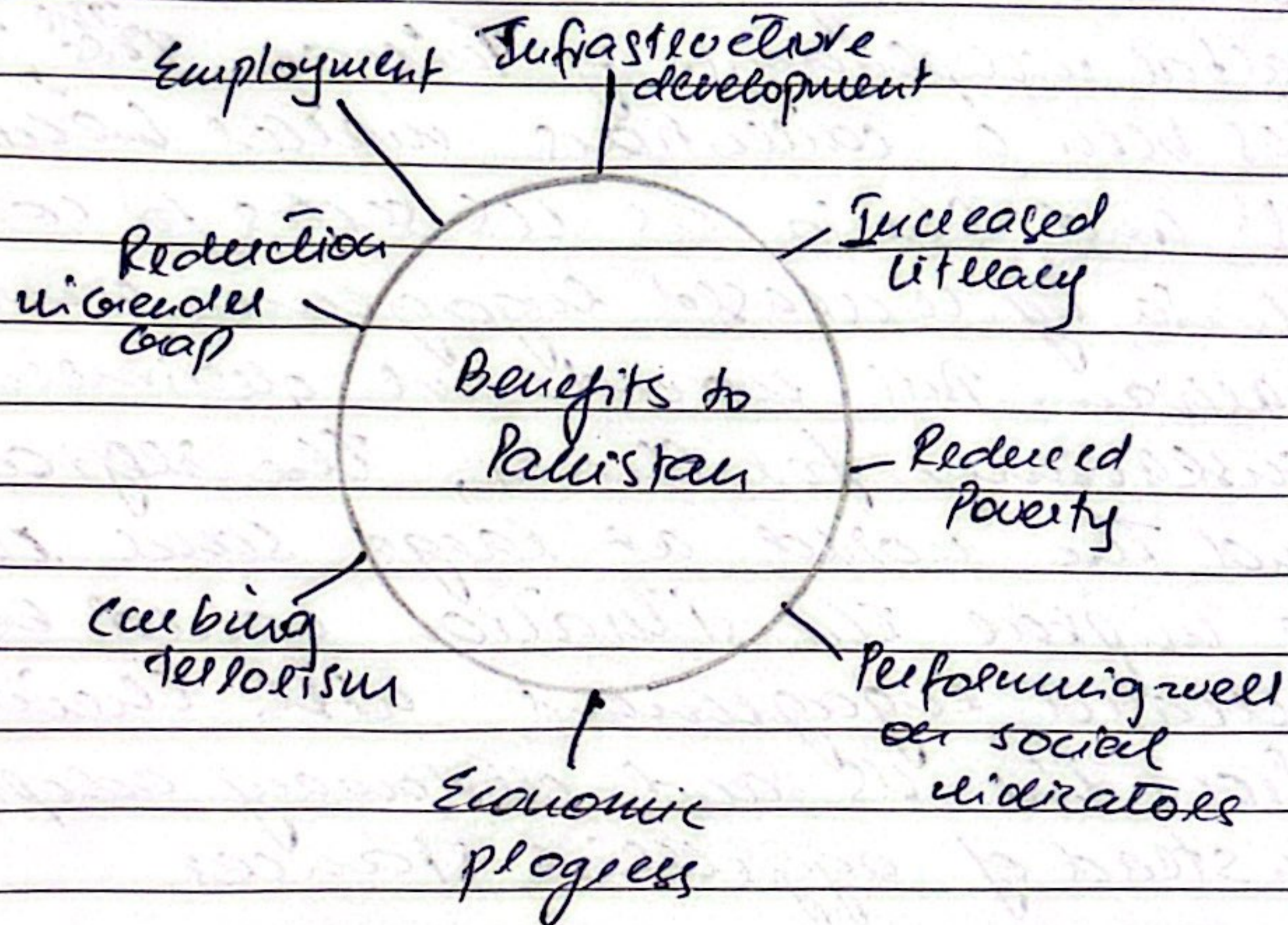
Pakistan could focus on economic revival while ensuring that any damage caused by the natural disasters are taken care of by the Loss and Damage Fund. Hence, Pakistan would not fall behind and can perform well economically.

Reduction in poverty

Due to the floods of 2022 and following natural disasters, poverty has manifested to a greater extent. According to the IMF, poverty level in Pakistan is approximately 40% which has increased. The Loss and Damage fund could entail employment through infrastructural

development and reduce overall poverty.

Benefits that could be accrued by Pakistan



Conclusion

In conclusion, the losses and damages are defined as that damage caused by climate change. This would benefit the developing countries as funds would be made available to them and equality would ensue.

Pakistan could reduce poverty, increase literacy and reduce unemployment through the loss and damage fund.

Q7.

Introduction

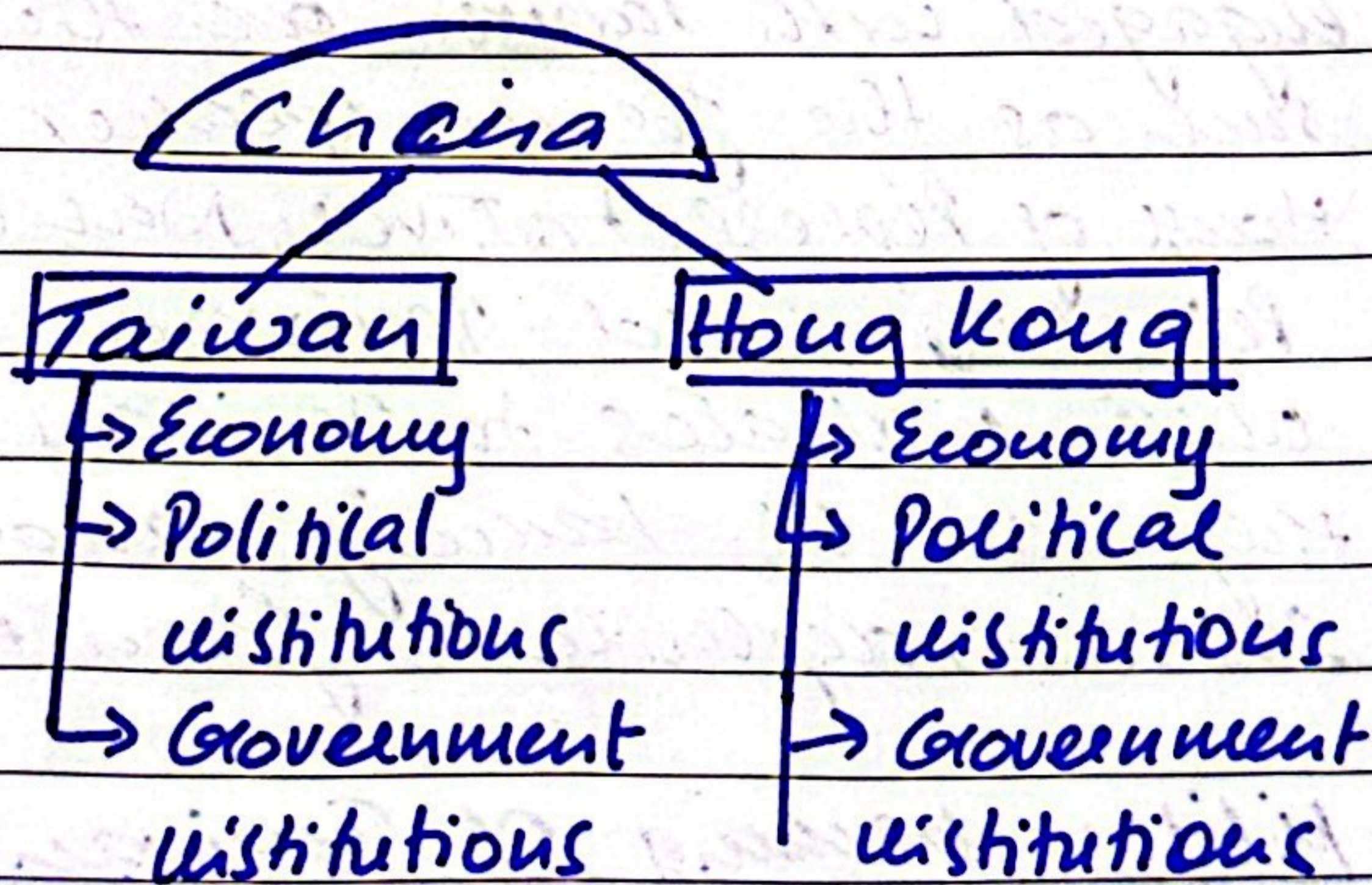
The "One China Two systems" policy entails a unique government and political arrangement which ensures a partial independence of Taiwan. ^{THE} Taiwan issue has been a contentious matter between US and China as US seeks to counter China by increased engagement with Taiwan. This would have detrimental consequences for China, the region and the world at large. Some ways to improve the situation could be increased engagement with China from the US and diplomacy adopted instead of aggressive stances.

The "One China Two systems Policy"
Similarities with Hong Kong

The One China Two systems policy can be seen with Hong Kong which was a former British colony. Hong Kong is part of China but has its own system of government which is still under the banner of China but partially independent. This is also hoped to unfold in Taiwan under the umbrella of China.

Taiwan under China with some space for government running independently

Taiwan is a contentious issue and there is threat of ~~independence~~ ^{complete autonomy}. However, China ~~hope~~ claims that Taiwan is part of their ~~territory~~ territory and they can have a separate government system under China's banner. Moreover, economically they could also hold ~~to~~ autonomy from the mainland Chinese system.



Policy of US towards Taiwan verting China's policy

Encouragement of democracy

The US and China are ~~ideology~~ ideologically different as China is communist in its government running

(Chinese Communist Party) and the US is capitalist advocates for democracy. The US wants Taiwan to also become a democracy and in the elections on 13th January 2021, Taiwan democratic party won. This undermines China as the democratic party opposes unification into China and seeks independence.

Increased political engagement over the years

The US has increasingly engaged with Taiwan over the years such as the former speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, visited Taiwan officially which indicates to Taiwan that they have US backing and can remain independent. From the US China

Military backing of Taiwan

The US has pledged to back Taiwan militarily so that they can counter China in case they are forcefully amalgamated. This challenges China as they would have a stronger Taiwan backed by the US and including it in China's realm would be challenged.

Implications of US policy towards Taiwan

Degrading ties between China and the US

The US and China have already established a negative and volatile turbulent relationship. This may become worse as China feels its national sovereignty and territorial integrity is at stake.

Regional instability in the Indo-Pacific region

The region around China and Taiwan may become increasingly unstable as US influence increases. This may cause the smooth political relations between China and US and chances of conflict could increase.

Increased militarization

Militarization could increase as chances of conflict increase. The Quad is already increasing engagement and military power. This would further increase as US policy towards Taiwan doesn't waver and China

USM integration

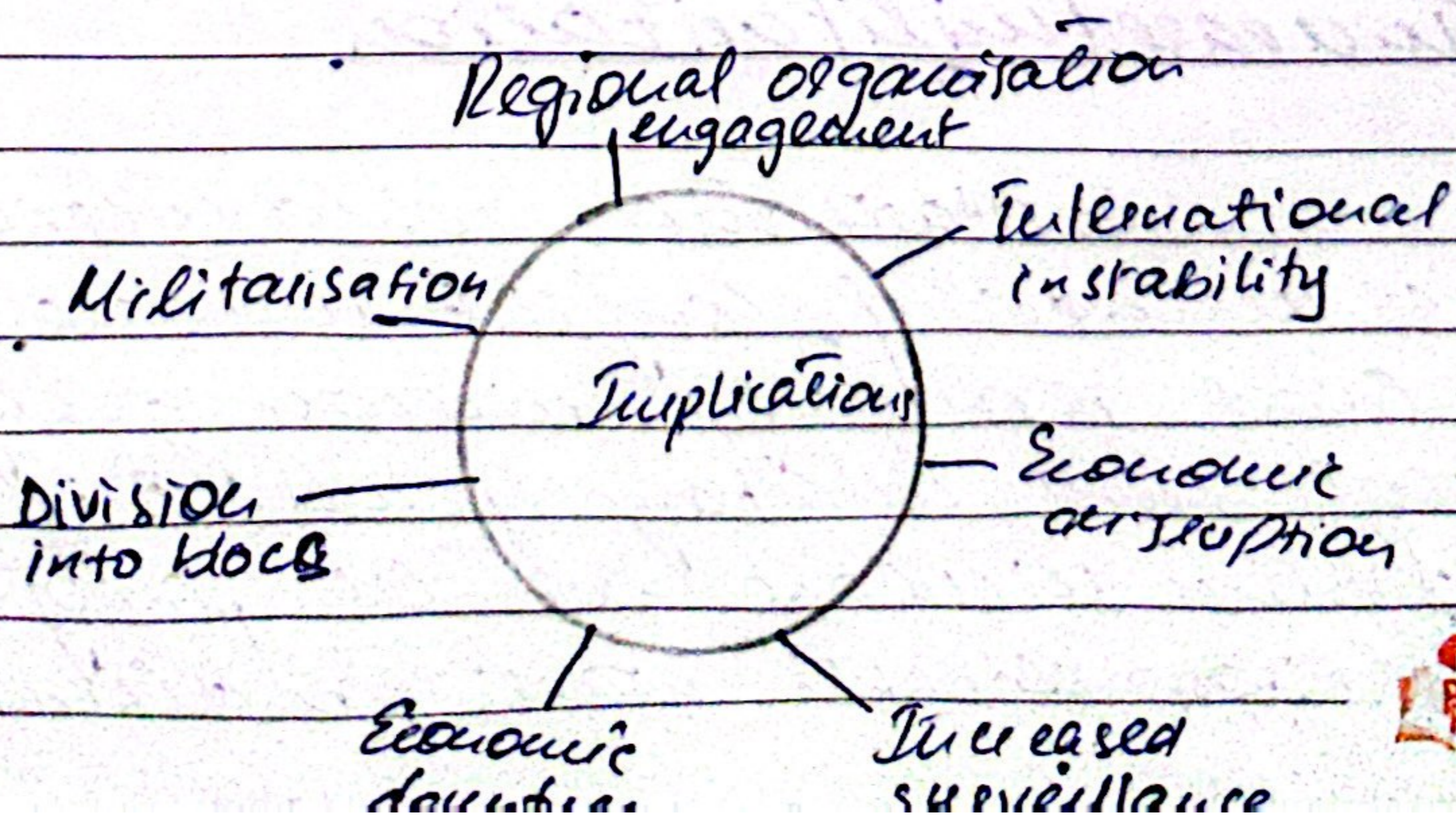
Increased regional collaboration against China

Regional collaborations such as through Quad, AUKUS, ANZUS may increase. This would be to counter the growing Chinese threat.

Economic disruption in the region and world at large

Economic disruption may ensue as barriers may be erected to Chinese trade. This may cause a global economic disruption overall, even if it is limited to the region as China is the second largest economy in the world (World Bank (IMF)).

Summary: implications of US policy towards Taiwan



Recommendations to remedy the situation

Use of the UN to mediate

Since both the US and China are permanent members, the balance is maintained and they could use the UN's forum to try to find a solution to their problem.

Dialogue over violence

The leadership of the two countries should engage in dialogue as violence may not be the answer. The two powerful nations can not use violence as it would impact the world at large. So they should try to listen to each other's grievances and find common ground for general welfare.

US should avoid stringent stances and reduce their presence

While the US claims to champion capitalism and democracy, it has a history of disrupting regions through increased engagement. To bring peace, the US should refrain from increasing their presence around Chinese

territory to avoid the negative implications.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the One China Two Systems policy is discussed in this answer. The US policy towards Taiwan is hurting the Chinese policy by undermining it and decreasing engagement with Taiwan. Moreover, this could have detrimental regional and international implications. It can be curbed by the UN and through dialogue.