

Pakistan Affairs

Question 3:

Give a reasoned account..... with?

The Choice Between Political Stability and Economic Prosperity in Pakistan

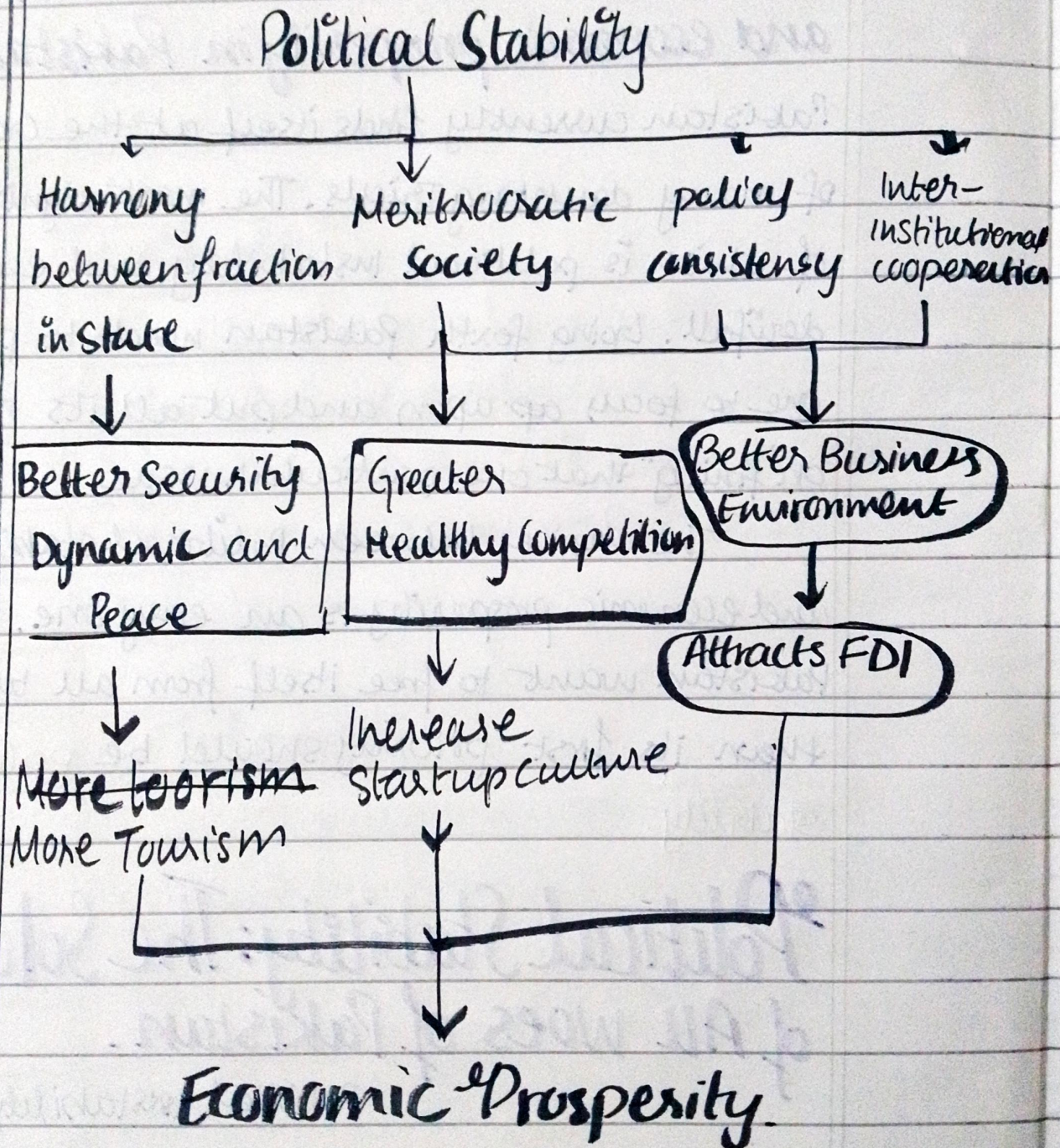
Pakistan currently finds itself at the crossroads of many daunting trials. The most significant of which is political instability and economic downfall. Going forth Pakistan needs to pick one to focus upon and put all its resources on "fixing" that one particular issue.

The choice between political stability and economic prosperity is an easy one. If Pakistan wants to free itself from all turmoils then its first priority should be political stability.

Political Stability: The Solution of All woes of Pakistan.

Political instability is thought to be the breeding ground of all issues that Pakistan faces. So naturally fixing political instability should be the primary

focus of Pakistan. The following flow chart details how Political stability will play out for Pakistan.



Dependence of Economic Prosperity on Political Stability.

Economic Stability Prosperity greatly relies on political stability as in ~~an~~ unstable economies are rarely able to thrive ^{even} if they manage to keep themselves afloat for long enough. Pakistan needs to realise that if there is political stability then it makes Pakistan less risky otherwise investors are not going to invest in the country and business and Private sector corporation which play a major role in economy will be unable to thrive and so as Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson mention in "Why Nations Fail" that state institution and upholding people's rights is what leads to a successful state. ~~an~~ Pakistan can no longer ^{afford} Political instability.

How Political Instability led to Economic Down turn.

Pakistan Faced many instances where it can be said that economic down turn came as a result of political instability.

Lack of FDI Increase.

In 2022 Pakistan faced the most grim conditions of Political Instability in this century. The FDI from the previous year i.e. 2021 was \$2.15 Bn but as it was seen, the FDI in 2022 was \$1.34bn which is a 37.6% decrease in just one year. Why? The reason is none other than Political instability which made Pakistan risky for investors and made them hesitant to invest in a time of political turmoil.

MNCs Abandoning Operations in Times of Political Unrest.

As Pakistan faces

yet another political unrest it is seen that many companies especially multinational companies are abandoning their operations because of unpredictable future.

1. Shell

Shell, despite being in the subcontinent before the independence of Pakistan, has decided to sell its 77% share in Shell Pakistan and Jumped Ship to save itself from the losses.

2. Telenor

Telenor was operated by a Norwegian company but decided to sell its Pakistan's operation and a key contributor ~~was~~ to this decision was political instability.

Political Unrests and its Security Implications on CPEC

CPEC is thought to be a miracle drug to Pakistan's woes and a headstart to its prosperity. However due to Political Instability and presence of different narratives it faces major security challenges. China could severely blame Pakistan for this and the future of the project is at stake. The Chinese that work and their equipment are subject to threats on daily basis. So much so that many Chinese have been killed by Fractions that are suspicious of China's presence because of the narratives of political rivals.

Future Agreement and Partnerships:

Until and unless a stable government is present, other states

are hesitant to enter into any deals or agreements such as trade agreements. This is because they can be affected by non-deliverance of the other state. Only strong and stable political governments are able to maintain close contacts and partnerships that are mutually beneficial for everyone in terms of trade and economy.

Conclusion

"One cannot separate economics, political science and history. Politics is the control of economy." (J.W. Smith, The World's Wasted Wealth 2). Thus even if one wants to focus on economic prosperity of the state, they have to first ensure political stability because without political stability economy cannot thrive. Similarly Pakistan first needs to be enamored with political stability to find itself in a better position to govern and boost the economy.

Question 6:-

Pakistan's Relations: Key to Stability of Region:

It would not be wrong to declare that Pakistan occupies the most important geo-strategic position in ~~the~~ Asia and proves to be vital in case of any discussion of regional stability. And hence, Pakistan's relations, are crucial to understanding regional dynamics of this region.

1- India-Pakistan Rivalry: A Continued Cause of Regional Instability

India Pakistan Rivalry is said to be the deriving factor of instability. These twin states, born a day from one another prove to be the bane of existence of other regional states as tension are always high. Both nations having possessed nuclear capabilities remain on high alert and are extremely wary of one another.

If Pakistan can ensure cordial relations, one that is based on trade and partner then the region can move towards much needed stability. India is quickly becoming a regional power and will now play a major role in regional geopolitics. Thus Pakistan should work towards stabilizing ties rather than keeping arms drawn because it will not benefit anyone.

Pakistan-China Relationship

Pakistan and China have a relationship of friendship since China's independence. China is both Pakistan's neighbour, and a state on its way to becoming the next superpower alongside USA. China's aim of gaining superiority is non-traditional in terms of trade and soft power. Its major tool is the BRI. Pakistan is an integral part of BRI as it hosts the CPEC which is one of the main arteries of BRI. Thus ~~China~~ Pakistan's cordial relation is important for China to gain regional dominance and continue to expand its networks.

Afghanistan: The Orphanchild of Geopolitical Misadventures.

Afghanistan is said to be the graveyard of superpower. That is because of the involvement of super powers in this state. Pakistan never had close relations with Afghanistan but things took for the worst when Pakistan became US's Ally during War on terror. After US's pullout from Afghanistan the region has destabilized further. The international has looked at and continues to look at Pakistan to tackle the growing militancy situation in Afghanistan which continues to effect Pakistan as well. Pakistan's relation, which are still rocky, are crucial to stop the spread of militancy in the region and ensure stability.

Iran-Pakistan

Pakistan used to enjoy great relations with Iran but ever since it aligned itself with western politics the relationship

has degrade overtime. Iran faces sanctions from US because of non-compliance with US policies and Pakistan fearing the same fate ultimately let its relationship with Iran degrade. This includes non completion of IP pipeline project also known as peace pipeline which was supposedly an olive branch. Pakistan and Iran also face sectarian issues and their bilateral harmony is important for sectarian harmony in both states and in the wider region.

The Love-Hate Relationship between Pakistan and the US

Pakistan and US have a complicated relationship in which US has used Pakistan to carry out its foreign policy objectives in the region. Pakistan was crucial for US during the cold war and aided US in the dissolution of the USSR which proved beneficial for Pakistan at that time as it

gained a lot of AID from the US. This relationship deteriorated after that until after the 9/11 incident when US needed Pakistan to carry out its "revenge". That being said because of US Pakistan had to face the fallout of both wars that were not Pakistan's and the region became more unstable as Pakistan became unstable.

Military was on the rise and China feared infiltration from Afghanistan after US pull out. Thus its future relations and strategies in dealing with US will greatly determine the stability of the region.

Pakistan and Russia

Russia, back when it was Soviet Union was a major global power and, because of Pakistan's alliance with the capitalist bloc during cold war and Pakistan triggering its collapse, is not in good relations with Pakistan. The relations have gotten better as of late but still Pakistan can prove to be a great ally to Russia and

play a major part in geopolitics depending on the status of their relationship

Conclusion

As witnessed, Pakistan has, since its inception, been involved in geopolitical affairs in the region by super powers and neighbour alike. Because of its prime geo strategic location it can prove to be the deciding factor of stability in the region. It can essentially be thought of as a glue holding the hostile elements together if it manages to establish ties ~~with~~ and improve ties with India and Afghanistan. Pakistan truly can leverage its relationships to ensure or break down stability in the region.