

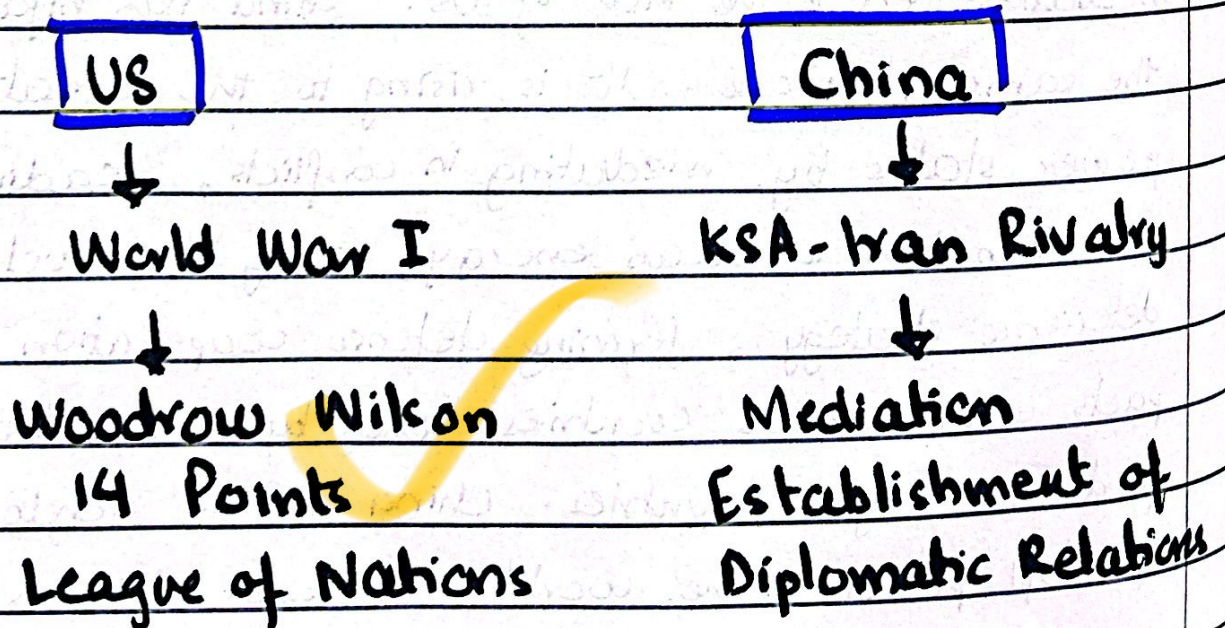
Q3. INTRODUCTION

According to a maxim by Deng Xiaoping, "Hide your strength, bide your time". China has departed from this maxim as it has revealed its strength to the world and has challenged the might of US. The playbook used by the US to rise to the great power status is being used by China now. US came to the great power politics when European powers were fighting amongst themselves. US established itself as a great power by intervening in the World War I. President Woodrow Wilson gave his Fourteen Points and proposed the formation of League of Nations. This mediation led to the rise of US. China has hijacked the same playbook. It is rising to the great power status by mediating in conflicts, leading the transition to clean energy, using the nuclear deterrence strategy, forming defense cooperation pacts with various countries, and by constructing ports in major countries. China too is developing its soft power on the world. However, China is a better mediator than the US because China only mediates in conflicts and not in internal politics of countries, it does not use hard power and favours a law-based international order.

1. US AND CHINA'S GEOECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EXPANSION - A COMPARISON

China is adopting the same methods and strategies used by the US to expand its geoeconomic and political influence. These strategies are as follows,

1. Playing the Role of a Mediator in Conflicts



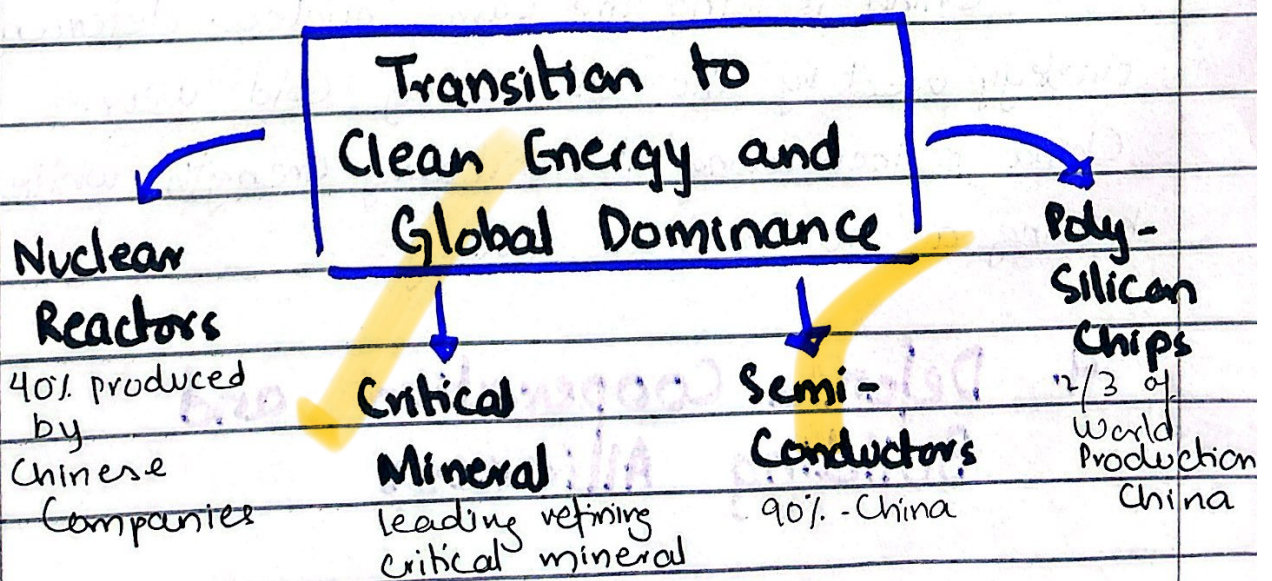
US rose to power when it mediated in World War I. China is using the same playbook.

as it recently mediated in a decades old conflict of Saudi Arabia and Iran. This rapprochement has increased the diplomatic role of China in the world.

2. US led Industrialized World, China leading Transition to Clean Energy.

US led the transition from an agriculture world to an industrialized world along with Britain. Industrialization gave a boost to US economy and made it into an economic giant.

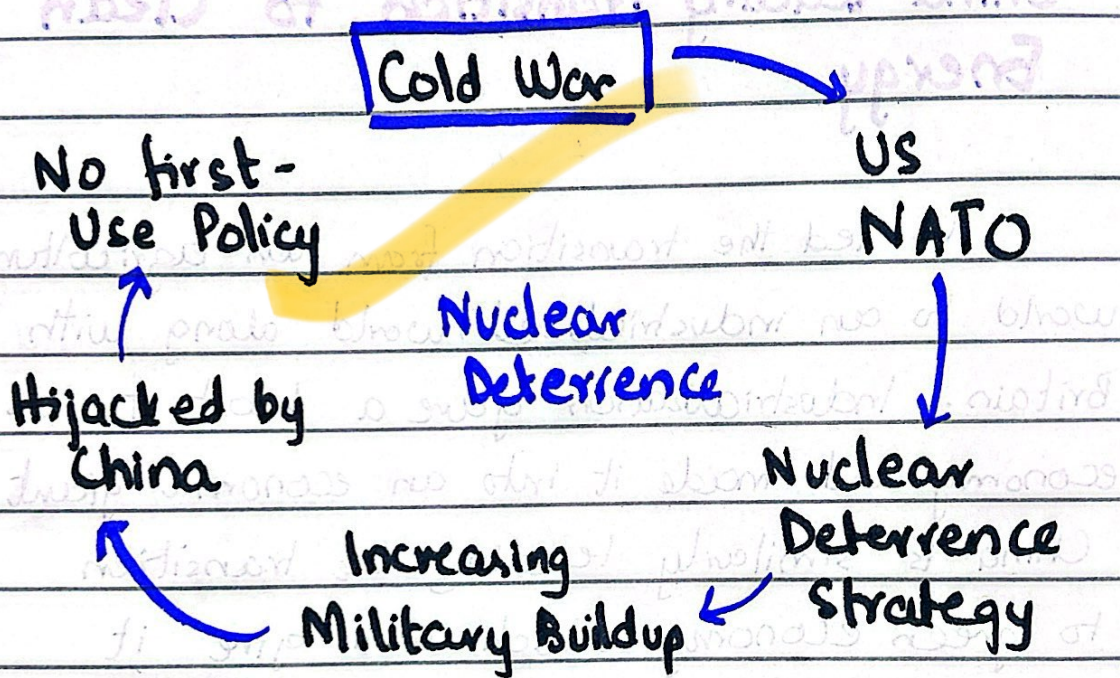
China is similarly leading the transition to green economy which will give it global clout and influence.



China is using the same playbook and leading

the transition to increase its global dominance.

3. China has Hijacked the Old Nuclear Deterrence Strategy of NATO and US.



China is using the same nuclear deterrence strategy used by the US during Cold War.

China is increasing its military strength while having a no first-use policy.

4. Defense Cooperation and Building Alliances

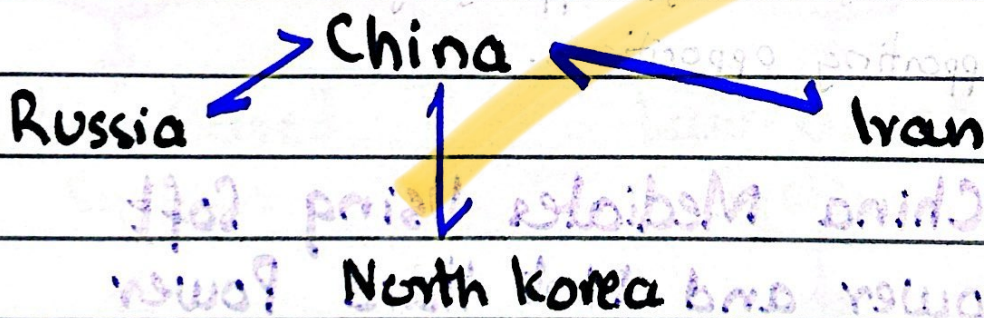
US rose to the status of global power by building alliance through defense pacts and

and cooperation around the world.

US → Cold War → SEATO → Alliances
CENTO
NATO

China is today using the same strategy.

China has defense cooperation with Iran and North Korea. China has economic frameworks with CPEC countries. China is also integrated with Russia, providing an off-set for sanctions.



Thus, China, Russia, North Korea and Iran are all antagonists of the US and they directly challenge its dominance.

REASONS WHY CHINA CAN PLAY A BETTER ROLE AS A MEDIATOR

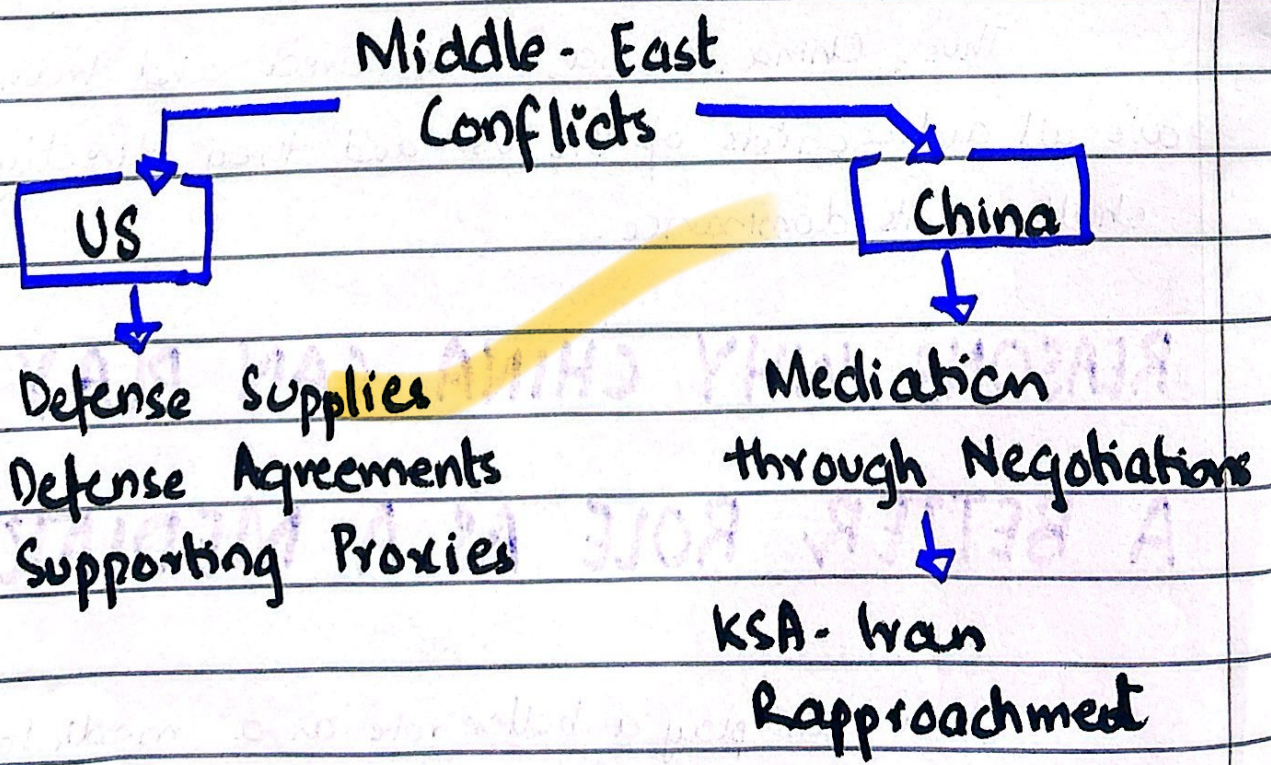
China can play a better role as a mediator

for the following reasons,

1. China Does not Intervenes in Internal Politics of Countries

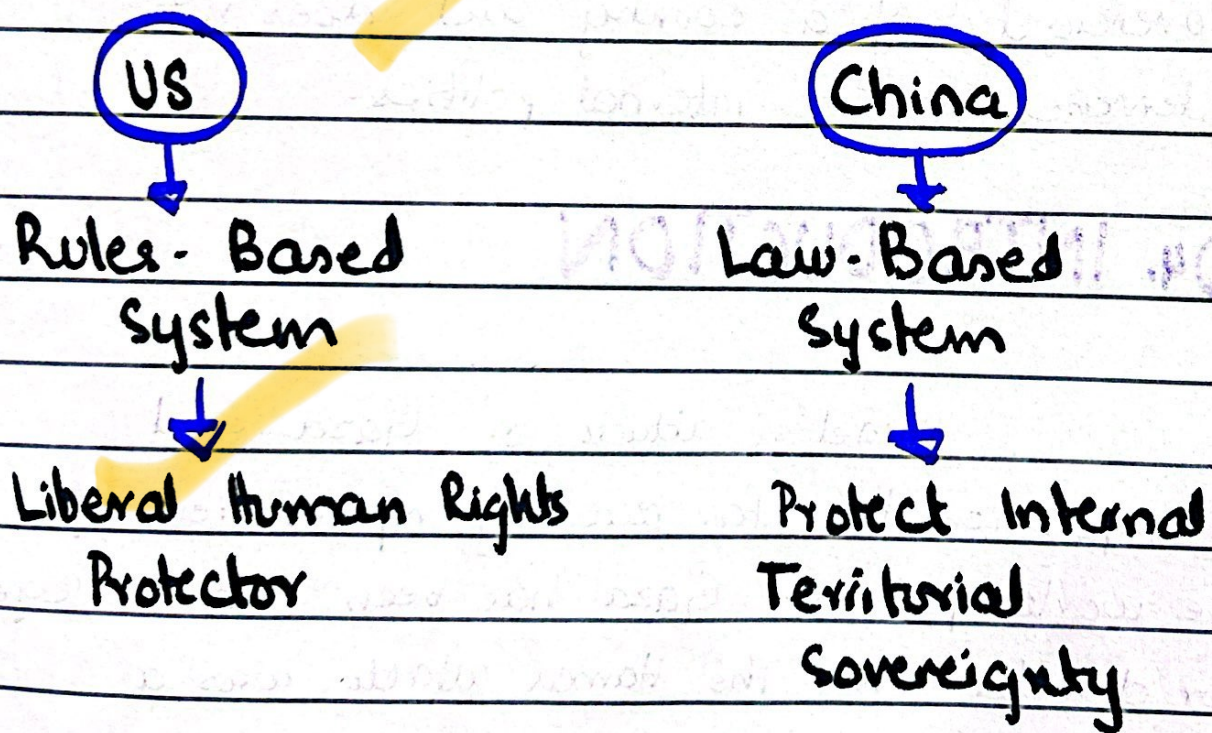
China can prove to be a mediator because China only mediates to increase its global clout and does not intervenes in the internal conflicts and politics. US has historically used its political influence for political engineering, toppling governments and by supporting oppositions.

2. China Mediates Using Soft Power and Not Hard Power



US mediated in the Middle East conflicts using its hard power and supporting Saudi Arabia through defense supplies. China, on the other hand, held talks and negotiations, Used its soft power to mediate between two regional players.

3. China Supports Law-Based International Order



US has mediated and intervened in conflicts such as the Afghanistan wars to protect human rights. China believes in respecting the territorial sovereignty of a country. Thus, China is the better mediator.

CONCLUSION

The strategies and methods used by the US to increase geopolitical significance are being employed by China for its rise. China is hijacking the same strategies, building alliances, forming economic and defense pacts and mediating in conflicts. However, China is the better mediator because China respects the internal territorial sovereignty of a country and does not intervene in the internal politics.

Q4. INTRODUCTION

Israel's attack on Gaza and its expansion has far reaching repercussions for the world politics. Gaza has been under siege for decades now. The Hamas attack was a retaliation of decades of human rights abuses. The attack set in motion consequences that are now spreading to the entire region. With the Yemen blockade and Iran's Axis of resistance involved, the conflict can expand to the whole region. This war will also have far-reaching consequences for global power politics.

This war has led to reducing US influence in the region with the failure of US's Middle-East Policy. US is also being portrayed as aggressor through 'guilt by association' and for its blanket support of ~~Iran~~ Israel. Russia is using the war to expose Western hypocrisy in the West and the Middle East. China is increasing its diplomatic footprint in the Middle East.

1. THE EXPANSION OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR INTO THE REGION

The Israel-Hamas war has involved the entire Middle-East region. However, it is unlikely that the Arab countries will unite against Israel as they previously have. This war will have spillover effects on the region. The war is expanding in the region in the following ways,

1. Iran's Axis of Resistance is Revived

Lebanon

- Hezbollah war against Israel on Northern front.

Jordan

Iraq

- Iran support of Al-Shabab

Iran

- Axis of Resistance
- Quds force

Egypt

- Blocking Rafah crossing
- Do not want more refugees.

KSA

- Rejected oil trade suspension
- Condemnation
- public unrest
- MBS neutral stance
- Suspending negotiations with Israel.

Oman

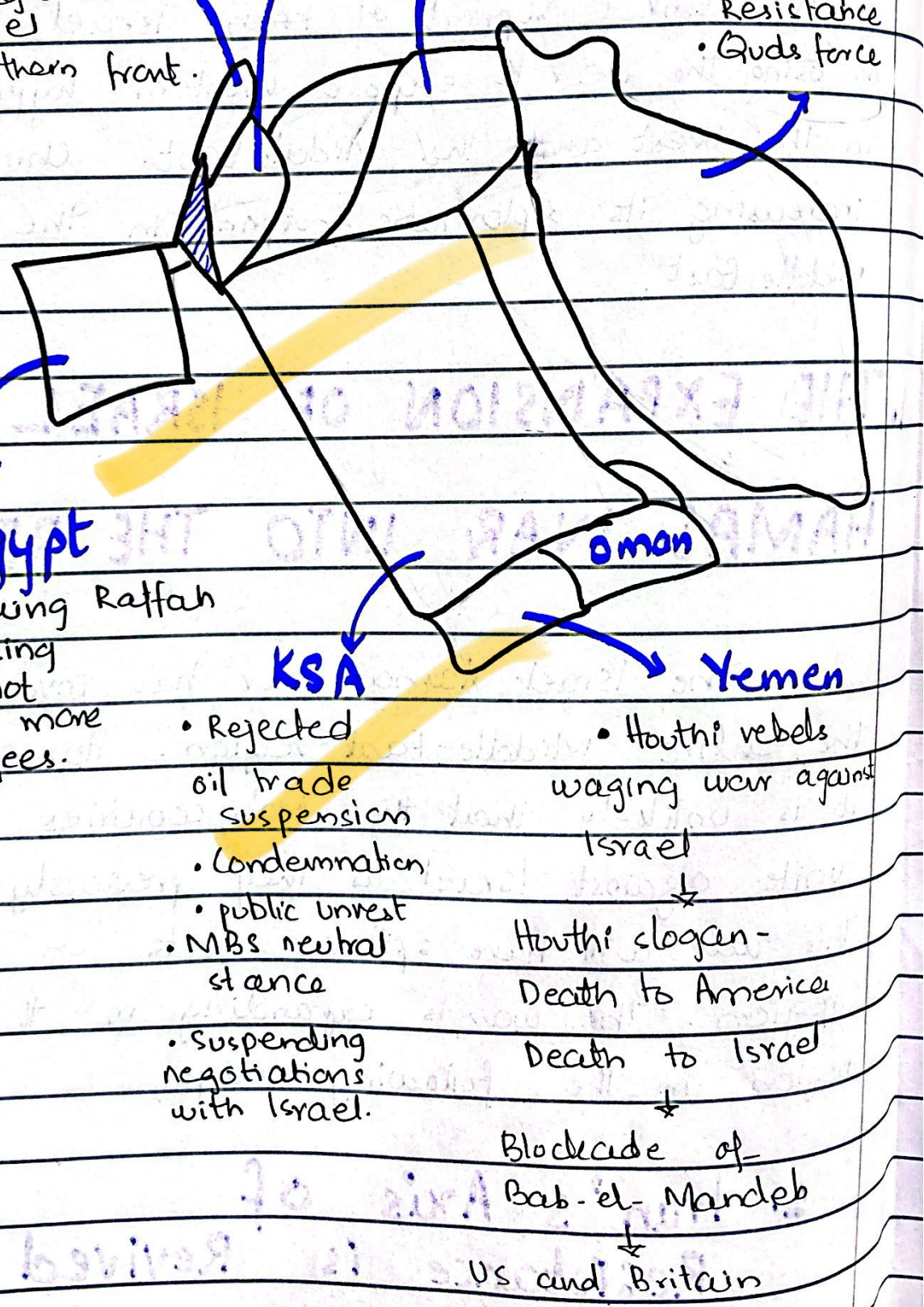
Yemen

- Houthi rebels waging war against Israel

Houthi slogan -
Death to America
Death to Israel

Blockade of
Bab-el-Mandeb

↓
US and Britain
war planes



Iran has revived its axis of resistance, which includes Hamas, Houthi rebels and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Axis is currently at war with Israel at multiple fronts.

2. Houthi Rebels in Yemen and Red Sea Blockade

The blockade of Red Sea by Houthi rebels has brought the war to the Red Sea and Yemen. The conflict has expanded as Houthi rebels have attacked cargo ships in Red Sea and have blocked oil cargoes from crossing.

3. Expansion of Conflict to West Bank

The West Bank has been under public unrest for decades due to wildcat settlements. The conflict in Gaza can spread to West Bank and it can threaten Israel's de facto control of the territory through Palestine Authority.

4. The Chances of Saudi Arabia's Inclusion in the Conflict

Saudi Arabia was on the verge of normalizing relations with Israel. This conflict disrupts the talks between them. However, it is unlikely that Saudi will directly intervene in the conflict. They have rejected suspending oil trade and have only condemned the Israel attack despite public outrage.

II. THE IMPACT OF ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR ON GLOBAL POWER POLITICS

The Israel-Hamas war will impact global power politics in the following ways,

1. US - China Rivalry and Middle East Unrest

US - Middle East Strategy



- Blanket Support for Israel
- Portraying Israel as only Democracy in the region
- Defense Cooperation with KSA - Security Guarantor
- Antagonism with Iran - Sanctions
- Support of Sunni Arab World
- Portraying Iran as Aggressor
- Normalizing Israel relations with Sunni Arab world



Israel-Hamas War



Failure of Strategy



Reducing Diplomatic Footprint

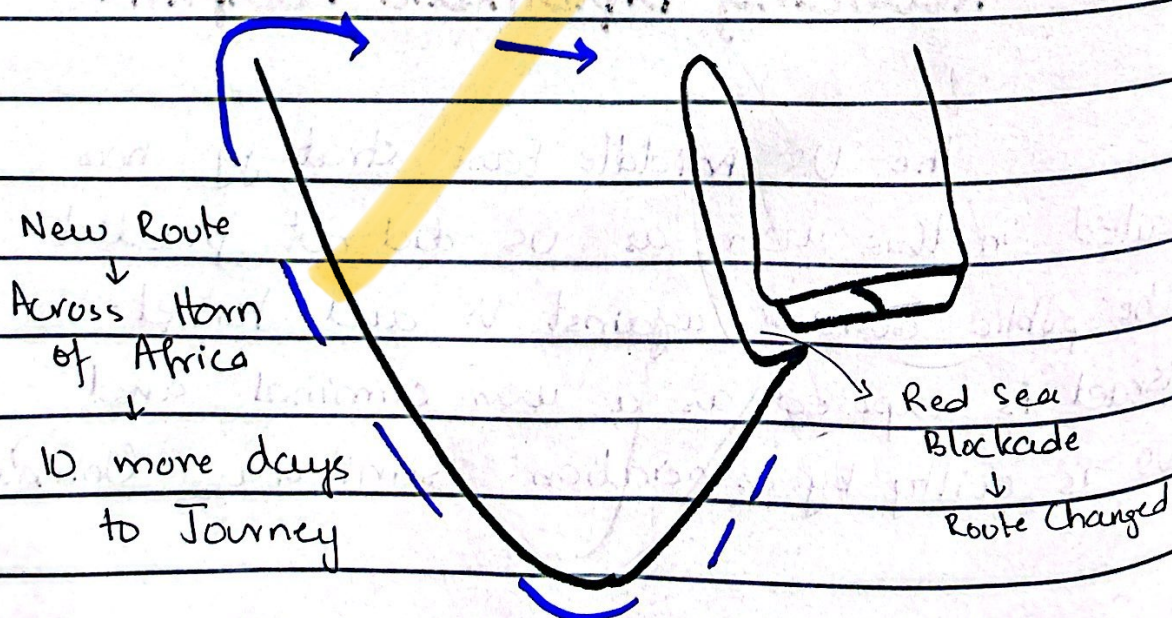
The US Middle East strategy has failed in this war as US did not predict the public outrage against US and Israel. Israel is exposed as a war criminal and US is guilty by association. Similarly, China's

diplomacy is increasing in the Middle-East. China has condemned Israel's actions and has supported ceasefire motions.

2. Israel-Hamas War and Russia's Narrative

The Israel-Hamas War is affecting the support of western world to Ukraine against Russia. Without West's support Ukraine will lose in war against Russia. Russia will threaten Baltic states and other states in its traditional sphere of influence. Russia is building a narrative around West's hypocrisy in Israel.

3. Impact on Global Inflation



Due to Israel-Hamas War, Houthi rebels have blocked Red Sea. The oil containers have to go across Horn of Africa to reach Israel which adds ten more days to the journey. This will increase the price of oil leading to global inflation.

CONCLUSION

Israel-Hamas war is expanding to the entire region. However, the possibility of an all-out war of Muslim world against Israel is less. The Arab world has taken different stance. The spillover effects of the war will be felt by the entire region, creating a refugee crisis and conflicts between Sunni and Shia sects in Middle-East. The global power tussle too is intensifying because of the war as China is increasing its role in the region and US is failing to draft a working Middle-East strategy.

Q. INTRODUCTION

Political instability in Pakistan leads to multiple socio-economic crises. It is the root cause of economic defaults and social problems. In Pakistan, the authorities escaped a default with the support of IMF. Political instability creates an unpredictable and unstable business environment that hinders foreign direct investment as the country loses investor confidence. Similarly, the lack of continuity of policies leads to discontinuation of projects vital for economic growth. Political instability also creates social instability by creating separatist tendencies, marginalizing people living at the peripheries and impacting national integration.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISES IN PAKISTAN

Political instability causes the following socio-economic crises,

1. The Impact on Business Environment

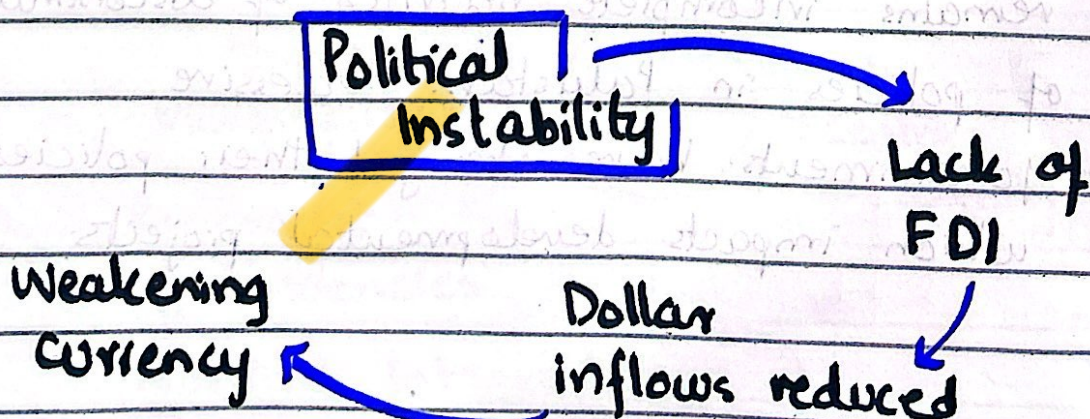
Unstable
Business
Environment



- Investor Confidence
- Unpredictable
- Banking Crisis
- Weakening of Currency

An unstable business environment is created by political instability. The environment becomes unpredictable, and the investors withdraw their investments. Global industries are leaving Pakistan discontinuing their operations because of political instability.

2. The Impact on Foreign Direct Investment



Political instability impacts foreign direct investment in Pakistan. This leads to less dollar inflows and more outflows which weakens the currency and leads to a default.

3. Continuity of Policies and Economic Projects

Iran → Pakistan

Gas Pipeline Project

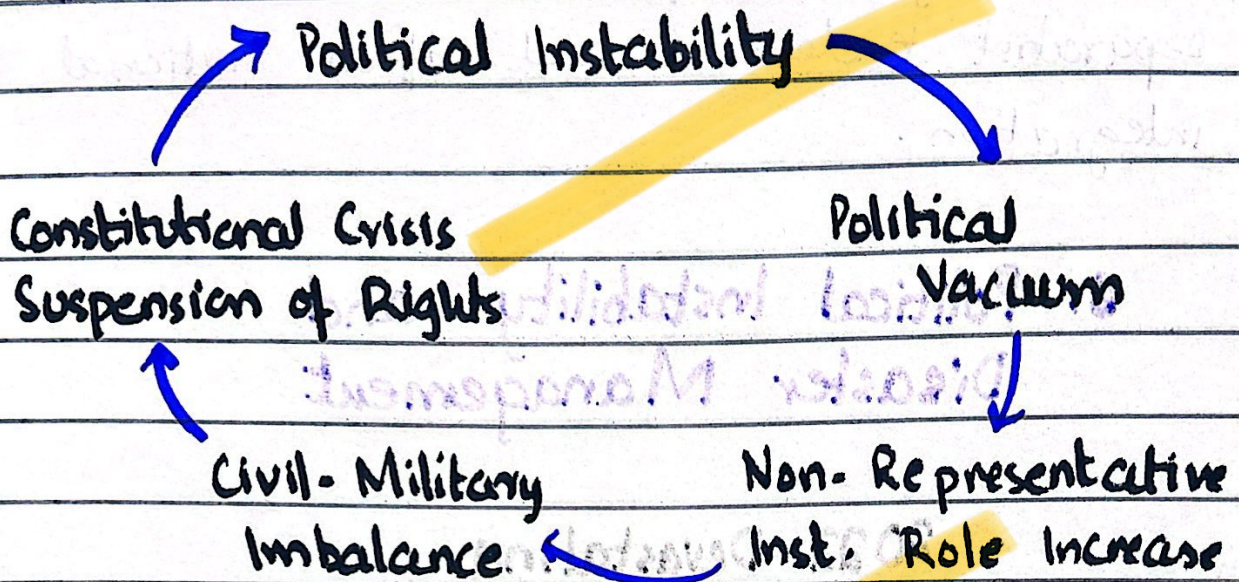
↓
Political Instability

↓
No Continuation of Policies

↓
Project Incomplete

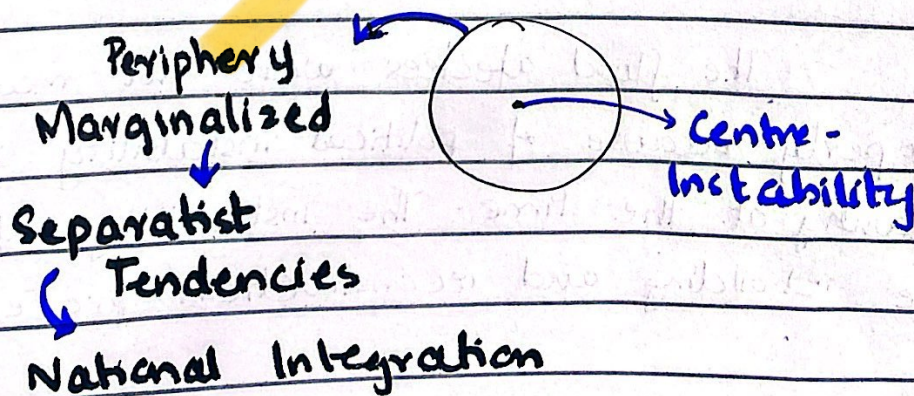
Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project remains incomplete because of discontinuation of policies in Pakistan. Successive governments have changed their policies which impacts developmental projects.

4. Increasing Role of Non-Representative Institutions



The political vacuum created by political instability has been historically filled by military leaders in Pakistan. This affects constitutions, suspends fundamental rights and strengthens non-representative institutions.

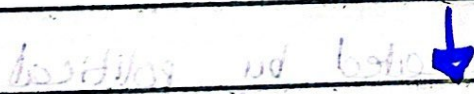
5. Political Instability and National Integration



If there is political instability in the centre, they fail to address the grievances of people living at the peripheries. This creates separatist tendencies and affects national integration.

6. Political Instability and Disaster Management

2022 Devastating Floods in Pakistan



1700 killed

8 million Displaced

\$30 bn losses



Political Instability



Reconstruction and Management

The flood affected were not managed properly because of political instability in the country at the time. The instability affected the rebuilding and reconstruction process.

7. Political Instability and Terrorism

Resurgence of Terrorism

↓
Political Instability

↓
Lack of Comprehensive Framework

Due to political instability in Pakistan, the authorities have been unable to deal with the threat of terrorism. A stable political government can work with security agencies to form a security framework.

II. RECOMMENDED POLICY

MEASURES TO COUNTER

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS

The following policy measures can be adopted to counter socio-economic crisis and political instability,

1. Continuation of Policies

Despite political instability, the policies must continue to ensure economic development.

2. Increasing Role of Technocrats

Technocrats are well-equipped with knowledge and can make better economic policies. The political instability should remain separate from economic development departments run by professionals.

3. Forming a Comprehensive Framework to Tackle Security Issues

Political parties should all work together to form a comprehensive framework on security and terrorism issue.

4. Creating a Stable Business Environment that is Predictable

The business environment should be protected from political shocks. The business environment should ensure

sanctity of contracts and tax exemptions to bring in more investors.

CONCLUSION

Political stability needs to be ensured to tackle the socio-economic issues in Pakistan. A politically stable environment leads to economic growth and social progress. Political stability is the precursor to all other kinds of growth in a country. Thus, a stable functioning government is needed in Pakistan.