

Sara Maryam

DATE:

25th Jan

DAY:

## Pak Affairs Test 3

### Q1. INTRODUCTION

Foreign policy involves balancing ties with neighbours, maintaining good relations with traditional allies, and looking for new avenues of economic cooperation with emerging powers. While domestic policy deals with internal affairs and politics, foreign policy is what forms an image of a country and uses this image to form economic and diplomatic ties. Thus, foreign policy is the defining feature of the global standing of a country. Pakistan's foreign policy is facing multiple challenges. Surrounded with hostile neighbours, balancing ties with emerging powers and traditional allies, and economic dependence on IMF and China are some of the significant challenges to Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan is at the confluence of major conflicts due to its strategic position which poses another challenge for foreign policy formulators. While, domestic policy can only defeat, foreign policy can kill us.

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# FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN

The foreign policy challenges of Pakistan are as follows,

## 1. A Hostile Neighbour in the East: INDIA

According to World Bank, the trade potential between India and Pakistan is of \$37.5 bn. However, Pakistan has not been able to take advantage of this potential because of strained ties.

Pakistan's major foreign policy challenge since inception has been relations with India. These relations have further deteriorated recently, due to the following reasons,

1. Abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir
2. Construction of Ram Mandir
3. Growing India-US strategic ties
4. India's rise as a regional hegemon

Maintaining peaceful relations with India is a major foreign policy challenge.

## 2. Deteriorating Relations with Afghan Taliban

The recent repatriation of Afghan refugees has further deteriorated relations with Afghan Taliban. The non-cooperation of Afghan Taliban on Pakistan's security concerns and their continuing support of Tehreek-e-Taliban has made Afghanistan a foreign policy challenge for Pakistan.

Afghan Taliban Takeover  
in 2021



A Win for Pakistan



Non-cooperation of  
Afghan Taliban Regarding  
Pakistan Security Concerns



Repatriation of Refugees



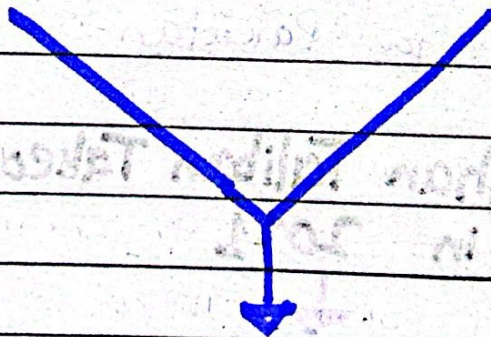
Foreign Policy Challenge

### 3. Dependence on IMF and on China and Lack of Independent Foreign Policy

Pakistan is dependent on IMF for economic stability. IMF comes with conditionalities which increases US's sway over Pakistan's internal affairs. Due to this dependence, Pakistan has been unable to develop independent foreign policy.

Dependence  
on IMF

Overreliance  
on China



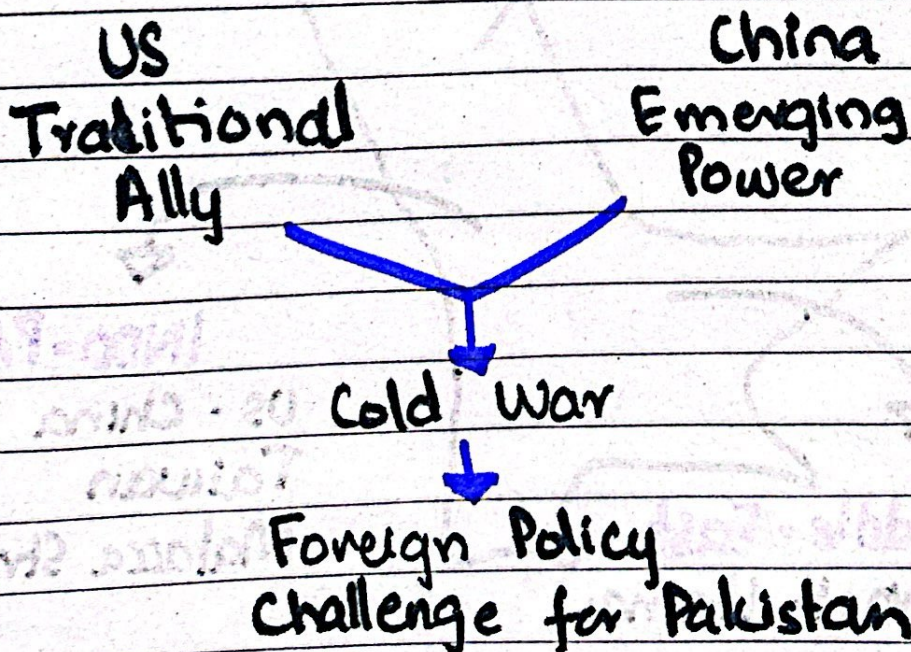
Lack of Independent  
Foreign Policy

Similarly, overreliance on China for economic relief has also added to Pakistan's woes. Pakistan needs an independent foreign policy.

#### 4. Pan Islamism and Public Opinion a major determinant of Foreign Policy

Pan-Islamism and public opinion have been major determinants of Pakistan's foreign policy. However, they can be a challenge too. During the **Azerbaijan and Armenian Conflict**, Pakistan supported Azerbaijan, rather than staying neutral because of religious ties and public opinion.

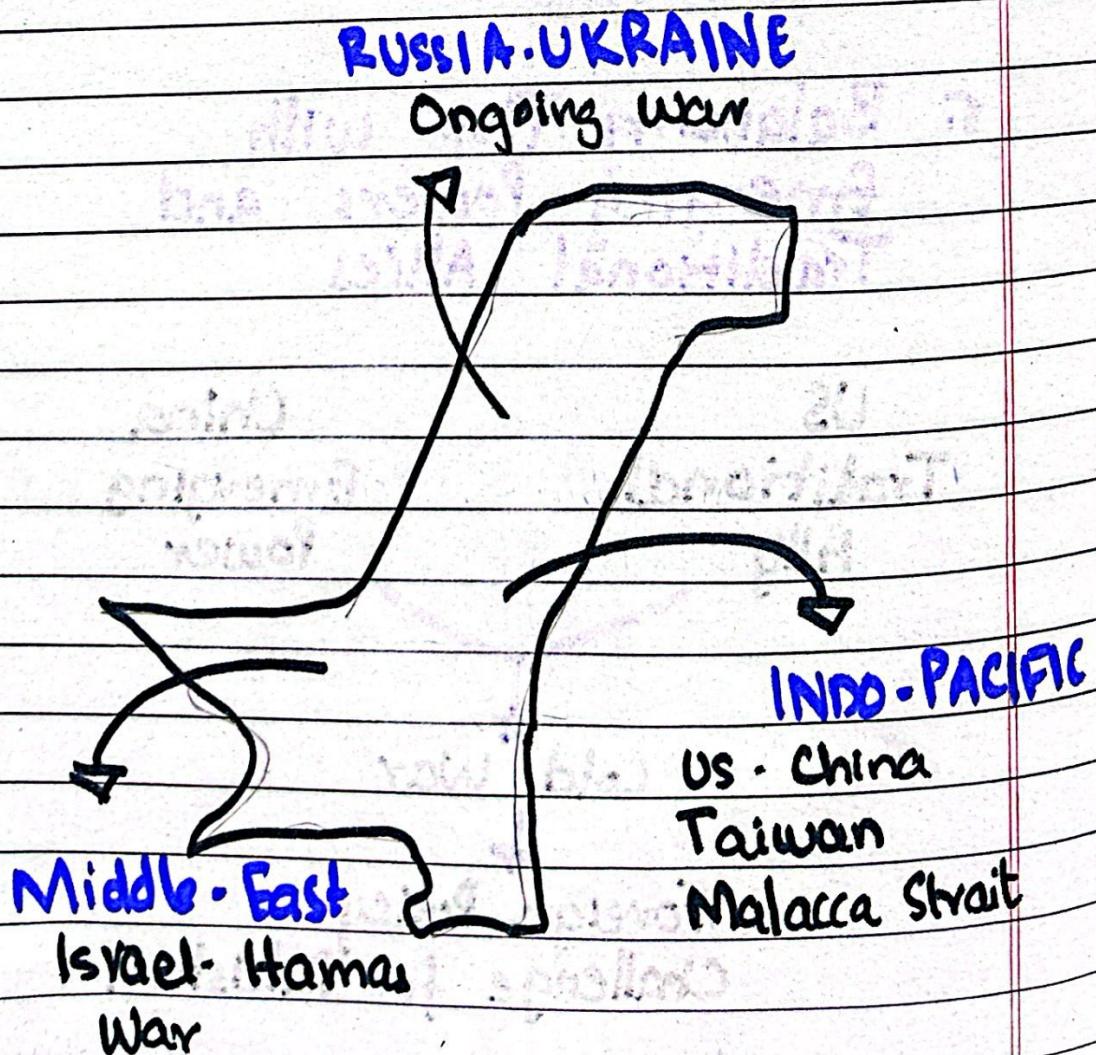
#### 5. Balancing Ties with Emerging Powers and Traditional Allies



Balancing ties with china, an

emerging power, an economic investor and a friendly country, with US that has been a traditional ally. Pakistan's major foreign policy challenge is staying neutral amidst this cold war. Pakistan must not join one bloc or the other.

## 6. Geostrategic Position: At the Confluence of Major Conflicts



Pakistan is at the confluence of three major ongoing conflicts, within geographical proximity. This poses a foreign policy challenge as Pakistan must remain neutral.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

#### 1. Bilateralism → Multilateralism Shift

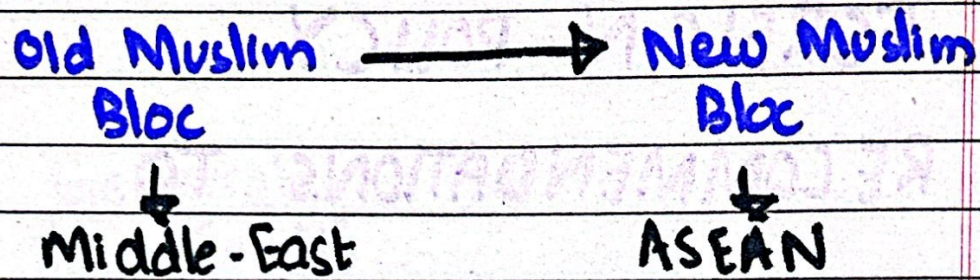
Pakistan must shift its foreign policy from bilateralism to multilateralism, maintaining good relations with countries in the neighbourhood and around the world.

#### 2. Reconciling the Geostategic with Geo-economic

According to ~~Muhammad~~ Moeed Yusuf's 'Pakistan's Geoeconomic Pivot', Pakistan must use its geostategic location for economic ties. Pakistan

must pivot to geoeconomic foreign policy.

### 3. Shift From Old Muslim Bloc to New Muslim Bloc



Pakistan must pivot to the New Muslim Bloc and take use its geostrategic position to integrate with ASEAN and their Regional Comprehensive Economic Programme.

## CONCLUSION

Pakistan currently has its hands full with foreign policy challenges. Pakistan is struggling domestically as well due to lack of stability, but the foreign policy challenges are much more significant as they define Pakistan's global standing, form an image, bring in more investors and maintains diplomatic ties with friendly countries.



## Q2. INTRODUCTION

The recent repatriation of Afghan refugees raises several questions. Pakistan government has justified its decision on the basis of growing security threats and the resurgence of terrorism. However, legal experts are debating the issue of citizenship laws and its <sup>application</sup> ~~applicance~~ to Afghan refugees. This withdrawal also raises questions of sending refugees that were seeking asylum back to a hostile country. The security concerns laid down by Pakistan authorities include the existing nexus between Afghan Taliban, Baloch separatists, and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Security attacks in Pakistan are at an all-time high with growing sophistication. These security attacks are only targetting security personnel and infrastructure. Pakistan has raised concerns over safe havens provided to TTP in Afghanistan. The non-cooperation of Afghan Taliban, led Pakistan authorities to scapegoat Afghan refugees for the deteriorating ties between the two countries.

# THE LEGAL DIMENSION OF THE REPATRIATION OF AFGHAN MIGRANTS

The legal issues and questions that this withdrawal raises are as follows,

## 1. Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951 and its Application to Afghan Refugees

According to Pakistan Citizenship Act, given in 1951, after inception of Pakistan, any person born in Pakistan, including refugees, are a citizen of Pakistan. The Pakistan Citizenship Act was given to provide equal rights to refugees from India.

However, the repatriation of Afghan refugees is not taking into account the status of 'legal citizens of Pakistan' given to those born in Pakistan.

## 2. Repatriation of Refugees Seeking Political Asylum

Many Afghan refugees are the ones that came to Pakistan in 2021. They have applied for asylum in third party countries. However, Pakistan decision to repatriate is overlooking this legal issue. This concern has also been raised by **UNHCR**.

## SECURITY DIMENSION OF REPATRIATION OF AFGHAN MIGRANTS

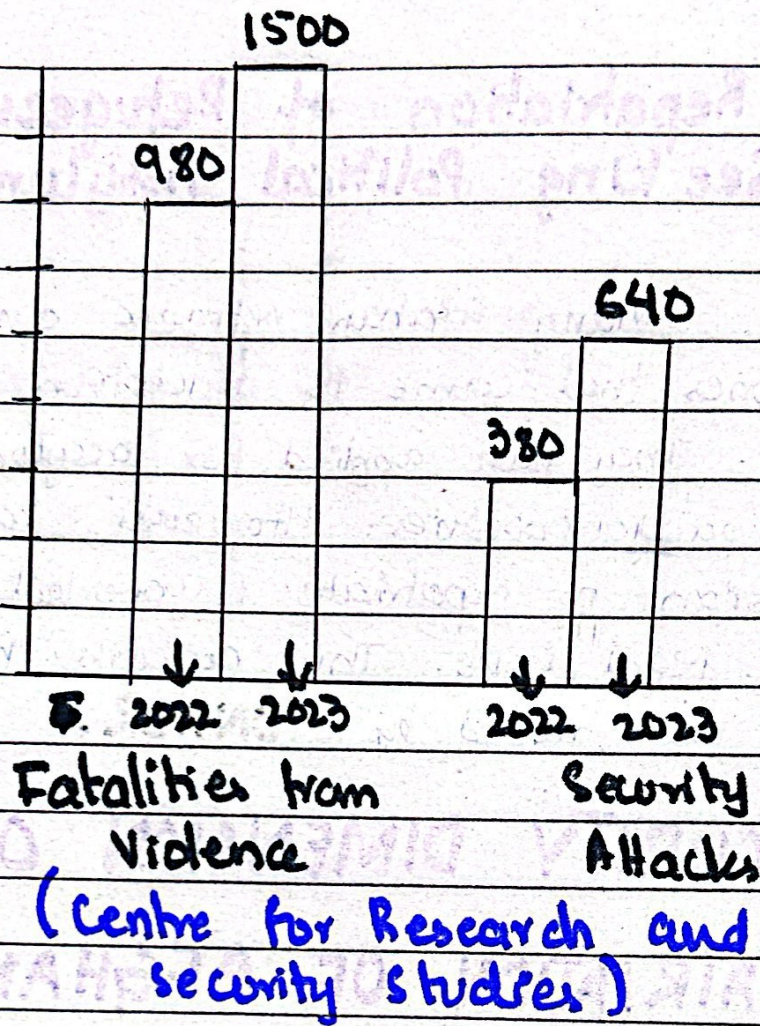
The security concerns raised by authorities are as follows,

### 1. The Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan

Terrorism in Pakistan has resurfaced and this time the attacks have become more sophisticated. These attacks are specifically attacking security installations and personnel.

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The 1500 fatalities from violence in 2023 include 1000+ fatalities of security personnel.

## 2. The Nexus Between Afghan Taliban and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

Afg Taliban  $\longleftrightarrow$  TTP

- Cultural Ties
- Ideological Affiliations
- Jihadi Aspirations
- Deobandi ideology

The nexus between Afghan Taliban and TTP is because of their ideological aspirations. Afghan Taliban provide safe havens to TTP within Afghanistan, allowing them to regroup and plan attacks.

### 3. Non-Cooperation of Afghan Taliban

Taliban Victory in 2021



Victory for Pakistan



Peshawar Attack in 2023



Afghan Taliban Released TTP Prisoners



Regrouping of TTP under Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud



Kabul Talks and Negotiations



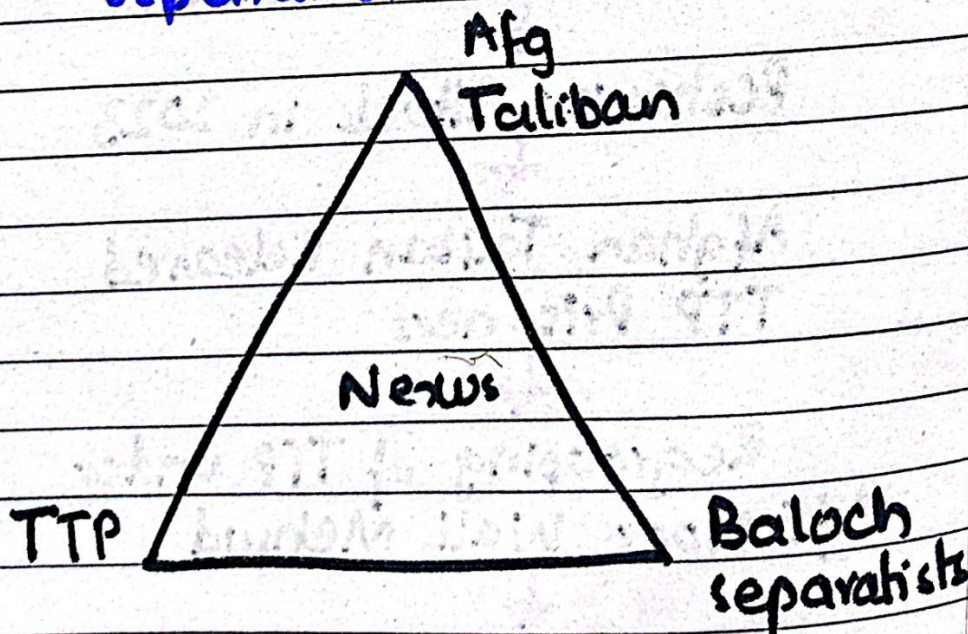
Afghan Taliban Demands of Financial Help and Capacity



Non-Cooperation of Afghan Taliban

In series of talks in Kabul, the Afghan Taliban claimed capacity issues and not commitment issues ~~has~~ are hindering them. They demanded financial support to relocate TTP on the other side of the border. Due to this non-cooperation, Pakistan adopted a coercive approach.

#### 4. The Increasing Ties Between TTP and Baloch Separatists



These growing ties poses another significant threat to Pakistan's security and national integration. Baloch soil is being used to exploit separatist tendencies, threatening to sovereignty of Pakistan.

## 5. Scapegoating Afghan Refugees for Security Threats

Pakistan's coercive approach to this issue is aimed at Afghan Taliban, but in the process, the Afghan ~~to~~ refugees have become the scapegoat. This repatriation will pose serious humanitarian issues for Afghan refugees.

## CONCLUSION

The repatriation of illegal Afghan migrants raises multiple questions regarding Pakistan's inability to secure its borders and contain its security threats. It also raises questions about the legal dimension ~~ab~~ of the issue, the citizenship act and the repatriation of politically vulnerable in Afghanistan.