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Current Affairs

Test 1

Q3. INTRODUCTION

Taiwan is swinging like a pendulum between US and China. China believes that Taiwan is an integral part of the Mainland, while US promises to defend the rules based international order and to intervene if the conflict escalates. However, the US policy of strategic ambiguity is hurting Taiwan as Taiwan has no diplomatic relations established with US. US policy in Taiwan affairs could make it a flashpoint between US and China. This will change the established status quo in Taiwan and could lead to a long war, a conventional war, nuclear escalation or Chinese victory. Taiwan and China must move towards peace talks and negotiations rather than military escalation.

ONE CHINA TWO SYSTEMS POLICY

A Timeline of China's belief in One China Two systems shows that China has a historical claim over the territory as it ruled for 200 years during the Qin Dynasty.

A brief Japanese rule of 50 years was ended after World War II.

1600 - 1800
Qin Dynasty



1850's
Japan Control
Sino-Japanese War



World War II
Taiwan returns to China



1949
Chinese Civil War
Mao comes to Power



Nationalists escape to
Taiwan



Mao - One China Two
Systems

China's One China Two Systems applies to
Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and Macau. It
is an integral part of Xi Jinping's
Rejuvenation of China which will make
Taiwan a unified part of China.

US POLICY TOWARDS TAIWAN

US Policy of

Strategic Ambiguity

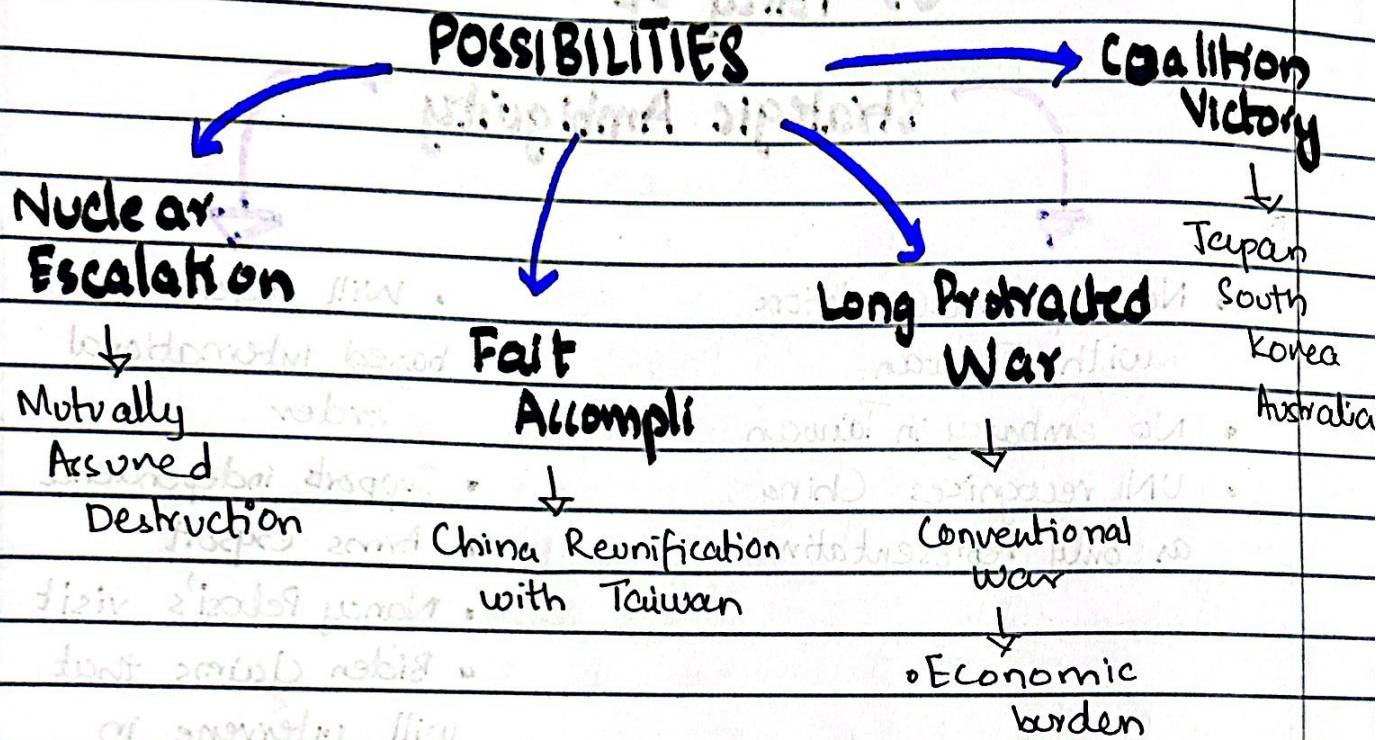
- No diplomatic relations with Taiwan
- No embassy in Taiwan
- UN recognizes China as only representative
- Will defend rules based international order
- Supports independence
- Arms export
- Nancy Pelosi's visit
- Biden claims that will intervene in case of conflict

This policy of strategic ambiguity is hurting Taiwan in the following ways,

1. Taiwan a Pawn in the US-China Conflict

US policy towards Taiwan shows that US sees it as a potential flashpoint of conflict between US and China war. This will have far reaching implications for Taiwan.

POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS



The conflict between US and China in the Taiwan strait can have the following possibilities or implications,

1. Fait Accompli

China could succeed in unifying the two territories through different means.

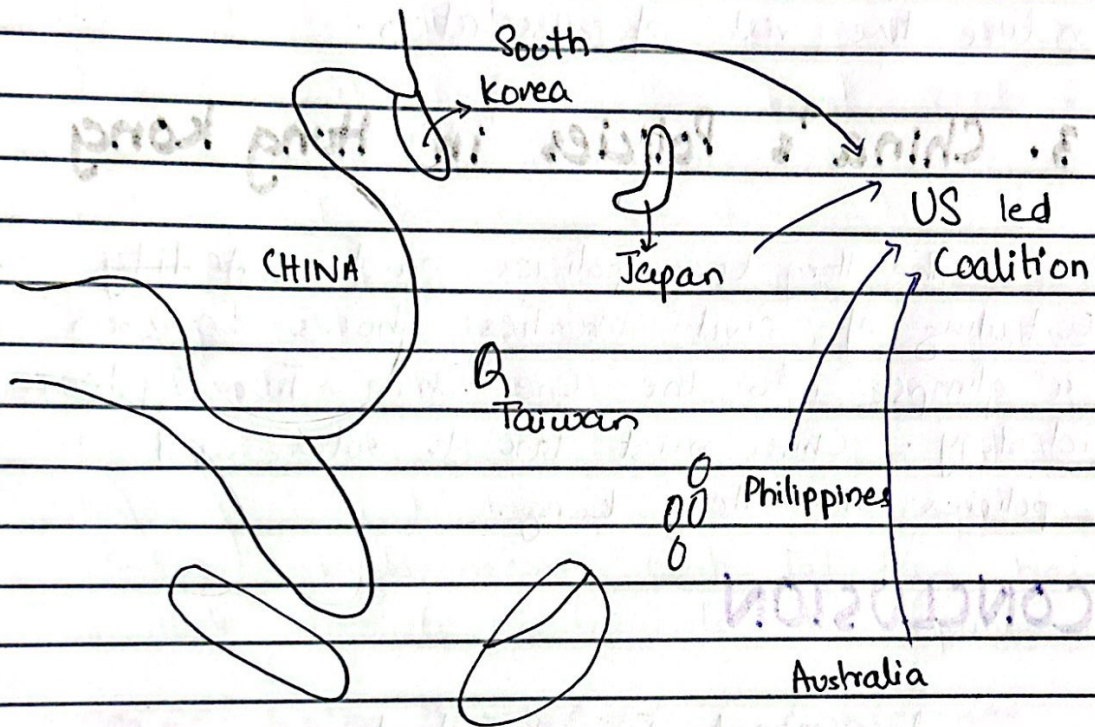
So far, China is attempting to economically integrate with Taiwan to such an extent that unification becomes possible.

2. Nuclear Escalation

US and China are both nuclear states. US will get involved in a conflict

between Taiwan and China, which could lead to nuclear escalation.

3. Coalition led War



The war could escalate regionally if a coalition develops between US, Japan, South Korea and Australia. Taiwan has good relations with these countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Peace Talks not Escalation

For peace between these countries it is important that they head towards peace talks rather than escalation.

2. Economic Integration

Taiwan is a critical part of the global supply chain. More economic integration between China and Taiwan can reduce the risk of escalation.

3. China's Policies in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong policies and curtailment of civil liberties shows Taiwan a glimpse into the One China Two Systems ideology. China must lax its rules and policies in Hong Kong.

CONCLUSION

The recent Taiwan elections made **William Lai of Democratic Progressive Party** the new President of Taiwan. His stance is anti-China and pro-independence. This could lead to tensions in the region. With Biden or Trump in the US, the conflict might escalate to a full, long, protracted war.

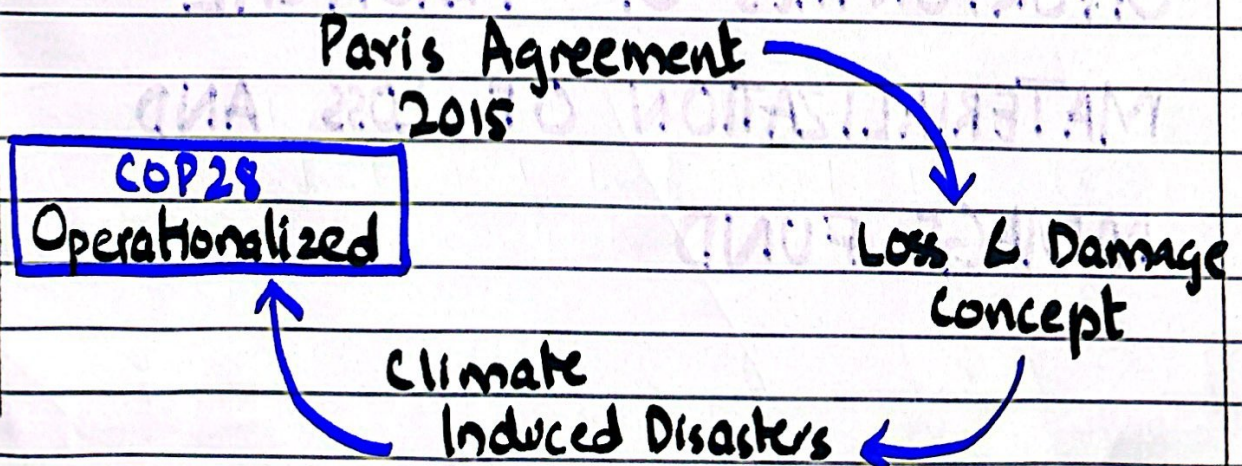
Q2. INTRODUCTION

Pakistan was at the forefront in COP 27, advocating for the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund. This concept reached its full fruition in COP 28 in December in Dubai. This fund could have been monumental in serving economic justice, but the commitments made are far from the requirements which make its practical materialization not as effective. For Pakistan, this fund can provide funds to tackle climate induced disasters. However, the losses and damages done outweigh the pledges which mean that Pakistan has to look inwards or towards other options.

LOSSES AND DAMAGE? CONCEPT

AT COP 27

The loss and damage fund was incepted in 2015 in the Paris Agreement between countries. However, it was not operationalized.



The climate induced disasters of 2022 led to ~~the~~ floating the concept at COP 27. This fund was established to pay for the losses and damages incurred by developing or climate vulnerable countries. The developed countries will pay for these damages as a means of compensation for their carbon emissions.

**Loss And
Damage Fund**



**Compensation for
Damages**



**Climate Vulnerable
Countries**

The developed countries, since they are high-income countries and responsible for most carbon emissions will compensate for damages, according to this concept.

**OPPORTUNITIES OF PRACTICAL
MATERIALIZATION OF LOSS AND
DAMAGE FUND**

The operationalization of the fund at COP 28 can have the following opportunities,

1. The Commitments Made in the Fund Do not Fulfill Requirements

Loss & Damage



\$725 m



0.2% of required amount

The amount pledged for the fund is \$725 m which is not nearly enough as it is only 0.2% of the required amount.

2. Access to Finance

Another question here comes of access to finance by the vulnerable countries. Multilateral Development Banks will disburse funds. This can give vulnerable countries an opportunity to access finance.

3. Economic and Climate Justice

The operationalization of the fund equates

Climate justice with economic justice. This will give climate vulnerable countries an opportunity to rebuild institutions.

United States



25% of Carbon emissions since industrialization



1200 tonne per person for 330 m people



Loss and Damage Payment

Horn of Africa



1 thousandth of carbon emissions



1 to 2 tonne per person



flood and droughts compound crisis

The comparison between Africa and US emissions show that this fund was important for climate justice.

WAYS PAKISTAN CAN BENEFIT FROM THIS FUND

1. Rebuild Institutions

UN Framework
for Climate
Change
UNFCCC

→ \$20 bn total
disbursements



Only \$1 bn reached
Pakistan



Top 10 most vulnerable
country

The amount pledged in the fund can help Pakistan rebuild its roads and schools but the amount pledged will not cover Pakistan's losses.

2. International Development Association of World Bank can Give Grants and Loans

In addition to the loss and damage fund, Pakistan must leverage the IDA institutions of World Bank to give loans that can help Pakistan rebuild.

3. Debt Relief

Pakistan can use this moment to seek relief in debt payments as compensation for the climate damages.