

Q#1:

Foreign Policy Challenges of Pakistan

1. Introduction

Foreign Policies are shaped by their unique domestic politics, historical experiences, cultural values and geopolitical considerations.

(Navigating Pakistan's Foreign Policy challenges, Friday Times)

Since its inception, security has dominated Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan had fashioned its foreign policy where it delves into the combination of critical issues such as Kashmir, Afghanistan and terrorism apart from other self-serving interests. Considering the contemporary challenges, however, Pakistan needs to realign its foreign policy to economic lens from security lens. Although, the security concerns are of alarming importance owing to the fact that India has bolstered its hegemonic designs, Iran has done unprovoked attacks jeopardizing

Pakistan's sovereignty, there is a dramatic rise in attacks from TTP but until and unless, a country is economically strengthened, it is unable to resolve other issues. Similarly, in the world of multipolarity, Pakistan has to consider its strategic interests by keeping friendly relations across the border. Foreign policy should be reimagined to improve its international reputation and demonstrate its commitment to democratic values.

2. Challenges regarding foreign Policy

Pakistan is in due need to assess its foreign policy according to the current dynamics in order to strengthen its economy and secure it from terrorism menace.

① Security challenges

a) Security concerns regarding insurgence of terrorism from two fronts

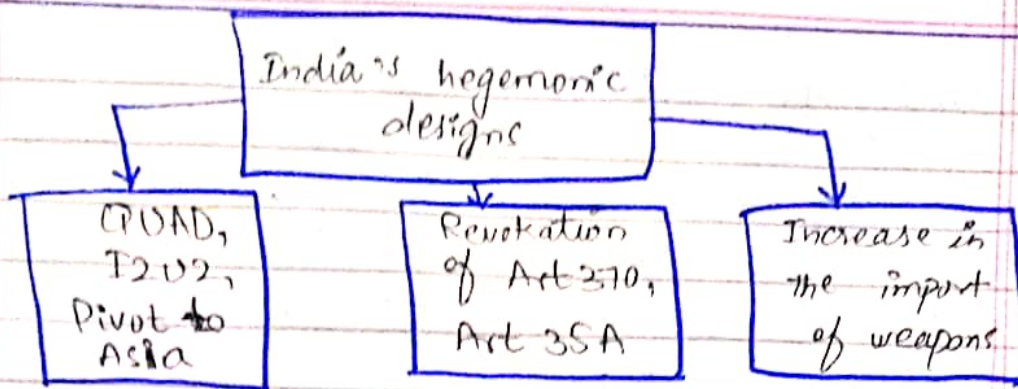
Pakistan is facing the insurgence of attacks from two fronts. Where on one front, it is attacked by the TTP which uses Afghan

soil to infiltrate into Pakistan and use it as a launching pad; on the other hand, Iran is being used as a safe haven by the Baloch insurgents such as BLA and BLF.

Iran has launched unprovoked attacks in Balochistan which has jeopardized the sovereignty of the country.
(Political Analyst)

b) Indian revocation of Art 35A and Art 370 ~ surge in the import of military equipment threatening the strategic balance in the region

First, India has revoked Art 35A and 370 and has illegally annexed illegally occupied Kashmir which has further raised Pakistan's concerns. Second, it has deepened its aggressive designs by aligning it with US and increasing import of military weapons. This way, the strategic balance in the region has been under stress.



ii) Economic challenges

a) Dwindling economy ~ a dire need to revive and avert default

Although, IMF's stand by agreement with the mediation of US has averted default, Pakistan's economy is still under stress. Pakistan has to use its foreign policy to attract investment in the country by the GCC and China. Also, the design should be so as to keep US aligned owing to the fact that US has hold over monetary bodies.

Pakistan's fiscal deficit is around 6.5% of its total GDP.

(State Bank of Pakistan)

③ Diplomatic Challenges

a) Balancing the ties between two world's hegemon's China and US

Pakistan's foreign policy challenge is to balance the ties between China and US. China is a friendly neighbor and an emerging power whereas US is a superpower having hold on monetary, bodies, sea routes and communication. Pakistan should devise a mechanism so as to balance ties. Due to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, US has blamed Pakistan for extending support to Taliban government. Pakistan need to strengthen its image to cater its own interests.

A. US concerns over Pakistan's support to Taliban

US has concerns over Pakistan's support to Taliban. As US and the world is concerned about the human right violations in Afghanistan, Pakistan must reassure the global world about its stance.

B. US strategy of using India as a counterweight to China ~ threats Pakistan's relations with US

Though, Pakistan has followed the approach of independent foreign policy, however, US alignment with India poses threat to Pakistan's interests. US has started to work on India-midde east economic corridor (IMEC) which is a downside for Pakistan's CPEC project.

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b) Iran's unprovoked attacks ~ challenging sovereignty of Pakistan

Iran has repeatedly blamed Pakistan for supporting and giving safe haven to terrorist outfits like Jaish al adl, which Pakistan has refused. Pakistan need to diplomatically engage with Iran. Also, bilateral trade must be improved to ensure friendly relations with brotherly nation.

c) Diplomatic Relations with India and Afghanistan ~ both posing security concerns

Diplomatic Relations with Afghanistan and India are on strain due to TIP and Kashmir respectively. Pakistan should bilaterally engage with both countries to improve relations.

3- Strategic Approach ~ Using Challenges AS Opportunities

a) Engagement with Taliban government to resolve border issues

The repatriation of Afghan Refugees where on one hand has raised concerns in international community, it has lessen the burden on Pakistan's economy on the other hand. Similarly, the border visa issues are fruitful for Pakistan in the long run to counter the menace of terrorism and to formalize trade

b) India's human right violations in Kashmir and inauguration of Ayodhya mandir - opportunity for Pakistan

India's human right violations and violation of rights of minority is the opportunity for Pakistan to use global platform to strengthen its stance.

c) US-India Partnership - a chance for Pakistan to revitalize relations with GCC and China

US increasing tilt towards India is a chance for Pakistan to revitalize relations with other countries like GCC and China. Pakistan must secure its interests in changing geopolitical dynamics.

4. Conclusion

Pakistan need to involve all the actors with revitalized foreign policy. There must be consistency and predictability in the policies to ensure the rapid

progress in the fields of economy and security. The use of global platforms to strengthen its image is necessary. Further, Pakistan must use the challenges as an opportunity to get the country out of crisis.

Q#2:

Legal and Security Dimension of Repatriation of illegal Afghan Migrants

1. Introduction

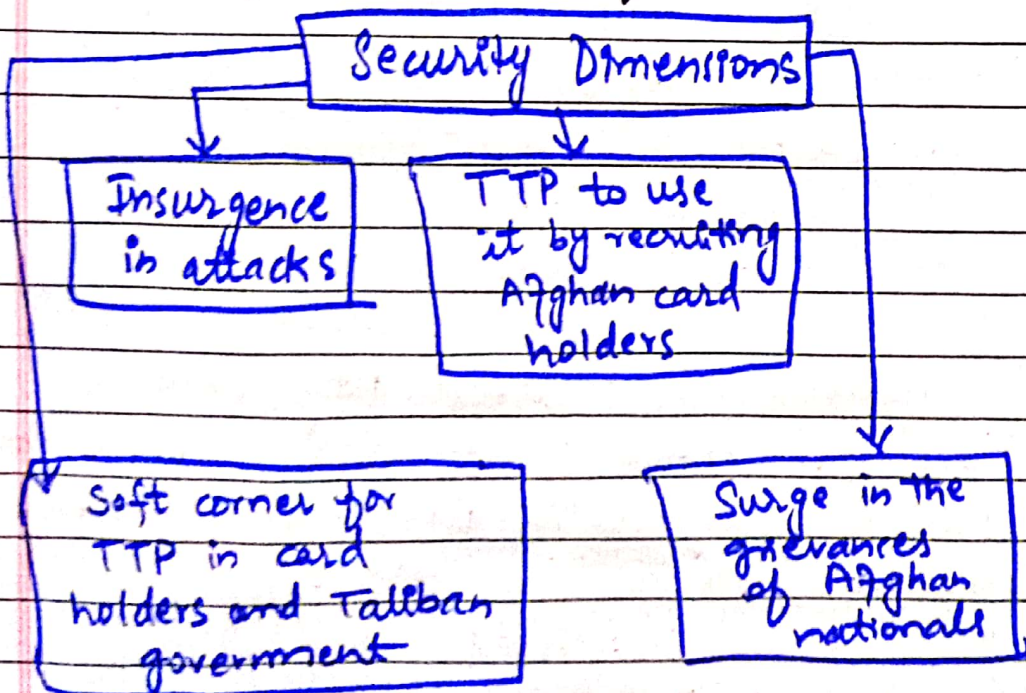
Pakistan is host to 1.3 million registered Afghan Refugees while 840,000 hold citizenship cards that give them some protection

(UNHCR)

Pakistan has hosted Afghan refugees after soviet - Afghan war, Taliban takeover in 1990's and then at withdrawal of US from Afghanistan. The repatriation is under debate in international community; some consider it as a policy failure for Pakistan,

other argue it as a security concern and economic burden on Pakistan. While the world had different viewpoints, Pakistan's interim setup had regarded it as a security concern. However, there are legal and security repercussions for the country including the risk of escalation of security threat, the issue of accommodating the refugees having card, ~~the~~ the issue of image deterioration in the international community and the negative trend in bilateral trade.

2. Security Dimension for Repatriation



a) Surge in Cross border Attacks

Cross border attacks have increased and Pakistan has been ranked in top 10 countries in Terrorism index. Attacks by TTP has increased due to the repatriation policy and around 750 security personnels have lost lives.

b) TTP to recruit Afghan card holders

TTP has chances to recruit Afghan card holders because they will have the grievances against the government which TTP can use on its advantage.

c) Soft corner for TTP by Taliban government and lenient policy

TTP will have soft policy from Taliban government because Taliban government has repeatedly blamed Pakistan for repatriating refugees and creating humanitarian concerns in Afghanistan.

3- Legal Repercussions for Pakistan

a) Issue of renewal of citizenship cards and pending applications

Some Afghan refugees who have been expelled have been living there since childhood and applied for the citizenship cards.

(AI-Jazeera)

Here the blame is on the part of government, failure to ensure the renewal and accommodate the pending cases.

b) Human Right watches blaming country for exacerbating humanitarian crisis

Human Right watches like Amnesty International have raised concerns over handling of Afghan refugees. Furthermore, the image of Pakistan has deteriorated in the world.

4. Way forward for Pakistan - Using data at diplomatic front

US, EU, Canada and other western countries should fast track the resettlement of Afghan refugees. Further, Taliban should step up efforts to bring in returnees. Pakistan and UNHCR should reach a new agreement to cater refugees.