

## Question #01

"Domestic Policy can only defeat us, foreign policy can kill us",  
Pakistan's foreign policy challenges  
in the context of this statement

### INTRODUCTION

Foreign policy is a behavioural pattern, which the states adopt to conduct their diplomatic relations with other states in the global system. The domestic policy of a state and foreign policy are linked in a complex fabric. The dilemma is that, foreign policy is outlooked separately. As Hubert Humphrey stated "foreign policy is really domestic policy with its hat on". However, the consequences of both these policies are different. Domestic policy weakens the internal system, but foreign policy have potential to cause more severe consequences. The existential threat of the country compelled it to join the bloc politics in support of USA. On the other hand, the world is expanding, and

diplomatic space of Pakistan is shrinking. The strained relations with neighbours made the situation more critical. Pakistan has been engulfed by foreign policy's challenges that have been caused by unstable political leadership, flailing economy and weak political representation for other countries.

## Overview of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

According to article 40 of the constitution of Pakistan 1973, foreign policy is explained as:

The state shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

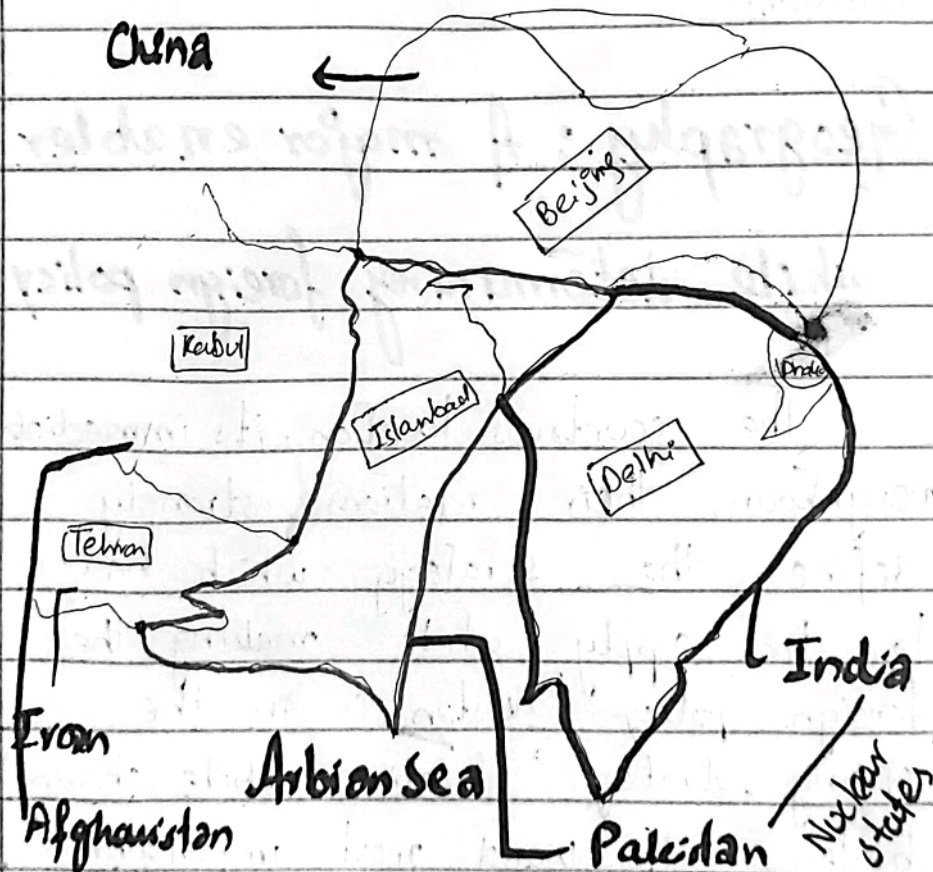
This article clearly shows the boundaries of the Pakistan's foreign policy. There are two terms in focus, one is domestic policy and the second is foreign policy. Both are intertwined with each other, but the impacts on the country's whole image and system are due to its foreign relations.

## Geography; A major enabler while determining foreign policy

The country's location, its immediate neighbours, their relations strongly define the strategy which has to be applied while making the foreign policy. Pakistan is in the strong strategic location while sharing borders with world most important powers. The immediate neighbour is India, to which foreign policy determinant has always been "Kashmir Conflict". On the other hand, China and

Pakistan shared all-weather friendship relationship. Pakistan stated that it has "strategic depth" in Afghanistan and also shares border with Muslim brother country 'Iran'. In this way, the location determines its foreign policy.

### Geo-strategic location of Pakistan



Pakistan is in the heart of these major South Asian Powers make it more dominant for the west.

# MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY

## CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN:

(1)

Kashmir Conflict; A cornerstone of the Pakistan's foreign policy - unsolved issue resulted in strained relations with India

Kashmir at the time of independence not only share border with Pakistan but also 77% population was Muslims, but it has been forcefully occupied by India and no solution has been formulated. Pakistan stated Kashmir as Jajlas Vein, so its conflict become a main challenge to formulate foreign policy related to India.

(2)

CPEC; a flagship project of BRI is compromised due to terrorism - can affect the relations with China

It was common talk that CPEC would bring prosperity; but this brought serious concerns related to terrorism and of course challenging for the relations of China and Pakistan

(3)

Afghanistan provided soil for militants; difficult to finalize strategic foreign policy for it.

Afghanistan is typically called as the graveyard of empires because many holy wars have been there. After the regime of Taliban, the militants find more comfortable umbrella to freely live there. In this scenario, this brings serious challenges for Pakistan's foreign policy.

(4)

Iran's recent airstrike in Balochistan and retaliation of Pakistan arises question on their foreign policy.

Iran although is a Muslim country, but as Pakistan is more cordial with Saudi Arabia, the relations had been strained. In the recent times, the Iran's airstrike arises a lot of questions on both of the countries.

(5)

National Interest is the top priority in foreign policy but dwindling position of Pakistan between Russia and USA compromising it

The national interest is the top priority of the country's foreign policy, but Pakistan remains in dilemmas while prioritizing its national interest. The era of post cold war, and 9/11 showed the weak position of Pakistan. The same situation prevails now, where Pakistan is in if and how of its national interest.

(6)

Pakistan's diplomacy is <sup>not</sup> flexible as it is not switching loyalties for national interest

The diplomacy or lobbying is the key tool in the foreign policy, but Pakistan may not have the power to use this and that is why its diplomacy is termed as 'frozen'

(7)

Internal domestic issues like leadership void and civil-military tangle is fueling the already deteriorating condition of foreign policy

The domestic policies and internal issues also shapes the foreign policy. The post decade of <sup>development</sup> 1960s is due to bloc alliance of Pakistan with USA. The reason of security threats and economic aid. Moreover, in recent times the civil-military tangle is deteriorating the situation.

(8)

The economic dependency on west is paralyzing the 'sole nation interest based' policy

Pakistan is the hub of resources, but due to its dependency on west, the country's economy always remained in the fragile state and it compromised the core stone of foreign policy.



# CONCLUSION

Pakistan's foreign relations have no doubt had their success stories, which have been crowned by the Pak-China friendship. But now the times <sup>has</sup> changed, so the foreign policy needs to be changed. The Pakistan should get out of these challenges by getting freedom from dependency, <sup>can not be</sup> exploited without global engagement and internal strength. The flexible <sup>and</sup> expanding foreign policy is needed by the nation.