

Q1) This statement was put forth by John F. Kennedy, former president of USA. The statement aptly reflects the complex and paramount nature of Foreign Policy and how its importance greatly exceeds that of domestic Policies. Pakistan procured independence in a bipolar world ~~which~~ in which there was a constant struggle for dominance between USSR and USA. Furthermore, the newly established country found itself in the middle of hostile ~~and~~ neighbours that further complicated the security concerns, and the fragile inherited economy did little to assist the ~~concerns~~ concerns. In order to better understand the foreign policy challenges of Pakistan let's first discuss what foreign policy is:

What is Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy encompasses the policies, objectives, aims, and actions a

country undertakes in order to establish relations with ~~and~~ other countries. In simpler terms, foreign policy can be defined as the policies that a country forms based on its national interests, to form relations with other foreign countries. It is also noteworthy to mention that foreign policy is changed as per the evolving global situation and the national interest of states. Carol Mosely Brown, the first American African senator also echoes this notion in the following words:

"There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, just permanent interests"

Foreign Policy challenges of Pakistan

a) Security Concerns:

→ Indian Threat And Kashmir Issue

Pakistan and India's relationship can be characterised by ~~long~~ ~~disputes~~, territorial disputes, constant hostilities, and policies designed to undermine the other. Pakistan, since its inception, faced major security threats from India. India being seven times larger than Pakistan had a serious advantage over the latter. The Kashmir issue has been the bone of contention between India and Pakistan, as both countries fought several wars over this. Hence, since the start, Indian factor was a major challenge for Pakistan's foreign policy and still is.

→ Durand line Issue with Afghanistan

Afghanistan was hostile toward Pakistan since day one. Afghanistan did not accept the Durand line (Border b/w Pakistan and Afghanistan), and claimed much of the territory of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Furthermore, Afghanistan also supported Pakistan insurgents ~~in~~ operating

in Pakistan and seeking partition of the pakhtun territory from Pakistan. In this way, ~~the~~ threats stemming from Afghanistan posed serious challenges for Pakistan's foreign Policy.

—> Terrorism And Sectarianism:

Pakistan ~~has to~~ ~~witness~~ witnessed a surge in Terrorism (Post 9/11) & sectarianism (after Khomeini assumed power in Iran). This has been a major challenge for Pakistan since it had to balance relations between America led Nato and the Afghans, who declared jihad against Pakistan's armed forces, and at the same time between Saudi Arabia and Iran to ~~to~~ suppress sectarian violence.

b) Economic Challenges

— Enhancing Trade:

Pakistan also faces a constant challenge ~~for~~ in shaping foreign policy that can enhance Trade and therefore boost the country's economy. This means that Pakistan needs to tread really carefully in designing foreign policy ~~to~~ ~~so~~ in a way that can foster economic activity and broadens ~~the~~ trade network while also ensuring it does not antagonise existing partners.

→ Economic dependency on the West And GSP Plus status

Pakistan relies heavily on Trade from the west. The GSP Plus status allows Pakistan to have duty free access to 66% of European markets and therefore is of paramount importance. Hence ~~therefore~~ Pakistan cannot afford offending European countries for it could have serious repercussions on the already ~~fast~~ veiling economy. Hence foreign

Policy is formed keeping in mind the trade benefits with the west.

c) Foreign Policy challenges regarding CPEC

CPEC is a revolutionary project between China and Pakistan that can completely change the economic as well as socio-political outlook of the country. Hence the safety of the project is another major foreign policy challenge for Pakistan, as on one side the country needs to ensure the safe completion of this project and hence good ties with China, and on the other maintain cordial relations with the US, which see this project and the rise of China a threat to its global hegemony.

d) Energy security

Energy security has been a major

challenge for the country's foreign policy. The country heavily relies on international ~~ing~~ hydrocarbons. Not only is it a very expensive source of energy production but ~~and~~ any global events that disrupt the supply of these hydrocarbons can have dire repercussions on the power sector of the country. The Economic Survey of Pakistan shows that 58.8% of the energy is produced from hydrocarbons (Thermal). Hence, ~~the~~ policy that ensures uninterrupted supply of energy ~~is~~ as a challenge:

f) Technological dependency is another challenge to Foreign Policy

Pakistan is lagging behind ~~in~~ many countries in the domains of science and technology. This is why it has to import important technologies from abroad. This technology is not limited to the defense equipment but includes

latest machineries / equipment for medical treatments; ~~in~~ Hence, ~~the~~ forming a foreign policy that does not disrupt the supply of this equipment is another challenge for the country.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, a country's foreign policies hold vital importance, far more than that of its domestic policies. Pakistan's Policy, faces many challenges. This is due to the complex security concerns, Pakistan's geo strategic location and the country's over reliance on foreign entities, whether it be for economic ~~the~~ support or technological assistance. However, it should also be kept in mind that though the country has faced many challenges and many made many mistakes, it is in a more stable, and secure state ~~the~~ than before. And as time passes the ~~the~~ country will continue to move up the learning

curve and improve.

(2) On 3rd October 2023, Pakistan announced to ~~send~~ send back all Afghan ~~refugees~~ illegal Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan. The official deadline of 1st November, 2023, was given to all illegal immigrants to return. The authorities also warned those who refuse to leave ~~that~~ of their own accord will have their properties seized and ~~forced~~ will be forced to leave. Moreover, Pakistanis who provide shelter to illegal immigrants or assist them will have to face punishment as per the law. By November 1st, 2023, around 200,000 illegal immigrant have been reported to have left the country. The country also intends to send all Afghans, whether legal or illegal, back to Afghanistan before the end of the year.

Legal and Security Dimensions of the Repatriation of Illegal Afghan Migrants

a) Security Dimensions

→ Surge in Terrorism:

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorism since 2022. The attacks on ~~AB~~ Peshawar mosque and Bannu airbase are ~~a~~ ^{the} few of the many security breaches Pakistan has suffered. It was later uncovered that most of these attacks were carried out by Afghan illegal migrants. This is why Pakistan decided to send illegal migrants back.

→ Illegal Migrants can not be easily traced

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Moreover these illegal ~~imm~~ migrants are very hard to track down since there is no documentation of their whereabouts. This makes it all the more difficult for the intelligence agencies to prevent / ~~to~~ foil insurgency, and thus the government decided to send ~~the~~ these illegal migrants back.

—> Afghan Taliban did nothing to stop insurgencies stemming from Afghan soil

Afghan Taliban were found hesitant by the Pakistani authorities to ~~make~~ take serious measures to prevent Afghan soil from being used to launch terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Pakistan has raised this issue many times with Afghan authorities, but after their grievances went unaddressed, the government decided to send Afghans back in order to demonstrate its ~~annoyance~~ annoyance.

b) Legal Dimensions:

→ Pakistan's compliance with International Law

The International law grants every nation the right to send illegal migrants back to their countries. In this way Pakistan's decision is in line with global law.

→ Stability in Afghanistan

Pakistani authorities have argued that it was ~~not~~ sheltering Afghan refugees due to the war going on in Afghanistan. However, with the withdrawal of US forces and the Afghan Taliban back in power, stability has returned to the country, and hence the refugees should be sent back.

How can this affect Pakistan

a) Afghan Taliban's Hostility

Pakistan's actions have courted much criticism from Afghan government. The hostility this has caused in Afghans can be discerned by a statement of ~~the~~ Afghanistan's defense minister, Mullah Yaqoob, who said:

"As you sow, so shall you reap".

b) Economic Repercussions

Though many assumed Afghans to be a economic burden on Pakistan, the fact remains that ~~the~~ many businesses and labour forces were integrated with

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these illegal migrants, and their departure will have consequences on these areas of economy.

→ International Image Tarnished

Though Pakistan's decision was perfectly in line with international laws, yet it is not well received by many countries and international organisations.

They argue that send these migrants back will not only create massive socio-economic issues for Afghanistan, but many of the migrants will have to face persecution from Taliban.