

## Question #2

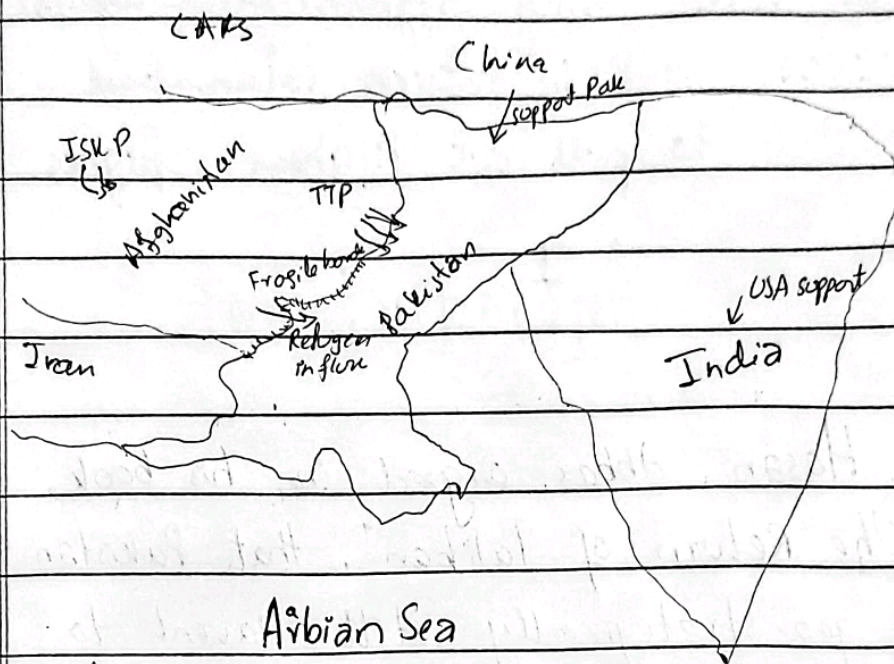
Pak-Afghanistan relations in the wake of repeated attacks by TTP and ISKP using Afghan land against Pakistan and in return Islamabad decided to pull out Afghan refugees

### Introduction

Hasan Abbas argued in his book, "The Return of Taliban", that Pakistan is geo-strategically still relevant to the world as terrorism is here to stay in Afghanistan. This argument is relevant as Pakistan is facing the myriad challenges due to the neighbour country - Afghanistan. In 2023, Pakistan remained at the top target of TTP and ISKP and especially the military personnel and areas were affected severely. Many peace talks were initiated but no gain. So, Islamabad decided to return the Afghan refugees to maintain the national security of the country.

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# Historicizing the strained relations of Kabul and Islamabad



Afghanistan remained the hub of terrorist or militant groups:

“Afghanistan is a prisoner of its geography and Pakistan is its immediate neighbour”

The both countries are strategically important, but continuous influx of militant groups from Afghanistan becomes a major reason of contention between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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Attack of TTP and ISKP is deteriorating the already tensed relations

(1)

TTP's acceptance to the responsibility of terrorist attacks in Pakistan

The foreign office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated that "TTP has accepted responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks in the country". Unfortunately, Afghan government is not paying heed to it.

(2)

Afghan government shares close ties with TTP and ISKP; Thomas West

The US special envoy Thomas West which was in Afghanistan have sparked worries about the regional security situation. He emphasized that TTP, and ISKP shares close ties with Taliban

(3)

Empirical evidence given by government of Pakistan which proves the relation of Indian agencies with ISKP

On ISKP, Pakistan's government in 2021 provided empirical evidence a 131-page dossier and CD with audio and video recordings that five Indians funded and managed ISKP terror training camps.

(4)

Recent attacks by TTP in KPK are logical tell-tale signs of Indian proxy and Afghan's <sup>government</sup> negligence

All these recent attacks are logical tell-tale signs of Indian proxy involvement and Afghan Taliban's negligence. They hint towards a deepening entente between ISKP, TTP whose cells merging is a regional menace.

(5)

ISKP claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack on Pakistan's embassy

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry issued a press release confirming that ISKP claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack on Pakistan's embassy. ISKP previously instigated trouble on the Hairstan border and suicide attack on Russian embassy in Kabul.

(6)

Militant strongholds scattered freely in Afghanistan, due to Afghan's Taliban negligence

Afghanistan's Taliban are not living up to their promise of keeping their land terror free, and that is why militant groups are flourishing and taking shelter in land of Afghanistan.

(7)

Differences over the validity of Durand line agreement; hurdle in fencing is acting as cherry on top for terrorists

This one is the major issue lying behind repetition tensions between both countries, and also become the hurdle in fencing the Durand border.

Pakistan's decision in wake of terrorists' attacks; return of Refugees

(1)

Deportation of Afghan Refugees is directly with national security

The deportation of Afghan Refugees in the late 2023 is done to establish national security.

(2)

No country in the world has given shelter to the refugees of a neighboring country for half a century

Pakistan has about 4 Million refugees and 2.2 Million are without any identity and now become major threat. But this sacrifice is compromised.

(3)

Illegal drug trafficking and capital flight has done due to Afghan's refugees

The fragile border, Durand line has become the main route of drug smuggling and capital flight, worsen economic situation.

(4)

Fake resident identities are used by Afghan a biggest challenge for Pakistan's internal security

Fake ids have been used to travel internationally

(5)

Pakistan gave space to refugees as a demonstration of brotherhood but it is deteriorating peace in country

Pakistan and Afghanistan shares the relation of brotherhood due to religion. And that is the core reason of tolerating the Afghan's behaviour, but now it became threat.

### Conclusion

Pakistan and Afghanistan shared brotherhood relations, but due to militant attacks that are controlled on the land of Afghanistan has strained the relations. The refugees has been deported to the home country because host country is facing severe security threats. Afghanistan should co-operate and work to tarnish the militant groups to promote peace in region.



## Question #03

US India's growing strategic partnership is to contain China but it has far reaching impacts for Pakistan too. Critically evaluate the statement and recommend policy options for Islamabad

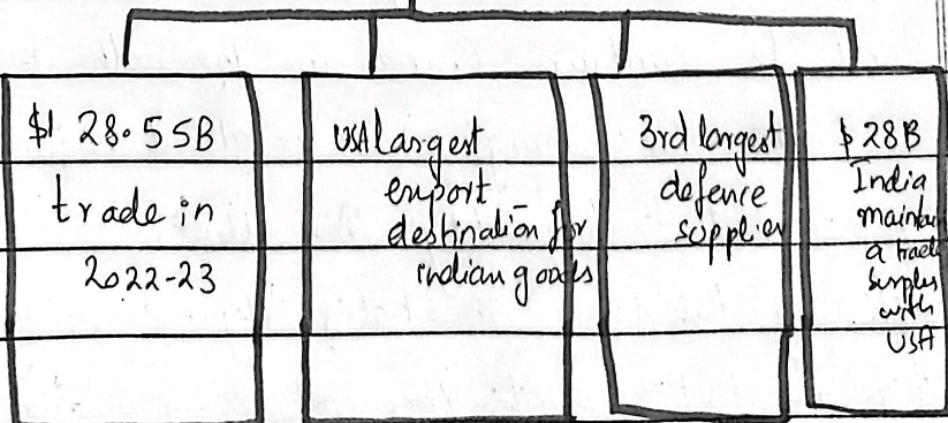
## Introduction

Felix Heideck says in his book: ~~that~~ "Asian Geopolitics and the US-China Rivalry" that India is becoming closer to America due to growing US-China rivalry. It is evident from the recent collaboration of India, USA in AUKUS, I2U2, IPEF and QUAD like fora. This alliance is used to contain China in the South Asia as China is emerging as a global hegemonic power, but unfortunately this alliance is affecting Pakistan both strategically and economically. It is important to counter this alliance by multilateralism, focusing on economy "CPEC" and maintaining relations with China.

# US and India's friendship main focus is to contain China

The India and USA called themselves democratic countries, and describes this point as the point of convergence. But the reality is that USA do not want to lose its hegemon status and the emerging power of China has become a threat to it. That is why, USA is exploiting India to marginalize China - but it is not easy. On the other hand, India is taking benefit from this opportunity and increased the arms race in South Asia. This situation disturbed peace in the region.

## US-India Bilateral trade



# How USA and India are growing strategic partnership; Critical Analysis

(1)

## Civil Nuclear Deal of Delhi and Washington

The 123 Agreement signed between the USA and India for possessing advanced nuclear technology, both countries having the same benefits and advantages.

(2)

## India is multiplying its military capabilities by importing new technology from USA

"We established an ambitious new roadmap for defence industrial cooperation, which will fast track high priority co-development and co-production projects" Lloyd Austin said in his visit to India.

(3)

### India's multilateral alliances like QUAD, I2U2 and AUKUS

India is building various multilateral alliances like QUAD which includes Japan, Australia, India and USA and I2U2 which includes India, Israel and UAE and USA. These alliances show the power relations of India towards other countries.

(4)

### The hegemon of world is helping India to become hegemon of South Asia

USA is interfering in the Asia, although USA's location is in west but the realist approach of USA is triggering him to facilitate India to contain China. It helps India to become hegemon in South Asia.

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Far-reaching Impacts on Pakistan due to Indo-USA alignment are:

(1)

Arms race increase can destabilise the region of South Asia

The race of arms imports and exports by USA and India has destabilizing the region of South Asia.

(2)

Regional trade and peace can be compromised

The trade concept depends on trade routes, either from hot water or air can be compromised due to India's <sup>immoral</sup> power.

(3)

Kashmir issue can not be solved due to India's hegemonic rule

Kashmir issue will remain as a issue, as India is not interested in solving it.

(4)

Threats of war increased in the region

The LOC which is highly militarized zone in the world, is feeling the threats of war as in the past.

(5)

CPEC; a economic roadmap can be disturbed due to regional conflicts

The ray of hope <sup>for CPEC</sup> for flailing economy of Pakistan can be in danger due impacts on CPEC.

### Policy Options for Islamabad:

(a)

Restrain USA by remembering him; Monroe Doctrine

USA's president argued that no colonization and no interference by USA. That should be remembered again.

(2)

Reduce influence of USA through bilateralism with China and multilateralism with other countries

Pakistan should engage itself with China, and other neighbouring countries to reduce the influence of USA.

(3)

Enhanced the role of SAARC and SCO to corner India

The role of SAARC should be encouraged and SCO forum can be used to contain India.

(4)

Moving from Geopolitics to geoeconomics

The Pakistan's agenda should be from geopolitic geoeconomics, to gain support from world.

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Mobilize OIC forum to strengthen the Muslim country relations to put pressure on west and India

The Muslim countries relation should be encouraged to put pressure on India and USA, and to maintain peace in South Asia and World.

### Conclusion

The growing relations of India and USA are there to contain China but their implications are more threatening to the Pakistan. By taking serious measures and policy tools like engagement in economic point of view to world, using forums of SAARC & SCO can help to tackle this challenge. As said by Quaid: "There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan."