

PAK AFFAIRSQUESTION #02

LEGAL & SECURITY DIMENSION OF THE
REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL AFGHAN MIGRANTS
HOW CAN THIS AFFECT PAKISTAN?

I. Introduction.

Since Russian invasion, Pakistan has provided refuge to one of the largest populations of Afghan refugees, who were fleeing from conflict, seeking asylums and were facing instability back home. Afghan refugees started overwhelming Pakistan during Soviet-Afghan war in 1980s, but it persisted through Afghan civil war and Taliban's first regime. However, ^{due to} today's turbulent political environment, awkward security conditions and economic problems, it has become challenging to accommodate Afghan refugees or asylum-seekers. Therefore, Pakistan recently started a crackdown against Afghan immigrants and Pakistan gave them deadline of October 31, 2023 to leave the country and to go to their country.

Pakistan issues a directive for undocumented immigrants particularly (1.73 millions) to leave voluntarily, otherwise they will have to face deportations.

The Interior minister, Saifuraz Bugti, announced a deadline of Nov 1, 2023.

II. Drivers behind Pakistan's action of deportation of Refugees

a. Security concerns

Pakistan claimed reportedly involvement of Afghan refugee in suicide bombing attacks in Pakistan. Islamabad claims that internal attacks were orchestrated from Afghanistan. Agencies and Pakistani authorities have noted cases in which Afghan refugees were accused of funding and supporting illegal and terrorist activities. Therefore, authorities consider pertinent to expel undocumented Afghan refugees from its borders as a necessary and timely measure against potential security threats.

III. LEGAL and security dimension of repatriation: How can this affect Pakistan?

The departations have triggered political, legal, domestic and Foreign policy challenges for the Pakistani government. The most threatening of them is security issues, which Pakistan could have to face, as Afghan refugees are brothers to many Pashtuns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, this effort could trigger tribal areas' terrorist activities. Some other concerns are as follows:

a. Security concerns: A new threat

Since its inception, Pakistan is already facing hostile and rival India, who is the enemy of Pakistan. Pakistan's relations with a rival country like India are already on the verge of chaos, therefore, Pakistan faces security and border issues on its East side, but now with this new policy, Islamabad is pushing itself into trouble of making its Northwest border insecure. This is another rising threat because of the Kabul's response which was quite aggressive. Taliban's spokesman "Zabiullah Mujahid" expressed strong disapproval. With this movement, Pakistan has pushed itself at the verge of destruction of relations and balanced ties..

B. Social Issues. and Humanitary concerns.

Though Afghan refugees have settled in Pakistan since Afghan-Soviet war, they have made families by getting married in Pakistan and have developed businesses, social relations and have children. ~~and~~ This step is basically jeopardizing their lives by moving back with no guarantee of stability and protection in a war-ravaged land. This ~~unwarranted~~ sudden repatriation is posing a threat of inflicting afghans and their tribal people in northern areas of Pakistan. Besides, it could also deteriorate social life conditions and stability in those areas where Afghan refugees are residing.

C. International Concerns / Responses,

Pakistan's crackdown on illegal Afghan refugee has raised serious concerns among international organizations and global civil society. Human rights organizations, in particular Amnesty International, United Nation and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRC/P) and various global social

groups have strongly denounced Pakistan's eviction plan. United Nations official opposes the deadline, advocating for voluntary refugees. The international community, especially repatriation policy will closely track Pakistan's response. Similarly, forcible deportation of Afghan refugees could strain ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

D. India will get the benefit of opportunity to build ties with Afghanistan

Throughout history, Pakistan has seen diplomatic and terrorist activities of India, who never let go any chance to threaten Pakistan. It has been stirring separatist movements in Balochistan and KPK and now the deportation policy will give India a chance to build strong bilateral relations with Afghan Taliban government. This way, could lead India to plan conspiracies from both sides of Pakistan and it could get a golden opportunity to get grounds in Taliban's territory. India will never lose a chance to threaten and weaken Pakistan by preparing

terrorist groups against Pakistan, as history witnesses such diplomatic tactics of India.

E. Pakistan's International Image is deteriorating :

International communities, human rights organizations and social groups have already strictly condemned such act of Pakistan. Now, they are conspiring that maybe Pakistan is playing a game to get aid from international communities. It is claimed that Pakistan is going to play its card of economic instability and political problems after playing security issues card. On the guise of security concerns, Pakistan is planning to convince financial organizations to fund Pakistan for the settlement of refugee and provide technological aid to systematically register refugees.

→ WAY FORWARD FOR PAKISTAN

As long as Pakistan has to survive it has to build strong ties and

cohesion with Taliban's government. Because amid political, social and economic problems, Pakistan cannot take risks of raising another aggressive enemy on its longest border. Following are some measures that Pakistan must take:

a. An Integrative Collaborative strategy is required.

Afghan's deportation have long-term ramifications, for that matter Pakistan required an integrative collaborative strategy in order to effectively tackle its root causes while upholding security issues interests and guaranteeing Afghan-Pakistan ties' well-being. Pakistan must focus on developing trade and social relationship with Afghan brothers because we share the same Islamic ideology, since ages, people have been building cordial relationships which can be useful to build a balanced bilateral relationship with Afghanistan.

QUESTION NO #01

FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN

I. What is Foreign Policy?

- Foreign Policy is a "behavioral pattern" that a state adopts to conduct diplomatic relations with other countries.
- It is a policy which is designed and redesigned by a continuous process consisting of various inter-related stages.
- Foreign Policy is a plan of action which is adopted by a nation with regards to its diplomatic dealings and it is a policy which dictates that how a country will react politically, socially & economically and militarily.

II. CHALLENGES OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Since its inception, Pakistan has fashioned a foreign policy where it delves into a combination of critical issues, such as Kashmir issues,

Therefore, Pakistan's foreign policy faces several challenges which need to be addressed to effectively navigate the complex international politics.

For most countries, their foreign policies are shaped by their unique domestic culture and politics, historical experiences, values and geopolitical situations. Later on different factors, such as globalization, terrorism, climate change and changing global scenarios has influence them. For Pakistan, the only factor on the basis of which Foreign policy is shaped; is security, whether of physical or economic kind.

But there are other challenges such as follows.

A. Security issues on domestic and regional levels:

Pakistan has long been grappling with stark security challenges that includes; terrorism domestically and from its borders; along with regional conflicts. These security challenges not only impact domestic stability but also affect Pakistan's relation with other countries.

Therefore, over ^{the last} 50 years, Pakistan has been involved in violent conflicts either directly or indirectly, from the Soviet Union's invasion in Afghanistan in 1979, the resulting growing militancy, US's war on terrorism and invasion of Afghanistan following 9/11 attacks, Pakistan-India border issues, problems with Iran. All of these have greatly impacted Pakistan's Foreign Policy. In managing rampant militancy, ^{border} conflicts, response to terrorism and protecting global community's concern, Pakistan was always driven to economic collapses on the brink of economic crisis. Even though, Pakistan's foreign policy was always designed through liberalist's point of view, but international community has always been utterly passive and non-cooperative. Still, in the continuing challenges of policy, Pakistan needs to further enhance its counter-terrorism efforts, strengthen its intelligence capabilities, and actively engage with regional and international allies and partners to promote peace and stability.

B. KASHMIR DISPUTE : a longlasting challenge to Foreign Policy :

The dispute has always been a bone of contention between Pakistan and India. Pakistan has consistently advocated for the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir and always sought support of international community to resolve the issue. Pakistan's Foreign Policy regarding Kashmir has typically focused on diplomatic efforts to raise awareness against the inhuman actions and brutalities of India's, but international organizations have always been supportive to India due to its increasing influence.

For Pakistan, resolving this critical issue is crucial to ensure regional stability and peace. Pakistan should continue to bilaterally engage with India while maintaining friendly relations with all countries and pursue economic development and cooperation.

C. Economic stability is the worst challenge for Pakistan.

D. Deteriorating regional conditions with Iran, Afghanistan and India is another challenge.

E. Negative perceptions and stereotypes in international community is challenging Foreign Policy.

18. Way Forward

Q → Pakistan should actively engage in diplomatic efforts, including bilateral and multilateral dialogues, to promote interests and resolve conflicts.

Q → A liberal foreign policy can attract foreign investment and promote economic growth. By fostering a more open and inclusive environment, Pakistan can enhance its trade relations with other countries leading to collaboration in various fields, such as technology, education, healthcare and research.