

Name:- Muhammad Saad Afzal

Batch - 343

(Part - II)

(Q5) US - China trade relations:-

The US and China trade had caught some serious momentum in the 2nd Decade of the 21st Century. However, this is mainly due to the geopolitical landscape that was established after the Sep 11th Attacks in 2001. Both the countries had seen some significant growth in terms of collaboration in terms of technological, social, educational, economic, industrial, health care and overall standard of living for their respective citizens. In the recent years however, this collaboration has dwindled due to uncertainty regarding the Taiwan's status in the eyes of China as opposed to US, the OBOR initiative seeking to integrate China with developing countries and the general development of international affairs, rapidly evolving in the wake of multiple conflicts that have a very real potential to expand into regional wars. An in-depth analysis of the recent developments keeping in mind all of these factors is given below.

Global trade :-

Rapid industrialization in the 21st century has led to global connectivity and inter-dependency. US-China trade was inevitably a part of this network and the countries were dependent on each other. However, many significant global events altered this reality.

1) Events :-

(i) Covid - 19 :- In the wake of the Corona virus originating from Wuhan, a global lockdown was imposed and the usual hustle and bustle of the industrial life came to a sudden, un-foreseen, unprepared stop for many countries. This gravely impacted economies, not only of China, USA but other major world economies such as Russia, India, Canada, Australia and France as well. As a result, China along with many other countries, pulled back its international and off shore production houses to their own land. This chain of insecurity spread like wildfire as global interconnectedness loomed like a critical threat above every nation's head. US too, as a result pulled back from producing off shore and local production started to boom with a significant decrease in interdependency.

As a result, US-China trade saw significant alteration as tariffs were imposed and drawing from another country's strength was suddenly not as easy, in the international landscape.

(ii) Russia-Ukraine War:-

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 saw an utterly one-sided and blatant condemnation by the entire political west with all the NATO allies, along with European nations, calling for sanctions of Russia through passing UN resolutions. This warranted Russia to cut off gas supply to its massive pipeline network in Europe in mid 2022. This further increased global skepticism about interconnectedness and dependency, causing China and other major economies to start critically evaluating the threat to their own sovereignties.

(iii) BRICS and end of ~~uni~~ multipolarity :-

The addition of 6 more countries into the BRICS alliance along with a pact to trade in their own local currencies, rather than the dollar by many major world economies also weakened US-China trade relations. Concern in this case was raised by both parties.

(iv) The Taiwan Issue:-

USA has been significantly increasing the military presence, both in terms of its naval power and military bases, off the coast of Philippines in the South China Sea, in a bid to grant Taiwan its independence. Taiwan, is an important area due to large deposits of minerals such as Silicon and Titanium that are critical for use in modern day technology. China considers Taiwan to be a part of China by default under the "One China" policy. This geo-political rift, heightened by USA's military presence, has also recently caused rifts in the US-China trade relations.

(2) Negotiations & Policy Changes:-

(1) Biden's Address + Security Policy 2023:-

USA's policy, both by the Democrats and the republicans is clearly shifting towards a non-trade, non-collaborative approach. The US - State Security Policy of 2023 has mentioned China multiple times as an unfriendly competitor. Joe Biden, in a conference after the inauguration of Hydral Power Plants in Pittsburg is Oct 2023, said, "There's no reason we can't build these plants in Pittsburg rather than in Beijing". Similar non-pro-china

statements can be heard from the Democratic Party candidate, Donald Trump's addresses as well.

Potential future trajectory:-

The possibility of revamping the US-China trade relations seems grimmer with each passing day as international conflicts escalate and global tension and security concern for each state exponentially amplifies. For reconciliation, the only possibility is for both the states to respect each other's genuine security concerns. For US to gradually reduce its military presence in South-Chine Taiwan Sea and for China, as a result, to allow the people of Taiwan to choose their own leadership. This can be done with help of a few action plans that dictate the deadlines of gradual behaviours by both states that would reduce the tensions. India, Russia and EU can act as mediators in this discussion as a combined global economic and popular consensus on peace, collaboration, development and welfare is pushed and militarization, hegemony and conflict is discouraged and disregarded at the global level via accountability of transgression and expansion.

(Q 8) (a) America's role in Israel-Palestine Conflict:-

The Israel-Palestine conflict which dates back to 1948, to the creation of the illegitimate state of Israel has been majorly influenced by the role of America. Since its creation, Israel has always found America as one of its strongest allies.

Ideological support:-

Both inside and outside US, globally the lack of support to Israel's occupation or the critique of its actions was encouraged to be labelled as "Anti-Semitism" (Hatred of Jews). America was in favor of Balfour Declaration as well that granted Israel's the right to settle in the Palestinian land.

Support through press:-

American media analysts and biggest news dispensing conglomerates consistently push pro-Israel agenda despite the clear and obvious actions of the Israeli-state that constitute War Crimes and Genocidal Intent under the Geneva Convention. This support is coming at a cost of these new agencies putting, ~~at~~ on the line, their very reputations but due to compulsions by the state policy and

narrative, the heinous crimes of Israel are covered and found excuses for.

Military support:-

USA pro President Joe Biden immediately flew to Israel on Oct 7, 2023 after the Hamas attack. Showcasing solid support, since then, the US has poured in billions of dollars in military aid, constituting aircrafts, helicopters, armoured vehicles and tanks along with major donations in weapons and ammunition for the forces on ground. This is the most critical support that the US is providing to Israel as it directly becomes an on ground participant in the Israeli offense against Gaza and Palestine.

Way forward:-

The US must distance itself from the support to Israel if it is to maintain its reputation of morality internationally. This is the most documented genocide in history and US would do well to not fall on the wrong side of History as Israel faces charges of being a genocidal state in the International Court of Justice.

American Imperialism:-

The evidence for America, being an Imperial state dates back to 1776 onwards, right after its independence. The American Presidents have consistently followed through with an expansionist policy where land was either occupied or purchased to expand population, resources and economy.

Early American History:-

The early American history has multiple examples of American Imperialism. This includes the Purchase of the state of Louisiana, the expansion of USA down south towards Mexico and the occupation of colonies and states up south before Canada's independence.

Imperialism in contemporary times:-

In the modern times, America has been more hawkish in achieving its imperial intent. Without directly occupying, USA has intervened in politics of the Middle East and militarily overthrown multiple governments such as in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan and Palestine. It keeps pushing the bounds far away from home towards China at the South-China Sea as well.

(Q7) Context for reconciliation:-

The re-conciliation between Great Britain and the American colonies was possible before the 1776 revolution in 1774. This is evident from the fact that the American colonies vehemently celebrated their victory in the Seven Year's War and they took great pride in being citizens of the Great Empire. They also provided military support and man power, however they demanded regard and respect in return which was not granted by the Great Britain. Some policies of the ministers, senators and Presidents of the time after 1774 pushed the American people for revolution and these are

1. Sedition Act
2. Quartering Act
3. Trade Embargo Act
4. Slavery Act