

Qno# 4

- What US did to expand its geo-economic and political expansion.

In recent years, Washington has described China as its 'greatest strategic competitor' and adopted a more aggressive foreign policy to counter Beijing's growing influence. While many citizens of USA applauded this stance, however escalating tension between the two super powers can likely escalate the regional conflicts and therefore can disrupt the balance. Following measured steps USA did to expand its geo-economic and political expansion.

- World's largest producer and exporter

Since twentieth century, USA became the largest producer and exporter of industrial goods.

It also became the first largest producer and exporter of defence products as more than 33% world weapons export is contributed by USA. Secondly, it became the world's largest producer and exporter of transformers, engines, textiles, automobiles, etc.

- Major market for foreign investment.

USA became the major market for foreign investment: investments in industry, IT, banks, stock exchange, and real estate business. Everyone is trying to reach Wall Street, New York and it became the hub of billionaires.

World's Largest Banking System (IMF and IBRD)

USA becoming the world's economic leader, predominantly controlled the world banking system.

Bretton Woods system was established in 1945, in which two banks IMF and IBRD were launched.

IMF was given the power of providing loans to the country suffering from budget deficit and BOP (Balance of Payment) / Dollar crisis. IBRD is a branch of WB (International Bank for Reconstruction & Development), was given the responsibility of providing loans to countries for financing developmental projects. These loan always come with conditionalities.

China following the same footsteps.

World's largest producer of world consumer goods.

China is following the same footsteps of USA and ultimately it would lead to unipolar world to multi-polar world. It became the world's largest producer and exporter of world consumer goods, like textile, electrical products, electronics heavy machinery, locomotors and railways. USA is unable to compete with China because Chinese products are cheaper due to lower production cost and lower price of the Chinese currency Yuan. Furthermore, China has the policy of making products within the reach of the majority of the consumer, here USA fails completely.

BRI: World's largest infrastructural project

China has launched the world's largest ever infrastructural project in the modern history.

called Belt Road Initiative (BRI) amounting 1.3 trillion dollar. It develops an alternative transportation system to traditional sea routes that would comprise upon bullet train projects, motorways, highways, and sea ports. This would be a much shorter and faster route for ASIAN and EUROPEAN economies to trade with each other. China is following the same strategy of collective economic growth as USA. Approximately, more than sixty countries in Asia would mainly benefit from BRI as it would help China relocate its industries into BRI countries.

• De-dollarization of International trade

As USA provided loan and aid to its allied countries, China is also expanding its monetary role in the global power politics. Primarily, by signing currency swap agreements with more than 40 countries in the world along which the noteworthy countries are the BRICS nations. China has also developed its own banking system that would have increasing economic role across the world: Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). This bank would establish a parallel banking system to IMF, WB and other US-supported banks.

• Conclusion

Despite all these Chinese efforts, USA still holds the place of world's military hegemon, world's strongest navy and airforce, world's largest defence producer, exporter and defence budget. Both great powers should adopt a defense cooperation policy to avoid armed conflicts in the region.

Qno # 6

• Factors that make an organization successful

Working in a culturally diverse environment can be troublesome and tiring. It sometimes feels that people have to continually adapt to others' perceptions and misunderstanding can also occur easily. The factors that are essential for any international or national organization to make them successful are listed below:

Engagement

Trust

Influence

Authenticity

Positive intent

• BRICS

BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. Originally identified to highlight investment opportunities, the grouping evolved into a cohesive geopolitical bloc, with their governments meeting annually at formal summits and coordinating multilateral policies since 2009.

• Hurdles of BRICS

Currently, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa could allow dozens of interested nations to seek membership and admission as Beijing and Moscow push to forge it into a viable counterweight to the West. While all the BRICS members have publically expressed support for growing the bloc, there were divisions among the leaders over how much and how quickly, and the

leaders hadn't signed a finalized admission framework.

• USA's take on BRICS

According to White House National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, BRICS is less able to become a geopolitical rival of the United States due to the divergence of views on critical issues of BRICS' membering countries. However, the achievement of New Development Bank is raising concerns among some in the west.

• China and India are at odds

As the rivalry between China and United States started, India tried to resist China's efforts to turn the BRICS group into a support organization for China's geopolitical agenda, such as promoting Beijing's Belt Road Initiative. Moreover, China and Russia have wanted to quickly expand the BRICS group to strengthen their influence in developing countries, India, on the other hand is concerned about losing its own influence if the BRICS group admits too many new members closely aligned with China's agenda. After all, India has a bitter border dispute with China, as well as a rivalry with Beijing for regional influence.

• How will these factors help BRICS becoming successful.

Engagement: Culturally intelligent organizations provide multiple ways for team members to participate and contribute to the objectives of the organization. BRICS members must engage to maintain the priorities

of its member nations.

Trust: Intelligent organizations create structures where members deliver specific results in a coherent sequence. Despite the ongoing conflict of becoming the regional hegemon, India and China must work on their trust issues in order to get maximum results.

Influence: An alternative financing system is at the heart of the BRICS appeal. In 2015, New Development Bank was founded to provide the BRICS members more control of development financing and offer an alternative to US-led institutions. This bank will have and will continue to have a lot of influence if BRICS members are open to new admissions.

Authenticity: BRICS, being an intergovernmental organization, have a strong sense of their own identity. Their members have learned how to enact those values and policies in various contexts, such as: de-dollarization initiatives and adding a US-sanctioned member like Iran.

Positive Intent: Combined the BRICS members encompass about 30% of the world's land surface and 45% of the global population. There are among the top ten largest countries by area, population and gross domestic product (GDP). The purpose of any intergovernmental organization is positive at first, later on the changing international politics affect the positive intent. By focusing on the main positive intent of this organization,

it can achieve new successful height.

Qno# 3

Why Pakistani Economy is unable to survive without IMF.

According to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan cannot survive without a new IMF agreement which will span two to three years. The government was going to make tough economic decisions to get the country out of economic crisis.

• Trade Deficit: A major hurdle

When a country has more imports than exports. Pakistan is continuously suffering from this and this is a major reason for the depleting reserves / balance of payment crisis. In fiscal year 2022-23, there were around 80 billion dollar imports and 36 billion dollar exports. Pakistan's trade deficit was 44 billion dollars.

• Overwhelming dependency upon hydrocarbons.

In 2022-23, Pakistan imported 23 billion dollar hydrocarbons; crude oil, refined oil, raw material, LNG, coal, just to generate 60% more electricity. This overwhelming dependency of Pakistan on hydrocarbons results in depleting reserves; therefore Pakistani economy mostly rely on IMF's package.

• Declining industrial factor of Pakistan

Industrialization process got degenerated in Pakistan after Bhutto's era, in which the private sector got discouraged. After 2007, there was a decline in the industries mainly because of expensive electricity and several hours of load shedding. In 2022-23, more than 150 industries got closed, including, Koh-e-noor, Nishat, Honda, Suzuki, etc. Resultantly, imports got increased and exports decreased.

• Environmental Insecurity

Pakistan is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Floods, and droughts have affected Pakistan's economy and ultimately deteriorated it. For instance, in 2014, water need of agriculture wasn't fulfilled and its consequence were the urbanization of agricultural land.

• Population: A ticking bomb for Pakistan

Rise in population resulted in imports. According to 2023 census, population of Pakistan has seen a far huge rise and was 240 million. This results in demand and the local production sector is unable to meet the demand. Therefore, it also results in buying more imports.

Implications of the Bailout package

Pakistan will be bailed out once again by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Pakistan's economy is sinking and it has no option but to seek a bailout. This aid comes with strings attached. Following

are some of the implications of the bail out package.

• Devaluation of Pakistani Rupee.

Pakistan, as discussed above, is the import based economy. Products are purchased from international market in dollars and are sold in PKR in local market. Thus, the Pakistani Rupee has been devalued against dollar.

• Rising Inflation will have a serious impact on the domestic masses.

International price hike results in inflation in Pakistan which will affect the domestic workers and mostly middle and lower class people. Fuels, automobiles, almost all products will be hiked.

• IMF bailout is bad news for subsidies.

Finally, the IMF bailout is bad news for subsidies. More specifically, the subsidies on fuel could take a hit. Clearly, Pakistan will be asked to tighten its belt.

Recommendations

• Stability of Pakistani Rupee.

It is unfortunately not possible without dollar reserves. We need to bring dollars in the form of foreign loan, foreign investment, remittances but more importantly Pakistani economy must shift from import based to export.

• Political Stability

Economic stability and political stability go hand in hand, one can not survive without the other. Instead of blaming each other, politicians of Pakistan need to up their game in order to make economy of Pakistan stable.

• Promoting the business sector

Promoting the business sector will cause revenue generation and ultimately it will provide new job opportunities to our unemployed youth. Thus, the purchasing capacity of people would also improve.

Qno # 8

Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began in the late 19th and early 20th century, with the development of political Zionism and the arrival of Zionist settlers to Palestine. The goal was to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. Land purchases, the eviction of tenant Arab peasants and armed conflicts contributed to the Palestinian population's growing fear of territorial displacement and dispossession.

In 2022, when Benjamin Netanyahu, came to power, he exacerbated the greater political strife in Israel and clashes in Palestinian regions. This led to Israel-Hamas War in 2023, when Hamas led-militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza strip, killing more than 1200 Israeli civilians and military personnels.

The war spilled over and Israeli

military operations have since caused catastrophic destruction and widespread death and displacement throughout Gaza, particularly in the north, killing more than 34,000 Palestinians and injuring 78,000 others. More than 50% of the identified fatalities are said to be women and children, according to the IRC (International Rescue Committee). The Secretary General of the UN calls this a 'humanitarian crisis'.

• USA stays silent!

U.S. lawmakers have long viewed Israel as an ally because to protect their strategic efforts and interests in the Middle East. Maintaining Israel's regional military hegemony, according to Al-Jazeera, is a central element of US Middle East policy.

Although the U.S. has asked Israel to protect civilians and allow humanitarian aid, State Secretary Antony Blinken, acknowledged that there is a 'gap' between these appeals and the actual realities. America is serving as a 'good cop-bad cop' in this humanitarian conflict just to protect their national interests.

The Biden Administration repeatedly emphasizes the two-state solution; Israeli leader continues to explicitly oppose the idea. According to Al-Jazeera, Biden is speaking from both sides of his mouth and one can't see the US using its power to stop the ongoing escalations or correct their behaviours.

• US relations with the Muslim world after Israel-Hamas conflict

The double standards of USA demonstrates that the history of US policy towards Muslim societies and nations, shows that America hasn't used a specific policy in this content. In one part of the Muslim world America is supporting for repressive and corrupt monarchies while in other part it claims to be fighting against dictatorship and authoritarian rule.

The rapid spread of Islamic movements or political Islam in the last two decades is seen as a serious threat to the US security and national interest particularly in the middle east. Therefore, its policy towards those Islamic nations who follows this kind of Islam, has been to prevent it or if necessary to fight with it.

Furthermore, US will also create hurdles for BRICS and particularly for China, so that they aren't able to mediate a peace prospect between the two most important Muslim states; KSA and ~~China~~ Iran. Therefore, one can assume that from the point of view and policy of USA towards Muslim nations, USA will continue to develop its hegemonic influence.