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1) Introduction:

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are not of modern day, but these has a historical legacy that paved the way for increased tension between both countries. However, there must be a revised national policy to tackle these issues.

2) Historical confrontation between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As Pakistan got independence, Afghanistan denied to accept its independence in United Nations. However, Durand line being a demarcated border is an other reason behind the distorted relations between both countries. Due to both main reasons the masses and governments of both countries felt distrust among each other.

3) Pakistan's Foreign policy towards Afghanistan after 9/11 was absurd.

3.1) Declaration of war on Terror:-

After 9/11 attacks Pakistan along with United States was on war against terror. In that war, military forces entered Afghanistan. Military forces targeted some places where a massive killing of civilian people occurred. Due to which, people of that area became alienated and observed Pakistan as their enemy.

3.2) Ideological differences in both countries :-

Both the bordering countries have different ideologies to govern their countries. For TTP and ISKP there must be a "Khilafat" instead of democracy. This difference paved the way for losing the relations b/w both countries.

### 3.3) Sectarian Differences and stance of TTP and ISKP.

Pakistan being a muslim country having 80% Sunni population and 20% shiys. On the other hand, Afghanistan is a Sunni majority. However, the stance of TTP and ISKP is aggressive against Sunni Shiya population and these two groups consecutive-ly targetted shiys muslims in Pakistan.

### 3.4) American troops in Pakistan and their operation in North western Pakistan:

During the attacks of 9/11 in Afghanistan, American troops targetted north western areas in Pakistan and specifically they targetted "pashtun" population. However, several people who died and multiple of them escaped towards north western areas inside Afghanistan. Therefore those affected people are

Pakistan and treating Pakistan  
a closest ally of America.

3.5) Military operation on a  
mosque in Islamabad conveyed  
a negative message in Afghanistan.

Following the year 2007, Pakistan  
military ~~had~~ started an  
operation on "Lal masjid" in  
Islamabad. Military Government  
of that time accused the religious  
people of that mosque involved  
in terror attacks inside Pakistan.

This kinetic operation on mosque  
conveyed a negative message in  
Afghanistan and specially these  
groups took it against the  
Islamic jihad movement.

3.6) Foreign involvement in Afghanistan  
to provoke these groups against  
Pakistan.

Afghanistan is historically named  
as "a graveyard of empires".  
However, people of Afghanistan  
are warriors, foreign elements  
are exploiting these groups

against Pakistan. Their stance is that, if America enters Pakistan to "kill" Usama Bin Laden", why shouldn't we?

Due to this misconception, people of Afghanistan are carrying out wars using Afghan territory as safe haven.

3.8) Forcing Afghan refugees to quit Pakistan.

As case takes Government of Pakistan decided to force 8 million Afghan refugees out of Pakistan. It was some how an irregular decision according to TTP and ISKP. They started to carry out several attacks specially on police personnel in solidarity with their refugees came back from ~~Afghanistan~~ Pakistan.

4) Solutions to overcome these errors.

4.1) By playing a role in Afghanistan.

certain moves by Pakistan were taken to bring Taliban in the power, by negotiating, by peace agreements, by awards with United States.

However, it bring back Afghan Taliban into the power, now, Pakistan needs to play role in managing the demographic challenges in Afghanistan.

Reversing

4.2) Diplomatic ties instead of blaming each other.

Since the fall of Kabul, both government have been blaming each other, This is due to the lack of diplomatic meetings. However, ~~both~~ both countries need to understand that diplomacy is not for peace only.

4.3) Engaging in talks with these groups i.e. TTP, ISKP.

Recently, Afghan government offered talks b/w Pakistan and TTP. This is a positive step if Afghan government is mediating talks. Pakistan government needs to understand that we have paid expensive amount of war on terror, now it is to accept the offer of peace talks and for enhancing peace and broadening the ties.

4.4) Engaging in trade across border will bring tranquility in the region.

After successful talks, both countries must sign an MOU, engaging in trade, and remove visa restriction, and allow the traders of both countries to be engaged in trade, this move would bring prosperous relations.

4.5) Cultural engagements and religious harmony.

Both are the muslim countries and having cultural affiliation. However, Islamabad and Kabul engage their citizen in keeping cultural affiliation and religious harmony.

Qwoty

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1) Introduction:

India - middle east europe economic corridor is <sup>backed</sup> by U.S and Saudi - Arabia in a competition with china's belt and road initiative.

However, there is a difference in the ultimate outcome of <sup>the</sup> ~~con~~ projects.

2) what is India - Middle east Europe Economic corridor?

It is a newly introduced project backed by U.S and ~~and~~ Saudi - Arabia. It is a trade route connecting ~~to~~



India with middle east through Arabian sea, and then ~~con~~ then it connects the Europe through land route by passing from the territories of Israel and Turkey. Majority of the countries have shown their interest to join it.

→ 3) Why IMEEC project?

Basically, it is backed by United States and Saudi-Arabia. It is basically observed that, United States initiated the project to counter Chinese project named as "BRI" Belt and road initiative. And also to counter the Chinese presence in middle east and eastern European countries.

4) What is BRI (Belt and road initiative).

Belt and road initiative is the extension of Chinese historical Silk route. However geo-political strategic location of China

played an immense role in shaping such a worldwide project.

5)  $\Rightarrow$  Points of Divergence in these projects & potentials.

5.1) BRI VS IMEEC physical presence:

BRI is older project and it comprises of six corridors including to connect China, with middle east, with Africa, with central Asian republics, with Pakistan through CPEC. all

these projects have a physical appearance and China is getting economic benefits from it. On the other, IMEEC is a newly emerged project having no any physical appearance yet. Only memorandum of understanding has been signed to start this project.

5.2) U.S backed projects and their effectiveness in Asia.

Contrasting to Chinese BRI, United States introduced several projects in Pacific as well as Indian Ocean. Secondly, US introduced project of P5+1 to ~~counter~~ Chinese ZPEC. It is the effective presence of Chinese projects that US ~~cannot~~ <sup>cannot</sup> ~~find~~ <sup>finds</sup> gap to counter Chinese ~~growing~~ growing influence. All projects ~~have~~ have been ineffective and IMEEC is an other move.

5-3) Politics of global south and global north might lose this project (IMEEC).

Global politics is being changed and it's reshaping the shape of multipolarity. However, BRICS is its ~~new~~ prominent example. It is the main objective of "BRICS" to lead the global south and to get rid of global north's dominance. ~~However,~~ it is setback for US backed IMEEC that India and Saudi-

Arabs are already its members. ~~How~~ Therefore, it would face these challenges due to which IMEEC can't effectively work as BRI.

5.4) Acquisition of needs from these projects.

Firstly, BRI is a project which connects the whole world. However, it connects the largest exporters of fuel and commodities and also largest importers of these things. Moreover, majority of its corridors started benefiting China as well concerned countries India, and Saudi Arabia are also included in those. On the other hands, IMEEC is not the project of major exporters because it ignored central Asian republics which are largest commodity exporters. Therefore, it can't be as a competitor of BRI.

6.3) U.S. China Rivalry and  
future of BRI and IMEEC.

U.S. and China, both countries  
have paid huge focus on warm  
waters. Moreover, China has  
observed to build "pearl of  
strings" means China is building  
"ports" in different countries to  
make BRI effective. On the  
other hand United States along  
with its member allies in  
Indo-Pacific region are major  
set back for BRI. Moreover,  
if IMEEC includes U.S. allies  
in Indo-Pacific region then  
it can pose a major set  
back to BRI project.

Conclusion:

After analysing points of divergence  
and potentials of BRI and IMEEC  
it can be said that BRI is  
effective because it has started  
benefiting China. On the other hand  
U.S. competing to China introduced  
IMEEC which can be a  
major set back for BRI.

## 5.6) <sup>6)</sup> Future of projects.

### 6.1) Bilateral conflicts in Asian regions:

India and China are two archrivals ~~but~~ on the hand India is closest ally of United States. If China fails to engage India in a diplomatic way then India would play role to start IMEEC.

### 6.2) Conflicts in middle east.

Middle east is now a house for proxy wars and territorial wars. However, China has invested and penetrated in the middle east through BRI. If these conflicts ~~can~~ will be broad based then Chinese investments can be in danger. On the other hand, U.S and India have their historical legacy in middle east. Therefore, these conflicts can be a major set back for both projects.

Q no 8

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### 1) Introduction:

Special Investment Financial Council is a positive move. It has been established ~~been~~ by Palestine Government to ~~is~~ attract foreign direct investment in the country (however, it has attracted foreign investors from China and middle east as well).

### 2) Objectives of SIFC:

One of the main objectives of SIFC is the "one window" investment. Secondly, it is to provide an environment for foreign investors to invest in Palestine.

### 3) Challenges to investors before SIFC

#### 3.1) Security threats:

Since <sup>for</sup> a long a time ago there <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ several challenges of security to investors. However, none of any multinational investor could invest in Palestine.

3.2) Increased Red tapism  
Due to increased red tapism, most of investors observed Pakistan as an un-safe place. However, several foreign investors couldn't invest here due to this cause.

3.3) Political instability:  
Since the last decade, there is no any political stability. Most of prominent parties were engaged protests, Jalsas, which left an image of Pakistan as undemocratic country. That's why investment couldn't come in Pakistan.

3.4) Lack of trust among investors:-  
Pakistan being democratic country, could not come out of cultural norms. Therefore, feudalism and tribalism conveyed a message of distrust among the investors. Due to this fear investors averted to come and invest here in Pakistan.



4) Investment after establishment of SIFC.

4.1) Government ensured security to investors.

Govt Islamabad after establishment of SIFC ensured the security of investors. However, terrorism remained on its people in the last years but investors accepted this move of Pakistan and started to sign multiple agreements.

4.2) Saudi-Arabian officials and SIFC.

Saudi-Arabia has cultural and religious ties with Pakistan. It is decades long interested to invest in Pakistan. But there was lack of such a unanimous platform. Recent consecutive visits of KSA officials gave green signals for investing Pakistan, specially, in gold, copper, mines and energy sector.

4.3) Chinese interest in SIFC.  
China being a major ally of Pakistan, recommended to further materialize SIFC. China is interested to enhance agricultural sector and Tourism in Pakistan. However, CPEC phase two is going on but China is interested to invest through SIFC.

4.4) Interest of KSA and China has attracted European countries to invest.

As Saudi-delegation signed a memorandum of understanding of investing \$5 billion in Pakistan.

Similarly, China is also in a way to ink agreements. This move attracted some European countries which are interested to invest in IT sector Pakistan.

3.5) Political consensus is also a positive indicator.

As country is under going some parliamentary doldrums, but

political parties appreciated and  
praised KSA of investing  
here. This type of consensus would  
positively attract multinational  
investors to Pakistan.

Conclusion: ~~can~~

undoubtedly there were  
some challenges before the ~~establishment~~  
establishment of SIFC, but  
its existence has given a  
space to foreign investors  
Investment in Pakistan through  
this platform is initiated by  
KSA and China, and  
now it has positively ~~attracted~~  
attracted the other interested  
countries.