

DATE: ___/___/___

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Part - II

Question. 2

Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and USA. Critically evaluate the reasons and why and how the two countries must avoid the ~~war~~ conflict?

Answer:-

- **Introduction:-**

Taiwan is a flashpoint between China and USA. This is due to their own strategic, economic and ideological interests in the region. It is important for both states to avoid conflict by engaging in diplomacy, economic collaboration or by mediation from a third party. This can help prevent huge human and economic losses that will occur if the conflict is initiated.

- **Reasons for potential conflict :-**

Following are the ~~reas~~ political, strategic, economic and ideological reasons that could lead to a potential conflict between China and USA on the issue of Taiwan.

(a) **Political and Strategic interest**

Under Beijing's "One China" policy, China wants to merge Taiwan with itself and considers it

a part of China. Taiwan's de facto independence is a threat to China's ~~sovere~~ sovereignty and could potentially inspire other separatist movements across China. For US; on the other hand, Taiwan is a strategic ally. Through Taiwan US wants to promote democracy in the region and counter China's influence in Indo-Pacific.

(b) Military Presence

Both US and China have strong military build up in south China sea and China has rapidly been deploying its military near Taiwan. US and its allies (Japan, South Korea and Philippines) conduct military exercises as well that are perceived as a threat by China. And hence, further escalating the tensions.

(c) Economic Interest: Semiconductor industry.

Another reason for the potential conflict between US and China on Taiwan is its chip industry. Taiwan produces nearly 90% of the most advanced semiconductor chips that are used in AI and smartphones etc. Both US and China heavily depend on Taiwan for its semiconductor industry. And both want to dominate Taiwan for this reason as well.

(d) Ideological Conflict

There is an ideological conflict of democracy that is supported by West and US and Authoritarianism by China. US wants to support democracy in Taiwan which is a threat to China's political ideology.

- **Consequences of Conflict: Why both countries must avoid conflict?**

The potential conflict between China and US on Taiwan will have far reaching regional and global impacts.

Following are the Economic and Humanitarian costs, of if the conflict happens:-

- (a) **Economic Consequences:**

A military conflict over Taiwan can disrupt major trade routes in South China Sea, affecting global supply chains. Both US and China will face heavy economic repercussions as well. The technology industry depends on the semiconductors from Taiwan - Many global industries will face setbacks if the conflict occurs.

- (b) **Humanitarian cost:**

Any potential conflict over Taiwan can result in massive human and material losses. It can also lead to nuclear war. Both states have advanced military and must engage in negotiations to save ~~per~~ millions of lives.

- **How Conflict can be avoided?**

Peace can be maintained and the war can be stopped if both agree on negotiations and engage in cooperation. Following are ^{one of few} ~~the~~ ways the conflict can be avoided.

- (a) **Collaborative Initiatives**

Both US and China can engage in collaborative initiatives like climate change, global health etc to reduce tensions. Engaging in initiatives with

mutual benefits will reduce chances of conflict.

(b) Strategic Dialogues and ~~des~~ de-escalating mechanism:

To avoid misunderstanding both states should regularly engage in strategic dialogues. They can also ~~des~~ reduce tensions by engaging in de-escalating mechanisms. For instance, US can limit its military support for only for self defence instead of fully committing for its defense. And China can also patiently use dialogues and find a peaceful way for Taiwan's future instead of military action.

• Conclusion:-

Taiwan is a bone of contention between China and US. With high economic and ^{humanitarian} ~~military~~ stakes both countries must avoid conflict. A stable Taiwan will benefit not only US and China but also the broader international community.



Question: 3

Critically evaluate the unconditional support of US and for Israel effects its image in Arab countries and how it provides a space for China and Russia to penetrate in the middle East?

DATE: ___/___/___

Answer :-

Introduction:-

The unconditional support for Israel by US has significantly impacted its image in middle east. This has resulted in strained diplomatic relations, skepticism and backlash from Arabs. On the other hand, it has also created opportunity for China and Russia to exert their influence in the region. They are alligning with Arab states on issues that are different from US policies specially on Palestine issue.

Impacts of US support to Israel in middle east:-

US provides billions of dollas for to Israel in the middle east. This has created bias, loss in credibility, Backlash among arab population and prevented many states from recognizing Israel as well.

(a) Percieved Bias and loss of Credibility

The constant political, economic and military support from US to Israel has resulted in huge humanitarian loses in Gaza Palestine. On one hand, US advocates for human rights and intl. law and on the other hand it is utterly silent on killings of innocent Palestinians. Such biasness and contradicting actions have strained trust among the Arabs and US. The decades long partnership between US and middle eastern countries is being adversely impacted.

(b) Backlash from Arab populations :-

Heavy Backlash ~~is~~ from Arab population affects the policy making process where public opinion plays a crucial role. Even the leaders that are alligned with US, their population often supports anti-American sentiments. As a result military and diplomatic relations have further complicated in the region.

(c) Barrier to recognizing Israel :-

Many Arab states that showed willingness to recognize Israel have are re-evaluating the stakes. After October 7 incident, the public is mostly in favor of Palestinians and it is now difficult for the governments to make any decision regarding Israel's recognition.

• Opportunity for Russia and China

The rise in anti-American sentiments have opened ~~endless~~ doors for multiple opportunities for China and Russia to spread their influence in the region.

(a) China's Diplomatic and Economic inroads:

During the recent Hamas-Israel war, China has showed sympathies for Palestinians and vetoed against Israel in UN. Using BRI as a tool, China is extending its influence in the region using economy and soft diplomacy. The states wary of US hegemony in middle east have welcomed BRI, further strengthening China's influence in middle east.

(b) Russia's Strategic alliance and military presence:

Russia has capitalized on ~~unwilling~~ US's declining popularity in middle east. Russia is now establishing itself as a reliable strategic and military partner. It has engaged in Syria to support Assad regime and is a close ally of Iran. And as a result counters Israel and US influence in the middle east.

(c) Diplomatic mediation:-

Both China and Russia act as diplomatic mediators. For instance the mediation between Saudi and Iran by China. This diplomatic role enhances their influence in the region.

(d) Military Cooperation:-

In the past US used to be the primary arms supplier in middle east. But now Russia and China are also actively participating in arms sales and military cooperation in the region. For instance Russia's arms deal with Egypt, Algeria and Iran.

• Conclusion:-

US's unconditional support for Israel has created a perception of bias. This has provided opportunities to China and Russia to enhance their influence in the region. US needs to adopt a more balanced approach specially in: Israel - Palestine issue so it can cede strategic grounds to the rising powers.

Question:- 6

Answer:-

• Introduction:-

The increase in electricity cost in Pakistan can be attributed to many factors including expensive agreements with IPPs, excessive dependency on hydrocarbons, and significant losses in transmission and distribution sectors. This increase in electricity prices has far reaching impacts on households, industries and other critical sectors. It has created a ripple effect that impacts growth and welfare of public.

• Analyzing the contributing factors:-

Following are the contributing factors that lead to hike in electricity prices:-

(1) Expensive agreements with IPPs:-

Governments have established expensive agreements with IPPs that guarantee fixed return often in foreign currency. These contracts prioritize the profits for IPPs over public affordability. When fuel prices rise, governments are pressured to increase tariffs on electricity cost. In 2024, government paid 2 trillion rupees for 93,400 MW of electricity. This leads to an unnecessary burden on consumers.

2. Overdependence on Hydrocarbons:-

Heavy reliance on hydrocarbons (coal, gas, oil) for power generation increases cost - for It also exposes Pakistan's weak economy to volatile global fuel prices. In 2022-2023 more than 23 billion dollar was spend on imports of hydrocarbons. More than 64% of energy is produced using hydrocarbons. Additionally, the environmental impacts further creates problem as Pakistan is already vulnerable to climate change.

3. Transmission and distribution (T&D) losses:-

The outdated infrastructure results in energy losses and is quiet common in many states -

High T and D losses means that a portion of generated energy is lost and results in higher costs.

Usually it ranges from 6-8% in some countries. For Pakistan these losses range from 9.5-35%.

• Impacts on Industry and Domestic sectors.

High electricity costs have following impacts on various industries:-

(a) Domestic consumers:-

The electricity bills are very difficult for consumers to pay. It has negatively impacted their life style and people are struggling to make ends meet.

(b) Industries:-

Since 2022 more than 200 industries have closed. One of the leading cause is loadshedding. Production cost has risen up, it is difficult

to compete with imported goods.

• Recommendations :-

Following are the few recommendations to mitigate the impacts of electricity prices and control further escalation in prices:

(i) By renegotiating IPP agreements :-

There is a need to re-negotiate contracts with IPPs. Proper mechanisms and policies to be formulated for adjusting rate of return or creating currency stabilization mechanism.

(ii) Promote renewable resources of energy :-

Renewable sources of energy using solar, water and wind can reduce dependency on hydrocarbons. A focus on renewable energy can create jobs and attract investments.

(iii) Improving T and D infrastructure :-

Government should invest in modern smart grids, smart meter to avoid electricity theft - Upgrading transmission and distribution infrastructure is also crucial to prevent energy loss.

(iv) Improving local Manufacturing :-

Encouraging local manufacturing of energy technology like solar panels can reduce reliance on imports.

(v) Promoting energy conservation :-

Campaign on social media to raise awareness on energy conservation can help reduce energy loss and save up energy.

• Conclusion :-

To conclude, rising electricity prices have

far reaching implications for industries and local consumers. This is caused by costly IPP contracts, reliance on hydrocarbons and T&D inefficiencies. By implementing on the recommendations mentioned, we can reduce burden on industries and local consumers.



Question. 7

Answer:-

Introduction:-

The recent Israeli operation in Gaza is marked by extensive bombardment and mass ~~cas~~ casualties of innocent civilians. This has raised serious questions on war crimes committed by Israel. The response of ICJ and US has not helped to deescalate the casualties. And this has impacted USA's relationship with the Arab world.

War Crimes committed by Israel on Gaza:-

(a) Collective Punishment:-

The 4th Geneva Convention explicitly prohibits the use of collective punishment on civilian population. Israel's blockade on Gaza and intensive bombing on civilians has resulted in death of more than 40,000 innocent civilians.

(b) Disproportionate use of war:-

The Geneva Conventions require that military actions should be proportionate. The indiscriminate

destruction in Gaza and the limited military capabilities of Palestinians in contrast to Israel's advanced technology raises serious proportionality concerns. This is clearly a breach of AP-I proportionality principle as mentioned in Article 51.

3. Failure to distinguish between Combatants and non-Combatants:-

According to Geneva Conventions, all parties must differentiate between combatants and non-combatants.

Non-combatants should not be targeted nor the civilian buildings and infrastructure. But the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and bombing of civilian is another war crime committed by Israel.

4. Killing of Journalists and medical staff.

Almost 131 - 143 journalists and media workers have died in Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Similarly medical staff and hospitals have been targeted. According to Geneva Conventions medical staff and media workers should not be targeted.

• ICJ's Response :-

International court of Justice made a decision to end Israeli occupation in Gaza and maintain ceasefire. But the issue is that ICJ's decision are not binding on Israel and has remained mostly ineffective in stopping casualties of innocent civilians.

• America's response:-

USA has been unconditionally supporting Israel. The biasness of US, when it come to innocent Palestinians have dissapointed many. Many of its allied countries are facing public pressure in support for Palestine. But despite the pressure US continues to veto ceasefire calls in UN.

• Implications for US-Arab relations:-

Arab states that had been allies of US have been vocal about their criticism on US policies. Rising powers like China and Russia have taken the opportunity to expand their influence in the region as well.

• Conclusion:-

The recent Hamas-Israel war has highlighted war crimes committed by Israel. America's unwavering support to Israel has strained its relation with Arab world. China and Russia are enhancing their influence in the region. If USA doesnot go for a balanced approach, it may have serious setback for it.