

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Question no. 2

China is rapidly rising in every field and is on its way to become the next superpower. Due to this reason, China has become a symbol of danger for United States of America and USA is using every tactic to curb the success of China. The shift from unipolar world to multipolarity is hard to digest for USA.

Nonetheless, a conflict between the two nuclear states, China and USA, can bring nothing but destruction. Therefore, it is essential to avoid this conflict at all cost.

Instead of stockpiling deadly weapons to ensure peace, the two countries should adopt peaceful strategies.

1) From Unipolar World to Multipolarity

Before the collapse of Soviet Union, the world was bipolar. It was divided into two big superpowers, America and Russia, that controlled the global politics. After the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, the world became unipolar with America being the only superpower. Today the unipolar world is shifting

towards multipolarity with multiple countries becoming economic powers. Now the main competition between the countries is in the field of electronics, specifically the semiconductor industry.

2) Uses of Semiconductor Technology

Semiconductor is a material that shares the qualities of both metals and conductors. Every gadget we use today consists of semiconductor chips. These chips consist of billions of transistors and the number of transistors double every two years. The real challenge is attaching ~~same~~ more transistors on same size of chip. Since the chips have become so small, the technology has entered the field of nanotechnology. It deals with the materials at the scale of one ~~ten~~ billionth of a meter.

Semiconductors are also used in the weapon industry to design the latest missiles, guns, rockets, etc.

3) Taiwan's expertise of Semiconductor Industry

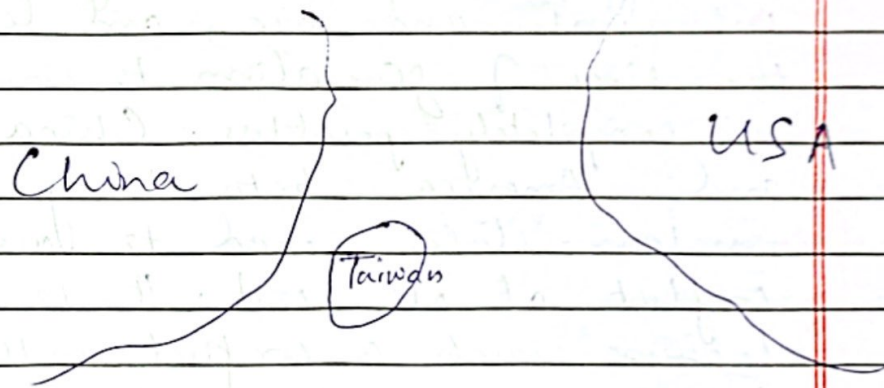
Taiwan developed state of the art labs for development of semiconductor chips. Taiwan invested in clean rooms which specifically deal

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with production of micro chips. Today, Taiwan excels in semiconductor technology. It became so advanced that America stopped its own production industries and only focused on designs. USA then sent those chip designs to Taiwan for manufacturing. In this way Taiwan became the leading exporter of semiconductor chips throughout the world. When America realised that Taiwan was gaining exponentially through this business, America stopped importing from Taiwan and resumed its production industries.

4) Taiwan as a Flash Point



China is a small
Taiwan is a small island country near China. China wants to merge Taiwan into its own territory while Taiwan wants to stay independent. USA supports Taiwan

right to stay independent. As Taiwan has leading semiconductor technology and chip designs from America, America is afraid that China is going to use them against America if Taiwan is merged into China. This is the reason while America strongly condemns any effort of China to merge Taiwan.

c) War in times of Nuclear Technology

Conventional war in times of nuclear technology ^{may} ~~will~~ lead to total destruction of the world. The war that will cause deadly isotopes to spread to far off corners of the Earth, through soil, water and air, and destroy the lives of generations to come is completely pointless. China and America, both being nuclear states, need to avoid conflict at all cost. It is because such a conflict will bring nothing other than total chaos and destruction.

c) Healthy Competition is the Key

It is essential that both countries, China and America, move towards peace oriented strategies instead of focusing on

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war. They should adopt a healthy competition in every field.

Conclusion

The world needs to move towards peaceful strategies instead of stockpiling deadly weapons that bring nothing but destruction. It is essential that America, being the superpower, and China, being the rising power, take step towards peace and adopt healthy competition. In this way they will set an example for the rest of the world as well.

Question no. 3

The war in Gaza, which started on October 7, 2023, has been going on for more than a year now. Palestinians of all ages, from a newborn child to an adult, have become a victim to the atrocities of Israel. It has been termed the largest documented genocide and yet, the world is unable to stop it. The main reason behind this is the relentless support of the world superpower, America, to Israel. Due to this unconditional support,

USA is becoming isolated and highly unpopular especially in the Muslim countries. The Middle East, that is mostly facing the brunt of this war, is losing respect for USA. They would soon cut deals with USA which will give China and Russia a golden opportunity to penetrate into Middle East.

1) Support of US for Israel

USA supports Israel ~~and~~ call it every front and call it "Israel's right to defend". While the world can clearly see that Israel, in no sense, is defending itself but rather committing a genocide in Gaza, USA is blind to it all and keeps on supplying weapons to Israel for more destruction. Due to the sinister alliance of Israel and USA, both the countries are losing popularity and respect throughout the world. They are going into isolation. Most of the countries have already cut ties with Israel and in no time, they would do the same with USA.

2) Middle East and Israel

The Middle Eastern countries are mostly facing the consequences posed by the war in Gaza. Israel's biggest rival in Middle East is Iran. Proxies of Iran are spread throughout Middle East. Price exchange between proxies and Israel take place every now and then with a sudden escalation in the last few days. The war in Gaza has the potential to spread across Middle East as Israel keep fighting for its dream of Greater Israel. ^{Most of} ~~the~~ the Middle Eastern countries condemn Israel for its actions and they have lost respect for United State for supporting those actions. They may soon cut ties with America creating opportunity for other countries such as China and Russia. Iran already has bitter relations with America due to its endless sanctions on Iran. Therefore, Iran may be the first countries to sign deals with Russia and China.

3) China and Russia into Middle East

As the Middle East becomes increasingly disappointed by the relentless support by United States to Israel, it will look for other potential business partners.

The rising economic powers of China and Russia will seize the opportune opportunities to invest in Middle East. This would be another step towards decreasing the influence of United States over the world.

7) Conclusion

As the saying goes, "you are going to reap what you sow", United States of America will face consequences for its actions.

The relentless support of USA toward Israel will prove to be costly beyond measures. They will end up in isolation.

The Middle Eastern countries would break deals with US, giving opportunity to other countries, especially Russia and China, to invest. In this way the influence of United States would decrease, giving chance for other powers to rise.

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Question no. 4

The economy of Pakistan is deteriorating day by day but it can be transformed by taking adequate steps in the field of Industry, Agriculture, IT, Power sector, Tax system, etc. But to bring change, we first need to look at underlying problems that cause issues in the first place.

1) Structural Reforms in Industries

In the 1970s, the nationalization of industries gave a massive blow to the industrial sector of Pakistan. Most of the large-scale industries left Pakistan and those that remained suffered huge losses and declined eventually. Today, high tariffs and electricity bills have once again curbed the businesses. In order to give rise to economy, it is essential that a friend-friendly environment is provided for businesses to grow and flourish. All industries should be privatized so that the workers are held responsible and accountable for their actions. All those who do not perform and act as a parasite for industries, should be replaced.

In this way, there would be no room of inefficient people. Moreover, there should be proper check and balance to ensure quality. Good quality products would ensure customer satisfaction and the sale of products would rise. Those products should be targeted which are imported in large quantities. Their local production should be encouraged through subsidies and other means. Resultantly, the trade deficit would also decrease.

2) Agriculture

As the fresh water is becoming scarce, it is essential to adopt modern agricultural techniques. Some of these techniques include drip irrigation and vertical farming. They are water efficient and easy to use. Moreover, with the growing population, it is essential to invest in Research and Development (R&D) to look for new ways to increase the yield. Today genetically mutated seeds are used that provide higher yield. Additionally, large quantities of fertilizers

are imported for these crops. Their local productions should be promoted so that they become more cost effective for the country.

3) Information Technology

The world of IT is a rapidly growing field. To keep up with world, it is essential to establish IT parks across Pakistan to provide opportunities to brilliant minds. The best thing about this field is that it does not require big and expensive apparatus to excel, just a laptop would do. In this field, through a small investment and hard work, one can ~~as~~ accomplish a lot. Therefore, it would be very beneficial to Pakistan to invest in the field of Information Technology.

4) Structural Reforms in Power Sector

Large amounts of hydrocarbons are imported to be used in these power sectors. This ultimately increases the cost of electricity in the country. Most of the electricity in Pakistan is produced using non-renewable energy.

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resources such as oil and coal, which becomes quite expensive for the country. Pakistan should move toward renewable energy resources such as water, solar and wind. The government should encourage installation of these plants. Moreover, the contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) based on capacity payments should be revised. Additionally, huge number of losses occur in generation and transmission lines. These losses should be reduced by using high quality copper wires.

5) Structural Reforms in Tax System

The salaried class suffers due to high taxes while the large business tycoons evade taxes through corruptions. Proper check system ~~is~~ should be imposed to stop tax evasion. Heavy fines and punishment should be imposed on those who evade taxes.

6) Conclusion

By bringing all these structural reforms to Industry, agriculture, IT, Tax system and Power sector can ~~be~~ the economy of

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the ~~to~~ country be transformed. It is essential that government takes measures to implement these steps to ensure the ~~so~~ bright future of Pakistan.

Question no. 6

The electricity bills have become a nightmare for the people of Pakistan. Multiple reasons have led to high prices of electricity. Some of these will be discussed below:

1) Expensive agreements with IPPs

The agreements with IPPs are based on capacity payments which means that they will get payments even if no electricity is bought from them. Now due to weak economic condition of the country, when the government is unable to pay IPPs for electricity, it becomes a loan and interest is imposed on those loans. Today the government owes billions of dollars to these IPPs due to which huge taxes are imposed on electricity bills.

2) Overwhelming dependency on Hydrocarbons

All these hydro IPPs use high imported hydrocarbons to produce electricity. Due to devaluation of rupees, these hydrocarbons become quite expensive for the country and ultimately this burden trickles down to common man in the form of high taxes on electricity.

3) Line and other losses in transmission and distribution sector

Due to corrupt practices prevailing in our society, low quality materials are used for construction of power sectors and low quality wires are used in transmission and distribution lines. Due to which, huge power loss takes place at every stage, from production to transmission.

Ultimately, the electricity that reaches its destination becomes highly expensive.

4) Implications on Industry, domestic and other crucial sectors

The high electricity prices have impacted all spheres of life. It has become impossible for many large scale industries

to operate. Many large scale industries have moved abroad in places that offer more friendly environment for businesses to grow. Multiple large scale industries have lost business and have ceased to exist. Ultimately, numerous Pakistanis have become jobless. Rate of unemployment in the country has increased. The living standards of people have dropped significantly. The massive stagflation in the country has given rise to crimes such as robbery, theft, murder, etc. People have become desperate for survival.

Recommendations

All these problems are indeed difficult to solve but ~~to~~ not impossible. By taking adequate measures the government can decrease the prices of electricity. Following steps should be considered:

- 1) - Contract with IPPs should be revised and capacity payments should be removed.
- 2) Imports of hydrocarbons should be removed and local production should be encouraged. Moreover

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the production lines should be encouraged to shift towards more sustainable and ~~energy~~ efficient renewable energy resources such as solar, wind and water.

3) Adequate steps should be taken to discourage corrupt practices. The violators should be heavily punished. Quality should be ensured at every step of power generation to ensure there is no power loss.

4) Solar panels should be provided at subsidised rates so that people can shift their homes to solar energy.