

# Pakistan & Spain

## Mock-5.

### Part: II

#### Q5 Afghanistan leaders .....

The desire of Afghan leaders to pursue a more independent foreign policy reflects a significant shift in the geopolitical landscape of South Asia. This inspiration has direct implications for Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, given the historical complexities and mutual dependencies between the two nations. Here's a details analysis of the context, reasons, and implications for both countries.

#### Historical Context:

#### Colonial legacy and partition:

The Durand line, drawn during British colonial rule, has been a point of contention with Afghanistan never formally recognizing it as international borders. This historical grievance affects national identities and influences contemporary relations.

#### Proxy conflicts:

Throughout the cold war and beyond,

Afghanistan has been a battleground for regional powers, with Pakistan often seen as a key player. The U.S and Soviet Union's involvement further complicated this relationship, as both nations have historically used Afghanistan as a proxy for their interests.

## Afghanistan's Shift Towards Independence

\* **Desire for sovereignty:** The Taliban's leadership aims to assert Afghanistan's sovereignty and reduce its reliance on regional powers. Particularly Pakistan: this shift is motivated by the desire for greater autonomy in foreign policy decisions and economic development.

### \* **Avoiding Client State Status:**

Afghanistan's leaders are wary of being perceived as a client state of Pakistan or any other country, particularly after decades of perceived interference in its internal affairs. This desire for independence is rooted in a need to establish a national identity separate from foreign influences.

## Implications for Pakistan - Afghanistan Relations

### \* **Security Dynamics:**

Pakistan has traditionally viewed Afghanistan through a security lens, particularly concerning the presence of Indian influence in independent Afghan foreign policy. Pakistan's strategic calculations, especially if Afghanistan seeks closer ties with India or other rivals.

### \* **Border management:**

The Durand line remains a contentious issue. Afghanistan's push for independence might intensify disputes over the border, leading to increased tensions. For instance, Pakistan's military operations against militant groups along the border could be viewed as incursions into Afghan sovereignty.

### \* **Economic Cooperation:**

While Afghanistan seeks independence, it must still engage in economic cooperation with Pakistan given their intertwined economies. Trade routes and energy projects like the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) pipeline are crucial, but Afghanistan may seek alternatives.

partnerships to diversify its economic relationships.

## \* Regional alliances:

Afghanistan's pursuit of an independent foreign policy may lead it to explore alliances with other regional powers, including Iran and Russia, which could alter the balance of power in South Asia. For example, recent outreach to China and discussions about potential investment in infrastructure indicate a shift away from dependency on Pakistan.

## \* Diplomatic Engagement:

Pakistan may need to adjust its diplomatic strategy to accommodate Afghanistan's new approach. This could involve fostering dialogue and cooperation rather than maintaining dominance. For instance, Pakistan's participation in multilateral forums that include Afghan voices could help build trust.

## Conclusion:

The desire of Afghanistan's leaders to pursue a more independent foreign policy presents both challenges and opportunities for Pakistan - Afghanistan relations. As Afghanistan seeks to assert its sovereignty, Pakistan must

navigate these changes carefully, balancing its security interests with the need for constructive engagement. Building a relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation, rather than historical grievances and dependence, will be essential for achieving long-term stability in the region. This evolving diplomatic underscores the importance of diplomacy, economic cooperation and a recognition of each nation's sovereignty in shaping more stable future.

Q7

Pakistan's economic ills....

Ans:

The assertion that Pakistan's economic ills raises alarms about the nation being in danger is justly policies that burden the poor while increasing reliance on foreign debt is rooted in historical and contemporary realities. This dynamic reflects broader socio-economic structures and has significant implications for the country's development. Here's a detailed elaboration.

## 1. Historical context of economic management

### • Historical dependency:

Since its independence, Pakistan has faced various economic crisis,

leading to reliance on foreign aid and loans. For example, The IMF has provided multiple bailouts since the 1980s with the conditions often leading to austerity measures that disproportionately impact the lower and middle classes.

### \* Political Instability :

Frequent changes in government and political instability have led to inconsistent economic policies. The elite often leverage national security narratives to justify a focus on short-term fixes, such as external borrowings rather than long-term economic planning.

## 2. Raising the Alarm! Pakistan in Danger's Narrative

### \* Use of Nationalism:

The economic elite often invokes nationalist sentiments to rally public support for policies that may not benefit the majority. For instance, during crisis, leaders may frame the situation as a threat to national sovereignty, urging sacrifices from the public while protecting their own interests.

### \* Examples of Crisis Rhetoric:

In the wake of the 2010 floods and subsequent economic challenges, the government framed the situation as the national emergency, which followed with increased taxation and cuts to social programmes while maintaining elite privileges.

### 3. Taxation Policies Favouring the elite

#### \* Regressive tax systems:

Pakistan's tax structure is heavily regressive, with a significant burden falling on the poor. For example, sales tax are applied universally, impacting low-income households disproportionately while wealthier individuals often benefit from loopholes and lower effective tax rates.

#### \* Examples of tax burden:

In 2021, proposals for increased VAT (value added tax) on basic goods faced backlash, as these taxes would disproportionately affect lower-income families. Meanwhile, high-income earners and corporations often evade substantial taxation through various means.

#### 4- Increasing foreign debt.

##### Debt Accumulation:

Pakistan's foreign debt has skyrocketed, reaching around \$130 billion by 2023. The reliance on foreign loans often comes with stringent conditions that necessitate austerity measures, further burdening the impoverished.

#### \* Impact of debt on social services:

A large portion of the national budget is allocated to debt repayment (approximately 40% in recent years), leaving insufficient resources for health, education, and infrastructure development. For example, in the 2023 budget, only 2% was allocated to education, reflecting priorities skewed towards meeting debt obligations rather than fostering self-reliance.

#### 5- Lack of Economic Self-Reliance

##### Failure to promote local industries:

The elite's focus on maintaining the status quo often sidelines policies that could foster local production and self-reliance. Instead, there is a reliance on imports which depletes foreign exchange reserves and increases

vulnerability to external shocks.

#### \* Examples of neglecting local economy:

The agriculture sector, crucial for Pakistan's economy, has been neglected in favour of short-term fixes. Issues such as water scarcity and out dated farming techniques persist, exacerbating poverty among rural population.

#### 6- Social Inequality and Consequences:

##### Rising Inequality:

The combination of regressive taxation and increased foreign debt leads to widening inequality. The wealth gap has been increasing, with the richest 10% controlling a significant share of the national wealth.

##### Social Unrest:

The growing frustration among the population due to economic hardships has led to protests and unrest, as seen in various movements demanding better governance and accountability in recent years.

##### Conclusion

"The narrative of 'Pakistan in Danger' serves as a tool for the economic elite to justify policies

maintain their privileges while shifting the burden onto the poor and increasing reliance on foreign debt. This cycle of dependency undermines the potential for economic self-reliance and sustainable development. For Pakistan to break free from this cycle, a fundamental shift in economic policies is necessary - one that prioritizes equitable taxation, fosters local industries, and invests in the well-being of the population rather than perpetuating the interests of the elite.

1- **Common National Identity:**  
A shared sense of belonging and national identity is essential. In Pakistan, promoting a cohesive national identity that transcends ethnic and regional differences is crucial.

2- **Political Unity:**  
A stable political framework that encourages participation from various groups is necessary for national integration. This includes inclusive governance and representation in political institutions.

3- **Economic Equality:**  
Economic opportunities must be distributed fairly across regions and communities. This can help mitigate feelings of marginalization and foster a sense of belonging.

4- **Cultural Exchange:**  
Promoting cultural understanding and appreciation among diverse groups can strengthen bonds. Celebrating cultural festivals and encouraging their inter-ethnic dialogue are examples of this.

5- **Social Cohesion:**  
Building strong community ties through

Q8 **Exerlist ....**

Ans: National integration is a critical process that fosters unity and cohesion within a diverse nation. In the context of Pakistan, which is characterized by ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity, several components contribute to national integration, while various issues can hamper it. Here's a detailed exploration:

### Major Components of National Integration:

Social Programs that promote interaction among different ethnic and social groups is vital for fostering unity.

## 6- Education and Awareness:

Education plays a key role in promoting national integration. Curricula that emphasize shared history and values can cultivate a sense of national pride and identity.

## 7- Rule of law and justice:

Ensuring that justice is accessible and fair can enhance trust in institutions. A strong legal framework helps protect the rights of all communities, fostering integration.

## Issues hampering National Integration

### 1. Ethnic and linguistic diversity:

Pakistan is home to various ethnic groups, including Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Baloch, and Muhajirs. This diversity can lead to competition for resources and political power, fostering divisions. For example, ethnic tensions in Karachi between Sindhi and Muhajirs have historically resulted

in violence and conflict.

### 2- Political Instability:

Frequent changes in Government, coupled with political patronage systems, can create feelings of disenfranchisement among certain groups. The lack of consistent political framework can hinder efforts at integration. For instance, the Baluchistan conflicts stem partly from political alienation and demands for greater autonomy.

### 3. Economic disparities:

Significant regional economic inequalities exist, with some provinces, like Punjab, enjoying greater resources and development compared to others, such as Baluchistan and Sindh. This economic disparity can breed resentment and feelings of exclusion, undermining national unity.

### 4-

### Regional differences:

Pakistan's diverse religious landscape can also be a source of division. Sectarian violence, particularly between Sunni and Shia communities, poses significant challenges to national integration.

The rise of extremist groups has exacerbated these tensions leading to social fragmentation.

### 5- Militancy and Security issues:

Ongoing security challenges, particularly from extremist groups, can create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust among communities. This environment hampers efforts to build cohesive national narratives and can lead to the stigmatisation of certain groups.

### 6- Lack of Access to education:

Educational disparities contribute to a lack of understanding and appreciation for different cultures and identities within Pakistan. In rural areas, access to quality education is often limited, perpetuating cycles of ignorance and mistrust.

### Conclusion:

National integration in Pakistan is a multi-faceted process influenced by various components such as shared identity, political unity, and social cohesion. However, it faces significant challenges, including ethnic

diversity, economic disparities, political instability, and security concerns. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort from the Government, civil society, and communities to promote inclusivity, equitable development, and a shared sense of national identity. By fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse groups, Pakistan can work towards a more integrated and harmonious society.

### Q4 Critically ...

Ans: Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a prominent reformer of the 19th century, proposed a trinity of ideas that significantly shaped the socio-political landscape for Muslims in the Indian Subcontinent. His ideas included loyalty towards the British, devotion to education, and allegiance from politics. Here's the critical evaluation of these concepts along with their implications and relevance:

### 1. Loyalty towards the British

Sir Syed believed that Muslims should demonstrate loyalty to British colonial rulers. The perceived



This loyalty as a pragmatic approach to safeguard Muslim interests in a predominantly Hindu society. By aligning with the British, Syed aimed to secure opportunities for Muslims in government jobs and education. This strategy was particularly beneficial at a time when Muslims were facing social and political marginalization following the 1857 revolt. Also, his collaboration with the British allowed him to introduce modern education and scientific knowledge to the Muslim community, which he viewed as essential for progress. On the other hand, many contemporaries viewed his loyalty as a betrayal of the broader independence struggle against colonial rule. His stance alienated segments of the Muslim community who sought to resist British dominance. Also, this loyalty arguably fostered a dependency on British support, undermining the development of a self-reliant and politically aware Muslim identity.

## 2 - Devotion to education

Sir Syed emphasized the importance of modern education, advocating for a curriculum that combined Western sciences with Islamic teachings. He founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh, which became a cornerstone of the Aligarh Movement.

His focus on education led to the upliftment of the Muslim community, fostering an educated elite that would engage with modernity and advocate for Muslim rights. Moreover, the educated class that emerged from his initiatives played a crucial role in later political movements, including the demand for separate Muslim identity.

But some critics argue that his emphasis on Western-style education came at the expense of traditional Islamic scholarship, creating a rift between modern educated Muslims and religious scholars. Also, the focus on higher elites education benefited urban elites, while rural populations continued to lack access to quality education, perpetuating social divides.

3-

### Aloofness from politics :

Sir Syed advocated that Muslims should stay away from direct political involvement, prioritizing social and educational reform over political agitation. By emphasizing education and social reform, he believed that a strong foundation would eventually lead to greater political engagement and empowerment. Also his approach aimed to avoid sectarian conflict during a period of rising tensions between Hindus and Muslims, potentially fostering communal harmony. But critics argue that his detachment from politics limited the political agency of Muslims during crucial moments, allowing Hindu political movements to gain momentum without significant Muslim opposition. Also, his aloofness may have delayed necessary political mobilization, leading to a lack of cohesive Muslim representation in the political arena, which became critical later on.

### Conclusion:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's trinity of ideas - loyalty to the British, devotion to education, and aloofness from politics - has had a lasting impact on the Muslim community in the Indian subcontinent. While his emphasis on education facilitated the emergence of a new Muslim elite capable of navigating colonial realities, his loyalty to the British and political detachment raised significant concerns about long-term empowerment and self-determination.

In retrospect, Sir Syed's ideas provided both opportunities and challenges. They laid the ground work for future reform and political engagement but also highlighted the complexities of balancing collaboration with colonial powers and striving for communal advancements. His legacy remains relevant in contemporary discussions about education, identity, and political engagement among Muslims in South Asia.