

## Current Affairs

Q2: Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and USA. Critically evaluate the reasons why and how two countries must avoid the conflict.

### Introduction:-

Taiwan is eyed by both China and USA as a significantly important region. China claims Taiwan as its lost part and part of its "One China Policy" while USA has economical interests in Taiwan.

The interests of USA includes cheap raw material for its technological devices. This is because Taiwan is the hub of technological chips used in making upto date modern products. Following are the reasons that serve as a pedestal for conflict between China and USA.

### A. China's firm stance on One China Policy:

China holds it as a major objective in its foreign policy to re-hold the region of Taiwan. This can be viewed by China's premiers new year speech message 2024.

"China will surely be unified and all Chinese on both sides of Taiwan should be bound by common sense of purpose"



## B) Strategic and Economic Importance:

Taiwan holds pivotal position in South China Sea, a region that is critical for world trade and has a geopolitical importance as a bufferzone in **South Asia**.

As the famous saying goes on,  
"Those who rules the **Waters**  
rules the world."

This is better stressed by both China and USA to create hegemony via Taiwan in South China Sea.

## C) Taiwan Serving as a hub of Semi Conductors:

Taiwan's semi-conductor holds critical role in world economy. It produces 60% of the world advanced chips and thus deemed as a global leader of these commodities. Thus Bloomberg <sup>has</sup> observed that

"any disruption in supply of semi conductor chain cause 1 trillion dollar of disruption to global economy."

Therefore, both China and USA are competing to hold reins of this area for ruling the chip rich site.

## D) US axe to Grind in Taiwan:

As USA has failed to boost onshore semiconductors



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production. Taiwan is still dominating. USA fears that China would acquire this technology and puts USA in a disadvantaged position economically.

E) Regional hegemony is the major reason  
USA is viewing China as a major rising power which will challenge USA's dominance in Pacific. Therefore, Taiwan is central to this competition. Thus to contain China, USA will keep its nose stuck in Taiwan.

→ How and Why China and USA must avoid conflict

a) Economic Interdependence:

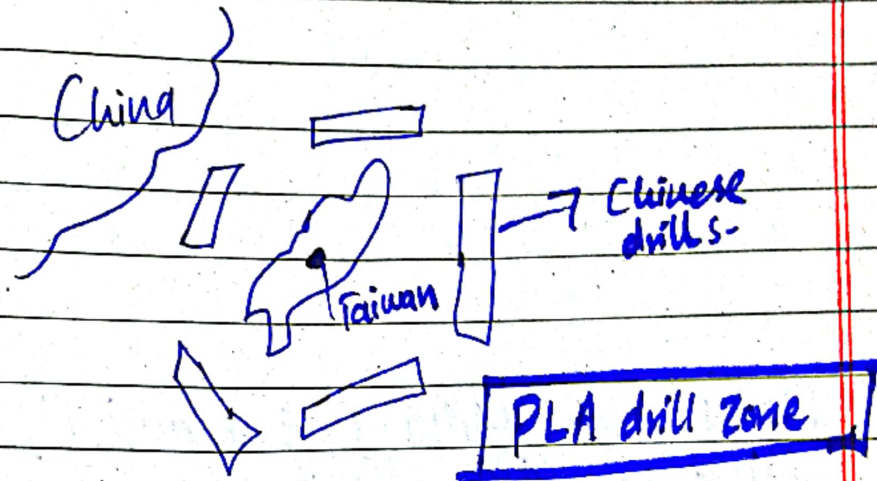
Both the USA and China are deeply economically dependent. Any rise of conflict will escalate severe consequences for international markets. It will affect the supply of trade and ultimately leads to price hike. Therefore collaboration on diplomatic level are needed to maintain peace in the region.

b) China's animosity against Taiwan:

Furious China conducted military exercises by sending heavily armed war planes after Taiwan's new



President **Ching-Te** hold office and made speech showing confession for Taiwan's independence. China remarked these drills as a punishment for Taiwan. This act of intimidation show that US will take advantage from this and built stronger ties with Taiwan.



### c) Risk of escalation and Regional Instability

A military conflict in any case could draw in regional powers like Japan, South Korea, Australia etc. Each of aforementioned nations have signed defense agreements with USA. Such conflicts have potential threats of destabilizing South Asia.

### d) Adherence to present Status Quo:

Respecting present status quo of Taiwan and its relations with other nations is important. The



US could maintain its strategic ambiguity policy discouraging unilateral moves of Taiwan for independence. Meanwhile, China must refrain from military action. A framework for mutual cooperation is a major concern to stabilize the region.

### Conclusion:

Both China and USA should act as sensible nations in changing world order scenario. Bonds of harmony can be proven as vital for the progress of all nation, as conflicts can only cause further destruction that will have overreaching effects on the world as a whole.

Q3

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

### Introduction:

As it is an axiomatic fact known to the world at large that Israel has always adulated under American support. This is because



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The Jewish lobby in American Congress is strong enough to carry out their agendas. This had led Israel to commit war crimes in Gaza, so at the present time Israel is facing major criticism from global leaders which will provide space for China and Russia to emerge as leaders in Middle East. Below mentioned critical evaluations will highlight the dynamics:

A) USA's perception of bias and double standards:

As USA is consistently backing Israel in conflicts with the innocent Palestinian is seen as an indication of USA's double standards. The USA most oftenly advocates for human rights all across the world but in the case of Palestine no clear message was made by USA to Israel for stopping its war crime in Gaza.

Case in Point: USA's university student's mass protest and pressure on Zionist teachers still could not stop US from providing support to Israel."

B) American Agenda behind backing conflict in Gaza and Lebanon:



War in Middle East can cause massive economic consequences. This will make Israel the only regional power dealing in the floating, manufacturing and supply of commodities. This will in far future make a soft landing for American interest i.e. Israel's and American hegemony in Middle East.

c) America is no longer a neutral in Arab-Israel conflict:

Supply of weapon, technological assistance, aid and intercepting devices to Israel for countering Hamas, Hezbollah and Iranian missile attack is an open example of America's downsliding vows of neutrality. It can never act as a mediator if such pursuits are followed.

d) Deteriorated US soft power gave edge to Russia and China:

By supporting Israel in her war crime America has lost her softpower under Biden's Administration. This paves the way for Russia and China in international arena who condemn Israel's ~~its~~ barbaric actions.

e) Rise of China in Middle East amid Israel-Gaza conflict:



The flagship project of China "Belt and Road" initiative" has connected 40% of the world countries. This has leverage for china. America is already in debt trap and its loans are increasing so it is a clear victory of China in middle East.

## F) Russia's Agenda:

Amid Russo-Ukraine war the Russian nation is standing tall in working on its economy despite western sanctions. Recently, the BRICS Summit 2024 held in Kazan, Russia, it was put in by Russia, "To trade in countries national currency." This has pointed toward de-dollarization. This is a potent threat to America.

## G) Balancing Multipolarity and Shifting alliances:

China's and Russia's increased involvement through major projects in the Middle East has created ~~vacuum~~ no space for American presence. The success of intervention of America will now remain a pipe dream to a larger extent. Gulf states are now feeling more emboldened to criticize America for Example **KSA** has not renewed its



agreement with America to sell oil in dollars. This has clearly challenged American interests.

### Conclusion:

In a nutshell, it can be said that Israel has gained unconditional support from America in the middle East. This has created a complexity of relations and eroding American hegemony in middle East. The only key to stability is achieved by emphasizing genuine engagement and economic partnership along with ceasefire in Israel's conflict.

Q5: Pakistan has successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow?

### Introduction:

In the face of political instability, economic destabilization Pakistan has successfully held a significant diplomatic achievement by hosting Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad. Almost 900 delegates from the member states had joined the event. To make it successful



10,000 paramilitary personnels were deployed in Islamabad to cope with security issues. Following takeaways are majorly held by the SCO <sup>23<sup>rd</sup></sup> summit:

### A) Strengthened regional ties and diplomatic standing

By holding SCO conference Pakistan has bolstered its diplomatic image and demonstrated its commitment to regional cooperation. The major members of SCO like Russia, China and CAPS has joined the summit. This has enabled good relations with neighbours and overall Pakistan's soft image was lifted.

### B) Shift in Influence: China and Russia

Amid war in Middle East China has taken power in middle east and has supplanted Russia in the region. Now China is exercising more say in the region than Russia and is working like a leader in the area. Being Pakistan's friend it has been seen as good for Pakistan.

### C) Economic cooperation and global trade challenges:

There is a tectonic changes in global economy from global North to global South. These regional cooperations are avenues for Pakistan to attain limelight in international



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projects. This will increase investment opportunities in Pakistan.

#### d) Counter-terrorism and Security Cooperation

SCO's Regional Anti-terrorism structure offers a platform in combating terrorism etc. As Pakistan has successfully launched major operations against terrorists outfit like Zarbe-Afghan it can help nations to formulate some patterns

#### e) Addressing Challenges in Afghanistan

A wide debate was made regarding stability in Afghanistan. This has positive impacts on Pakistan as the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan now known as (Fitrna-al-Khwarezm) has safe heavens in Afghanistan. This potential threat, if eradicated through the platform of SCO will be fruitful for Pakistan.

#### f) China's Global Security Initiative?

As China has vowed in Samarkand SCO summit 2022 to make a global security initiative to enhance the Chinese representation in area against terrorist. This will directly be beneficial for Pakistan for safe trade conducting via Gwadar port, Balochistan.

#### g) Environment Protection Initiative:

A pledge was made by all countries to work on climate and biodiversity conservation. This will help Pakistan in transforming its climatic



conditions in a positive way.

## 4) Cyber Security Cooperation:

Pakistan being a developing nation can harness the potentials of SCO via cyber security cooperation among member nations. As Pakistan has survived numerous attacks of cyber attack on FBR, PSX etc a new mechanism will be a game changer.

## Conclusion:

Succinctly, it can be said that Pakistan's successful hosting of SCO summit has proved the world that Pakistan is a trusted nation and can play an active role in regional cooperation. This will lead Pakistan towards economic growth, balanced foreign policy options and connectivity among neighbours.

Q 4: Analyze the statement and give possible recommendations?

## Introduction:

There is no denying the fact that Pakistan's economy has grappled a lot due to energy crisis in the past years. This is because of numerous factors



the ineligible policies of the previous governments regarding energy production has laid the foundations of energy crisis in Pakistan. Following were the reasons

### 1) Expensive agreements with IPPs

Since 1990's the agreements with foreign IPPs were made in dollars. The fluctuating rate of dollar has numerous flaws on the economy of the country. Since then the IPPs agreements are made in dollar on full payment.

### 2) Poor line management in Provinces:

Line management is the duty of governance system WAPDA along with provincial government has developed no funds for managing transmission lines. This has become the underlying cause of energy disruption and theft.

### 3) Poor metering systems usually outdated

The lack of technologically advanced nation has lead the country towards the reliance on old meters. They are incapable of measuring accurately figure and can be rewinded. The famous 'Kunda' system is also another coffin nail in the



deranged structure -

- 4) Corruption along with less reforms  
Corruption has led the system to work inefficiently. This causes over billing and no accountability mechanism is present to gauge the problems.

### → Recommendations for solving energy crisis

- 1) Shifting towards Renewable energy resources such as solar, hydal, nuclear, and hydroelectric energy. It is less expensive and reduces environment pollution.
- 2) Digital metering system and a new system for online billing should be introduced.
- 3) Eradication of corruption is vital.
- 4) Agreements with PPPs should be made in local currency than dollars.
- 5) Non renewal of PPP's contract and generating energy at domestic level is a vital source.