

29/10/2024

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Tuesday

Date: ___/___/20___

Mock-Exam 5

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Current Affairs

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Part - II

Q No 2: Taiwan is a potential conflict between China and USA. Critically evaluate the reasons and why and how the two countries must avoid the conflict.

Introduction:

Taiwan's status has long been a flashpoint in Sino-American relations with potential repercussions for regional and global stability. This is critically evaluates the reasons behind the Taiwan conflicts between China and USA and suggest measures to prevent escalation into a broader conflict.

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I. Reasons for the Conflict:

1. Historical Context:

Taiwan's separation from China dates back to the Chinese Civil War which concluded in 1949. The Republic of China (ROC) retreated to Taiwan while the People's Republic of China (PRC) was established on the mainland. China views Taiwan as a breakaway province, while Taiwan operates as a self-governing entity.

2. Nationalism and Identity:

The rise of Taiwanese nationalism has fostered a distinct identity separate from China. Many Taiwanese see themselves as different from mainland Chinese, leading to resistance against reunification efforts.

"Nation-ness is the most universal, and one of the most powerful, cultural systems of power"

(Benedict Anderson)

3. Geopolitical Rivalry:

The USA has historically supported Taiwan through arms sales and diplomatic gestures such as the Taiwan Relations Act.

This support is perceived by China as interference in its internal affairs, increasing tensions. The USA's strategic interest in containing China's influence in the Asia-Pacific regions further complicates the situation.

4. Military Buildup:

China has significantly increased its military presence near Taiwan, conducting military drills and sending aircraft into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (A.D.I.Z). This military posturing is intended to signal China's resolve but raises fears of miscalculations leading to conflict.

Let us never negotiate out of fear.

But let us never fear to negotiate"

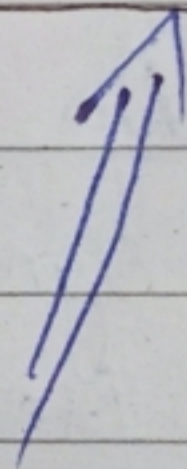
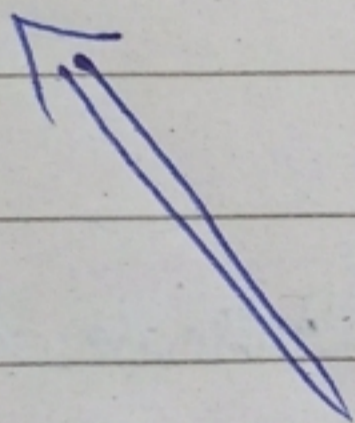
(John F. Kennedy)

5. Economic Interdependence:

Taiwan plays a crucial role in the global semiconductor industry. The potential disruption of Taiwan's economy could have far-reaching implications, making the stakes higher for both nations.

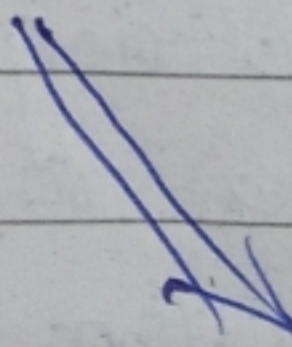
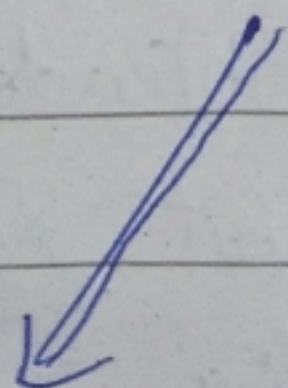
Humanitarian Concerns

Economic Consequences



II.

Reasons to Avoid Conflict



Global Stability

International Relations

III. Strategies to Avoid Conflict:

A. Diplomatic Engagement:

Both notions should prioritize diplomatic dialogue to address grievances. Regular high-level talks can help to build trust and facilitate better understanding of each other's perspectives.

"Diplomacy is the art of restraining power" (Henry Kissinger)

B. Confidence-Building Measures:

Implementing military to military communication channels can help to reduce the risk of misunderstandings or miscalculations that could lead to conflict. Transparency in military exercises and intentions can de-escalate tensions.

"Confidence-building measures are a fundamental element of international peace and security"
(Lynn E. Davis)

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C. Support for Peaceful Resolution :

The USA can advocate for a peaceful resolution to the Taiwan question, encouraging both sides to engage in constructive dialogue. Promoting mutual economic benefits and cultural exchanges can foster a more peaceful atmosphere.

"There is no peace without development, and no development without peace"
(Ban Ki-moon)

D. International Cooperation :

Multilateral platforms involving regional players can be instrumental in addressing the Taiwan issue. Countries like Japan, Australia and ASEAN members can mediate discussion and promote peace in the region.

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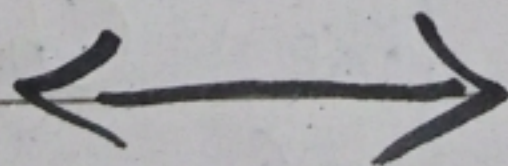
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Conclusion:

The Taiwan conflict represents a complex interplay of historical, nationalistic and geopolitical factors.

Both China and the USA must recognize the grave consequences of escalating and prioritize dialogue, confidence-building measures and cooperative strategies.

By addressing underlying issues and fostering mutual understanding, the two nations can work toward a peaceful resolution, ensuring regional stability and global security.



Q No 3: Critically evaluate the unconditional support of US for Israel effects its image in the Arab countries and how it provides a space to China and Russia to penetrate into the Middle East.

Introduction:

The United States unwavering support for Israel has long been a cornerstone of its foreign policy in the Middle East. While this alignment has strategic implications for US interests, it also significantly affects the image in Arab countries and provides opportunities for rival powers like China and Russia to extend their influence in the region.

"Israel's security is sacrosanct. It is not negotiated, but a lasting peace requires that both sides to recognize each other's right to exist."

(Barack Obama)

I. Effects on U.S. Image in Arab Countries :U

1. Perception of Bias and Inequity:

The unconditional support of the U.S. for Israel fosters a perception of bias among Arab nations. This perception is increased by American military and financial aid to Israel which is often seen as endorsement of its actions against Palestinians.

"According to a 2021 Arab Opinion Index survey by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 88% of respondents in Arab countries viewed the U.S. as biased towards Israel."

2. Diminished Credibility as a Mediator:

The U.S. has positioned itself as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, its strong alignment with Israel undermines its credibility.

3. Impact on Public Opinion:

Public sentiment in many Arab countries is largely sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. U.S. support for Israel alienates the American image, portraying it as a supporter of oppression. This negative perception can fuel anti-American sentiment and extremism within the region.

"The U.S must recognize that its support for Israel does not contribute to stability or peace" (Hanan Ashawi)

4. Strained Diplomatic Relations:

The U.S. staunch support for Israel complicates its relationships with Arab nations. While some states like Egypt and Jordan have peace treaties with Israel.

II. Opportunities for China and Russia:

A. Geopolitical Vacuum:

As the US solidifies its position with Israel, a geopolitical vacuum emerges that rival powers like China and Russia can exploit. These nations can present themselves as alternative partners for Arab states, promoting policies that are more aligned with local interest and grievances.

B. Economic Investments and Alliances:

China has significantly increased its economic presence in the Middle East through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China offers a partnership that does not come with the political circumstances associated with US support for Israel. This economic diplomacy attracts countries looking for alternatives to American influence.

C. Military Cooperation:

Russia has sought to strengthen its military ties in the Middle East, conducting arms sales and engaging in joint military exercises with several Arab nations. This military cooperation provides a counterbalance to U.S. influence and positions Russia as a reliable ally for those disillusioned with American policies.

D. Increased Soft Powers:

China and Russia can strengthen their influence in the Arab world by aligning with Arab feelings, especially about Palestinian rights. For instance, China promotes itself as a country that respects other nations' choices and does not interfere in their internal matters.

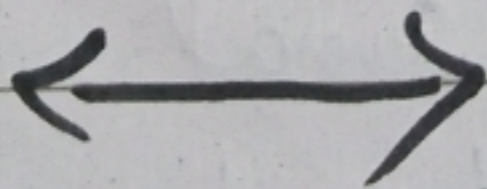
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Conclusion:

In conclusion, the US unwavering support for Israel affects that it is viewed in Arab countries leading to feelings of bias and reducing its credibility as a peace mediator. This situation allows China and Russia to strengthen their presence in the Middle East by providing alternatives to US influence through economic investments, military partnerships and diplomatic efforts. To improve its image and counter the rising influence of these rival powers.



Q No 5: Pakistan successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow?

Introduction:

The successful conduct for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference in Islamabad between 15-16 October 2024, marks a significant milestone for Pakistan reflecting its growing role in regional diplomacy and international relations. This event presents several key takeaways for Pakistan, alongside recommendations for future actions to maximize its benefits.

"The SCO is more than an organization; it is a community built on trust, respect and a shared vision for stability and growth"

(Xi Jinping)

II. Major Takeaways for Pakistan:

2. Enhanced Diplomatic Standing:

Pakistan hosting the SCO conference boosts Pakistan's image as a central player in regional politics. It presents the country's capability to organize significant international events, enhancing its diplomatic credentials.

2. Strengthening Economic Ties:

The conference provided a platform for Pakistan to engage with member states, particularly in areas such as trade, investment and energy cooperation. Strengthening economic partnerships can facilitate economic growth and development.

3. Counter - Terrorism Collaboration :

The discussion focused on combating terrorism and extremism areas of mutual concern among SCO members. Pakistan's commitment to these issues can improve its security landscape and foster cooperation with neighboring countries.

"No nation can resolve the problem of terrorism on its own. Only through collective action can we achieve global peace and security"
(Kofi Annan)

4. Geopolitical Positioning :

By actively participating in the SCO, Pakistan positions itself as a bridge between Central Asia, South Asia and beyond. The geopolitical positioning can help diversify its foreign relations and reduce dependency on any single country.

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5. Cultural and People-to-People

Exchange :

The conference opened avenues for cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, promoting mutual understanding and goodwill among the member states. This can enhance Pakistan's soft power in the region.

"Civilizations don't clash; people do."

By promoting cultural exchanges,
we can bring down walls
and create bridges of understanding."
(Xi Jinping)

II. Recommendations for Islamabad:

A. Sustain Engagement with SCO:

Pakistan should continue to actively engage with the SCO and participate in its various working groups and initiatives. Regular attendance and contributions to SCO projects can solidify Pakistan's position within the organization.

B. Strengthen Economic Diplomacy:

Islamabad should focus on developing comprehensive economic diplomacy strategies to attract investment from SCO member states. This includes establishing trade agreements and improving the business environment for foreign investors.

"Economic diplomacy is the real diplomacy of the 21st century. It binds nations together through mutual interests and interdependence"

(Henry Kissinger)

C. Promote Regional Connectivity:

Enhancing regional connectivity through infrastructure projects is crucial. Pakistan should work on initiatives such as the CPEC and the other projects that link Central Asia and South Asia, promoting greater economic integration.

"By building bridges among nations, regional connectivity fosters cooperation, enhances trade and helps alleviate poverty." (Ban Ki-moon)

D. Address Security Concerns:

To foster trust among SCO members, Pakistan must enhance its internal security measures and continue to combat terrorism. Improved security can attract more investment and strengthen diplomatic ties.

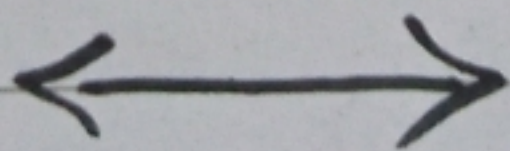
E. Cultivate Cultural Exchange Programs:

Establishing cultural exchange programs can enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among SCO countries. These programs can include student exchanges, joint cultural festivals and collaborative projects in arts and education.

Conclusion:

The successful conduct of the SCO conference in Islamabad presents significant opportunities for Pakistan, enhancing its diplomatic standing and promoting economic and security partnerships.

By following the recommended measures, Pakistan can maximize the benefits of its SCO membership and strengthen its role as a key player in regional affairs, contributing to peace, stability and development in the region.



THE END.