

PART II

Q.3:

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

The unconditional support of United States for Israel has significant implications for its image in Arab countries and creates opportunities for Geopolitical rivals like China and Russia to strengthen their influence in the middle east.

Impacts on United States image in Arab countries

The United States continuous support with the Israel greatly affected the relation of the United States with the Arab world. The Saudi Arabian Petro dollar deal with United States is in danger. In future it seems to be ended which United States did not want to end because their economy and dollar will fall back to the earth.

The United States support with Israel fuels Anti American sentiments in the region.

Israel started genocide on 7 October 2023 and up till now they destroyed the Gaza and killed dozens of civilians people in Gaza according to the Al Jazeera report they Israel killed over 40,000 Palestinians including 16,456 civilians and over 11,000 women. Israel a small states, How can Israel make such a destruction, The answer is there is America a superpower country with its economy on the top of the list, strongly defend Israel with economy, military, arsenal etc. The Israel is called mini America. Some countries of Asia ~~middle east~~ and Europe like United Kingdom

India, France, Germany and Canada are also supporting Israel because of America. They made a unipolar world which is leading by United States. In the middle east the crisis of Israel-Palestinian war is increasing day by day and beyond the borders. ~~That~~ ~~made~~ ~~as~~ many times that United Nations stand for ceasefire in Gaza but everytime America vetoed the United Nations resolution which reflects support of United States behind the Israel. This further weakened the Arab-US relations. The Arab countries on the other hand support ~~with~~ Palestine because of its ~~own~~ same ideology and brotherhood. But unfortunately Arab world has no strong stances on Israel genocide because of dependency on America, they are bound to America and can do nothing. These circumstances have divided the Arab world and United States relations from good to bad relation because it is forcing Arab world to be united and stand with Palestine.

The United States boosted the rift between Arab countries with the divide and rule policy. They divided the Muslim countries in Shia, Sunni discrimination as a result of which the sectarianism is increasing day by day for which further weakening the relations between Arab countries.

The United States strong support with Israel is a rallying point for Arab nationalism. The Palestinian cause remains a central to Arab cause identity. Despite 57 Islamic countries and OIC organization Muslim countries are effortless to support Palestine or

and to stop this war crime. The United States steadfast support with Israel against Alienated Arab populations, undermining United States efforts to build partnership and promote stability. This situation escalated the violence leading to widespread protests against the US in many Arab countries capitals.

As the United States is seen as biased actor its ability to mediate peace negotiations diminishes. This perception undermines its role as a peace broker and creates a vacuum that other powers can exploit.

Opportunities for China and Russia: The Israel Palestine war is on its peak and the United States full support is with the Israel. The United States made the world a ~~capitalist~~ unipolar and is leading the unipolar world itself as a capitalist. Despite major destruction in Gaza of Israeli troops in Palestine the United States are stand with Israel and still supporting them. But when a country ~~not~~ made an advancement in his technology in war weapons. America puts many sanctions on that country. Looking to the running situation the Russia and China are benefiting to divert the unipolar world to a multipolar world. They have strong stances against the US hegemony. Both China and Russia increased their diplomatic support with the Arabian countries. For example China's Belt and Road initiatives has positioned it as a key economic partner for many middle eastern countries, providing infrastructural investments that appeal to nations frustrated with US policies. China

and Russia continuously supporting the middle eastern countries especially Iran and religious groups like Houthis and Hamas, militarily providing them with weapons and missile technology to counter Israel and United States hegemony. They both are supporting Iran and Islamic Iranian militant groups behind the mirror. Recent BRICS meeting has further boosted the China and Russia policies benefiting the middle eastern and South Asian countries. They have strong stakes to make the world multipolar and destroy the United States strong writ on the developing countries. China has used soft power tactics including cultural exchanges and economic partnerships to improve its standing in the middle east. This approach resonates with Arab nations looking for alternatives to traditional US centric model. Allowing China to expand its influence without the historical baggage of colonialism that often complicates western relations in the region.

The US's unwavering support for Israel can drive Arab states to seek closer ties with China and Russia as a counterbalance. Countries may pursue relationships that challenge US dominance such as forming coalitions or economic partnerships with non western powers.

The US's unconditional support for Israel has considerable consequences for its reputation in Arab countries, boosting mistrust. This dynamic creates an opening for China and Russia to increase their influence in the middle east by presenting alternative to US policies. The US must navigate this complex landscape carefully to maintain its influence in Arab world.

Q: 5c Pakistan successfully conducted SCO conference in Islamabad. Critically evaluate the major takeaways for Pakistan. What measures would you recommend Islamabad to follow?

Ans: Shanghai Cooperation Organization was made to boost economic cooperation in the South Asia. Shanghai Cooperation Organization are is composed of Uzbekistan, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.
major takeaways:-

① Pakistan Host 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting:- Pakistan host 23rd Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization on 15, 16 October 2024. in Islamabad. It was the first leader level Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting hosted in Pakistan. Over 10,000 paramilitary personnel were deployed to safeguard 900 delegates from member states and other participants. It is a ~~extra~~ critical diplomatic event for Pakistan, showcasing its role in regional cooperation. The motto of this conference was "one earth, one family, one future".

② Pakistan's full membership and SCO Background:- Pakistan joined the SCO as a full member in 2017, alongside India marking the organization's first expansion. The SCO was originally formed in 1996 as the "Shanghai Five" by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. In 2001 the organization expanded and adopted the name Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The group was initially established to address border disputes, counter terrorism, extremism and separatism in the region.

③ SCO's expanding scope and criticism:- The SCO mission has grown to encompass economic, scientific, and

cultural cooperation, moving beyond its original security focus. Critics argue that the broad and varied scope dilutes its effectiveness.

④ Shift in influence: China and Russia:

Traditionally seen as a Russia and China led organization, the balance of power within the SCO has shifted due to Russia's preoccupation with the war in Ukraine. China has increasingly asserted greater influence within the organization leveraging its economic and political clout.

China's prime minister, Wen Jiabao's opening speech at the summit heavily leaned towards China's strategic goals neglecting Pakistan's strong ties with China. China expands its geopolitical reach across central Asia.

⑤ Economic cooperation and Global Trade challenges:

Delegates acknowledged tectonic change in the region's global economy brought by advancements in digitalization, Artificial intelligence and e-commerce but expressed concerns over declining investments, disrupted supply chains, and economic uncertainty.

The impact of protectionist measures on global trade was highlighted, with calls for strengthening WTO principles of non-discriminatory, open, and transparent multilateral trade systems. Participants opposed unilateral sanctions and trade restrictions, which they argued harm third countries and disrupt the global economy.

⑥ Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and International South Transport Corridor (INSTC):-

Wen Jiabao emphasized the expansion of China's BRI in his speech, aligning with China's regional development goals. The BRI remains China's flagship international infrastructure and investment project. Additionally, Wen Jiabao highlighted the

The importance of international north-south transport corridor (INSTC) which involves several SCO members like Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan and India.

- ② Focus on Afghanistan: Shabbaz Sharif stressed that a stable Afghanistan is essential for realizing the full support potential of regional cooperation projects like the BRI and INSTC. He urged the international community to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and encourage the Taliban to adopt a more inclusive political approach. Pakistan's position on Afghanistan closely aligns with China's especially as China seeks to extend BRI to Afghanistan. Stabilizing Afghanistan is seen as critical for economic development and security in the region.

- ③ China's Global Security Initiative (GSI)
China has been using the SCO as a platform to promote its global security initiative (GSI), a security framework introduced by President Xi Jinping at the 2022 SCO Summit in Samarkand. The GSI seeks to enhance China's security presence in Central Asia. At 2024 Islamabad Summit Chinese Premier Li Qiang emphasized the importance of regional connectivity, stable supply chains, and enhanced trade relations as a part of China's broader strategic goals under the GSI.

- ④ India Pakistan Tensions: There were no formal bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan during the summit, despite some calls for dialogue from Pakistan business leaders and former PM Nawaz Sharif. India maintains that Pakistan must renounce terrorism as a foreign policy tool before any meaningful talks can proceed, while Pakistan insists on addressing the Kashmir issue. The deep-seated tensions between two nations remains unresolved, with mutually exclusive demands hindering any potential rapprochement.

Recommended measures for Islamabad should initiate follow up meetings and dialogues with member states. Regular interactions can solidify agreements made during the conference.

- ① Islamabad need to prioritize the establishment of Trade agreements and investment partnership with SCO countries: this could involve creating trade facilitation frameworks and reducing tariffs to encourage economic collaboration.
- ② Pakistan should take serious steps to enhance security cooperation within SCO framework.
- ③ Pakistan should advocate the infrastructural projects that enhance regional connectivity such as transportation and energy corridors that link SCO member states.
- ④ Engaging in public diplomacy can help improve Pakistan's image in the region. Initiatives promoting cultural exchange, education, and tourism can foster goodwill and strengthen ties with SCO countries.
- ⑤ Pakistan should utilize SCO as a platform to engage with other multilateral organizations and initiatives. This approach can imply its voice on international issues and attract further support from global partners.

The successful hosting of the SCO conference presents Pakistan with a unique opportunity to bolster its diplomatic standing and foster regional cooperation. By following through with strategic measures focused on economic, security and cultural collaboration Pakistan can enhance its influence in central and South Asia while addressing the pressing challenges it faces domestically and regionally.

Q.6:

Expensive agreements with IPPs, overwhelming dependency on hydrocarbons, line and other losses in the transmission and distribution sector have caused massive hike in electricity prices having far reaching implications on industry, domestic

and other crucial sectors. Analyse the statement and give possible outcomes?

Ans: The power sector is faced with two major problems.

① Load shedding

② Expensive electricity generation cost.

① Load shedding: Pakistan has been facing persistent load shedding for the past two or more decades. In summer 2023 load shedding in the urban centers was 4 to 5 hours a day and 10-12 hrs in the rural areas of Pakistan because of the overall shortage was approximately 7000 megawatt. In summer 2022 load shedding in the urban areas was 6-8 hrs and 14-18 hrs a day in rural areas. because the overall shortage was around 10,000 megawatt. From 2017 till 200 2016 the total load shedding varied from 6-8 hours in urban centers and 14-16 hours in rural areas. because the overall shortage varied from 5000-8000 megawatt.

② Expensive electricity generation cost: The prime minister says Pakistan generates more expensive electricity in Asia and the third most expensive in the world. per unit electricity cost in the domestic sector consuming less than 100 units is around 24 pkr consuming less than 200 units is around 34 pkr consuming less than 600 units is around 46 pkr. consuming more than 600 units is 55 pkr. consuming more than 1000 units is more than 72 pkr. per unit cost for the commercial units varies from 46 to 92 pkr. This is including taxes and all other charges.

Reasons for expensive electricity

① Overwhelming dependency on hydrocarbons: More than 60% of electricity generated from thermal sources there is more than 1200 megawatt installed capacity of diesel units. more than 6000 megawatt installed of LNG projects, more than 6700 megawatt installed capacity of coal. The more the electricity needed

They generate more in summer and less in winter. Diesel is the most expensive source, LNG the 2nd most expensive source and coal the 3rd. More than 60% of electricity of Pakistan annually produced is from top 3 expensive sources. The hydrocarbon is imported. In 2023 per day oil requirement was 58800 barrels. 83000 was locally produced rest was imported.

- ② Importing of Gas:- Secondly one BCF was the need of gas per day. 60% was locally produced and the rest was imported. All the oil and gas used for electricity is imported. out of 6700 MW electricity produced from coal and 2500 MW from local coal and the rest was from imported coal.

- ③ The Expensive Agreements with IPPs:-

60% of total electricity of Pakistan is produced by IPPs. Many of them are internationally like IPPs from China, US, UK, UAE etc. and some are locally owned IPPs of Pakistani businessmen like Mian Mansha etc. The major chunk of IPPs were installed in 1994, 2005, 2011 and 2015. All these IPPs produce electricity from diesel. The IPP installed in 2015 are mostly LNG and coal based. There are several problems in the agreements of IPPs. One and the major problem is the capacity payment. The agreement with the IPP is broadly divided into three heads. The maximum and the minimum demand in summer and moderate weather (March, April, Oct, Nov) and in the winter. The government has to pay price of minimum agreed demands. The problem is that the demand in summer is very high approximately 28000 MW while in winter it is 14000 MW. It has to pay more money to IPPs than the total units they produced. In June 2021 the

Total capacity payment was above 2.3 Trillion PKR.

④ Agreements with IPPs are signed dollars &

Second major problem with the IPPs is the agreements are being signed in dollars whether the internationally owned IPP or locally owned. The government has to pay in dollars. per unit, per megawatt, per giga-watt while the government has to collect money from the people in PKR. The problem is rupee is abnormally devalued against dollar. Resultantly electricity is got expensive.

⑤ Transmission and distribution cost:

Transmission and the distribution is the major factors contributing to the higher price of electricity.

Firstly the transmission line or NTPC. The total average over loss is 17%. 100 MW is being produced 17 MW being losted in the lines. This is the highest in Asia. Afghanistan has 12%, Bangladesh and India 9%, China 3% while Pakistan has 17%. The lost MW is to be afforded by the state or consumer or both.

Secondly distribution system equally contribute to the problem. 16% loss in the distribution system of the total electricity being produced. It is contributed primarily by electricity theft that amounts around 10%. Areas in Pakistan which do not pay bill contribute around 2%. Government departments which are either exempted or pay lesser bills or their bills are pending 4%. The total loss is 33%. This loss is to be borne by the state on one hand and consumers on the other. This results into unprecedented electricity cost.

Solutions:

- ① Renegotiate the agreements with IPPs: The agreements of 1994 and 2005 must renegotiate long ago. But unfortunately they were not until 2020.

it was decided that no more capacity would be made to IPPs and local IPP would be paid in PKR. But the major problem still remains as more than 65% of the IPPs being installed in 2011 and 2015 and this time period would complete in 2028.

③ More focus on cheaper electricity generation:

Energy vision 2030, 1500 MW energy would be produced from hydro sources. Dambudha dam would contribute 4500 MW. Dasu dam 4300 MW. Mohmand dam, 800 MW, Sukhinar 883 MW etc and per unit cost would be less than 5 PKR. secondly 1500 MW from wind projects. 3000 MW from solar 5000 MW would be produced from civil nuclear projects, 7000 MW would be generated from local coal of near and per unit cost would be 14 PKR.

③ Revamp the transmission lines: majority of transmission lines are outdated. they have expired yet again the government is using them. instead of replacing these lines in order to reduce 17% line loss. it is an expensive phenomenon and would cost around 45 billion dollar and take around 7-10 years.

④ Resolve the problem of distribution sector: The writ of the state must be stronger to overcome the electricity theft and other patterns of non-payment of electricity bill. the government department must be made to pay timely and complete bills. it would even better to privatize all the DISCO's and the state should play the role of regulator only.

The economic and social, political future of Pakistan is overwhelmingly dependent on the reforms in the energy sector.