

Subjective Part - Part II

Q2:- How do you see chances of success of US-Russia negotiations on Ukraine? Critically evaluate the hurdles and give practical recommendations to end the dangerous war?

Chances of successful negotiations:-

The chances for successful negotiations are very little. The reasons are similar to Failure of Munich conference which led to world war ~~two~~ one.

The Russia has occupied a lot of territory (280km+) on eastern side of Dnipro river. This loss of territory is not acceptable for Ukraine - The bread basket of Europe.

Russia has incentive to stay in war because this will give them better field to challenge USA way below nuclear ~~umbrella~~ threshold.

here are my reasons why these negotiations will fail.

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Realist point of view:-

After 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia has gained a lot of territory. They have also gotten fertile lands and most importantly they have acquired land link to Crimea.

During the war despite US and EU fundings Russia has gained territory. It's economy hasn't suffered compared to European economies.

NATO problem:-

If Russia keep fighting Ukraine; The resources of NATO countries will be used to arm Ukraine which will make NATO weak in long run.

Sink Cost Fallacy:-

Russia has spent a lot of money and resources in Ukraine now backing down or giving up territory would mean losing all that money. Similar problem lies with Allies they have spent so much to contain Russia that they

will have to spend more.

Hurdles in negotiations:-

These are major hurdles in way of peace in Ukraine.

1- Sunk cost fallacy:-

Both sides have spent so much that it is better for them to spend more on war than to accept loss.

2- Sanction issue:-

Russia is heavily sanctioned yet its economy is thriving. USA has concerns about what will happen if Russian economy is allowed to grow.

3- Cult of personalities:-

Putin, Trump and Zelenski all three have a cult of personality which is based on state based propaganda to show more victories. The problem is accepting loss is not possible if political careers are at stake, which is case for Zelenski.

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4- Security assurance or guarantee? :-

Ukraine was given security assurance by both USA and Russia but Ukraine needs security guarantee. The best way to do that is NATO but Russia cannot afford that hence the negotiations turn into zero sum gain.

5- ~~Czech~~ Czechoslovakia problem :-

When Hitler was given appeasement so he took over Czechoslovakia. When they divided it into half soon Hitler took over whole country. If Ukraine were to acknowledge Crimea as part of Russia soon Russia will/can take over rest of Ukraine.

Recommendations For Peace :-

Peace is a multi step process. After it is acquired it is necessary that there are no design flaws in instrument of peace. Based on grievances and ground realities these steps can be taken to ensure peace.

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1- Demilitarized zone:-

Territory Russia has annexed after 2022 shall be turned into a DMZ. however to ensure Russian compliance Crimea can be allowed to have military.

2- Reduce sanctions:-

Russian sanctions must be removed. by doing that Russia will have incentive to not only sit at negotiations table but in future the same sanctions can cripple their economy so both sides won't deviate from peace plan.

3- People not Personalities:-

A lot of lives have been lost at both sides. People living in DMZ must be given economic incentives.

4- Guaranteed peace:-

Ukraine must not join NATO but should be allowed into Eurozone. The Russia must be integrated

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into Eurozone. This will improve both economies and move focus from military to trade.

5. Legal actions:-

Both countries must put it in their constitution about mutually acknowledged territory and DMZ. The border dispute must be solved with legal committee appointed by independent third party.

Conclusion:-

US-Russia negotiations will not be fruitful without Ukraine at table. After peace is achieved it is necessary to reintegrate Russia into western economies so that Russia and Ukraine never fight again.

Q4:-

Introduction:-

In South Asia water has been weaponized. After India suspended IWT and China started construction of Brahmaputra river dam. This rise in water politics coupled by environmental degradation has resulted in water security dilemma for Pakistan as well as India. This can turn into an armed conflict.

Pakistan's dilemma:-

John Lilinthan once famously wrote that India can "destroy" Pakistan if they were to "divert" water flowing into Pakistan. This makes a water issue a matter of existence for Pakistan. Similarly Pakistan's economy, culture are entirely dependent on these rivers. The COAS of Pakistan was reportedly quoted say that Pakistan will destroy any dam that India builds on western rivers.

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Indian dilemma:-

India is caught between a rock and a hard place. If they block water flowing into Pakistan and violates IWT. China can have a precedent to stop flow of Brahmaputra river. Just so, India logically cannot set precedent of weaponized water.

Even though only 30% of Indian population will suffer directly. In a country of 1.5 billion that is 90% of lost lives.

China has not signed any formal treaty about rivers with India so unless China signs a treaty India and Bangladesh are at stake.

Bangladesh's Dilemma

The Bangladesh is agricultural economy which is sustained by rivers flowing from China to India than to Bangladesh. A fight on water will leave Bangladesh extremely vulnerable to environmental problems.

China-water and tibet:-

The rivers starting from tibet provide water to over 3 billion people. Rivers like Mekong, Indus, Brahma putra etc provide water to multiple countries. All these rivers start in China. There are no formal treaties that exist b/w ~~any~~ India, China or Bangladesh. The treaty that ~~do~~ exist has been put in abeyance by India. This give china ungodly amount of control over these rivers.

New political lines:-

It is in best interest of every state that water flowing into other is not "consumed". China's Brahmaputra river's ~~dam~~ water can not be consumed or diverted by china due to harsh terrain. However it can be weaponized. This will result in new political lines drawn to ensure water safety for each state.

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Implications on Region:

These are major implications on region.

1- Water security:- Building more dams to ensure water security.

2- Threat to dams:- There is a constant threat to dams after India fired missile at Narmada project. No Dam is safe.

3- Lack of cooperation:- water level data is very important for a country to ensure citizen safety. But with rise of distrust these crucial details will be late.

4- Weaponization:- The military weaponization will increase and Dams are harder to build but easier to destroy which means countries will spend a lot more to protect their dams.

5- Death of IGOS UNO and SAARC or other organizations will be ineffective in such world.

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Conclusion:-

Weaponization of water will be a zero sum gain for all states in region so it is necessary to promote cooperation and have strong binding bilateral or multilateral agreements

Q 8:-

Introduction:-

USA has imposed double tariffs on India; Once on "liberation day" once as secondary sanction for buying russian oil. This will have dire economic, and geopolitical impacts on regional and global power politics.

Regional impact-

US sanctions / tariffs will have impact on Indian economy. The India will find its products harder to sell in USA so it will turn to regional markets such as UAE

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Bangladesh and China. It will have more ties with Russia as well as ASEAN and BRICS.

Economic Direction:-

India is likely to move towards China as shown by recent visit of Chinese Foreign minister to India. They will likely start selling to non US Affiliated markets.

Geopolitical direction:-

India consider it self a proud nation. They have hegemonic dreams which means they will likely try to form own bloc or strengthen non-US-blocs such as BRICS.

Global implications:-

India can not bend to whims of US's head of state. They donot like Pakistan-US "love". They are going to preserve their territorial integrity. They don't want any interference in their economic sovereignty. They will form new lines.

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US vs B+R+I+C+S:-

USA has sanctioned Russia
they have put 245% tariff on China
They have put double tariff on India
The Brazil was threatened by
USA. Last but not least DJT
showed pictures of alleged "white
genocide" to president of South
Africa.

All aforementioned acts
will form more cohesion for
BRICS. The India is second biggest
economy in BRICS. It has
a lot to sell and a lot to buy.
The BRICS+ nations will spend a lot
of time and effort to strengthen
their mutual ties.

US-China-Trip:-

USA can not sanction China
completely because it's biggest
energy consumer. The Russian sanctions
did not work as effectively.
USA wants India to put pressure

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on Russia to achieve a ceasefire. But China is an odd ball. If China and India stop buying oil from Russia it will crash global economy. According to OPEC if they started buy oil from middle east the oil prices will rise upto 300 dollar per barrel. USA can not afford that.

To avoid this trap they have sanctioned India but it will push the India in Russian nexus along with Iran, China, North Korea.

Conclusion:-

The US imposed sanctions on India might get it a ceasefire in Ukraine but it will surely push India - a country associated with NAM - in anti USA bloc.

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Q7:-

Introduction:-

Untill effective structural reforms are not introduced the economic revival of Pakistan is a far fetched dream. The Pareto principle is true for Pakistan's economic conditions, the 80% of problems are due to 20% causes.

Problems in Pakistan's economy:-

Pakistan's economy has few structural defects if we have to achieve economic revival we must put effort into removing those defects

a) Reduced tax payers base:-

Pakistanis have little to no incentive to pay tax. Untill and unless we increase our tax net and give incentive to citizens to pay more taxes we can not get our economic revival.

b) Digitlized economy:-

Pakistan has bad digitalization

policy. The most transactions are not recorded at all. which allow room for money laundering. Government is giving incentive for digitalization but in a country with bad literacy rate it is gonna need some time.

c) stock not real estate:-

The people must be given incentive to spend in PSX. Instead of buying a piece of real estate. Similarly people must be given easy and effective ways to invest in stocks.

d) Remittances a bonus not paycheck:-

For economic revival Pakistan must give up its remittance addiction. They are good amount of "extra money" but they are not state earnings. The overseas citizens often buy houses or cars. Instead they must be motivated to invest in businesses and in state run programs.

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c) Get rid of drowned SOEs:-

Government must introduce reforms in state owned enterprises. If they can be saved; Then they must be saved. If they can be salvaged, then salvage them. If nothing can happen then let them drown.

f) HDI not GDP:-

The 10% of countries area is responsible for more than 50% of GDP. We must cause dispersion. The focus and metric of growth should be HDI not GDP.

g) End Gender disparity:-

Despite all efforts the gender disparity is still an issue. We have to focus on that so that we can have higher work force.

H) Ending money laundering:-

With digitalized economy money laundering will be easy to detect and tackle.

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I) Exclusive economic zones:-

We should build exclusive economic zones with tax breaks. This will ~~make~~ give incentive to citizens to invest and make new factories.

(J) Energy reliant ---? :-

Pakistan is importing a lot of hydrocarbons that are about 1/3rd of its imports. If Pakistan is energy reliant then this issue can be solved.

k) Gone are days of eating grass:-

Pakistan should focus on its economic growth instead of military adventurism. To do that we need a healthy relation with our neighbours. If we achieve that then our economic revival is imminent.

l) Frontiers:-

Space and silicon are two frontiers of economic growth. Pakistan must shift its focus on them. Then we can ensure not only

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economic revival but also economic
surity.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan's economy has potential
and room for growth. However that is
not possible unless strict reforms are
not done. IF we want our country
to grow. we must prioritize government
private partnership.

