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Subjective Port - Port II

Q.8 Pakistan Saudi Arabia have signed a historic defense pact. Critically evaluate the causes/implications of the deal.

Introduction = The Pakistan-Saudi Agreement defence pact is the strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed on September 17, 2025 between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. This pact is a formalization of existing Security Cooperation, committing both nations to meet an attack on one or an attack on both. Key aspects include strengthening defence ties, enhancing joint deterrence, and fostering long-term security collaboration through initiatives like defence industry cooperation and technology transfer. The agreement as quoted by Reuters the Saudi official :- "was the culmination of years of discussion." "This is not a response to specific countries or specific events but an institutionalization of long-standing and deep cooperation between our two countries."

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Specifics of Pakistan-Saudi Security Agreement or Pact=

The agreement is not made public. The terms and conditions are ~~known~~ not known. People are only inferring about this pact through its name, although Pakistan has long had Saudis deployed in Saudi Arabia, currently estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 troops, providing operational, technical and training to help Saudi military, ~~but the~~ but the specifics or the further details of this pact is not known, even the question of nuclear security umbrella offered by Pakistan to Saudi Arabia is not fully known.

Why Pakistan, is trusted with the Security role? it's Causes=

United States of America has always remained the security guarantor of the Middle East, but recent actions of Israel, and its attack on Doha, Qatar has proven that it would not defend any country, if the aggressor / initiator is Israel. Secondly Middle East, cannot rely on Russia, as Russia is stuck on its own

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was back home with Ukraine. Also it cannot trust emerging superpower in technological advancements 'China', as China's policy is not to go to war for the sake of allies. Also it is not wise for the Middle East, to take refuge / for help from the opposite bloc, as this step would create tensions with United States. Therefore Pakistan seemed to be the better option for numerous reasons as follows:

- ① Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have been in an informal security arrangement since 1967, under which Pakistan deployed troops in Saudi Arabia to defend Holy Mecca. i.e. Makkah and Madinah, as it did in 1979.
- ② Pakistan heads MCIC (Military Counter Terrorism Coalition). A military alliance of approximately 41 countries. Its main objective is to counter militancy or insurgency. The leadership of this alliance has been with Pakistan, as the head of the organization is the ex-military Chief - Retired General Raheel Shereef. The different departments under MCIC are all headed by Pakistani security.

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- ③ One of the Perhaps, one of the main reason is that Pakistan is the only ~~for~~ 'Nuclear Country' with nuclear power. As nuclear arsenal is best security deterrence. Saudi Arabia need that in future. Therefore it was the need of the hour to sign defence pact with Pakistan.

Implications of the deal, and US Reaction =

United States has cordial relations with Middle East Countries. Specifically, it is a security guarantor of Saudi Arabia. It has established 19 ~~bases~~ ^{military bases}. On top of that Saudi Arabia is the largest buyer of United States in terms of weapons and investments. All these investments and infrastructure

1- Guarantor of petro-dollar agreement cannot be reversed over-night, and United States would play a role of diplomacy and Saudi Arabia cannot afford to have strained relations with United States, as it is still the strategic partner of United States, and ~~US~~ ^{it} would eliminate

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The security pre-eminence of the Saudi Arabia for years to come. Also Pakistan, once again being is having good, cordial relations with India after Pakistan appreciated Donald Trump for his peacemaking efforts in the 7th-May 2025 brief armed conflict with India. Therefore there are lesser chances possible chances of United States getting threatened by the deal. However if the nuclear security umbrella is offered by Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, then there might be a strong opposition from US.

Pakistan Saudi Arabia Agreement and implications of the deal with neighbouring countries

(a) Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Agreement and its impact on India =

Pakistan As discussed above, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have had good relations driven by security arrangement. Saudi Arabia has also supported Pakistan on Kashmir Issue. Meanwhile India has established socio-economic conditions relation with Saudi

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Arabia by becoming one of the largest energy importer to Saudi Arabia. Also, it is a major market for Indian workforce who send in remittances. Also their relations accelerated and further cooperation was enhanced, when Pakistan in 2015 refused to send its troops to Yemen on the request of Saudi Arabia. This not only antagonized Saudi Arabia but the whole Middle East. Reluctantly, they all expanded trade relations with India. Saudi Arabia became one of the ~~the~~ largest investor in India and India becoming the second largest buyer of KSA in terms of energy. Meanwhile Saudi Arabia also toned down its support for Pakistan on Kashmir issue. However this new defence agreement could 're-energize' Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations, giving setback to India. India would have to reconsider its policy and security arrangements. This ~~can~~ The IMEP Project, a project linking India to Europe ~~could~~ with U.A.E could use its momentum. Even if trade cooperation continues,

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political trust will be harder to sustain.

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Agreement and Its impact on Iran:

Pakistan has at always been faced with tough choice when it comes to dealing with both countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran. Both Countries are the arch-rivals in terms of geo-political domain. Specially driven by sectarian reasons. It is Iran vs Middle East Countries. ALSO Saudi Arabia immense, Socioeconomic importance in Pakistan - meaning Saudi Arabia is a hub of Pakistani laborers which leads to 8 billion dollars a year to Pakistan. This same advantage is not being offered by Iran. Hence Pakistan has to look out for its own benefit, yet it cannot also afford to have strained relations with Iran as Iran is one of the key neighbors of Pakistan. ALSO, Iran in recent years have tilted towards India as Pakistan persistent tilt towards Saudi Arabia and Middle East.

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When Pakistan joined IMTC, it engaged Iran & Tehran called it as a Sunni-military alliance instead of Muslim military alliance. Reluctantly as discussed above, Pakistan relations with two countries are greatly influenced by the Secretary's office within the Country. Pro-Iran policies are not well received by the Sunni community, and vice versa. However this pact can lead ~~to~~ Middle East, Saudi Arabia and Iran specifically, and Iran to be on some page as Israel also attacked Iran on 13th June 2025 killing top generals and scientists and affecting Iran's energy industry overall. Therefore this or create further alliance or this treaty pact can be expanded to counter the threat of Muslim world to its regional security: ^{1st Israel} ~~Israel~~

Also, recently relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been cordial, since 2023 with the help of China, they ~~are~~ resumed diplomatic relations and lifted a ban on USA. Due to all these

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regions, there are lesser chances of Iran objecting to Pak-Saudia defence agreement.

Conclusion = In Conclusion, Pakistan-Saudia Arabia defence pact is mutually beneficial despite its negative/positive implication of the deal in neighboring countries. As Pakistan needs financial assistance in terms of bail packages, whereas Saudia Arabia needs to strengthen its regional security and warfare. As common threat perception strengthens an organization, there are greater chances of Saudia Arabia investments in Pakistan in Petro Chemical complex in Gwadar, investment in agriculture and minerals can help revive economy of Pakistan.

even after mediation by china. What do you think are

Pak-Afghan Relations: Causes of Tension and Pathways to Improvement=

major factors and how it can be improved?

Introduction= Pakistan and Afghanistan share deep historical, cultural, and ethnic ties, yet their bilateral relationship remains fraught with mistrust and never-ending conflict. Despite China's recent mediation efforts, tensions persist due to internal security issues, political and humanitarian issues. Understanding these factors is essential for proposing viable solutions that promote regional stability.

Major Factors Contributing to Tensions

1. Cross-Border Militancy and the TTP Issue

- Pakistan, time to time accuses P. Afghanistan for of harboring Tehreek Taliban Pakistan militants to attack on Pakistani soil,

• Afghanistan, on the other hand

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denies such claims and criticizes Pakistan's ~~airstrikes~~ airstrikes as a threat to its sovereignty and ~~causing dead~~ ~~to civilians~~. ~~Causing~~ ~~casualties~~ civilian casualties.

- This mutual animosity between Pakistan and India has created hostility and mistrust.

2. Durand-Line Dispute

- The Durand, a colonial era boundary has remained an issue.
- Afghanistan refuses to recognize it as an official border, while Pakistan continues to send its troops there and ~~for~~ fence the ~~border~~ border to curb illegal crossings and smuggling of materials.
- Frequent border ~~crosses~~ ~~entire~~ clashes accelerated tensions.

3. Refugee Crisis and Humanitarian Strain

- Pakistan has deported over a million undocumented Afghan refugees, citing security and economic resources.
- Afghanistan views this as a violation of humanitarian norms, especially given its vulnerable post-war economy.
- The refugee issue has become a central point in ~~the~~

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Straining diplomatic relations.

4. Diplomatic Disconnect =

- Despite recent agreements to restore diplomatic ties, communication remains limited, due to lack of political representation and Taliban refusal of holding talks of Mediation with Pakistan.
- Absence of institutional mechanism such as proper dialogue, government and political representation hampers conflict resolution.

Pathways to Improvement

1. Joint Counterterrorism Framework:

- Establishing a bilateral Cooperation or counter-terrorism mechanism involving China could facilitate intelligence sharing and coordinated action against militant groups, such as TTP, operating in Afghanistan to carry out terrorist attacks on Pakistan soil can be eliminated this way. This would help ^{address} Pakistan's security concerns, while respecting Afghan sovereignty.

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2. Border Management and Trust-building

- A mutually agreed protocol for managing the border line, possibly with third party monitoring ~~could~~ ^{could} reduce conflicts.
- Repealing of trade rates and easing border restrictions can help enhance economic bond ~~or~~ interdependence and foster goodwill.

3. Humanitarian Cooperation

- Collaborative refugee management groups supported by International donors could ease the burden on both countries.
- Joint efforts in education, healthcare facilities and reintegration would promote stability and reduce resentment.

4. Diplomatic Engagement and Mediation

- Regular bilateral Summits and bilateral meeting with the help of mediators from a third country can help resolve issues, such as refugee crisis, illegal border crossing and smuggling of ~~or~~ illeg materials.
- China can play a central role by creating a permanent

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bilateral dialogue forum.

5. Economic Integration =

- Extending China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan could accelerate peace through shared development in terms of infrastructure, investments and creation of jobs.
- As Afghanistan is rich in ~~raw~~ minerals, Pakistan could invest in Afghanistan for mining project that can bind the two countries economically.

Conclusion = As discussed above Pak-Afghan relations are shaped by complex interplay of security, historical and humanitarian challenges. While tensions remain high, through structured dialogue and regional cooperation especially with intervention of China could offer a pathway toward lasting peace. As for Pakistan, stabilizing its western border with Afghanistan is imperative for regional security and connectivity.

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Q.3

Formation of new Provinces in Pakistan: Hurdles and Recommendations

Introduction = The debate over creating new provinces in Pakistan reflects a broader struggle between centralization and regional autonomy. While ~~proponents~~ ^{proponents} argue that new provinces can improve governance, resource distribution and national integration, opponents cite constitutional, political and economic hurdles. A critical evaluation reveals that the issue is not merely administrative but deeply rooted in identity politics and power dynamics.

Hurdles =

1. Constitution Rigidity =

- Article 239 of the Constitution requires two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament and consent from the concerned provincial assembly.
- This makes the process politically cumbersome and vulnerable to partisan gridlock.

2. Political Resistance =

- There will be an immense resistance from political parties as major

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parties for losing voting banks. For instance PPP opposes the division of India while PMK has shown reluctance over Sath Rajes. Political interests often resist national or regional development goals.

3. Ethnic and Linguistic Sensibilities:

- Movements like the Sereiki and Hezra demand for separate provinces based solely on ^{identity} ~~identity~~ can trigger ethnic polarization, causing further division in the country. Also naming separate provinces and boundary can enhance regional tensions.

4. Economic Implications:

- Creating new provinces entails significant non-development expenditures: new assemblies, departments and infrastructure which can lead to economic restraint in the country. The debt burden can worsen this. Can be worsened by the making of new provinces and its expenditure of building governmental expenditures.

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5. Centralization Bias:

- Powerful federal institutions and elite group may resist decentralization, fearing loss of control resources and influence.
- This undermines genuine federal structure and local empowerment.

Recommendations for overcoming hurdles =

1. Constitutional Reforms:

Am Constitutional reforms can be initiated in a sense to by involving a national referendum mechanism. Also amending Article 239 can simplify the process of creating a province without the need of majority.

2. Consensus Building:

Launch inclusive dialogues including political parties. The government should form a multi-party, bipartisan parliamentary committee with representation from all provinces. Its mandate would be to develop a concrete roadmap draft Constitutional amendments, and propose solutions for resource distribution.

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3. Phased and Criteria-Based approach =

Instead of tackling all elements of provinces simultaneously, a phased approach should be adopted. The case for South Punjab is the most contentious and least contentious on ethnic grounds; it should be prioritized as a test case.

4. Transparent Mechanism for Assets and Liabilities =

An independent, technocratic Commission should be established comprising experts from finance, ^{law}~~tax~~, and administration to propose a fair formula for the distribution of assets and liabilities of provinces. Also ~~the~~ recommendations should be made public to ensure transparency.

5. Public Awareness and Sensitization =

A public information campaign should be launched to educate citizens about the benefits of new provinces (improved governance, accelerated development, access to justice) and eliminate fears regarding national integration. disintegration.

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The narrative should emphasize "administrative units" over "ethnic homelands".

~~Creating~~ In conclusion, creating new provinces in Pakistan is not needed reform. as the main hurdles are difficult and Pakistan's government should focus on solving issues of ethnic identity by giving equal opportunities and representation to the provinces according to its resources and its population.