

Q7: STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN-SAUDI ARABIA DEFENSE PACT AGREEMENT:

INTRODUCTION:

The Pakistan and Saudi Arabia defense pact represents a long standing security and strategic partnership in the Middle East. Rooted in religious, political, and security interests the alliance has deepened in ~~the context~~ contexts of shifting regional and global power dynamics. From IR perspective such pact influences regional balance, deter threat, and provide strategic leverage in broader global alliances. Bay 19s et notes that defense partnerships are not merely military agreements but instruments of soft and hard power projection shaping both regional and global perception of influence.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF DEFENSE PACT:

1. ENHANCED MILITARY COOPERATION:

The pact ensures joint military exercises, intelligence sharing and strategic coordination.

Pakistan's armed forces benefit from advanced training, equipment access and operational collaboration reinforcing national defense capabilities. This strengthens Pakistan's role as credible security partner in the region.

2. DETERRENCE AGAINST REGIONAL THREATS:

These alliances serve as deterrent against regional adversaries, particularly in volatile Middle East context. Realist scholars argue that such pacts enhance security by projecting power and signalling commitment, aligning with traditional balance of power theories in IR.

3. INFLUENCE ON REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE:-

Pakistan's collaboration with Saudi Arabia positions it with broader Gulf security mechanism influencing the Persian Gulf strategic calculus. Engagement in multi-lateral ~~security mechanism~~ and ~~strengthening~~ defense dialogues and coalition planning reinforces Pakistan's visibility and strategic weight in regional matters.

4. ACCESS TO STRATEGIC RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Defence cooperation facilitates access to Saudi Arabia's military technology, funding and infrastructure support. This strengthens Pakistan's indigenous capabilities and offers leverage in negotiating broader security and economic arrangements.

5. PROJECTION OF SOFT POWER:-

The pact enhances Pakistan's image as a reliable partner, projecting soft power through the political solidarity and humanitarian cooperation. Alliances are instruments of both coercion and persuasion in international politics.

6. SHARED COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY OBJECTIVES:-

Both countries face overlapping security threats from extremist groups. Joint counter terrorism initiatives, intelligence coordination and regional stabilisation operations enhance mutual security while contributing to wider anti terror frameworks.

INFLUENCE ON REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS:-

1. STRENGTHENING GULF STABILITY:-

The alliance reassured smaller Gulf states of cooperative defence framework, particularly in context of tensions with Iran and Yemen conflicts. Pakistan's presence bolsters Saudi depth in the region aligning with realist perspective on deterrence and influence.

2. BALANCING IRANIAN INFLUENCE:-

The pact implicitly counters Iranian regional ambitions by enhancing Saudi deterrence capabilities. Pakistan's involvement provide strategic signaling while avoiding direct confrontation which aligns with insight on balance-of-power dynamics.

3. IMPACT ON MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS:-

Through joint exercises and advisory roles Pakistan directly shape military preparedness in the regional disputes including Yemen and maritime security in the Red Sea.

Such engagement demonstrates the link between bilateral defense pact and regional security calculations.

4. IMPLICATION FOR MULTI LATERAL COOPERATION:

Pakistan-Saudi defense pact ties ~~in~~ influences broader coalitions like ~~Gulf~~ GCC and Arab League security arrangements. Participation in the drills and planning enhances interoperability and aligns with liberal IR theory on institutional cooperation.

5- CONSTRAINTS ON REGIONAL AUTONOMY:

While beneficial, the alliance may limit Pakistan's flexibility in regional policy-making as alignment with Saudi objectives sometimes constrains neutral diplomacy maneuvers. Realist analysis emphasize that alliance dependence can reduce strategic autonomy.

BROADER IMPLICATION FOR PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY:

1. STRENGTHENED BILATERAL INFLUENCE:

The pact consolidates Pakistan's influence in the Middle East, allowing it to mediate conflicts, secure strategic interests, and contribute to peace initiatives. This enhances Pakistan's diplomatic leverage with both global and regional actors.

2. INTEGRATION WITH GLOBAL ALLIANCES:

Strategic alignment with Saudi Arabia improves Pakistan's engagement with other major powers including the US, China and other EU states through collaborative security and economic frameworks. This enhances Pakistan's diplomatic leverage with both regional and global actors.

3. ~~INTEGRATION WITH GLOBAL ALLIANCES:~~

~~Strategic alignment with Saudi Arabia improves Pakistan's engagement with other major~~

4. ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

Defense cooperation often translates into economic benefits including defense contracts, investment and energy security partnerships. Pakistan can leverage military collaboration to secure broader foreign policy objectives and development initiatives.

5. LONG TERM STRATEGIC VISION:

Maintaining a balanced yet robust defense pact allows Pakistan to navigate shifting global alliances while retaining regional relevance. Strategic culture and realistic principle guide cautious engagement ensuring that partnership ~~is~~ strengthens national security without over dependence.

CONCLUSION: The Pakistan Saudi Mutual Defense Agreement shapes regional security dynamics and Pakistan's foreign policy. It enhances deterrence, military cooperation, counter terrorism capabilities and soft power projection while influencing Gulf

stability and balancing Iranian influence.

Strategically the alliance provides Pakistan with both regional leverage and global diplomatic opportunities. IR scholars highlight that defense pacts are multidimensional instruments combining hard power, alliance politics and strategic signalling.

Q8: EXPANSION OF BRICS AND SCO:

INTRODUCTION:-

The expansion of BRICS and SCO marks a major shift in 21st century power politics, reflecting growing multipolarity and dissatisfaction with Western led order-of institutions. Their expansions bringing in states like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Iran and Ethiopia rise is signalling a rise of alternative platform and is a challenge to structural dominance of US-led order. This transformation reflects deeper theoretical IR debates of balancing, soft revisionism and ^{institutional} pluralism.

EXPANSION OF BRICS AND SCO THROUGH IR THEORIES

REALISTS PERSPECTIVE ON BALANCE OF POWER:-

From a realist lens expansion of BRICS and SCO represents institutional balancing against

US led Western order. States like China and Russia use enlargement to consolidate ~~the~~ geopolitical blocks and reduce US influence across Middle East, Asia and Africa. The widening membership strengthen collective bargaining capacity and enhances their geopolitical weight.

2- LIBERAL INSTITUTIONALISM - RISE OF NON-WESTERN COOPERATION:-

Liberal theories interpret BRICS, SCO expansion as evidence of functional interdependence where states collaborate to manage global governance gaps. These platforms creates avenues for economic integration, development financing and security cooperation outside Bretton Wood institutions. The expansion meets practical needs of emerging economies seeking diversified partnerships.

3- CONSTRUCTIVIST EXPLANATION - IDENTITY AND NORM FORMATION:-

Constructivist argue that BRICS and SCO built an identity ~~and~~ rooted in Global

Southern shared experiences = colonial histories, developmental priorities and sovereignty-centered norms. Their expression promote alternative narrative of order emphasizing non-interference and equality, contrasting with Western conditionalities associated with democracy or human rights.

4. EXPANSION OF PLURALIST INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY:

From English School's pluralist perspective BRICS, SCO expansion reflects a revolt against Western international society creating parallel normative space. These spaces emphasize sovereignty, non-intervention and civilizational diversity challenging solidarist norms advanced by Westernization organization like NATO and EU.

5. DEPENDENCY THEORY - COUNTERING CORE PERIPHERY STRUCTURES:

Critical theorist highlight the economic significance of expansion: BRICS development

banks, energy mechanisms and South-South trade weakens dependence on Western financial cores. With more members from Africa and Middle East, BRICS presents itself as a power to escape IMF, hence leading to the weakening of US led economic order.

OLD VS NEW MULTILATERALISM:

1) OLD MULTILATERALISM:

Old multilateralism order refers to post 1945 US centric institutions including IMF, World Bank, NATO - dominated by the Western leadership and liberal norms. These organizations institutionalized US hegemony by embedding market liberalization, political conditionality and Western security priorities into global governance architecture.

2) NEW MULTILATERALISM:

New multilateralism emphasizes multipolar, decentralized and flexible coalitions built around

economic diversity and non-Western leadership. It includes BRICS, SCO, AIIB and Global South's diplomatic rise prioritizing sovereignty, non-intervention and development centric cooperation rather than ideological alignments.

3. EXPANSION OF BRICS, SCO AS

SYMBOL OF NEW MULTILATERALISM:

The enlargement of these organizations reflect dissatisfaction of western framework and demand for inclusive governance. By incorporating major energy states and regional powers, BRICS and SCO expand their economic and security footprints embodying a more pluralistic and competitive multilateral orders.

BRICS AND SCO - A CHALLENGE TO US:

1- STRATEGIC CHALLENGE TO US HEGEMONY:

Brics and SCO have not yet overturn US hegemony, but they pose a structural

challenge by offering parallel economic, diplomatic and technological platforms. They shift from dollar based trade, alternative financial institutions and joint security exercise dilutes US influence, especially across Eurasia and Middle East.

2. SOFT REVISIONISM - NOT FULL CONFRONTATION:

IR scholars describe the rise of SCO and BRICS as soft revisionist as these institutions seek reforms of not destruction of existing global institutions. Members like India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia still maintaining strong ties with US indicating a hedging rather than bipolar confrontation.

3- MIDDLE POWERS AND REGIONAL ACTORS INFLUENCING THE ORDER:

Inclusion of states like Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia strengthen middle power diplomacy and diversify global decision-making. These states gain

greater autonomy from Western leverage, contributing to a more distributive and competitive global order without outright rejecting US system.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT - EVOLUTION TOWARDS A MULTI PLEX ORDER:

The expansion of SCO and BRICS reflects the transition towards the scholar Ilya Amitav Acharya calls a "Multiplex World Order" which is a system governed by multiple actors, norms and institutions, while not replacing the US led order these platforms significantly dilute its exclusivity and reshape global governance into more contested, pluralistic frameworks.

CONCLUSION: The expansion of BRICS and SCO interpreted through realist, liberal, constructivist and critical theories illustrates the transformation of global governance from US centric to multicentric. As new multilateralism grows, these institutions challenge aspects of US dominance through economic security and norms dimensions. The resulting order is not post-America, but post-unipolar reflecting shared authority and competing vision of global governance.

94 IMF FINANCIAL INTERVENTION ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIES:

1. INTRODUCTION:

IMF interventions are central instrument of the global financial architecture designed to restore macroeconomic stability, support balance of payment adjustments and rebuild market confidence for developing countries like Pakistan. IMF programs have often arrived at moments of crisis, offering resource and policy packages that stabilize reserves and signals creditor credibility. Yet the efficacy of these loans in producing durable recovery is contested. Their success depends on programme design, conditionality, ownership, sequencing and domestic & social buffers.

2. IMF FINANCIAL INTERVENTION AND THEIR RATIONALE:

IMF intervention aims to restore ~~financial~~ macroeconomic stability by offering balance of payment supports tied to structural reforms. The rationale is rooted in

neoliberal economic theory, favoring market liberalization, subsidy rationalization and monetary tightening. Developing economies approach the IMF when fiscal buffers collapse and ~~economic~~ external financing dries up making IMF the lender of the last resort.

3. DO IMF LOAN PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY:-

IMF loans temporarily stabilize economy by boosting foreign exchange reserves, anchoring financial markets and providing credibility to domestic policy. In Pakistan 2023-25 SBA and EFF negotiations, market confidence improved and rupee stabilized. However recovery remains conditional on economic stability and reform implementation without which IMF support becomes cyclical rather than transformative.

4. STABILIZATION THROUGH FISCAL DISCIPLINE:-

IMF programs impose strict fiscal

consolidations including tax reform, subsidy cuts and improved revenue administration. For Pakistan digitalization of the FBR, withdrawal of energy subsidy and privatization commitment increased fiscal discipline. Yet tight fiscal policies suppress growth in short term making stability appear painful for low income households.

5. MONETARY REFORM AND INFLATION CONTROL:-

IMF encourages inflation targeting regimes, independent central banks and market determined exchange rates. Pakistan's shift to a market based rate in 2023 helped reduce distortions but triggered inflation spikes. While the long term goal is price stability, the burden of adjustment falls on consumers prompting criticism on IMF uniform policy prescriptions.

6. STRUCTURAL REFORMS AND GOVERNANCE ENHANCEMENTS

IMF places great emphasis on governance, SOE reforms, transparency, and anti-corruption. Pakistan's SOE audit reforms, energy sector governance restructuring and debt management frameworks were developed in response to IMF conditionalities. These reforms strengthened long-term resilience but face domestic resistance from vested interest.

7. RISKS OF IMF DEPENDENCY:

Pakistan's repeated borrowing - 24 IMF programs show structural weakness and traps the country in dependence cycle. This erodes sovereignty and reduces space for independent long-term economic planning.

8. SOCIAL COST OF IMF CONDITIONALITY/BI

Austerity measures such as subsidy cuts and energy price hikes disproportionately hurt low-income groups - The 2024-25 rising electricity prices deepened

public hardships exposing IMF to one-size-fits-all approach

9. IMPACT ON GROWTH AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE

IMF compliance boost investors confidence, improving credit rating and attracting Gulf investment. But strict austerity slows down economic growth producing paradox where stability undermines economic momentum.

10. LONG TERM DEBT BURDEN:

Even concessional loans enlarge external debt and future repayment obligations. This diverts limited resources from development towards debt servicing, worsening Pakistan's long-term financial ~~momentum~~ vulnerabilities.

11. DOES IMF AID PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH:

IMF debt stabilizes macroeconomic indicators but does not address structural needs like industrialization, export and human capital. Thus Pakistan remain

stuck in low productivity trap despite repeated stabilization cycles-

12. BALANCING IMF SUPPORT WITH DOMESTIC REFORMS AGENDA

Pakistan must integrate IMF discipline with national reforms such as SIFC led industrial and trade initiatives. Growth friendly policies targeted subsidies and social protection can make stabilization compatible with development.

CONCLUSION:

IMF interventions offer short term economic stability and unlock external financing but their strict conditionality creates serious social and political problems.

Q2: COLD WAR - US + CHINA:

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Cold War containment policy formulated by George F. Kennan, sought to prevent the expansion of Soviet influence through political, economic and military measures. Rooted in liberal and realistic IR perspective, it combined deterrence, alliances and ideological contestation. Understanding its strengths and weaknesses provide insight for applying similar strategies to modern US China geopolitical tensions.

2. DEFINITION AND ORIGIN OF CONTAINMENT

Containment was a US strategy to curb Soviet expansion after WWII. It emphasized resisting influence rather than direct military confrontation aiming to maintain a balance of power in global politics.

3. THEORETICAL BASIS IN IR:

Containment aligns with realistic principle of power balancing and liberal ideas of

institutional cooperation. Scholars like Kenneth Waltz highlights its reliance on strategic equilibrium and deterrence.

4. MILITARY ALLIANCE AS A TOOL OF CONTAINMENT:

NATO and other alliances strengthened Western security and deterred Soviet aggression. Collective defense exemplified multilateral balancing, reducing direct confrontations while projecting power.

5. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MEASURES

The Marshall plan and economic aid strengthened allied states and undermined Soviet influence. Economic leverage complemented ~~economic~~ ^{military} tools creating resilience against ideological penetrations.

6. IDEOLOGICAL AND PROPOGANDA DIMENSIONS

Containment included promoting democratic values to counter communism. Media, education

and cultural diplomacy were deployed to foster ideological resilience in Western aligned regions.

7. STRENGTHS OF CONTAINMENT POLICY:

The strategy prevented global escalation into full scale war and maintained long term strategic stability. It allowed flexible responses, combining military, economic, ideological instruments.

8. LIMITATIONS AND FAILURES:

Containment sometimes promoted proxy wars and excessive militarization as seen in Korea and Vietnam. Critics argue it prioritized security over diplomacy fostering regional instability.

9. LESSONS FOR US CHINA STRATEGIC COMPETITIONS:

US policy in Indo Pacific reflects containment principles: alliances with Japan, Australia, and India, economic initiatives and freedom of navigation operations. Strategic balancing seeks to limit China without direct war.

10. BALANCING HARD AND SOFT POWER:

Modern containment requires integration of military deterrence with economic incentives, technology cooperation and multilateral diplomacy.

11. LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS AND GLOBAL STABILITY:

Applied wisely containment can maintain multipolar stability while preventing aggressive expansion. Overreliance on coercion risks global polarization, but judicious engagement ensures sustained peace and influence management.

CONCLUSION:

Cold war containment ~~the~~ successfully prevented direct superpower conflict but had limitations in proxy wars and ideological rigidity. In principle - strategic balancing, alliance & economic leverage and soft power remain relevant in managing US China tensions.