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DATE: ___/___/___

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PAPER : CURRENT AFFAIRS.

QUESTION NO.
2.

PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS: History.
Ever since

the inception of Pakistan, Pak-Afghan relations have been in turmoil. The Zahir Shah regime wasn't hostile to Pakistan but it did not have any great esteem for it either. After Zahir Shah Afghanistan saw great political turmoil. And with every changing regime the Pak-Afghan relations changed. The socialist regimes of Tarakai and Najeeb

②

DATE: ___/___/___

saw Pakistan as potential threat to their homeland. Afterwards, the Mujahideen/Taliban regime saw a somewhat friendly eye between the two neighbouring countries. After NATO's invasion and Pakistan's involvement in "War on Terror" the Afghan regimes started to turn a hostile eye towards Pakistan once again. The ~~for~~ recent Taliban regime saw some sort of relaxation of relations. However, the recent conflict changed the situation once again.

Here, we will discuss the factors of unfriendly relations between the two countries. We will also discuss the solutions to end this unfriendly eye.

(3)

DATE: ___/___/___

SOLUTIONS.

1 - Fix THE THE DURAND LINE ISSUE.

2 - POLITICAL STABILITY.

3 - TABLE TALKS.

4 - INT. MEDIATION.

PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS.

FACTORS OF HOSTILITY.

1 - THE DURAND-LINE.

2 - POLITICAL INSTABILITY.

3 - TERROR PENETRATION.

4 - Hostile TALIBAN REGIME.

Figure : flow-chart.

(4)

DATE: ___/___/___

FACTORS OF PAK-AFGHAN HOSTILITIES.

1- THE DURAND LINE.

Emir Abdur Rehman signed a treaty with the British Raj in 19th c to end incessant British invasions. This treaty saw the loss of some territory by the Afghan ~~empire~~ empire. The line that divided British India and Afghanistan came to be known as "the Durand Line."

Ever since Pakistan came into existence the Afghan regimes have set a claim on the territory that was lost during the signing of this treaty. No Afghan government has ever accepted this line as an international boundary. This hurts the territorial security of Pakistan and

(5)

DATE: ___/___/___

hence becomes a factor of hostility between the neighbours.

2 - POLITICAL INSTABILITY.

Pakistan saw early-life political turmoil. from 1950 to 1957 it saw 7 prime ministers. After that 4 martial laws have tainted its political history.

Afghanistan is no different. The only stable era for Afghanistan was that of Zahir Shah. After that by foreign influence or civil turbulence it saw a see-saw of power between various groups such as the Khalqis, Parchamis, and Taliban.

Instability on both sides of the border saw helped in furthering the hostile relationships between the two.

⑥

DATE: ___/___/___

3 - TERROR PENETRATION.

After NATO invasion the porous ~~par~~ Durand Line saw great flow of terrorists. Those hostile to Pakistan would hit inside Pakistan and get back to Afghanistan in ~~new~~ no time. This frustrated Pakistan and furthered hostilities.

4 - Hostile Taliban Regime.

The current Taliban regime does not recognize Pakistan as its ally. After the recent TTP attacks in Pakistan, Pakistan asked Taliban to help in targeting these terrorists. Taliban refused to do so. This resulted in Pakistan taking matters in its own ~~words~~ hands. Days that followed saw the on-going Pak-Afghan conflict.

(7)

DATE: ___/___/___

How TO SOLVE THIS CONFLICT.

1 - Fix DURAND LINE MATTER.

The root cause of Pak-Afghan hostilities is the ~~decad~~ centuries old divide of Afghanistan. Afghan governments and people must understand the post-WWII age and recognize this line as a fixed border. However, this will require actions from Pakistan's side as well. As it should help in realizing the line as a border.

2 - Bring POLITICAL STABILITY.

Without political stability in both countries, a solution to any Pak-Afghan conflict is incomplete and temporary. A respect shall be granted to people's opinions and democracy shall prevail in both these countries to achieve peace.

(8)

DATE: ___/___/___

3- INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION.

In today's globalized world no matter or conflict can be solved without mediation from international communities. China and Turkey have tried to solve the ongoing conflict. The deadlock remains due to very different set of demands by both the states.

CONCLUSION.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a very turning political history. Durand Line issue and political instability are the major causes of most conflicts between these two. Only through table talk, political stability and international mediation can this problem be solved.

9

DATE: ___/___/___

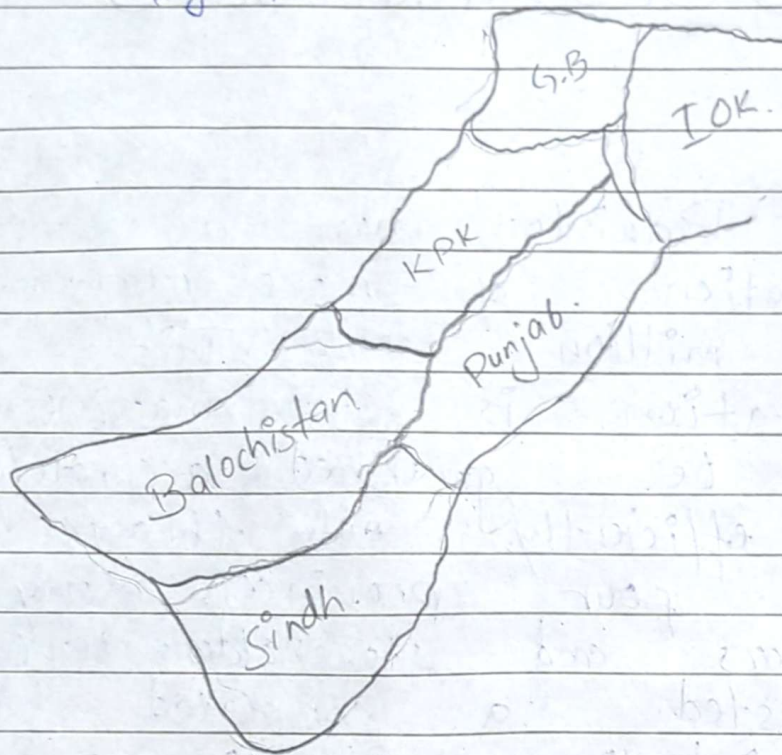
QUESTION No 3

Pakistan has a population of more than 250 million souls. This population is too massive to be governed accurately and efficiently only through only four provinces. Many scholars and stakeholders have suggested a completed administrative shuffling. Some suggest 16 provinces, some 8, and some even 34 provinces.

However, breaking down already existing provincial setup and making many more isn't that easy process. It has many implications and hurdles such as people's choice, administrative break down, and Boundries of the new provinces.

DATE: ___/___/___

Figure: Provinces Map of Pakistan.



HURDLES IN THE CREATION OF NEW PROVINCES,

1 - PEOPLE'S CHOICE.

Before breaking up provinces, it is important to assess what people of that region think about, it. Most people today do not wish to let the state draw boundaries in their provinces. To change this

(11)

DATE: ___/___/___

a mass awareness program should be initiated which should put benefits of this decision in front of the common folk.

2 - ADMINISTRATIVE BREAK-DOWN.

Making of many provinces require a much larger administration. Pakistan currently lacks the human resources to sustain 30+ provinces or even 16+. Also, the current infrastructure does not allow this either. We do not have urban places that could make 30 capitals.

This hurdle can be removed ~~if~~ by increasing human resources and building of capital city level infrastructures. However, this will take many years, decades at least.

DATE: ___/___/___

3- DRAWING BOUNDARIES.

Finalizing boundaries for proposed new provinces can be another big hurdle. ~~How~~ How do we divide these provinces? Should these be on ethnic bases or geographic bases? These questions must be answered satisfactorily in order to move to the next stage of new provinces building.

CONCLUSIONS.

Making of new provinces in Pakistan is inevitable due to growing population. However, before making these new provinces a few hurdles must be jumped over first. People's choice, administrative break-down, and drawing of boundaries should be discussed and solved before making new provinces.

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DATE: ___/___/___

QUESTION No 4.

K.P and Balochistan : Militant Insurgent's Home.

After NATO's invasion of ~~the~~ Afghanistan and ~~the~~ its Talibanization Pakistan's K.P saw many militants enter its territory. TTP (Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan) set camp in K.P with an initiative to bring their version of Shariah in Pakistan. Balochistan, after the assassination of Bugti, saw an increased militancy as well ~~as~~ both ~~these~~ with major insurgent groups being the BLA and BCF. All of these militant groups became dormant after several military operations. But, in recent years they have re-emerged and started attacking Pakistani Population.

REASONS OF REEMERGENCE.

1- POLITICAL INSTABILITY,

Almost all of Pakistan's issues stem from an ~~instable~~ unstable political era.

After 2018, Pakistan saw great anti-government uprisings from oppositions, which resulted in the impeachment of the then prime minister. For almost two years a ~~and~~ coalition government was formed which slowly started to crumble as the 2023 elections neared. After the election the opposition again started anti-government stances. This instability ~~to~~ lead to the ignoring of civil matters which gave ample time to the militants to re-group and organize once again.

DATE: ___/___/___

2. ADMINISTRATIVE FAILURES.

Several tribal areas, in this political turmoil, saw feudals and tribal lords taking immense control of certain regions. The administrations failed to see this as threat. The militants took advantage of this and searched to find their sympathizers among these feudals and tribal leaders. This provided a sort of safe haven for the militants which made their extermination extremely difficult.

CONCLUSION.

A rise in militant groups in K.P and Balochistan is seen in the current years. This militant increase is mainly due to political instability and Administrative failures.

DATE: ___/___/___

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Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed mutual Defense Agreement. In which an attack on one would be considered attack on the other as well. This gets Saudi Arabia under Pakistan's nuclear umbrella and ~~sa~~ Pakistan gets substantial support from Saudi Arabia in many of its ventures.

CAUSES.

1 - PAK - INDIA CONFLICT.

During Pak-India conflict in may, Pakistan got substantial support only from china. However, which ~~it~~ won it the conflict. However, to counter future Indian hostilities which may be large in magnitude, it requires more friendly allies. Saudi Arabia was the best fit. The two

DATE: ___/___/___

countries already had friendly relations, what was required was only the formalization of the relations and a comprehensive military pact.

2 - THE ISRAEL PROBLEM.

After the 7th October 2023 Israel once again showed its expansionist ideas. It captured Golan heights in Syria, tried to get into Lebanon. This greater Israel initiative by the fascist regime threatened Saudi Arabia's existence. It required a nuclear ally to counter this threat. Pakistan seemed the best option. Hence, the treaty.

IMPLICATIONS.

The scope of this treaty is unknown. Will Pakistan help Saudi Arabia against Yemen?

DATE: ___/___/___

Or will Saudi help Pakistan against Afghanistan? Such complicate conflicts bring out the implication of scope and requirements of this treaty.

Furthermore, this treaty does not bind the members to defend the other or to help the other in case of offense.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are both muslim countries, Pakistan feels blessed to be equipped and tasked with the defence of Haramain shareef. But, will it partake in any offensive initiative taken by Saudi Arabia? Only time will tell.

9 — 1
THE END.