

Name Um Farwa
Batch B3 (41203)

Mock Exam VIII

International

~~Relations~~ Relations
Part - II

Q No. 2

Cold war Containment
Contemporary Relevance
and Analysis

a) Introduction

The Containment
policy was the cornerstone
of US strategy during

the Cold war, aimed at limiting the spread of communism led by the Soviet Union. From an International relations (IR) theoretical framework containment can be analyzed primarily through realist and liberal lenses, reflecting both power politics and strategic diplomacy.

Containment Policy in the Cold War

Formulated by George F. Kennan, containment sought to restrict Soviet expansion using military, economic and diplomatic tools without provoking direct war.

~~key examples: include the Marshall plan, NATO formation and Korean and Vietnam conflicts.~~

~~Realist interpretation:~~

Containment ensured balance of power, safeguarding US national interests in an anarchic international system.

~~Liberal perspective:~~

The policy leveraged alliances and economic aid to promote institutionalized stability and cooperative security.

C Strengths Of Containment

Prevented direct global

Conflict while checking
Soviet influence.

Fostered alliances

(NATO, SEATO) and

strengthened US global
leadership.

Promoted economic

reconstruction in Western

Europe, indirectly ~~consolidating~~
political stability.

Allowed the US to adopt
strategies flexibly, combining
diplomacy, aid and military
deterrence.

↓ Limitations of

Containment

Prolonged

Proxy wars (Korea, Vietnam)

With high costs in lives

and resources.

Overemphasis on military and ideological competition ignored regional complexities. Sometimes alienated neutral states creating anti-US sentiment.

Risked over extension, as global commitment could strain domestic resources and political will.

e Application to Contemporary US-China Tensions

Modern Containment is economic, technological and diplomatic rather than solely military

Trade restrictions, sanctions
strategic alliances in Indo-Pacific
(Quad, AUKUS) resemble
Cold war Containment logic.

Realist insight: The US
aims to balance China's
rising power preventing
dominance in Asia without
direct conflict.

Liberal Strategies:

Promoting multilateral institutions
and norms e.g. WTO rules,
Climate agreements to shape
China's behavior within
global frameworks

Limitations: Globalization
makes complete containment
unrealistic, interdependence

In trade, technology and finance, constraints unilateral action.

Conclusion: ~~The Cold War~~

Containment policy was strategically effective in limiting Soviet expansion while preserving global stability but it had costs in human lives, resources, and diplomatic tensions. Today, a modified hybrid approach combining realist power-balancing and liberal institutional engagement is essential for managing US-China tensions. Containment in the 21st century must be selective to economic interdependence.

ensuring strategic objectives
without escalating into full-
scale confrontation.

QNO. 3

Impact of
IMF Interventions on
Developing Economies:
Case of Pakistan.

a) Introduction:

The international Monetary Fund (IMF) provides financial assistance to **countries** facing balance of payments crisis often accompanied by structural adjustment programs (**SAPs**).

For developing economies like Pakistan, IMF

interventions aim to stabilize the economy, restore investor confidence, and promote growth but they also generate significant debate regarding sovereignty, long-term sustainability and social costs.

b Economic Recovery

through IMF Loans

IMF loans provide immediate liquidity helping countries meet foreign exchange needs and avoid default.

Structural adjustment programs often focus on fiscal discipline, monetary stabilization and exchange rate reforms fostering macroeconomic stability.

In Pakistan, IMF interventions have historically helped stabilize currency, reduce fiscal deficits and secure external financing.

These programs can restore investor and international confidence, encouraging foreign investment and economic revival.

CRISIS and Criticisms of IMF Programs

Conditionalities (austerity measures, subsidy cuts, tax reforms) often strain social welfare disproportionately affecting lower-income populations.

Programs can slow economic

growth in the short term due to reduced public spending.

Critics argue IMF policies prioritize creditor interests over domestic development, limiting sovereignty in economic policymaking.

Over-reliance on IMF loans can create a debt trap, as repeated borrowing increases external obligations and reduces fiscal flexibility.

d Long-term Implication

for Pakistan

While IMF loans stabilize macroeconomic structural reforms may be politically unpopular, delaying implementation.

Dependency on IMF support can limit autonomous economic planning and reduce the government's ability to invest in critical sectors like health, education and infrastructure.

However, successful programs can improve financial discipline, governance and access to international capital markets.

e Conclusion

IMF interventions can promote economic recovery in developing economies like Pakistan by providing liquidity, restoring confidence and encouraging fiscal discipline. However, they carry significant social

and political costs risk
Creating long-term dependency and may constrain national policy autonomy.
For maximum effectiveness, IMF programs must be adapted to local contexts combined with domestic reforms that balance economic stabilization with sustainable development and social equity.

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Q No. 4

Strategic implications of the

Pakistan - Saudi Arabia

Defense Pact.

a Introduction

The pakistan Saudi - Arabia defense pact strengthens military cooperation between the two states including joint exercises, intelligence sharing and defense modernization.

This partnership reflects shared strategic interests, balancing regional threats and projecting influence in the Middle East.

While reinforcing Pakistan's role as a key security partner in the Muslim world.

b Influenced On Regional

Security Dynamics

The pact enhances Saudi

deterrance against regional adversaries particularly Iran and proxy conflicts in Yemen.

Pakistan's participation signals strategic credibility and resources. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of military support. It contributes to power balancing, potentially stabilizing Gulf security but also increasing tensions in Iran-Saudi rivalry.

Regional security dynamics are influenced by Pakistan's alignment with Sunni majority bloc, positioning it as a pivotal actor in Middle East geopolitics.

↳ Broader Implications for Pakistan's foreign Policy

Strengthens Pakistan's strategic leverage in Middle East, ensuring political and financial support from Saudi Arabia including investments and energy cooperation.

Diversifies Pakistan's foreign policy beyond traditional reliance on China and the US, offering alternative diplomatic and economic partnerships.

Enhances Pakistan's role in Islamic and regional forums, projecting influence on policy matters in OIC and Gulf.

regional security -
Required ~~careful~~ balancing
to avoid overdependence
maintain relations with Iran
and manage globe perceptions
in a multipolar world

d) Strategic Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities: joint training
access to advanced military
technology economic collaboration
and strengthened deterrence
Credibility.

Challenges: risk of being
drawn into regional conflicts
managing relations with Iran
and reconciling commitments
with global powers and

Shifting alliances.

Success depends on Pakistan's diplomatic balancing to maintain regional influence without compromising sovereignty or global partnerships.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan-Iran defense pact enhances Pakistan's strategic relevance in the Middle East and strengthens Saudi deterrence capabilities. It provides 20 Pakistan with economic and diplomatic leverage, yet necessitate careful foreign policy balancing amid regional rivalries and shifting global alliances. Ultimately, this partnership underscores Pakistan's role as a key

Security actor in the Gulf
enabling it to influence
regional dynamics while
safeguarding national
interests.

Q NO. 5 Boils and SCO Expansion : An IR analysis . . .

a Introduction :

The
expansion of BRICS (Brazil,
Russia, India, China, South
Africa) and the Shanghai
Cooperation Organization
(SCO) reflects the growing
influence of emerging powers
in global governance.

These institutions embody new forms of multilateralism, challenging the traditional US-led order, and highlight the shift from Unipolarity to multipolarity in international relations.

b Theoretical Lens

(i) Realism :

BRICS and SCO expansions represent power balancing against US and Western dominance.

Emerging powers seek to maximize influence, secure resources, and protect sovereignty, forming strategic coalitions.

(ii) Liberalism : Emphasizes institutionalized cooperation

Economic collaboration and conflict mitigation through dialogue.

Seo provides a framework for joint security and anti-terrorism cooperation reducing regional tensions.

(iii) **Constructivism: Highlights**

Shared norms, identity and historical experiences

e.g. non-interference and multipolar governance shaping cooperation patterns.

↳ **Old vs. New**

Multilateralism

↳ **Old Multilateralism**

Dominated by US and Western institutions

(UN, IMF, World Bank)

with rules often reflecting western interests.

Focused on post-WWII liberal economic and security order.

ii New Multilateralism

led by emerging powers

emphasizes sovereign equality
South-South Cooperation and
multipolar governance.

BRICS and SCO prioritize
regional integration, economic
development, and non-western
leadership.

This reflects a paradigm shift where multilateralism
is no longer exclusively
western-centric but
more inclusive.

d) Challenge to the US-led international Order

Brics and SCO

Expansions signal a partial contestation of US unipolar dominance.

These institutions provide alternative financial

(Brics New Development Bank) security (SCO)

and diplomatic forums

enabling emerging powers to shape norms and rules.

However US-led structures still retain significant

influence particularly in

global finance technology and military alliances.

The challenge is

incremental reflecting a gradual shift toward multipolarity, rather than a sudden collapse of the existing order.

Assessment within the changing Global order

Debate

Supports realist predictions of power redistribution and multipolarity.

Suggest liberal insights

remain relevant as

cooperation through BRICS

and SCO reduces conflicts

and promotes trade.

Constructivist view underscores

the emergence of alternative

norms, non-interference, consensus-based decision-making and regional solutions. Overall the expansions of these blocks illustrates the transition from a unipolar to a more diverse multipolar international system reshaping global established western-led structures.

f Conclusion:

The expansion of BRICS and SCO reflects emerging multipolarity and the rise of new multilateralism challenging aspects of the US-led global order. While not displacing the existing system these institutions reshape power dynamics.

Offer alternative norms and enhance the influence of non-western states.

In today's changing global order understanding the interplay of old

US, new multilateralism is essential for analyzing both opportunities and constraints in international cooperation and global governance.

