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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.

b 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

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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 adapt strategies flexibly, combining diplomacy aid and military deterrence.

d Limitations of Containment

Prolonged proxy wars (Korea, Vietnam) with high costs in lives and resources.

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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

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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

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in trade, technology and finance constrains 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

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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.

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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.

C Risks 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
policy making.

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
macroeconomics structural
reforms may be politically
unpopular, delaying implementation

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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

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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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WRITE THROUGH THE LENS OF IPE 8/2

Q No. 4
Strategic
implications of the
Pakistan - Saudi Arabia
Defense Pact.

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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

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

Pakistan's Participation signals strategic ~~credibility~~ ^{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 alignment with Sunni majority bloc, positioning it as a pivotal actor in Middle East geopolitics.

5 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 OICF.

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regional security.
Requires **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-Saudi defense pact enhances Pakistan's strategic relevance in the Middle East and strengthens Saudi deterrence capabilities. It provides 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

BRICS 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.

Seco 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.

c Old vs. New

Multilateralism

i) **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.

c. Assessment within the Changing Global order Debate

Supports realist predictions of powers 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 blocs 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

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

In today's changing global
order understanding
the interplay of old
vs. new multilateralism
is essential for analyzing
both opportunities and
constraints in international
cooperation and global
governance.

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