

Part-II

Q(2)

1) Introduction

Amid all tensions between Iran and its proxies against Israel and the West, HTS, an Islamist rebellion group, toppled Bashar's government in Syria. The attacks were so swift and effective that within 9 days, the group managed to take Damascus from Bashar. There were many reasons (internal and external) behind this movement. And, it will have serious implications for Syria and the region.

2) Causes behind Bashar-ul-Assad's fall down

2.1) Internal causes

Following are the internal causes behind the downfall.

2.1.1) Lack of military allegiance

Assad's key military officers have lost trust on Assad. According to AL-Jazeera reports, the military had almost turned against Assad. This resulted in poor counter-measures against rebels.

2.1.2) Dependence on foreign military

Assad's regime in the post Syrian civil war mainly depended on foreign fighters. Fatimyan and Zainabun Brigades had more than 20,000 fighters defending Assad's regime. Furthermore, Hezbollah also assisted Assad during the civil war.

2.1.3) Economic crisis in Syria

Syria's economy was in shamble in the post civil war. Only in 2023, the inflation rose

upto 90% in one year in Syria. Employment opportunities were an alien concept for the citizens.

2.1.4) Assad's cruel dictatorship leading to masses' disengagement

Assad's dictatorship was a nightmare for the Syrians. During civil war, the Government killed almost 500,000 citizens

2.1.5) Lack of support due to Assad belonging to a minority sect

Assad belongs to the Alawite tribes of Syria which hardly makes 17 percent of the total population. The rest of population's majority chunk are Sunnis which do not support Assad.

2.1.6) Lack of intelligence and surveillance on rebel groups

The Syrian military were completely unaware of the rebellious movement in the Northern part of

Syria. This lack of intelligence cost the government its rulership

2.1.7) Extraordinary leadership of Tolani for bringing all rebellious groups at one platform

Al-Tolani showed his extraordinary leadership talent to bring together all factions of rebellions to counter Assad.

It was an unexpected move from him, which resulted in this big change.

2.1.8) Trained Central Asian fighters recruitment by HTS

HTS recruited trained fighters from Central Asia. According to Al-Jazeera reports, they assisted the local fighters with modern warfare techniques which squashed Syrian military.

2.2) External causes

Following are the main

external causes of Syrian ^{government's} downfall.
 2.2.1) Irani proxies involvement with Israel

With Gaza's Ham invasion by Israel, Irani proxies had announced Jihad against Israel. Fatimyyun, Zainabiyun and Hezbollah all were engaged with Israel. Due to this, the Syrian posts were kept free for the attacks of HTS.

2.2.2) Israel's pressure on Iran at its home: lack of support for Bashar

Israel's recurrent threat to Iran put Iran on the backfoot during all these conflicts. This resulted in lack of support to Assad, which eventually strengthened HTS like groups.

2.2.3) Lack of international acceptance of Syrian dictatorship

Assad's regime was on recurrent of the ^{black} list of Western

powers. They never accepted it as legitimate government.

2.2.4) Foreign support to rebellious groups

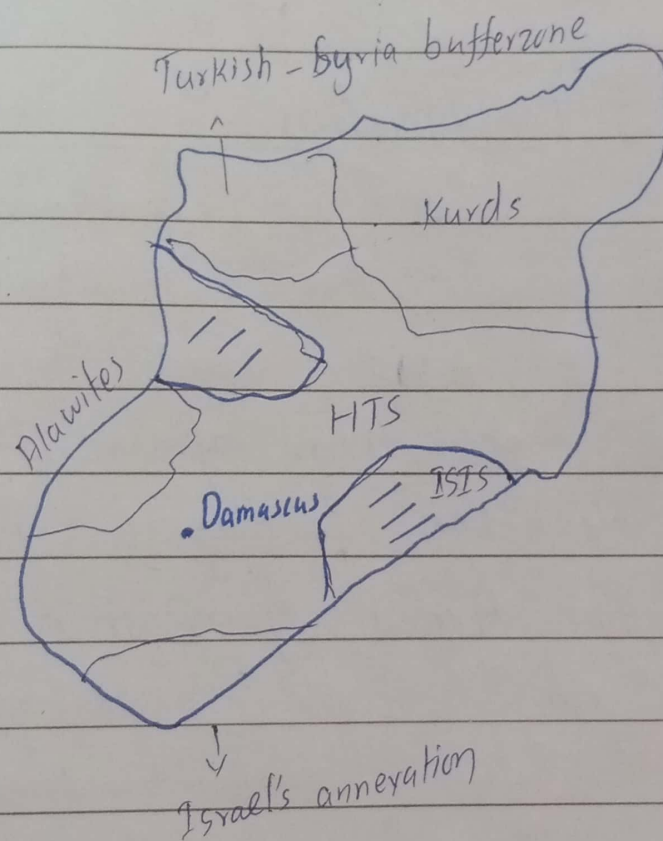
HITS and other rebellious groups had financial and military support from foreign powers. According to BBC reports, UKrainian soldiers trained HITS soldiers for night warfare techniques. Turkiyye and Sandia Arabia also supported these ^{group} regimes to mitigate Iranian influence from the region.

3) Implications of change in Syria for itself and the region

3.1) Implications for Syria

With combination of more than 50 rebellious groups against Bashar-ul-Assad, these groups will find hard times in

Formation of government. According to Mehdi Hassan (a senior journalist), another civil war is the most likely possible scenario in Syria. And, secondly, there is a high chance of Syria's disintegration into five small states.



With this partial or complete disintegration of Syria, it will have serious implications for the region.

3.2) Implications for Turkey

Fall of Assad and the rise of Turkey-supported groups are the best scenario for Turkey. However, with all of these have also empowered Kurdish forces in Syria. It will have serious implications for Turkey's internal security issues.

3.3) Implications for Israel.

Israel is another winner part in this situation. The fall of Assad choked the supply route of Axis of resistance to Hezbollah. Furthermore, Israel's Operation Arrow of Bashan also destroyed military strategic points in Syria which reduced the risks of any future Syrian attack on Israel.

3.4) Implications for Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is another major winner in this conflict. The

120
FALL OF ASSAD TAMED IRANIAN
influence in the region. However,
risks of rise of ISIS can
seriously threaten Saudi Kingdom.
Furthermore, establishment of
democratic government in Syria
will also be another
fireback to Saudi Arabia.

3.5) Implications for Iran

Iran is the major
loser in this conflict. It
lost ~~the~~ a major ally in
the region. Furthermore, its
disconnection with Hezbollah will
empower its major foe, Israel,
in the region.

4) Conclusion

Fall of Assad regime
was an unprecedented change in
the region. It will affect the
power of balance in the region
with the rise of new local power

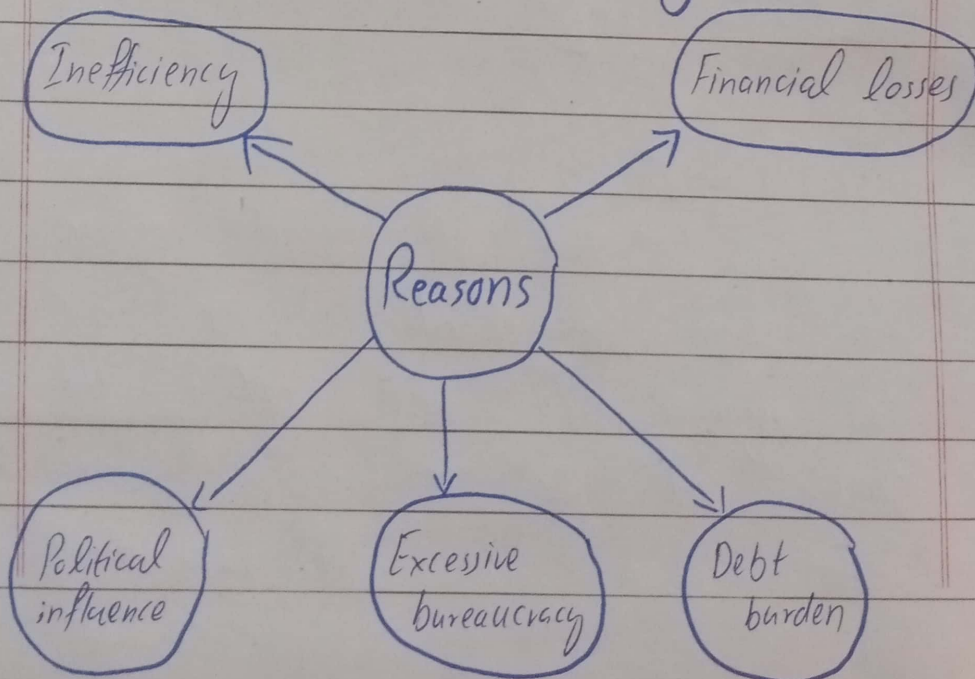
Q (3)

1) Introduction

SOEs have become a serious burden on Pakistan's economy. They are the most inefficient and financially in debt and excessively bureaucratic in nature.

In the current economic crisis, the government needs to privatize it strategically to support economy of the country.

2) Reasons for the burden of SOEs on the economy



2.1) Inefficient mismanagement

SOEs are those of the most inefficient institutions in Pakistan. Due to this people tend to prefer private institutions. Corruption and slow processing are two of their main functions.

2.2) Huge financial losses due to irrational practices

All of these SOEs have huge functional cost. Since they cannot produce goods or provide services comparative to markets, all of its functions cost them negatively. For instance, Pakistan Steel Mill can cost 1 billion rupees for its a week of its functioning.

2.3) Political influence costing SOEs losses

SOEs are under huge political influence all the time. Because, their chairmans or heads

are elected by political government. They then demand political recruitment of individuals to push the institution & towards inefficiency.

2.4) Excessive bureaucratic red-tapism

Bureaucratic red-tapism further exacerbates the functioning of these institutions. Due to which they become a burden on economy.

2.5) Debt-burden institutions due to inefficiency

These institutions mainly function on subsidies. Most of the times, they cannot even fulfill their basic needs. Therefore, government assistance and aid becomes necessary for its functioning.

3) Why should SOEs be privatized?

They should be privatized

for the following reasons.

3.1) Ensuring efficiency in public institutions

Private organizations never ask for clientelism or favours, they demand profit. And, for profit, an organization needs to provide services. Take for instance, the case of Serene Air and PIA, every Pakistani citizen would prefer the former over later ~~at~~ anytime.

3.2) Reducing the fiscal burden

According to Dawn reports, SOEs' losses ~~reached~~ nearly 6 trillion rupees in the first six months of 2024. If the government privatize these institutions, then they can cut the burden from fiscal volume.

3.3) Competition and environ: innovation rising in the country

Profits drive private organizations. And for gauranteeing

profits, these organizations start competition to maximize their profits. This leads to innovation in the country, aiding the economy.

3.4) Attracting investments - pouring foreign reserves

These private organizations promote innovation which attract foreign investment in the country. India's privatization journey in late 1990, is an imitable example. This can aid the foreign reserves of the country.

3.5) Prioritizing main governance functions by governments

These debt-ridden institutions have distressed successive government. Their influence have pressurized governments to amend their priorities. And privatization will help governments to focus on

governance.

4) How SOEs should be privatized?

The government can privatize these SOEs in the following ways

4.1) Gradual transfers by selling shares of the company gradually

Pakistan needs to turn these SOEs into public-private partnership projects as done by India. For this purpose, they can sell major chunk of the company's share to public or govt private firms. This gradual shift will create a balance for the company management team.

4.2) Transferring the administration to private organizations based on BOT model

Pakistan can use Build, Operate and Transform model

to transfer the administration to the private firms. They will develop an efficient mechanism which will later be used by the government.

4.3) Ensuring employee welfare

Pakistan is an Islamic welfare state. Privatization process should never be deemed a modern slavery practice. Pakistan needs to ensure welfare practices to guarantee employees' rights.

4.4) Regulatory oversight through transparent mechanism building

The government needs to build a regulatory body through regulate transparent mechanisms to keep a check on the private institutions. This will ensure safe environment for the public.

5) Conclusion