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Date: 20. Jan. 2025

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Subject: Current Affairs

Exam: Mocks (25)

Q8. Critically evaluate the reasons for the slowing down of the CPEC projects. What options would you recommend to Islamabad and Beijing to <sup>invi</sup>regerate?

Ans 8. Pakistan shares very strong diplomatic ties with China. Both the countries share a friendly bond, also because of their participation in many projects they are economically connected as well, strengthening their relation further.

### CPEC PROJECT:

China - Pakistan Economic Corridor, CPEC, is a flagship project of BRI. It was signed between the two neighbouring countries



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in 2013, with the purpose of strengthening trade, creating industries and connecting China to the world via Gwadar.

CPEC

Phase - I

- Creation of the route passing via Gwadar.
- Connecting China to regions of great importance in order to facilitate trade.
- Strengthen economic ties.

Phase - II

- Also called as the Industrialization phase.
- Setting up industries across provinces like Faisalabad, Boston and Raskhakai.
- Build two airports at Gwadar
- 56 fibre optics and nuclear submarines to strengthen naval security near Arabian sea.



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Recently, the project has slowed down due to:

1. **Political Instability in Pakistan:**

Since the elections in February 2024, the country has been at the cross-roads of political disagreements. This has greatly hampered the state of peace within the country and affected its image on a global level as well. Additionally, such instability affects the smooth working of the economy, indirectly, worsening it.

2. **Islamabad - Kabul tensions:**

The two neighbours have been at the forefront of war due to the issue of Durand line and Afghanistan's claim over NWFP, FATA and Balochistan. This has caused crossed border firing and influx of militants — putting the safety of all at risk.

3. **Balochistan Crisis:**

Prevalence of militant groups



like BLA and TTP in the province has caused alot of distress and unrest within it and in the country altogether. Lack of control implemented by the law and armed forces poses a lot of threat for many and remains a concern.

#### 4. Unrest in Iran:

Islamabad - Tehran shared a demarcation crisis with Afghanistan over the Balochistan province in Pakistan, and the Beluchistan province in Iran. Since the route of CPEC crosses Iran as well, the cross-border peace is necessary to reestablish the working of the projects with the same pace.

#### 5. Security Threats for Chinese:

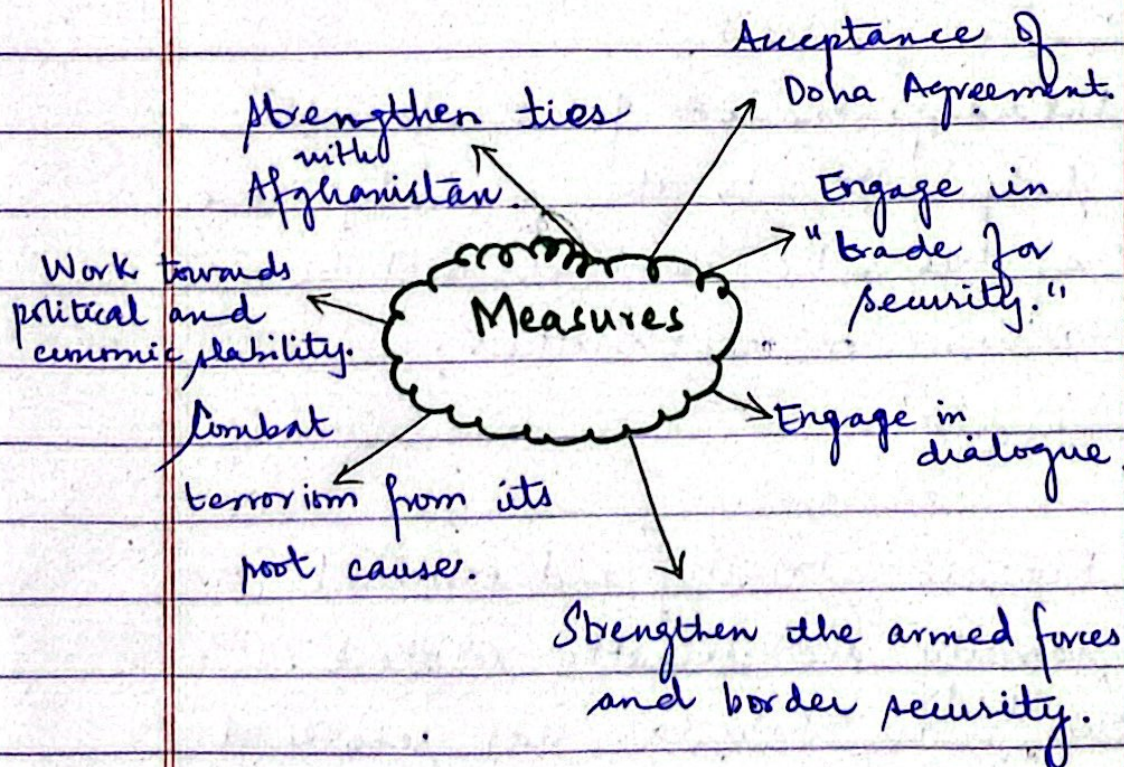
In October last year, the killings of two Chinese officials was reported near Karachi airport. China demanded strict security action. This



shows that the current scenario also poses potential threats to our neighbours.

All these, amongst others, are a few reasons behind the slowing down of the CPEC projects.

### MEASURES TO RE-INVIGORATE:



1.) Create diplomatic ties with Afghanistan.

Presently, the two neighbours are at a staggering path with frequent cross-fires. They must engage in dialogue and come down to a conclusion peacefully.



2.)

Acceptance of Doha Agreement by  
Kabul:

TTP should fulfill its end of the agreement and cease providing  
aid to militant groups like  
Al-Qaeda, Daesh, etc. Otherwise,  
Pakistan will continue to send back  
refugees and the problem worsens.

3.)

Engage in trade:

Interdependence for trade will  
help cater to the security issue  
as both the countries will be  
relying on one another.

4.)

Working towards economic stability  
in the country:

Economic stability and political  
stability are directly related.

This <sup>fiscal</sup> year, Pakistan has recorded  
a slight increase in exports and  
GDP, which has also reduced  
inflation levels by a small  
margin. Continuous efforts will  
help the state reach stability  
in various domains.



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5.) Strengthen border security :

Deployment of more armed forces will also add an strengthened layer of protection and hopefully, cater to the issue.

CPEC is of utmost importance for both the countries and the region. Hence, necessary steps must be taken to make it happen with ease and peace.

Q6. Islamabad - Kabul tension lingers on due to TTP using Afghan land as a launching pad for terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Critically evaluate and give possible recommendations.

Ans.

**ISLAMABAD - KABUL : A**

**DECADES OLD DISPUTE**

Pakistan and Afghanistan did not always remain on a bad note. On the contrary, the shared Pathan brotherhood was



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always a reason for friendly ties. This dates back to the time when Pakistan had not gained independence and was still a part of the Indian subcontinent.

### Historical Aspect of the Conflict:

Below is a brief timeline that is highlighting the onset of this crisis and its prevalence till date.

#### A brief timeline

1893

Durand line demarcated between Afghan Emir and Sir Durand - unanimously agreed upon by all.

1919 - the Rawalpindi Agreement.

The boundary lines were reaffirmed.

This was also

known as the

Anglo-Afghan Treaty.



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1940's

← Afghanistan refused to accept the boundary lines — demanded a redo, so that NWFP and Balochistan are a part of them instead.

→ 1947

Did not recognize Pakistan at its independence.

1950's-1960's

← Efforts for peaceful decision on the problem, but the crisis persisted

→ 1975

Pakistan Embassy at Kabul, destroyed.

Fall of Soviet

← Union — 1979-1990

Pakistan gave aid to train Afghan Mujahideen — influx of refugees.



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GWOT —  
2001-2021

Global War on terror  
- Pak provided soil  
to US militant groups.  
Worsened relations  
with Afghanistan

9/11, 2001

Twin tower attack  
- became the onset  
of US-Afghan War.

2001 - till date

Influx of militants  
in the country. The  
last three decades  
has faced consistent  
terrorism, with 2024  
marked as the year  
of most violence yet.

- \* A Critical Analysis of the situation:
- A close overlook of the issues shows that disagreements on the end of Afghanistan, over the border, initially birthed the conflict.
- Over the years, both the countries exchanged fire and military.

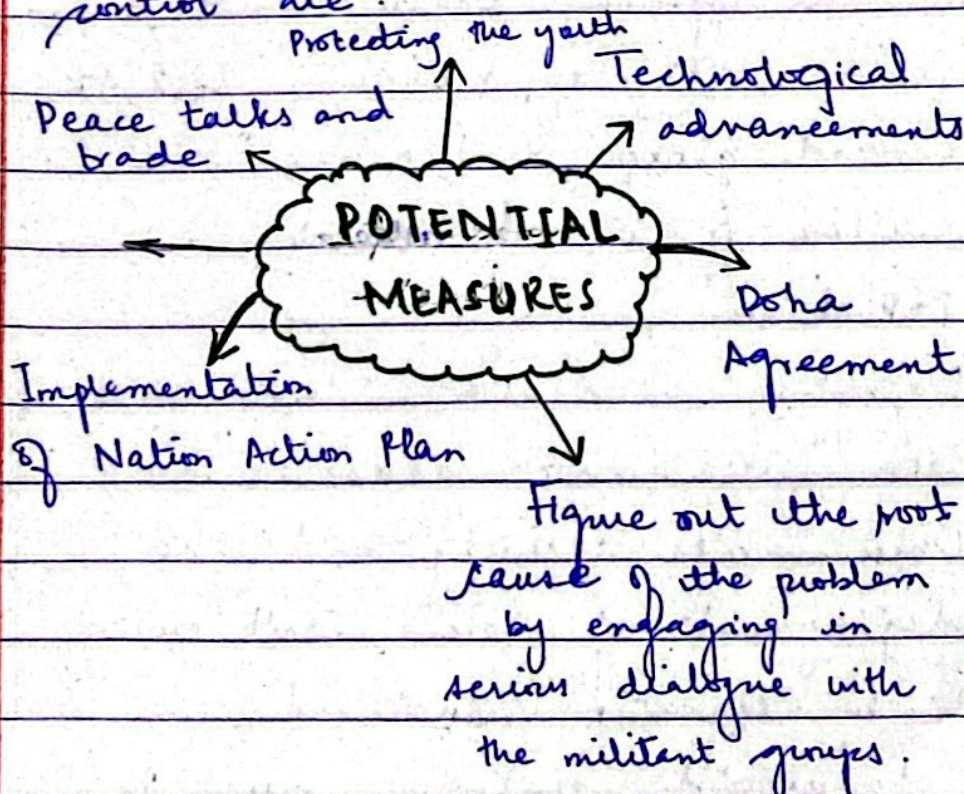


attacks.

- Pakistan gave roof to Afghan refugees which stabilized relations for a while.
- The partition of Pakistan in GWOT, although, is what fuelled the fire and worsened ties.
- Till date, the ties remain hostile and the state struggles with security issues.

### SOME POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Some possible steps that can be taken to bring the situation under control are:





1.) Technological Advancements :  
Groups like TTP, Al-Qaeda, etc, claimed to have an IT wing, which helps them analyze the best routes and ways to carry out their operations. They also use their cyber wing to hack into systems and acquire data. We need to bring some tech-savvy structural reforms to meet them on their level.

2.) Doha Agreement :  
Reinforcement of Doha Agreement on the opposing party's end so that they stop providing aid to terrorist groups and cease the influx of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

3.) Engaging in dialogue to cater to the issue's root cause :  
Only border security and the deployment of forces isn't going to be effective. Instead, a detailed dialogue must be



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carried out to hear their side of grievances and then decide upon a solution.

4.) Protecting youth bulge:

60% of our population is youth. It can be a new target for the militant groups to brainwash them and use them to carry out fire and even cross-border smuggling. Hence, the use should be kept aware and safe at all costs.

5.) Implementation of National Action Plan, 2014:

NAP, 2014, was initiated after the APS attack in Peshawar, and it helped combat terrorism on a visible level. With the help of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), newer and better security measures must be taken into action to get the security matters under control.



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Collectively, these steps will create space for a cease in the cross-fires and militant attacks. It will also halt the ongoing tensions between the two neighbours and bring regional peace and security.

Q4. Russia and China growing collaboration is an effort to potentially challenge the US-led world order.

Discuss.

#### A. • RUSSIA - CHINA ECONOMIC, STRATEGIC AND GEO-POLITICAL COLLABORATION

In the modern world, the concept of globalization is gaining more and more attention. It is the interdependence of the countries, for personal gains, on each other. In this race, world powers like Russia, Japan, United States,



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United Kingdom and China seem to be leading. There is always a fight for world power, and USA and China have been at the forefront of this competition.

Presently, China is the leading economy in the world.

From renewable energy, to AI use, to electric vehicles and even export surplus, China has established a booming market.

On the contrary, USA has been at the forefront of the world-order and powerful.

organizations like IMF, yet China's competence has seemed to weaken its hegemony on a global.

This, China collaborated with world powers like Russia to further strengthen ties and create their own monopoly and possibly challenge the US-led world order.



### 1) Geo - Political Collaboration:

→ China has an ongoing project by the name of BRI - Belt and Road Initiative. It is an initiative taken to connect Beijing with Asia, Central Asia, ASEAN countries and Eurasia region. In the event of this, Russia joined in connecting Beijing to Eurasian region, and the collaboration is called BRI-GEP.

### 2) Economic Collaboration:

→ Russia has the world's largest exports of oil and gas, and other mineral reserves.

→ China is one of the leading world's exporters.

Both the countries exchange trade frequently and have strong economic ties with each other.

### 3) Strategic Collaboration:

BRI - GEP is also a potential competitor to US - China's.

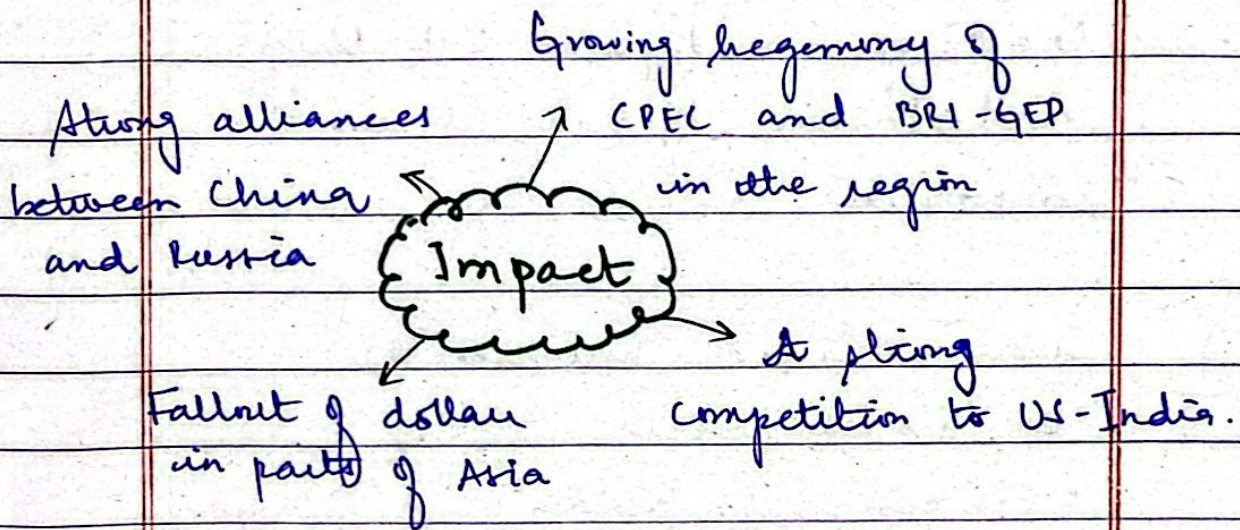


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IMEEC and other potential projects and strong diplomatic ties.

## IMPACT OF RUSSIA - CHINA COLLABORATION



- a.) Growing hegemony in the region:  
A growing presence of the CPEC and BRI-GEP projects and the combined work on it can lead to a strong influence of the two states in the areas / regions that are a part of the projects.  
This poses a threat to the United States and their influence.



- b.) Strong competition to US-India :  
Russia - China pose a strong competition to USA - India and their partnership. This is because India is not a leading world power but China and Russia, giving them the competitive advantage.
- c.) Strong alliances between the two world powers :  
Engaging in trade and economic ties, further strengthened their bonds. It also created a robust alliance between the two countries.
- d.) Fallout of dollar in the region:  
Presence of Russia may shift the dependancy of countries like Pakistan on Russia, for oil, gas and other reserves, instead of USA. The payment will also be shifted



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from dollars, making it cheaper and easier to buy. It will also cause economic losses to the United States.

Hence, this strategic, economic and geopolitical partnership has a lot of significance and can potentially challenge the US-led world order.

Q2. The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled over Assad regime in Syria. Evaluate the reasons and implications of this change in Syria.

Ans.

**SYRIA :**

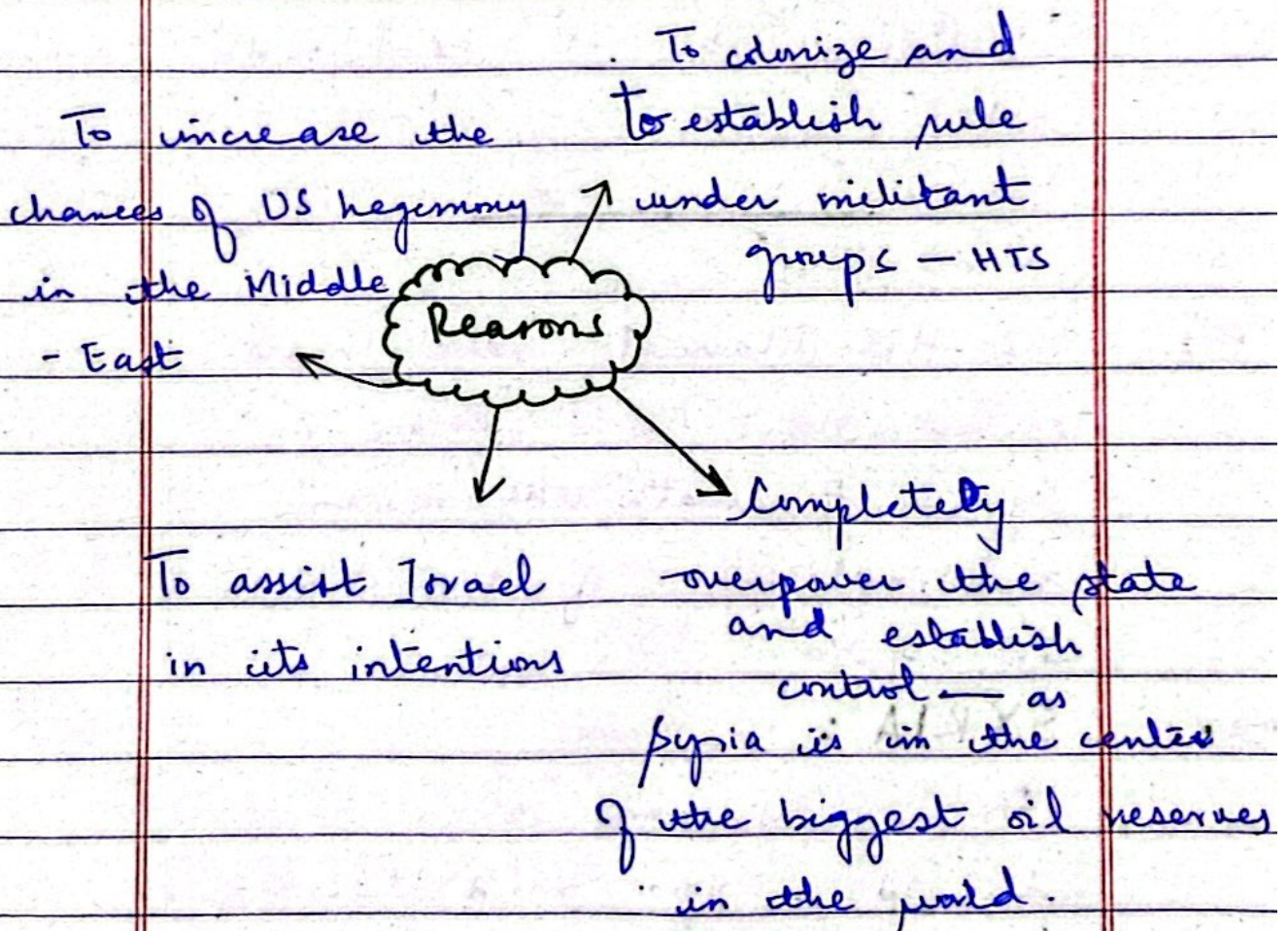
For nearly more than a decade, the middle-Eastern country Syria had been a warzone. The country had indulged into a full-scale civil war,



putting its peace and national security at unrest.

Recently, the militant group HTS and its rebels had entered into Syria and toppled the Assad regime sustaining in the country.

REASONS.:

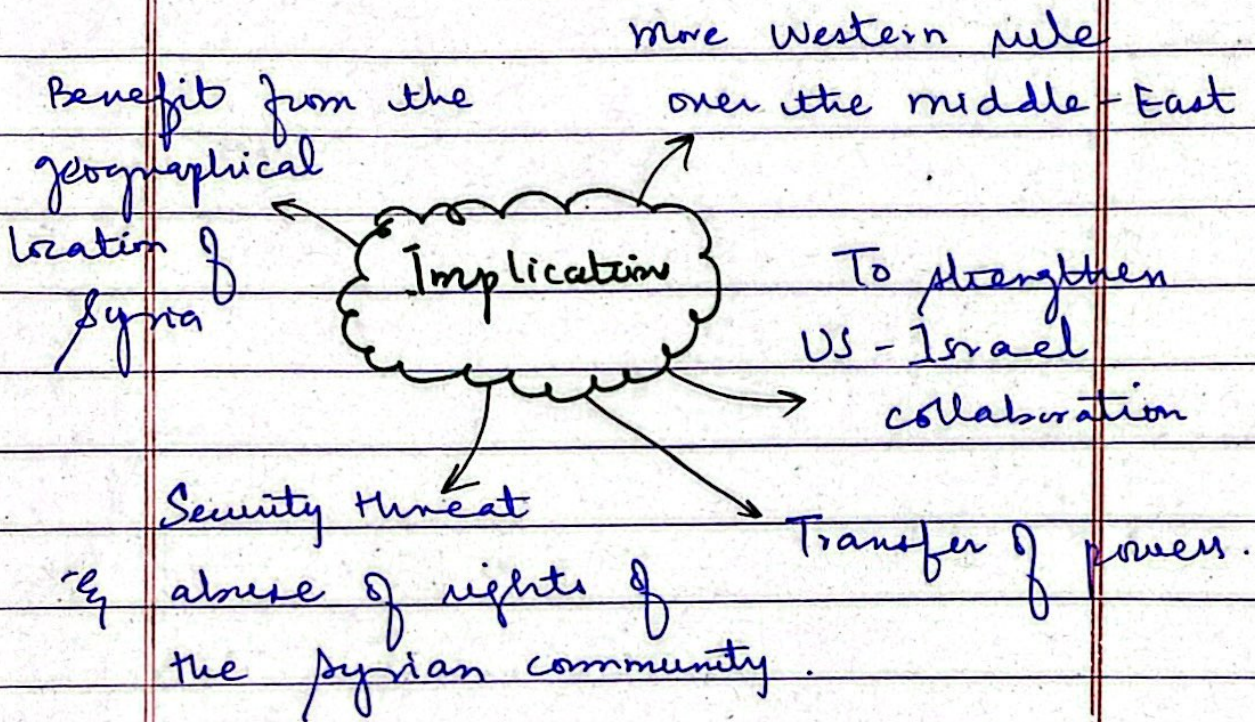


These are some of the reasons behind the prevalence of those militant groups in



in the country of Syria.

**IMPLICATIONS:**



These are some of the implications of this unprecedented change in Syria.