

Current Affairs

Q.No.2

The fall of Assad regime

Introduction:

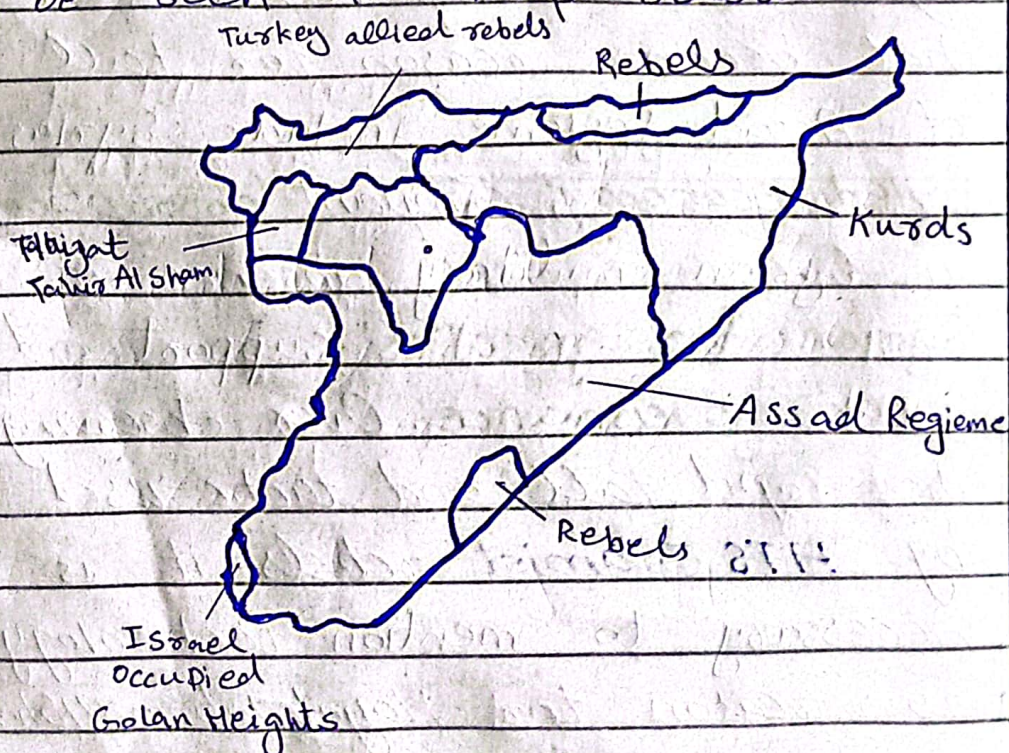
The Bashar Al-Assad regime which he inherited from his father was toppled down by rebels with help of 'International Actors' on 8 December 2024. Despite the fact that due to 'Arab Spring' most of Syria was liberated from Assad control and some remain liberated even after Russian Intervention considered Assad rule in Syria legitimate. Most important factors that became reason for fall of Assad Regime include 'Syria's failed economy', rampant 'corruption' in Syrian military, absence of 'Syrian foreign allies' support and weak 'governance'. Over observing the rapid fall and tactic used by HTS Islamist rebels, it is necessary to mention 'technology' as reason for Mayat Tahhio UllSham.

victory. Implications for this 'unprecedented' change in Syria would mainly affect middle east.

Reason for the unprecedented change in Syria:

The resistance against Assad regime by several groups in Syria is not unprecedented.

During Arab Spring, Assad's regime faced a strong resistance and even lost 'most' of territory which were still not under the Assad's regime as it can be seen in map below.



Assad's regime was surrounded by rebels from four sides. Also, neighbouring countries of Assad regime were not in good relation with Syria.

Failed Economy of State:

One of the reasons for Assad regime failure was Syrian economy. Since the Arab Spring, Syria was facing economy crisis. According to 'WHO' families in Syria did not have enough money to buy two times food.

Rampant corruption in Military:

Syrian Military was corrupted. Some high ranking officials were controlling the money. This was the reason that after Arab Spring many Syrian military soldiers started to join the rebel groups.

Absence foreign Allies:

Assad regime only

sustained the Arab Spring due to its foreign allies. But due to global trend of 2024, many allies stopped to help Assad.

Russian refusal to Assad:

Due to Russia being involved in ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict from 2022 was unable to give support to Assad. The importance of Russian help can be understood by observing that during Arab Spring Russia sent fleet that launched missiles over rebel groups. But in 2024 they were unavailable.

No help from Iran:

Assad regime's unprecedented fall can also be explained by Iran refusal to help. Iran being busy in Israel Palestine conflict was unable to provide any support.

No support from Hezbollah:

Hezbollah has significantly provided 'man powers' to Assad regime in many events. But due to Israel involvement in Lebanon, Hezbollah was unavailable.

Turkey role in Syrian War:

In the end of 2010's Syrian army killed some of Turkey military persons in strike against rebels. From then on Turkey has supported rebels against Assad regime. This further strengthened rebel groups especially 'HTS'.

Technological Imbalance:

Technological imbalance in military equipment has given edge to HTS Islamist rebel group. Use of 'Night Vision' equipment and proper use of 'drones' has caused much damage to Syrian troops.

Non Tangible Factors:

Non Tangible factors like high morale have also played significant role. Syrian military morale was weak, whereas HTS Islamist rebels morale was high.

Implication of unprecedented regime change:

This unprecedented regime change in Syria would result in Human Rights protection in Syria, stronger US hold in middle east.

Human Rights Protection in Syria:

Assad regime was very brutal on Syrian citizens. The regime change would through some extent protect the human right of people in Syria.

US stronger hold in middle east:

With the fall of Assad's regime Russian influence over middle east ~~is~~ through much extent, is diminished. US support with Turkey support and US troops presence in Syria has given strong hand in middle East

Israel much influence in middle east:

Since Assad regime was supported by Iran and Iran proxy Hezbollah, with its fall Israel has also got an edge and more protection in Golan Heights!

Conclusion:

In order to conclude, Bashar Assad's regime fall shows the role of alliance and technological development in warfare. Moreover, new regime

and HTS rebels peace with Israel and Turkey have strengthened US in middle east.

Q. NO. 3

State Owned Enterprises

Introduction:

Indeed state owned enterprises are a huge burden on National treasury of Pakistan. Rampant corruption and government's inability to 'govern' them has made them burden on state economy. They should be privatized for instant 'revenue' generation as well as to reduce tax of those enterprises too.

Reasons for privatization of SOEs:

Most important reason for privatization of SOEs

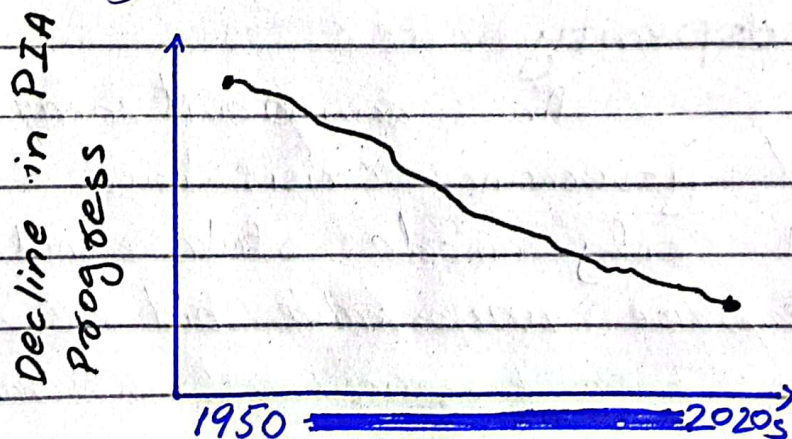
include revenue generation, to lighten the burden over economy, to establish investment friendly environment.

Revenue Generation:

Privatization of State Owned Banks, Steel Mills, and Transportation groups would generate revenue. This revenue can be used by state for more important issues.

To lighten the burden over Economy:

Due to absence of well trained staff some of the profit generating SOEs have become a burden over economy of Pakistan.

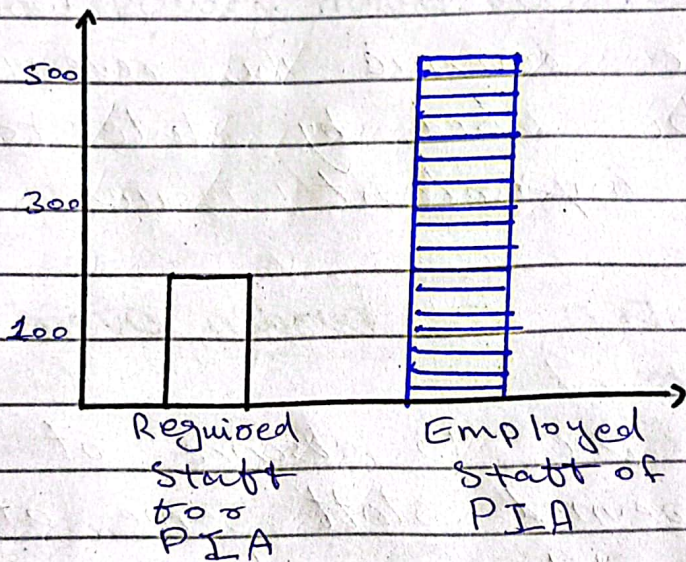


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The losses of SOEs are not only affecting the economy but these staff also affecting the economy. The salaries of staff is also a burden. Moreover due to corruption staff employed is much more in numbers than required.

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SOEs should be privatized for public and their own prosperity.

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The rampant corruption and governance crisis have not only made state owned enterprise unworkable but also they have become unworkable.

to provide public any good. Their privatization would make them workable and provide to public. For example, banks of Pakistan nationalized during Bhutto era; after privatization have started to serve people in good way.

Privatization would ensure more investment:

Privatization would create investment environment. Investors trust would be rehabilitated.

The process for privatization:

The process of state owned enterprises privatization should include proper management and must include foreign Pakistani investors. They should be privatized for longer period of time. The privatization process should include three phases discussed below.

Phase I of privatization process

In Phase I of privatization, state should sell completely those SOEs that are entirely burden on economy.

Phase II of privatization process:

In The phase II of privatization process those SOEs that are working but not generating desired revenue should be privatized for longer period of time.

Phase III of privatization process:

Phase III of privatization process include those SOEs that are working timely but can work better. For those SOEs short time privatization would be better.

Conclusion:

Hence, it is proven that privatization of SOEs would be beneficial to

not only economy but also to investor culture and SOEs too steps given for SOEs privatization are time consuming but desired results are achievable.

Q.No.8

CPEC - Projects

Introduction:

CPEC phase I has been completed and phase II has started. CPEC is very crucial for Pakistan as well as for China too. Yet, due to 'Governance Crisis', 'Political Instability' and 'Security concerns' CPEC project is slowing down.

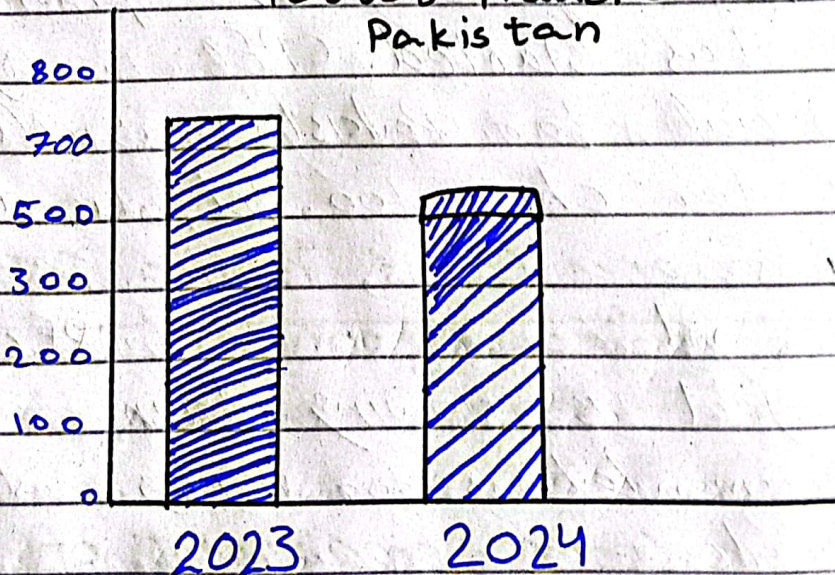
Recommendations for Beijing must include 'more employment of Pakistani engineers, workers and staff members' and to Pakistan is to secure the project.

Reasons for slowing down of CPEC projects: -

Security Concerns:

Security concerns are one of the major reasons for slowing down of CPEC projects. US withdrawal of Afghanistan and 'Taliban' resurgence in Afghanistan has strengthened TTP in Pakistan. Terrorism in Pakistan is also surging.

Terror Attacks in Pakistan



According to report by Pakistan research and security studies institute in

Islamabad, Pakistan faced
789 terror attacks in 2023
and more than **500** attacks
in 2024.

Such terror attacks
make Chinese life in danger.
This is one of the main
reason for slowing down
of CPEC projects in
Pakistan.

Governance Crisis:

Governance
crisis especially in Balochistan
has led to creation of
liberation militant groups like
'Baloch Liberation Army'.
BLA's Majeed Brigade has
accepted its role in
suicide bombings killing Chinese
citizens thus further increasing
tensions between Beijing
and Islamabad.

Political Instability:

Political Instability

and topple down of governments before their duration result in trust issues among states. This kind of political instability also creates emergency situation in country which hinders the development projects.

Red tapism:

Red tapism and corruption is also playing its role in hindering the success of CPEC projects.

Recommendations to Islamabad and Beijing:

Employment of Pakistani workers

More employment of Pakistan workers would undermine the security concerns of Pakistan workers would be on frontline.

Capacity building of Pakistani engineers by Chinese govt:

Capacity building of Pakistan engineers and training by Chinese would make less involvement of Chinese staff workers. Thus their security concern would be resolved as they ^{would be} less active in field.

Providing better security:

By providing better security and dealing terrorist organization with iron hand would also ease tension related to security of Chinese nationals. Thus, CPEC would run more smoothly.