

Q1. Pakistan's Foreign Policy.

History:

Pakistan's foreign policy and relations have been impacted by various factors throughout its history. After Independence, Pakistan went into the U.S led block during the Cold war era, in order to counter India's growing regional influence due to Soviet support and to contain advancing Communist threat from nearby Central Asia. Throughout the time period Pakistan and U.S.A enjoyed a series of economic ties and foreign aid for Pakistan.

Geopolitics:

Currently, the economy of Pakistan is facing several hurdles and the economic growth rate has not made any significant progress as compared to the past. These challenges include

increasing tensions with India, few separatist and terrorist organizations and extremism. Pakistan has always emphasized on regional peace and in past, has even been part of War on Terror. Pakistan has always advocated for peace in Afghanistan, because peace in regional neighbours is crucial for peace in one's own country and Afghanistan's rugged terrain is a bridge between Central Asian states and Pakistan. Pakistan has numerous natural terrain and resources that plays an important role in its economic growth and regional cooperation, such as the interest of China in Gwadar.

Objectives:

- Pakistan aims to boost its economic growth through good relations and positive diplomacy

not just with regional but global Powers. Such as good relations with China to promote technological and infrastructural development in Pakistan, and similarly with Russia for energy cooperation. In past, Pakistan has ~~do~~ had good ties with U.S for various ventures in defense and economy.

- — Pakistan's Foreign Policy and relations with neighbouring countries and regional powers have been designed to navigate between economic growth and regional security. Pakistan's emphasis on a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, is an evidence that how Pakistan wish to join hands with its neighbours to promote trade and investment in and also maintain peace in the region.

• - Pakistan signed Lahore declaration with India in 1999 to discourage the use of nuclear weapons and ensure regional stability while also maintaining a balance of Power by acquiring nuclear power to ensure deterrence and encouraging diplomatic ties for the solution to Kashmir's Issue. This proves that Pakistan can also maintain peace while keeping the balance of power in check.

Domestic Influence:

Pakistan has a considerable number of Pashtoon population that have emotional attachment with Afghanistan. Hence, Pakistan has always ~~influence~~ ensured good relations with Afghanistan and advocated for a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has always had good relations with Gulf states on the name of Muslim brotherhood and these countries have also invested in Pakistan.

Relations with India have always been strained due to public sentiments for Kashmir and other minorities of India that are being persecuted by extremist Hindu fraction in India.

External Influence:

Pakistan has always been very obvious about any external influence. Recently, U.S officials criticized Pakistan ballistic missile program, which was strongly condemned by ISPR and Ministry of foreign affairs, giving a clear message that Pakistan would never compromise on its sovereignty and dignity.

Challenges:

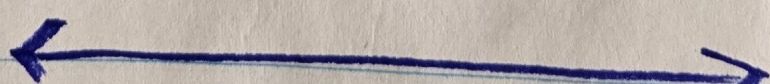
- - Pakistan has always emphasized over diplomatic solutions to problems like Afghanistan, Kashmir issue and Iran-Pakistan Gas pipeline. But offensive treatments from Afghanistan and India has always been a major hurdle in peace process.
- - Pakistan has always voiced for the rights of Palestinians and faced aggression from Israel and its allies. Although, Pakistan has been a major U.S ally since the start, which
- - Terrorism and extremism in the region heavily influence the economic growth of Pakistan. To curb these issues, Pakistan joined War on Terror, launched Zarb-e-Azb and various other operations to counter cross-border and local terrorist activities.

These, sometimes, led to strained relations with Afghanistan and Iran but successful diplomatic relations have paved path for fruitful relations and restoration of diplomatic ties. In March 2024, Ibrahim Raesei (Late), former Iranian President also visited Pakistan after border skirmishes.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy is centered around its good relations with neighbours and regional powers and regional security, peace and stability by increasing cooperation.

Pakistan has always advocated for peace in Middle East and Afghanistan because peace in Pakistan is directly dependent on it and also to boost economic cooperation and maintain balance of power.



Q2:

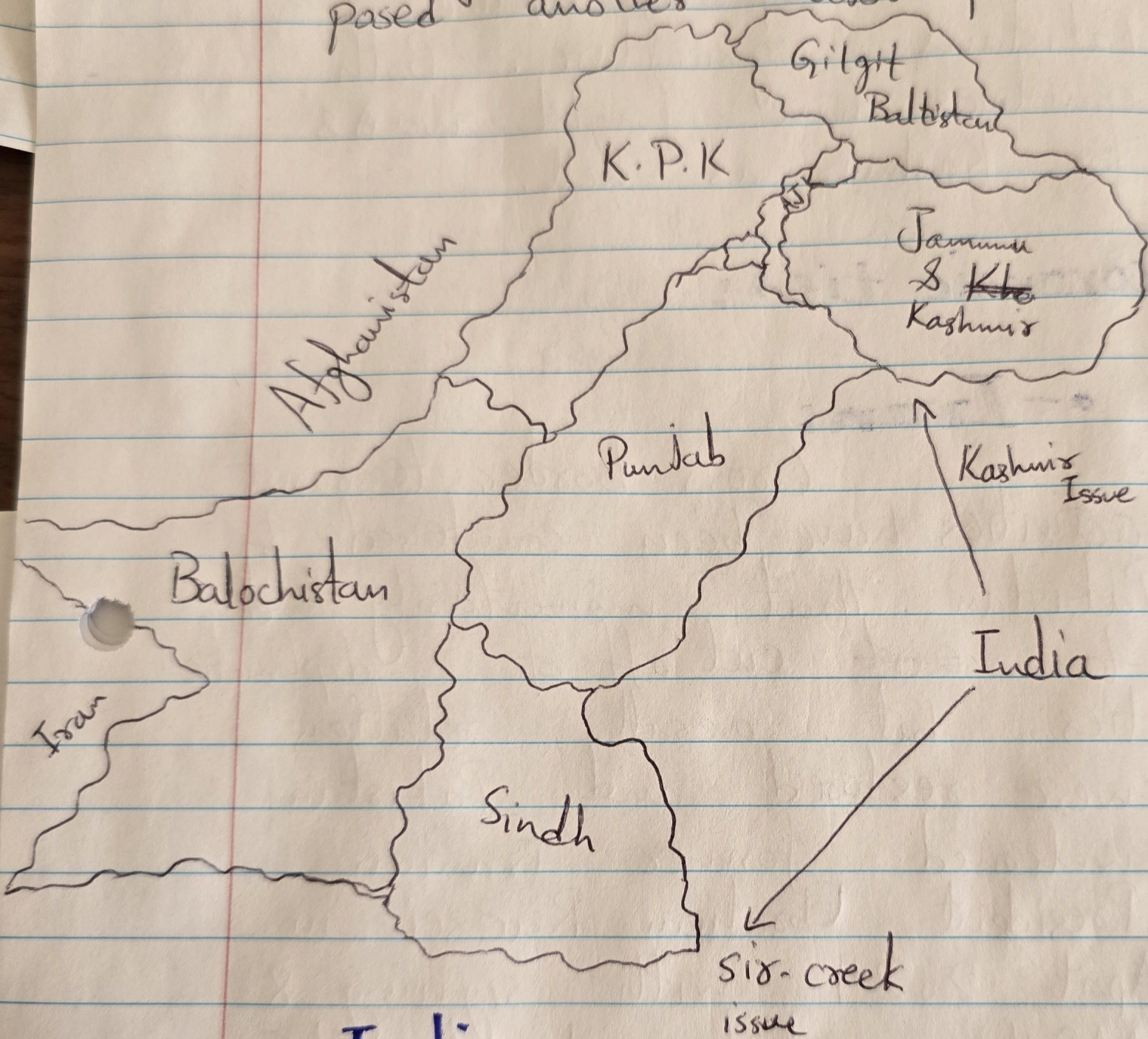
History:

-- Iran: After Iranian Revolution of 1979, Iran has been centering Saudi proxies all around the world. Pakistan was also used as a battleground leading to terrorism and communal violence. BLA has also been reported to operate from Sistan in Iran, into Pakistan with India's backing.

-- Afghanistan:

Since the creation of Pakistan, both countries had strained relations over the issue of Durand line which is not recognized by Afghanistan. Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and war on Terror also lead to ~~cross-border~~ cross-border terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Heavy influx of refugees also posed another major problem.



•- India :

India has always been a major threat to regional peace and sovereignty of Pakistan. India has backed separatist movements and terrorist factions in Pakistan. India has also built dams on Eastern and some western

consequences
divers to stop ~~the~~ lifeline of
Pakistan's agriculture. Both
countries have fought wars
for Kashmir as well.

Economic ties:

• - Iran:

Cross border terrorist activities have been countered by Pakistan that momentarily led to ~~cut~~ cut off of diplomatic ties but overall, relations were restored and Pakistan welcomed former Iranian President Ebrahim Raesei in April 2024 with signing 8 MOUs including trade. U.S has put sanctions over Iran for a long time and Pakistan had limited trade with Iran but currently trade volume as reported by The News in December 2024 was \$ 2 billion.

•- Afghanistan :

Pakistan been a major exporter to Afghanistan for agricultural produce and both countries have significant economic ties. Dried fruits and grapes are important imports from Afghanistan to Pakistan. China has invited new Afghan Government to join CPEC, which could help Afghanistan access Sea trade through Pakistan.

•- India :

Due to strained relations over India's support for BLA and Kashmir Issue, the trade has been a secondary importance for Pakistan but still both countries have a significant trade volume.

Although both had little economic cooperation until recently when India as part of SCO sat on

table with Pakistan.

Geopolitics:

Under BRI, the increasing regional cooperation has made all countries to prioritize their economic growth and put aside differences. Afghanistan as a bridge between Central Asia and Pakistan, Iran's vast oil reserves and India's strategic maritime position can be used by Pakistan.

But Afghanistan's remote rugged terrain has been a haven for terrorists like TTP and similarly Balochistan Liberation Army in Sistan Province of Iran. These put a challenge for Pakistan to maintain peace and good relations with neighbouring countries.

India has also used this landscape to its advantage and supported TTP and BLA, Khabushan Yadev is its proof.

Conclusion:

The efforts of Pakistan to maintain peace in region and make good relations with neighbours has been impacted by factors like border disputes and terrorism.

- Pakistan has strained its relations with India due to its support for BLA, TTP and other terrorist organizations. Kashmir is another part of the same story.
- Afghanistan has always faced pressure from Pakistan for providing safe haven to TTP and its claim regarding Durand line.

● Iran has been a good partner of Pakistan due to its seriousness to maintain peace and stability in the region. Iran has always cooperated with Pakistan over any such issue.

