

~ (Question No. 1) ~

1. Introduction:

Pakistan's foreign policy is a complex interplay of multiple factors, each influencing the other in a dynamic and often challenging manner. Given its strategic geographic position, Pakistan's foreign policy must navigate a diverse set of challenges, from managing relations to searing economic partnerships with global powers.

"Pakistan's foreign policy has been driven by the need to safeguard its sovereignty while simultaneously pursuing economic initiatives like CPEC to bolster economic stability." [ISSI - 2021]

2. Economic Growth and Foreign Policy: Striving to navigate the complex balance

1) Promoting regional trade and economic connectivity:

Pakistan has long focused on strengthening economic ties with neighboring countries especially China as it is an emerging world power. Pakistan seeks to leverage its geographical location and strategic partnership to expand regional trade to maintain its foreign policy.

2) Fostering strategic economic partnerships with major powers of the world:

Pakistan's economic diplomacy includes engaging with

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international organizations such as the IMF and IWB. The foreign policy aims to balance trade with major economic powers like China, the United States, Russia, and the European Union. It's aim is to diversify its foreign policy as well as its economy.

3) Addressing domestic economic challenges through foreign relations:

Pakistan has maintained the relations with the countries which are economically stable like Middle Eastern countries and Gulf countries. Diplomatic relations help Pakistan to address domestic economic challenges. This can also in shape of diaspora.

4) Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment:

Pakistan has maintained its foreign policy by promoting foreign Direct Investment. FDI can boost the economy of the country.

3. Security Concerns: Defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity:

a) Counterterrorism and regional stability to address internal and external security challenges:

Terrorism and extremism continue to pose significant challenges for Pakistan. Pakistan ^{has} been actively involved in counterterrorism efforts, both domestically and through its international collaborations. Foreign policy can only be strong if there is

no security concern for the country.

b) Afghanistan: security and strategic challenges:

Relations with Afghanistan are central to Pakistan's security concerns, especially regarding cross-border militancy and Afghanistan's stability. Pakistan wants to secure its borders to facilitate foreign relations with neighboring countries.

c) Militant groups and proxy conflicts - managing external and internal threats:

The rise of militancy and proxy conflicts have been critical matters for Pakistan which have complicated the country's foreign policy. Managing

These groups and controlling their impact on security is a key priority for Pakistan's foreign policy.

d) Security challenges in relations with Iran: Border tensions and militancy:

Pakistan's security concerns are also influenced by its relationship with Iran, particularly along the Pakistani-Iranian border. Pakistan has worked closely ^{with Iran} to address security issues through security cooperation in order to save its national interests.

f) Efforts to manage relations with India - territorial disputes and military tensions:

The ongoing conflict over Kashmir remains a central issue in Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan has always tried its best efforts to maintain diplomatic relations with India to keep itself safe from Eastern border. Recently, India's foreign minister's Jaishankar arrival at SCO meeting is a clear gesture of Pakistan's efforts to consolidate its diplomatic relations with India.

4. Regional influence: Strengthening Pakistan's role in South Asia and beyond

a) Strengthening partnership in South Asia - Leveraging relations with neighbouring countries:

It has been an aim of foreign

policy of Pakistan to maintain its relations with neighbor states and rest of the world.

"Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and good will towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive design against any country or nation."

[Quaid-e-Azam]

b) Pakistan's relationship with China, Russia, and US amplifying strategic alliances and diplomacy;

Pakistan's foreign policy emphasizes balancing its long-standing alliances with China, particularly through CPEC, while also maintaining diplomatic relations with USA and Russia.

c) Pakistan's role in regional organizations - strengthening multilateral diplomacy:

Pakistan's active participation in regional multilateral organizations like SAARC, ASEAN, Regional Forum, and SCO, seeking to increase its influence and play a larger role in regional economic and security issues.

d) Pakistan's engagement in the Middle East: Shaping regional alliances:

The Middle East is a region of growing importance for Pakistan, with a focus on maintaining strong ties with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Turkey, and other Middle Eastern countries. Diplomatic efforts are directed at securing energy resources and

and forging stronger economic and security cooperation.

5. Conclusion:

To conclude, Pakistan's foreign policy must carefully navigate the complex interplay between economic growth, national security, and regional influence. By adapting ^{to} regional and global shifts, Pakistan aims to secure its future through strategic alliances, economic development and a robust defense posture.

"Pakistan foreign policy must remain flexible and adaptive, navigating a complex environment of security challenges and economic opportunities in a rapidly changing world."

[Sartaj Aziz]

~ Question No. 2 ~

1. Introduction:

Pakistan's regional security approach, especially in managing terrorism and unresolved border disputes, significantly impacts its relations with neighboring countries - India, Afghanistan and Iran. These challenges have often driven the geopolitical landscape of South Asia and the broader region. Pakistan's policies towards these issues have shaped its diplomatic, economic, and security engagement with its neighbors, sometimes leading to cooperation but frequently resulting in tensions and conflict.

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2. Impacts of Pakistan's approach to regional security challenges on neighboring countries

(i) Terrorism-related tensions

(a) Counter-terrorism efforts:

Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts have been a major point of contention with neighboring countries especially Afghanistan and Iran.

(b) Concern over cross-border terrorism:

While Pakistan has made significant progress in combating terrorism, its relations with India, Afghanistan, and Iran have been strained due to concerns over cross-border terrorism. Recently, skirmishes between Afghanistan

and Pakistan has impacted their diplomatic relation. It is Pakistan's security concern strategy to save the country from terrorism and militancy.

(c) Afghanistan's concern related to Pakistan's approach to regional security challenges:

The recent revival of militancy in Pakistan by Taliban government has put the country into risk. Pakistan's approach to combat terrorism and militancy within country and across the border has strained the relations of both countries. Afghanistan's government has also expressed its concerns over Pakistan's role in supporting terrorist groups.

ii. Border disputes and regional tensions:

a) The long-standing Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India:

The Kashmir dispute with India remains unresolved, and tensions between the two countries remain high. Pakistan has sought to engage with India through diplomatic channels, but progress has been slow due to ongoing tensions and disputes.

b) Durand line dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan:

Pakistan's border dispute with Afghanistan over the Durand line has also been a source of tension. Their relation has been strained

due to Taliban's refusal to take action against TTP, a militant group operating from Afghan soil. In response, Pak has adopted a pressure campaign, which includes diplomatic leverage, economic constraints, and military actions.

c) border disputes with Iran

Pakistan's border dispute with Iran has also been a source of tension particularly in the Balochistan region. Iran has launched cross-border strikes into Pakistan's Balochistan province, targeting militant groups. In response, Pakistan retaliated. This has strained their relations.

iii) International isolation:

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Pakistan's reputation has been affected very badly on the international level due to its alleged role in promoting cross-border terrorism, leading to strained & relation with global powers.

3. Conclusion:

To sum up, Pakistan regional security challenges including terrorism and border disputes have strained and impacted negatively relations with India, Afghanistan, and Iran. These issues have led to tensions and conflicts within the country.