

Q/N01

How does Pakistan's foreign policy navigate the complex balance between economic growth, security concerns and regional influence?

Foreign Policy: Concept

Foreign policy is how a country manage its relations with other nations in political, economic, security and geostrategic dynamics. It includes diplomatic efforts, strategic alliances and dealing with complex and complicated situations with other nations. It is affected by history, security challenges and economic dependency.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Pakistan's foreign policy is complex and vague that lacks clarity. It navigates the complex balance between economic growth, security concerns and regional influence through diplomatic efforts prioritizing the national interest. Pakistan embrace peace, cooperation and global integration while protecting national sovereignty.

Economic Growth

(i) Pakistan-China all-weather friendship

Pakistan-China collaboration provides significant opportunities in the economic domain. ~~for~~ Through China's ~~PEI~~ CPEC Pakistan has established infrastructure and job opportunities. This strategic partnership has derived economy of Pakistan. However, it is facing security challenges. Frequent terrorists attack on Chinese nationals threaten the future of CPEC that needs to be addressed. Alongwith CPEC, Pakistan has signed several agreements for defence, trade, education, and investment opportunities. Hence, Pakistan is looking for strengthening and maintaining ties with China.

(ii) Pakistan's alliances with Middle-Eastern countries

Pakistan is increasing alliance with middle-eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE. Recently, Pakistan has signed 37 memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia of worth 2.8 billion dollars. Bothe countries will sign several trade and investment

agreements.

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Shifting alliances from dependency on west to eastern countries

Pakistan is striving for shift in alliances to reduce dependency on west-dominated organizations such as IMF. It has also shown interest to join BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) which forms world's 45% of population and global 35% of GDP. Pakistan also needs to diversify the alliances to reduce dependency on one country rather increase cooperation and diplomacy with other nations as well.

Security Concerns Of Pakistan

Kashmir dispute and India's rigidity

Years-long dispute of Kashmir and India's continued barbaric actions produce security concerns for Pakistan. Border skirmishes, spying and state-terrorism from India places Pakistan in difficult situation. However, Pakistan

should arrange international campaign to reveal atrocities of India in Kashmir and continue its diplomatic efforts for peaceful resolution through United Nations resolution.

(ii) Pakistan-Afghanistan conundrum

The neighbour country, has given great challenges. Porous border with Afghanistan allows terrorists on lands of Pakistan. Several attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has produced resentments in public. Several talks with Afghan Taliban government had no benefits. Pakistan raised tariffs, imposed duties on transit trade, closed border with Afghanistan, which led to economic losses but still produced no results. Recently, Pakistan attacked terrorists units in Afghanistan. This step may produced challenges for future of Pak-Afghan relations. Pakistan should increase diplomatic efforts with Taliban government, increase counter-terrorism efforts and cooperation, operationalize trade flows and establish educational and medical centres at

afghan border to aid afghan nationals. Such efforts would increase trust between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Regional Influence

(i) Multi-lateral Cooperation

Pakistan has increased participation in multi-lateral organizations such as BRICS, United Nation, Shanghai cooperation organization. It strives for integration in trade, investments, energy, tourism and technology to enhance regional influence.

(ii) Pakistan hosted SCO meeting: A great achievement to improve Pakistan's credibility

Pakistan hosted meeting of SCO in which many powers, such as China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, participated. It provided an opportunity to prove Pakistan's efficiency as a diplomat and peaceful partner. SCO meeting provided a platform for multi-cultural integration and opportunities to sign trade, energy and investment deals. It explicitly

showed foreign policy of Pakistan as a peace developer. This meeting shifted focus of the world on Pakistan that enhanced its regional influence.

(iii) CPEC and Gwadar as geographical achievement.

Pakistan can utilize Gwadar and CPEC to enhance its influence in the region through facilitation of transportation. Through CPEC, Pakistan will achieve a significant geo-strategic success.

Conclusion

Foreign policy of Pakistan navigates through complex challenges of security concerns such as terrorism, border issues, Kashmir conflict and extremism. However, through adequate policies Pakistan is maintaining its soft image on the world. It has increased participation in multi-lateral organizations to show the foreign policy that prioritizes Pakistan's national interests and global peace.

In what ways has Pakistan's approach to regional security challenges, including terrorism and border disputes, impacted its relations with neighbouring countries such as India, Afghanistan and Iran?

Recent Surge In Terrorism in Pakistan

Pakistan has faced recent surge in extremism and terrorism. Frequent attacks on civilians, security personnel and Chinese Nationals raised questions on security policies of Pakistan. It has tarnished global image of Pakistan. Attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) are due to Pakistan's failure in providing equitable resources in Balochistan and tribal areas. It is also due to inefficiency of Pakistani government in ensuring border security and weak diplomatic efforts.

Pakistan - Afghanistan relations

Security operation and initiatives taken by Pakistan

Terrorism and extremism have increased significantly. Recent terrorist attacks have killed ~~also~~ hundreds of people. Sectarian conflicts in Balochistan and attacks by TTP compelled Pakistan to take stringent measures. Initially Pakistan conducted "Operation Azm-i-Istehkam" to fight against terrorism. Several military interventions were carried out. Then, Pakistan initiated "zero tolerance policy" against terrorism. Recently, Pakistan has conducted several airstrikes on militant groups from Afghan Taliban, namely Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Pakistan has accused these militant groups of orchestrating attacks within Pakistan Territory.

Strained Relations with Afghanistan

Recent attacks by Pakistan directly on Afghanistan grounds

have strained already low relations with Taliban, condemning sovereignty of the country.

Border security concerns

The durand line, porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is an important gateway for militants and terrorist groups. Recently, Pakistan announced to fence border with Afghanistan, it has strained the relations, clashes and diplomatic protests from Afghan Taliban arised. These foreign policy initiative of Pakistan have worsened the relations raising concerns for future peace and diplomacy.

Pakistan-India stalemate

Kashmir Dispute

The long standing Kashmir dispute remains to be central challenge for Pakistan. With the hopes of international resolution and plebiscite, years have passed. After 2019 India's actions of revocation of Kashmir's special state,

the situation worsened. In 2014, border skirmishes are increased and India frequently blames Pakistan of conducting militant attacks on their territory.

These challenges prevail a complex situation and relations between Pakistan and India have stalled. Pakistan is always ready for talks with India and showed a welcome approach. It is evident from the fact that Pakistan's foreign minister visited India. But India has shown a rigid policy and it doesn't want any negotiations with Pakistan. This inflexible approach of India is responsible for stalemate.

Regional Alliances

India's engagement with Afghanistan aims to strengthen regional influence and security and economic ties. Such development are viewed by Pakistan as an effort to alienate Pakistan from the region.

Pakistan-Iran Relations

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Border clashes

Pakistan-Iran border has witnessed increased skirmishes. Both countries blame each other for militant groups harbouring. These conflicts have increased recently due to surge in terrorism in Pakistan, there are chances of escalation in clashes.

Diplomatic Engagements

Despite security challenges, Iran has strived to increase diplomatic ties with Pakistan. Both countries engaged in dialogues to manage the tensions. Iran has expressed intentions to strengthen ties with Pakistan, emphasizing continuity in dialogues and addressing the challenges.

Conclusion

Pakistan's security centric policies have raised concerns. It aims to combat terrorism and militancy. However, recent ~~string~~ stringent policies have strained

relations with neighbouring countries.
Military operations are necessary for
security concerns but Pakistan needs
a balanced approach to keep its
foreign policy neutralized ~~and~~ while
addressing border disputes as well.



Arabian Sea

Map of Pakistan