

DATE:

Haider Khan - 67

M T W T F S

CURRENT AFFAIRS.

FULL MOCK.

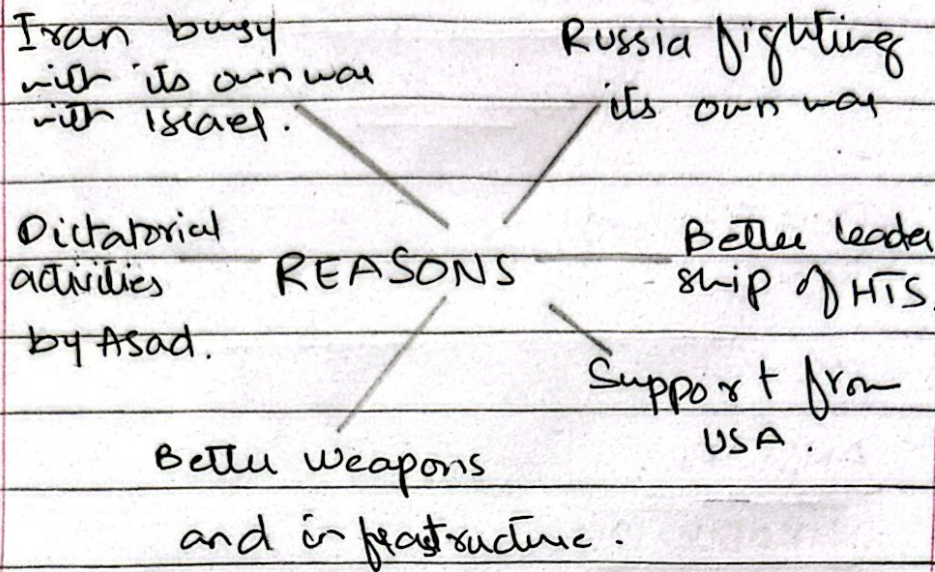
QUESTION #1:

The HTS Syria.

ANSWER:

INTRODUCTION:

The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down the government of Bashar Al Assad in Syria ending the long authoritarian rule of Bashar Al Assad and his father Hafez Al Assad that started in 1971. HTS has tried to topple the government of Assad before as well but this time became successful. HTS under the leadership of Abu Muhammad Al Jalani in December 2024 took control of Damascus.



REASON:

Following are the reasons for the fall of Assad government in Syria after 53 years.

2. BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND WEAPONS:

HTS (Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham) has its roots in Al-Qaeda.

It is an Islamist rebel group working under the leadership of Abu Muhammad Al-Jalabi. In

2017 HTS tried to take over Syria.

but failed badly because of lack of proper weaponry and no proper hierarchical structure of the rebel group. But - this time was able to fulfill its purpose.

2. BETTER LEADERSHIP BY ABO MUHAMMAD AL JALANI:

Abu Muhammad Al Jabari turned out to be a good leader and accomplished his goal. In previous attempts HIS failed drastically because of the lack of proper leadership.

3. SUPPORT FROM UNITED STATES:

The HIS was backed by the super power - this time because they wanted the Assad regime to end.

4. RUSSIA FIGHTING ITS OWN WAR:

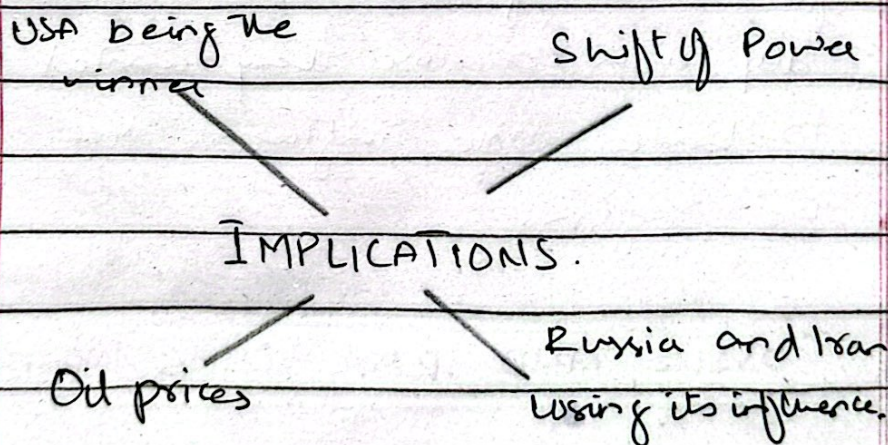
Russia - this time was busy in war versus Ukraine and was not in the position to help out Assad. Previously Assad was backed by Russia and Iran but - this time as Russia was in the state of war with Ukraine, could not help Assad.

5. IRAN BUSY WITH ITS WAR VERSUS ISRAEL:

Iran was supporting the regime of Assad from the very beginning, because this increased their hold on the region. But Iran was busy fighting against Israel.

6. DICTATORIAL ACTIVITIES BY ASAD.

Bashar Al Assad had been ruling over Syria for more than 2 decades. But recently the people of Syria were not happy by the government of Assad. The government of Assad was on the verge of collapsing and as its history is evident in December of 2024 it did.



IMPLICATIONS:

Following are the implications of the fall of Assad government in Syria.

1. USA BEING THE WINNER:

The HTS was backed by the United States and was responsible for the supplying of many artillery. As HTS toppled the government of Assad, USA indirectly won because they wanted to have more influence over the region.

2. RUSSIA AND IRAN LOSING INFLUENCE:

Russia and Iran failed to support the government of Assad as they were busy with their own wars. Russia with Ukraine and Iran with

Israel. Because of the fall of Assad government, the long influence of Russia over the region has also ended.

3. SHIFT OF POWER:

Russia used to be a dominant player in the middle east, but along with the fall of Assad empire the influence shifted from Russia to the United States changing the geo-strategic dynamics of the region.

4. OIL PRICES:

This civil war directly affected the prices of oil in the international market. As Syria was a big player in the oil market.

5. GOVERNMENT OF HTS:

Abu Muhammad Al Jabari took over Syria and established a new government with him being the ruler. The policies of Abu Muhammad are yet to be seen.

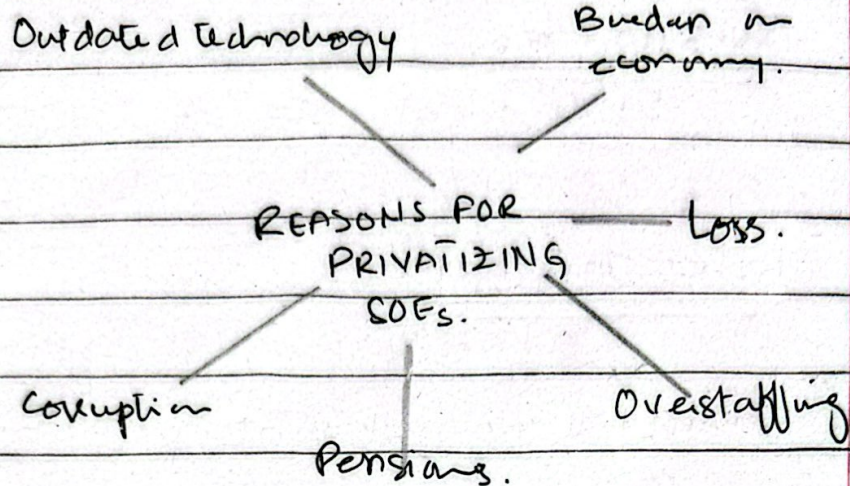
CONCLUSION:

The fall of the Assad government after almost 53 years has changed the international politics related to this region. Many reasons and implications are behind the fall of Assad government and the establishment of HTS's government. This fall changed the geostrategic and geopolitics of the region.

QUESTION #3.State owned enter...INTRODUCTION:

State owned enterprises have been a long, huge and persistent burden on the economy of the country. There are 212 total SOEs in Pakistan, out of these 212 only 80 plus meet the criteria of privatization. Only PIA (Pakistan international airline) and NHA (national highway authority) incurred a loss of 88 million dollars.

This raised the question of privatizing these state owned enterprises as K-electric was privatized and evidently is doing very well.



REASONS FOR PRIVATIZING SOEs:

Following are the reasons why SOEs should be privatized.

2. BURDEN ON ECONOMY.

Only PIA and NHA incurred a loss of 88 million dollars. SOEs are a fiscal strain on the economy, if privatized the burden will be lifted from economy and the same money can be used in other sectors.

2. LOSS; HAVING LOSSES OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR:

K-electric was a state owned enterprise and was incurring a loss of 38% every fiscal year. When privatized this loss changed from 38% to only 18%, dropped by 50%.

3. OVERSTAFFING:

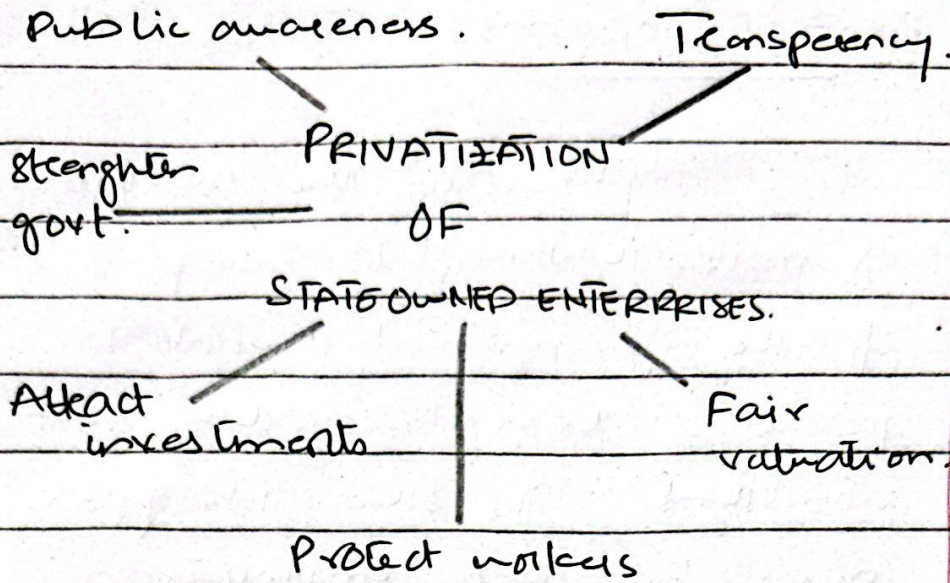
Currently more than 450,000 employees are working in these state owned enterprises. These 450,000 employees are not hired based on merit but on corruption and nepotism. The staff should be reduced as all these 450,000 employees are enjoying full health benefits, insurances and enjoying pensions after retirement.

4. OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY:

Some of SOEs are using obsolete technology. Resulting in very bad performances as they cannot compete with the private sector.

5. CORRUPTION:

Because of lack of proper governance, checks and balance. These SOEs are filled with corrupt people doing corruption. This corruption then starts a ripple effect. Harsh and strict measures must be taken to handle this.



PRIVATIZATION OF SOES:

Following are the things that are needed to be taken care of while privatizing these SOEs.

2. TRANSPARENCY:

Privatization of the SOEs is a very transparent process and should must be done that way. The public must be made of all the steps taken by the government.

2. PROTECT WORKERS,

SOEs are the livelihood of more than 4 lac employees, if the government wants to privatize these SOEs, they must also think of other job opportunities for these employees.

3. ATTRACT INVESTMENT:

Investment should be attracted (foreign or local). Because if proper marketing is done by the government only then can these SOEs be properly privatized.

4. PROPER VALUATION:

The government needs to properly evaluate the prices of these SOEs by checking the values of (machineries and land).

For instance PIA was put to auction at a rate of 20 billion dollars and the only bid was around 10 billion dollars. That is the reason why the government needs to properly evaluate these SOEs.

5. PUBLIC AWARENESS:

The deal to make SOEs private must be done publicly and not behind the curtain.

6. STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT:

The government must be strengthened in a way so that way one is on the same page. Only with good governance this can be made possible. as this is not an easy task to be done.

CONCLUSION:

The debate of privatization is long going on. Proper measures must be taken to privatize SOEs. The privatization of SOEs will be like oxygen to breath for the economy. By taking care of certain things the government must privatized these state owned enterprises.

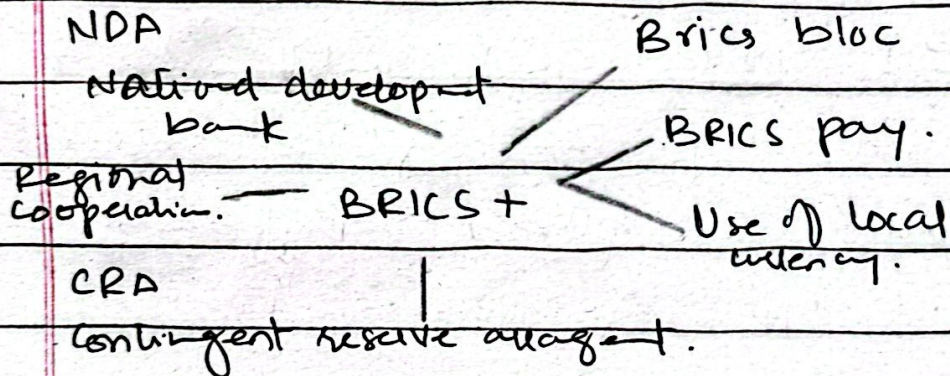
QUESTION # 5:Dollar ... base.INTRODUCTION:

Swift (society for world wide interbank telecommunication) is a money sending messaging platform used by more than 200 countries and 1100 banks and financial companies world wide. Dollar and swift are used by most of the countries across the globe to perform any type of financial activities.

SWIFT AND DOLLAR USED AS A WEAPON:

Swift and dollar are used as a weapon by the west against the countries of global south. United States is a hegemon and wants the world to work according to their terms and

conditions. Recently Russia and Venezuela incurred a loss of million and billions of dollars as sanctions were put on Russia and Venezuela by the United States. This raised the need of another alternative currency, because the US-led world order cannot be changed without breaking the power of dollar and swift.



GENESIS OF BRICS:

1. BRICS PAY:

The term BRICS was first coined by a journalist Jim O'Neil in 2002 which became a reality in 2009. Initially BRICS was the collaboration of only Brazil, Russia, India, and

and South Africa but because of their growing success more and more countries want to join the BRICS and hence because of the addition of several new countries now called BRICS+.

2. BRICS PAY:

BRICS pay is a new form of payment coined in the 16th summit of BRICS+. BRICS pay is an attempt to counter the swift system used world wide.

2. BRICS BLOC:

BRICS Bloc is a new currency that will be used by the countries in the BRICS+. Not functional and operational yet but BRICS bloc will change the dependency of the world on



dollar.

3. USE OF LOCAL CURRENCY:

The use of local currency is encouraged by the members of BRICS+. Evidently Russia and China were witnessed doing trade using their local currencies, Yuan and Rubles.

4. REGIONAL COOPERATION:

Regional cooperation has been increased because of the BRICS+. This reduces the dependency on the US.

5. NEW NDB (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK)

New National development bank is a bank working parallel to the world bank. Introduced

by the member countries of BRICS and to change the dependency of this region on the world bank for any type of loans for development.

6. CRA (CONTINGENT RESERVE ARRANGEMENT):

CRA works parallel to the IMF and give bailout packages to the member countries of the BRICS+. This is also an initiative taken to change the US led world order and stop the dependency of developing countries on the bailout packages of the IMF.

BAILOUT PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN:

Recently Pakistan submitted its application to join the BRICS+ but is still in the waiting list. Joining the BRICS+ could be very good step for Pakistan as Pakistan is one of the countries mostly dependent on the United States for bailout packages and in return of loan US exploits Pakistan's decision making. Recently witnessed Pakistan couldn't complete its gas pipeline project with Iran as Iran was sanctioned by the United States and US warned Pakistan not to complete the project. By joining the BRICS+, Pakistan will become less dependent on the US and more dependent on this region.

CONCLUSION:

Because of US using dollar and swift as -the a weapon to put sanctions against the world, new ways of doing trade and development is taking birth. BRICS+ is challenging -the US led world order by giving packages to its fellow members. If BRICS+ becomes successful, a new world order will be witnessed by -the world.

Q QUESTION# 4.Russia - China ... Disums.INTRODUCTION:

Russia and China have been witnessed to grow their economical, strategic and geopolitical ties to change the US led world order. US is a world hegemon and wants the world to work according to their rules and regulations. China and Russia want the world order to change from unipolar to multipolar in terms of economy and military as well.

Russia - major importer of Chinese technology

China - largest importer of Russian oil

RUSSIA - CHINA

ALLIANCE.

changing the world order.

(de-dollarization).

Weapons exported by Russia to China.

2. CHINA - LARGEST IMPORTER OF RUSSIAN OIL:

Russia used to export oil to many countries but because of the war in Ukraine, Europe and US put sanctions on Russia so that Russia would face an economic crisis as no one will buy oil and gas from them. But Russia played smartly and reduced the oil prices (20-30%). China helped Russia and became the biggest importer of Russian oil and gas. Because of this Russia did not face any economic crunch and the war is still going on.

2. WEAPONS EXPORTED BY RUSSIA TO CHINA:

Russia has become the major provider of weapons to China. China has developed its defence tremendously but in terms of air defence system and ballistic missiles, the defence system is still weak. Russia provided 5th generation fighters, Russian S-400 and SU 35 jet fighters to China. China bought all this defence technology cheap. This made China strong in terms of defence and Russia strong in terms of economy. This would help China to face the emerging threats it faces in the Asia Pacific due to US military.

3. RUSSIA - MAJOR IMPORTER OF CHINESE TECHNOLOGY:

Russia used to import technology from countries like Germany and Japan. But because of their war in Ukraine, Russia is facing sanctions. China is now the exporter for Russia in technology related products in general and chips in particular. These chips are used by Russia in defense, and electrical sector. US was of the view that these sanctions would stop Russia but in contrary to that these sanctions made the alliance of Russia and China stronger.

4. CHANGING WORLD ORDER:

(DE-POLARIZATION AND BRICS):

China and Russia are working together to change the US led world order in terms of defence and economy as well. Economically Russia and China are taking new initiatives like - the BRICS+pay (a way to make transaction relating to money), BRICS+Ruc (A new currency going to be launched soon by the BRICS+ members), NDB (New development bank - in order to reduce the dependency of the world on world bank) and CRA (Contingent reserve arrangement) in order to reduce the dependency of developing countries on the United States for bailout packages.

CONCLUSION:

Russia-China alliance is growing every day and there is nothing the US can do about it. Very soon the world could witness a major shift in world powers as China is becoming bigger in terms of economy than US and Russia in terms of defence.

The alliance between Russia and China is not new but an old one, but because of new initiatives taken by both the countries towards each other the US led world order is changing.