

Q#4

Russia - China growing economic, strategic and geopolitical collaboration is an effort to potentially challenge the US^{led} World Order. Discuss.

INTRODUCTION:

The Russia-China relationships underwent transformation of Russia-China border conflict of 1960 to sharing a common interest of being anti west world order.

Both countries commemorated the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relation. Both the presidents shared common ideas and criticised US foreign policy. Both the countries act as bolsters for each other.

Fractures can be noticed in the US led world order in terms of their withdrawal from Paris climate accord, withdrawal from transpacific partnership and recent ~~ex~~ issue of Nato spending between US and other European countries.

Economic Collaboration b/w Russia - China

i- BRI: China's Belt & Road Initiative is a project of massive network of trade routes connecting Asia, Europe & Africa. It has been the focal point for Russia's economy as Russia holds huge land mass of Eurasia. It will be beneficial for Russia specially while facing international sanctions.

ii- Energy Trade:

The Russia is the largest supplier of natural gas and oil to China. China is getting most of the energy resources from Russia which further strengthens the China - Russia alliance and their economic growth is dependent on on another.

iii- Currency Swap Agreement:

China and Russia has made an agreement of using their local currencies i.e Yuan and Rubel instead of US dollars for trade. This would eventually reduce their dependency on US dollars and it will boost their currency values as well.

Strategic & Military Cooperation:

i- Military exercises & Joint Ventures:

Russia and China are holding joint military exercises more frequently to strengthen their defence ties and challenge or create an alternative of US led NATO.

ii- Arms Sales & Technology:

Russia has been the key suppliers of military weapons like fighter jets & missile defence system in exchange China include Russia in their technological advancement.

iii- Security Arrangements:

Russia and China are the key member of SCO Shanghai Cooperation organization. Both countries focuses on regional security, economic cooperation and counter terrorism.

Major Dents to US hegemony:

Liberal world order was established after world war II.

USA was on the leader footing of liberal world order. Afterwards, WTO, World bank, & IMF establishment and US influence over it further increased the US status quo.

Bretton wood agreement and US dollar was made as world reserve currency which made US a gigantic power, but still it was bipolar world order. one power was US and the other USSR.

After cold war, USSR disintegrated and USA became the global power and it solidified the US position as global power.

Now, USA experienced unprecedented level of freedom in shaping world order.

Till 2016, it was unipolar world order and USA was the only global power but after 2016 world started moving towards multipolarity due to the rise of China and Russia.

Before 2016 USA used the phenomenon of "Responsibility to protect", and it intervened in other states like Iraq(2003), Libya(2011) and Syria 2011.

Russia's action in Ukraine and china's assertiveness in south china sea and Taiwan are a direct challenge to US led world order.

Annexation of Crimea in 2014 by Russia and china fully supported Russia strengthened their ties. Russia also supports china's stance over Taiwan issue.

In 2023, china - Russia trade reached to almost \$240 billion.

Dr Ayesha Talat suggest that:

"China could surpass US economy by 2030-2035."

Book: BRI, Emerging world order.

- China is the largest exporter of Semiconductor.
- China is playing leader role in renewable energy.
- China's defence spending is 2nd highest in the world.
- China proved its soft power influence by mediating b/w KSA and Iran and b/w palestinian groups.

Conclusion:

The growing alliance b/w china and Russia is a response to the gap that was created in balance of power after cold war. This alliance is a challenge to US led world order and it will reduce the US influence and it will challenge the existing world order. The success of this alliance depends on both the countries, their leaders and their foreign policies.

Q#6

Islamabad - Kabul Tension, Critically evaluate the situation and Give recommendations:

Historical Background:

Despite being neighboring country and muslim country Pakistan and Afghanistan relations are hostile from past till today. From King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan and their request to UNO to decline the Pakistan membership in 1949 till today.

Pakistan relationship with Afghan Taliban during first tenure were better so ~~but~~ Pakistan was expecting the same this time but these expectations came unmet.

Pakistan currently wants Afghanistan to make TTP currently known as FAK (Fitna Al Khwarizj) stop operating from Afghanistan.

Fitna Al Khwarizj:

Previously known as TTP has been a long standing Non state actor, a terrorist group which is threat

to Pakistan Security, carrying out numerous attacks targeting LEAs and civilians. Like APS attack, police lines attack quetta and Peshawar and countless attacks on Pakistan army cantonments and checkpoints.

FAK role in Afghanistan:

- Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border and the TTP crosses border carries out attack and then they again return to the safe heaven provided in Afghanistan.
- Recent attacks carried out by TTP in Pakistan, they used Anti-tank missile named as Milan Concurisi which were left behind by US in Afghanistan after their withdrawal in 2021.
- Total 695 security personnel martyred alone in 2024.
- Attacks on Chinese in Kohistan and different parts of Pakistan are mostly done by FAK.

- FAK released a statement recently that they will target the businesses and institutions which are affiliated to Pakistan Army, these institutions and businesses includes many civilians in them.
- Currently, Atomic energy employees were kidnapped.

Effects On Pakistan:

- 1- Security threat
- 2- Infrastructure loss
- 3- ^{Loss of} Lives of Security personells.
- 4- Instable economy.
- 5- Sabotaging CP&L.
- 6- Sabotaging Foreign investment.
- 7- Military expenditure on Afghan-Pak border.
- 8- Burden on economy.

Afghanistans Role:

Despite promises, the afghan taliban has not shown a little effort to control TTP.

Afghan Taliban Minister stated that:

"TTP is their guest and they can do anything to protect their guest."

As previously they declared Osama bin Laden as their guest.

- TTP and Afghan Taliban have common ideology and share same organization so that could also be the reason for Afghan support to TTP.
- For sharing common interests and ideologies they have developed special bonding b/w each other by marrying with in.
- Another reason is that the Afghan Taliban is facing internal issues as well like ISIS and ISKP. Recently, ISKP took the life of Afghan Minister for refugees Khalil ur Rehman Haqqani.

Recommendations:

- 1) Initiate regular diplomatic talks with Afghan Taliban to address Pakistan's concern.
- 2) Engagement of regional powers like China, Russia & Iran to mediate b/w Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- 3) Offer development aid and trade incentives to Afghan government.
- 4) 45% of Afghanistan trade is through Pakistan, this could be the focal point for talks.
- 5) Inclusion of Afghanistan in projects like CPEC.
- 6) Strong border management and strong checkpoints on border.
- 7) Engage Afghan civil society through media to promote healthy relationships.
- 8) Address Afghan grievances by providing humanitarian aid.
- 9) Capacity building of Pakistan security forces to counter terrorism effectively within its border.
- 10) Regional cooperation to address this issue.

Q#8

CPEC is the power house for Pakistan's economy. It was initially hailed as a game changer for Pakistan but there are some factors that slowed down the process of CPEC.

CPEC is the subpart of Belt and Road Initiative of China, a network of trade routes in b/w Asia, Europe and Africa.

Reasons of Slowing down of CPEC:

1) Pakistan Economic Instability:

Pakistan's mounting debt, economic crisis fiscal deficits have strained its capacity to fund and manage CPEC project. Delayed payment to Chinese companies have further slowed down the process. Pakistan's currency depreciation is also one of the main cause in slowing down the process of CPEC.

2) Security Concerns:

CPEC project have been targeted by insurgent specially in Balochistan. Recent attack in Karachi airport on chinese is the recent example.

Despite the establishment of special Security division for CPEC, chinese feels threatened because of militant attacks.

3) Political instability:

Frequent change in the government have caused the lack of consistency on policies regarding CPEC. Political instability also leads to slow administrative work with in institutions.

4) Geopolitical pressures:

USA has expressed concern over CPEC, warning Pakistan about the long term implication of chinese loans.

India is also against CPEC and Gwadar port because CPEC will pass through Gilgit Baltistan which further adds another layer.

5) Covid-19

The Pandemic disrupted the supply chain globally, so it delayed the construction activities and diverted resources to healthcare.

Recommendations:

1) Encourage Private investment:

Open CPEC project to private investment to the public of both the countries.

2) Special economic zones:

Quick delivery of work of SEZ's to attract foreign investments.

3) Enhanced security measures:

Improve the capabilities of LEA's and special security division to provide security to CPEC.

4) Political stability:

Political stability will lead to consistency of work over CPEC policies which will speed up the work.

5) Address Chinese concerns:

Pakistan should simplify the process to fast track the project approvals and implementation and transparency must be ensured.

6) Leverage technology and innovations:

Integration of 5g technology into ~~the~~ Pakistan to modernize Pakistan's digital economy.

Promotion of renewable energy projects under CPEC to globally align with sustainable development goals.

Conclusion:

The slowing down of CPEC is the result of economic, security, political, and geopolitical challenges. For both Islamabad and Beijing re-invigorating the CPEC requires a multifaceted approach that combines economic reforms, enhanced security, streamlined governance and regional cooperation. By addressing these issues CPEC can regain its pace.