

Name: Sharjeel Anwer

LMS ID: 32469

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Introduction:

The Syrian conflict began in 2011 has caused widespread destruction. Bashar-ul-Assad's regime, supported by allies like Russia and Iran remained in power despite various groups. In the recent development, in the Middle East, Bashar-ul-Assad's regime was taken out of power by coalition of opposing parties, led by Tahrir-ul-Sham (HTS). The reasons behind fall of Assad's regime includes public dissatisfaction, weakening of military, and strength of HTS and it would have implications like global shift in dynamics, increased threat of terrorism, and weakening influence of Iran in the region.

Fall of Bashar-ul-Assad's regime: A Review of Development in Syria

Collapsing of 60 years
of government in weeks

After a long authoritarian rule, Assad's regime was taken out of power by coalition of opposing parties, led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, ^(HTS) forces took control of Syria on December 8, 2024, ending a 60 year of Baath Party rule. Just an important, the fall of Damascus marked the end of Assad's regime, who inherited the presidency from his father Hafez al-Assad in 2000.

Loss of help from
foreign actors

Hezbollah was on the side of regime and saved it from collapsing as Hezbollah was essential allies but Hamas and Hezbollah were incapacitated by their war of 14 months with Israel. So, Assad stood alone and unable to fend off military campaigns

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Reasons behind Fall of Bashar-ul-Assad regime in Syria

- 4 Public dissatisfaction & anger
- 3 Economic Decline in Syria
- 2 Strength of HTS
- 1 Weakening of Military

Weakening of Military

From years, Syria's military was facing internal problems like corruption, infighting, and low morale. These issues reduced the army's capability to fight effectively. Similarly, the dependance of military on foreign aid further weakened the Syria's military.

Strength of HTS

HTS emerged as one of the disciplined and organized groups. Unlike other rebel groups, HTS unified many factions under its leadership rule. The use of military strategies gave an advantage to HTS over Assad.

Economic Decline in Syria

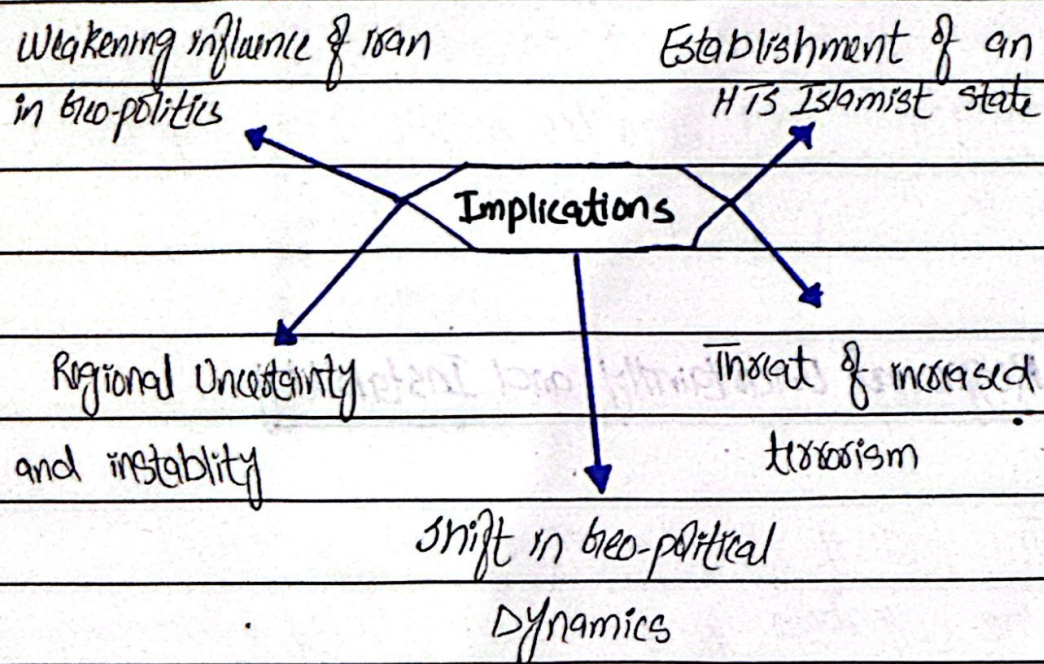
Syria's economy was collapsed due to wars and sanctions. Syria was facing hyper-inflation, poverty, and unemployment and these issues gave an advantage to HTS, through this HTS gained support, offering governance and justice under its leadership rule.

Public Dissatisfaction and Anger

After facing destruction, human rights abuses, and economic loss, the frustration in public grew against Bashar-ul-Assad's regime and HTS gave was an alternative to Assad's regime because people were lacking basic necessities so, they wanted to go in the favour of HTS despite its strict Islamic Ideology.

تاریخ

Implications of Fall of the Assad's regime in Syria on Middle-Eastern geo-politics and Regional stability



Wakening Influence of Iran in Geo-politics

Iran was atleast instrumental in keeping flow of military aid to Hamas and Hezbollah unrestricted. However, they were incapacitated by their war with Israel, fall of Assad's regime further weakened the position of Iran in the region as Iran was key ally of Bashar-ul-Assad's regime. Now, Iran would accelerate its efforts to acquire nuclear technology.

Establishment of an HTS Islamist state

If HTS were in power, their governance would likely be based on strict Shariah law which could alter the country's social and political framework. Ethnic and minorities such as Kurds, Christians and Alawites might face displacement and destruction.

Regional Uncertainty and Instability

The fall of Assad's regime will destabilize the neighbouring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Refugee flow may increase putting pressure on these nations. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon might compete for the influence in Syria, further increasing chaos and violence.

Threat of Increased Terrorism

HTS emerged as the offshoot of al-Qaeda from 2010s. With thousands in terrorist organizations, Syria could become a hub of extremist. This will provoke international military invest to tackle the aggression of

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these extremists, further destabilizing the region.

Shifts in Global Dynamics

The fall of Assad's regime weakens the influence of Russia and Iran as they were key allies in supporting the regime. Now, western powers would have to deal with a strict Islamist state, creating new political challenges.

Conclusion:

Bashar-al-Assad was taken out of power in the Syrian conflict by opposing parties led by Tahrir-al-Sham (HTS), forces took control on December 8, 2024. The fall of Damascus marks the end of Bashar-ul-Assad's authoritarian rule due to weakening of military, public dissatisfaction and anger, and strength of HTS which give an advantage over Assad. The fall of Assad will have certain implications like it weakens the position of Iran and threat of increased terrorism as HTS roots lies in terrorist groups.

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Introduction:

Pakistan's strategic location along the Arabian sea is pivotal for China as China seeks alternate trade and energy routes amid its tensions with US. In 2014, China and Pakistan signed a multi-billion dollar (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) to increase infrastructural development in Pakistan and enhance China's geo-political influence. CPEC with a worth of \$62 billion encompasses a multitude of projects including railways, highways, power plants, and broadband port but progress has been hindered by a myriad of challenges. These include, political instability, security concerns, and financial limitations which can be resolved by consensus building, enhancing security measures, and addressing local community concerns.

Current Status of CPEC

As of 2021, many projects has been postponed as of 2022 and they are becoming hurdles in the development of CPEC. That includes US-China rivalry, security concerns and Pakistan's economic woes.

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US-China Rivalry

Security Concerns

Economic woes

The rivalry between US and China complicates Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, as it fails to maintain a balance between both nations.

The recent incident in Karachi Airport and incident of hydropower dam in March 2024, raises the alarms about safety.

Pakistan's economic woes led to increase debt with approx \$130 billion as of 2024, made funding challenging.

CPEC 2.0 remains a non-starter

Many projects under CPEC has been postponed. Firstly, the US-China rivalry which complicates Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to maintain a delicate balance in relation with both nations. China provides significant financial support while US remains the major destination of Pakistan's exports. By restricting trade, tariffs, and export control US has been taking steps to slow down China's growing strength. US also urging its allies not to invest in China to limit its financial strength. Secondly, security concerns as many attacks have been occurred on Chinese nationals and projects including incident of hydropower dam incident on March 2024, have raised alarms about safety.

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According to China's Minister of International Department, "business environment cannot be improved without security as security concerns are the main obstacles in the development of CPEC and can hinder long-term progress."

Reasons for the slowing down of CPEC projects

Political Instability

Political instability is one of the major cause for slowing down of CPEC projects as frequent changes in government led to shift in policies regarding CPEC, delaying execution. For example, the ousting of former Prime Minister in 2022, seriously affected the continuity in CPEC-related policies.

Security Concerns

As emphasized by China's Minister of International Department, security concerns are the main obstacles in the development of CPEC. For instance, over 25 attacks have been carried on Chinese nationals and CPEC projects since 2013 which leads to delay funding for projects

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due to low confidence in the country for investments.

Financial Limitations

The total amount committed for CPEC was \$62 billion but many projects faced delayed funding. As of 2024, only \$35 billion has been fully disbursed for CPEC projects. Gwadar port, a major project under CPEC, was hoped to connect with globally shipping networks. However, the reality is that, Gwadar is performing worst than other newly developed ports. The growing apprehensions about debt which is \$130 billion as of 2024, have made additional funding more challenging.

Local Opposition and Environmental Impacts

CPEC has faced opposition regarding land acquisition and environmental impacts. The protests of locals have stopped the construction of Diamer-Bhakra Dam project, reflecting a significant opposition from local population for the CPEC.

Recommendations for Islamabad to re-invigorate with Beijing

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has paid a visit to China on June 4, 2024. The visit is to regain the trust of Chinese President and securing investments from China for CPEC. PM Shehbaz Sharif have tried to secure funding and promised to enhance security measures for the safety of Chinese nationals and projects. Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized that 'Hope Pakistan will continue to create a safe, stable and predictable business environment and ensures the security of Chinese personell, projects and institutions on a whole'

Maintain Political stability and Consensus Building

Enhance security measures

Recommendations

Environmental assessment and addressing local community concerns

Seek for alternative financial resources

Maintain Political stability and Consensus Building

Ensure CPEC receives a bi-partisan support that can foster political stability and project execution.

Educational campaigns highlighting CPEC's potential to transform the economy could mitigate opposition and foster support of CPEC.

Enhance Security measures

As security concerns are main obstacles in the way of development of CPEC. Establish dedicated security focus for the safety of Chinese national and CPEC projects could alleviate the safety concerns and reestablish the confidence in workers.

Seek for alternative Financial Resources

For financial funding go to Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB). Also, encourage private sector investment through public-private partnerships. World Bank, projected a GDP growth boost of 2-3% annum from CPEC, highlighting significant potential of CPEC for Pakistan.

Environment Assessment and addressing concerns of local population

Conduct thorough environment assessments before project initiation can minimize concerns of local population and curbing the impacts on environments. Similarly, add local population in decision making processes to foster the support of CPEC.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's strategic location made him pivotal partner of China for CPEC for economic cooperation and enhancing trade. CPEC encompasses a multitude of projects which has the potential to transform the economy but progress has been hindered due to political instability, financial limitations and security concerns. These challenges can be addressed by seeking alternative financial resources, enhancing security measures, and through consensus building to increase the pace of CPEC projects. Nevertheless, the historical reliance of both nations ^{on each other} for geopolitical and geo-economical ^{support} shows that a complete withdrawal of Chinese investment is unlikely.

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Introduction:

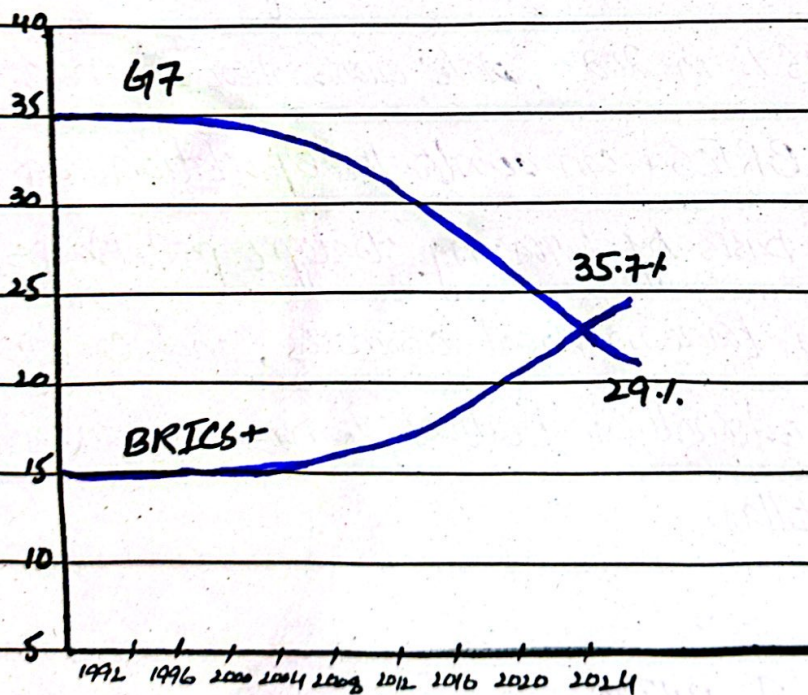
BRICS+ (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South-Africa, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, UAE, and Indonesia) has become increasingly important in global affairs. BRICS+ strategically positioned to challenge the US led-world order. Despite, the rise of emerging economies dollar remains the dominant currency in global finance and value of SWIFT share has increased from 42% in 2022 to 48% in 2023, while euro's share has been decreased. BRICS+ can counter the exploitation on permanent basis by leveraging strategic partnerships, encouraging trade in local currencies, and creating financial alternative institutions to minimize the reliance on US dollars.

Over-view of BRICS+ :

BRICS+ (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South-Africa, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, UAE and Indonesia) is formed in 2009 known as BRIC when in 2010, South-Africa joined it, the name is "renamed to BRICS and now it is termed as

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BRICS+ by joining of Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, and UAE in January 2024 and Indonesia in January 2025. It was formed to collaborate on social, political, and economic challenges and to counter the influence of US led-world order. The Bloc's leaders maintain that their goal is not to confront the west but to pursue economic sovereignty. Together, these countries represent 45% of global population and GDP of 35.7% while G7 group represents 10% of global population and GDP of 29.1% globally.



Comparison of BRICS+ and G7
in share of global GDP

US led World Order : Dollar and Influence

The US-led world order has been dominant since WWII. The US is sitting at the top position in the global GDP contribution due to presence of dollar in world trade and economic activities. Many major institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), NATO are founded with substantial US influence.

Despite the rise of emerging economies the US dollar remains a dominant currency in the world due to its political, technological, and economic strength.

In 2023, around 48% of global transactions were conducted in dollars. Moreover, in 2024, the dollar accounted for 52% of ~~reserve~~ currency. The dollar share in SWIFT transaction increased from 42% in 2022 to 48% in 2023, highlighting a significant role in global finance. Additionally, the dollar maintained a constant market share of 70% in foreign currency debt issuance since 2010, highlighting a prominent role of US dollar in global financial landscape. The elect President Donald Trump have threaten the BRICS+1 countries to impose 100% trade tariffs if they would try to challenge US led world order or try to weaken the influence of US dollar in global landscape.

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BRICS+ countering the Western exploitation on permanent basis

Promoting the multi-polar world

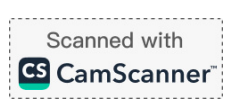
BRICS+ countries have started to promote multi-polar world, meaning power should not concentrate only in one country like the US. This vision supports a fairer distribution of power globally and opposes the interference in other countries internal matters.

Creating alternative Financial Institutions

The New Development Bank (NDB) offers financial assistance to countries aimed at sustainable development, minimizing reliance on western institutions like the IMF and WB. The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) offers financial assistance to countries facing economic crisis.

Russia and China's strategic partnership within BRICS+

Russia and China's strategic partnership within BRICS+



allows for coordinated policies that often oppose the US. BRICS+ amplifies the voice on global issues such as climate change and social justice, providing a countered narrative to western-led initiatives.

Trends towards Currency Diversification

Encouraging trade in local countries currencies

BRICS+ countries have started to promote trade in local currencies. For instance, India has been engaged in currency swap agreements with several BRICS+ nation, encouraging trade in rupees, signaling a shift to minimize the reliance on dollars.

Non-dollar oil transactions

Approximately 24% of global oil transactions were conducted in currencies other than dollars, especially due to involvement of Russia and Iran. Russia and Iran have established agreements to promote trade in local & currencies for smoother transactions.

Russia's New Global Payment System

In response to western sanctions, Russia has been developing a global payment transaction system "System for Transfer of Financial Messages" signifying a big shift towards minimizing reliance on dollars and US-led world order.

Conclusion:

US dollar remain dominant and liberal world order since WWII. The US has been imposing sanctions on different countries due to dollar is used as a reserve currency but BRICS+ countries are trying to minimize reliance on US by creating new financial systems, encourage trade in local currency and strengthening partnerships within BRICS. In this way, BRICS + potentially exploit the western order on permanent basis.