

Question #1:

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

Introduction:

Foreign policy is a way or a procedure with which one state engages with another state. Foreign policy is highly based on national interest. Pakistan's foreign policy also operates on its national interest which includes economic growth, security concerns and regional influence. However, to achieve these objectives careful navigation are required as each factor has dependence on the other. This question will explore the ways in which Pakistan attempts to strike the balance between these three elements of its foreign policy.

Understanding the concept of "Foreign Policy" and its importance:

"Foreign policy is a country's official procedures, principles and positions to engage with the powers outside its border."

The focus of foreign policy is outward.

A good foreign policy is always based on national interest with rational approach.

"The test to policy is how it ends, not how it begins."

~ Henry Kissinger

How Pakistan's Foreign Policy navigates complex balance between economic growth, security concerns and regional influence:

I. Balancing Economic Growth with Security Concerns:

→ Economic growth as security priority:

Economic growth has a direct link with the security of Pakistan. As a stable economy ensures strong funding for defence, counter-terrorism and regional stability initiatives. Pakistan has worked to improve its economy through foreign investments (Saudi Arabia, US, China) with a major glimpse of CPEC. CPEC ensures to enhance the infrastructure, energy demand and trade which indirectly contributes to Pakistan's security capabilities.

→ Addressing the Security Concerns:

Pakistan's foreign policy emphasizes on security concerns. For this purpose, Pakistan collaborated with international stakeholders like China, USA and other regional allies to counter-terrorism.

→ Challenges in Balancing:

Due to the prolonged conflicts such as Kashmir issue and Afghanistan crisis, the ~~resources~~ of Pakistan are diverted from economic development.

II. Enhancing Regional ^{Influence} Concerns with Addressing Security Concerns:

→ Regional Influence through Strategic Alliances:

Pakistan's alliance with China enhances its regional influence while countering the increased influence of India with America - Moreover, Pakistan has played a key role in Afghanistan's peace process, and ~~positioned~~ itself as a ~~key~~ peace-maker in region.

III. → Addressing the Kashmir Conflicts:

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on "peace with all" - Pakistan always persisted to keep the Kashmir issue on international

agenda and presented the barbaric and inhumane activities of India on J&K -
Moreover, it focused on plebiscite of Kashmir by involving with United Nations.

→ Durand Line and Border Issues with Afghanistan:

Pakistan tried to negotiate with the Taliban government over the border issues and the security challenge due to TTP.

→ Challenge in enhancing regional influence:

India's strategic alliance with China and its regional dominance poses a challenge. Moreover, the instability in Afghanistan poses a threat to Pakistan's security.

III. Prioritizing Economic Growth for Regional and Global Influence:

→ Enhancing Economic Opportunities:

CPEC is the major opportunity

for Pakistan to enhance its global influence by connecting with China, Middle East and South Asia. Moreover, the foreign policy focus on trade and it will expand partnership with Middle Eastern countries, Central Asia and South Asian states.

→ Securing Global Economic Support:

Pakistan seeks aid and loan from IMF, World Bank and other Islamic nations like Saudi Arabia and UAE to ^{stabilize} strengthen its economy.

Key Strategies for Balancing Growth, Security and Influence

I. Economic Diplomacy - Trade, Development:

Pakistan's foreign policy prioritizes economic diplomacy by focusing on trade agreements, infrastructure development and attracting foreign investment.

II. Regional Stability - Multilateral Partnership.

Pakistan can enhance relations with neighbour countries by addressing the security concerns through multilateral partnership and engaging with platforms like SCO, and SAARC.

III. Neutral Approach - US vs. China:

Pakistan needs to maintain a neutral approach between US and China - Both are super-powers and both are important for Pakistan in their own terms i.e. trade, economy, and defense.

IV. Strengthen Domestic Issues - Internal Reforms:

Pakistan's economic growth could be only possible if the problems at home are addressed including improved governance, resource management and combating corruption.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's foreign policy focuses on maintaining balancing between economic growth, addressing security issues and enhancing the regional and global influence. For this purpose, Pakistan has gone through various challenges as geo-political rivalries and regional instability. However, ~~but~~ by focusing on economic growth, Pakistan can address security issues and enhance its regional influence.

Question # 2:

Considering the regional shifting balance of power and Pakistan's strained relationship with India, what role does Pakistan envision for international mediation or multilateral dialogues in resolving the Kashmir issue?

Introduction:

Kashmir, decades old issue between Pakistan and India - The issue started after the Independence of Pakistan with the and increased with the annexation of Hari Singh's plan of annexation with India. The Issue escalated when India revoked the Article 375 and 35(A) Kashmir which gave special status to it - Pakistan always focus on peaceful dialogues - This question will explore the stance of Pakistan in solving Kashmir conflict ^{with} International mediation and multilateral dialogue.

first briefly discuss the first part of the answer.

I. International Mediation - A Neutral Arbiters:

Pakistan always wanted to solve the Kashmir Issue with peaceful negotiations and ~~brought~~ ^{brought} the issue on the platform of International organization. Pakistan believes that International organization can play a key role in solving the conflict and addressing the

rights of Kashmiris-

(A) United Nations Security Council - Plebiscite of Kashmiris:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) focused on the Kashmir Issue and ordered for a referendum in Kashmir and didn't allow any country (Pakistan or India) to annex it. However, India abrogated the UNSC order and annexed Jammu and Kashmir.

(B) Involvement of Neutral Third Parties:

The involvement of Neutral third parties can play a key role in mediating the Issue. The key parties majorly include the superpowers like US, China and EU. Pakistan believes in resolving Issue through involvement of third party.

II. Multilateral Dialogue and Engagement with Global Regions:

The resolve of Kashmir issue is also possible by an ^{open} dialogue between two countries which also include other countries as well -

(A) Engaging with Global Powers:

The global powers can play a role by initiating a multi-lateral dialogue between the countries. These countries mainly comprise of US, China and EU. ~~It~~ ^{They} should focus on negotiations and reviewing the status of Kashmir. As, US is the close ally of India, it can do that

(B) Regional Cooperation and Forums:

The regional organizations are the way to enhance dialogue between Pakistan and India on Kashmir issue. These regional forums mainly comprise of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and OIC. The muslim countries can unitedly address the issue with a support in favour of the ~~peace~~ ^{peace} of Kashmir and its independent state.

III. Diplomatic Pressure and Advancements.

(A) Highlighting Human Rights Violation:

Kashmiris in Jammu and Kashmir are bearing inhumane activities of Indians. Their rights are severely violated. They are killed in mercy. The United Nations Human Rights Council can highlight the issue against the humanitarian standards.

(B) Global Diplomacy Campaign:

The global campaigns in favor of Kashmir are also a major element to mediation in the Kashmir Issue. These campaigns can seek the world's attention to the rights of Kashmir.

IV. The Resistance of India to Mediation and Role of Multilateral Peace Agreement:

(A) India's Stance on Mediation:

India never accepts the mediation

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~~Strategy~~ Strategy by the International organization or through third party - It considers it as a breach to its sovereignty as India considers Kashmir as a part of its territory and these act of negotiation and dialogue are seen as interference in its internal matter.

(B) Proposing Multi-lateral Peace Agreement:

Pakistan ~~prop~~ always focuses on proposing a multilateral peace agreement on Kashmir issue - It ~~is~~ appreciated the International Peace agreements - The efforts are done to ~~revive~~ revive status of Kashmir, enhance dialogue and address the humanitarian loss of Kashmiris.

V Need for Compromising Multilateral Framework:

A multi-lateral framework is needed to address the issue and bring peace to the region. There is a need

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of inclusive dialogue between India and Pakistan. Moreover, the major powers like China, Pakistan and EU etc. also should also bring the issue on table.

Conclusion:

The decades old Kashmir issue need to be solved. Pakistan always advocated for International mediation and multi-lateral dialogue with India. However, India considered it as breach to its sovereignty by considering it as an interference to its internal matter. However, with the emergence of alliance between India and US, and Pakistan with China, a third party resolution could be a possible approach.