

# ~ (Current Affairs) ~

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~ (Q#03) ~

## Pakistan US-China Balance

### Introduction:

Pakistan is walking on a tightrope between the global powers—the United States (US) and China. Both want to assert their influence in Pakistan by using different means. For Islamabad, the challenge is how to balance these competing relations without losing credibility and leverage. China had been an investment and strategic partner for a long time. It also supported Pakistan with technical support in its recent escalations with India in May 2025. On the other hand, US had spend billions of dollars in wars, but never really on Pakistan's economic development, but a recent US delegation showed this shift. They expressed up about their interest

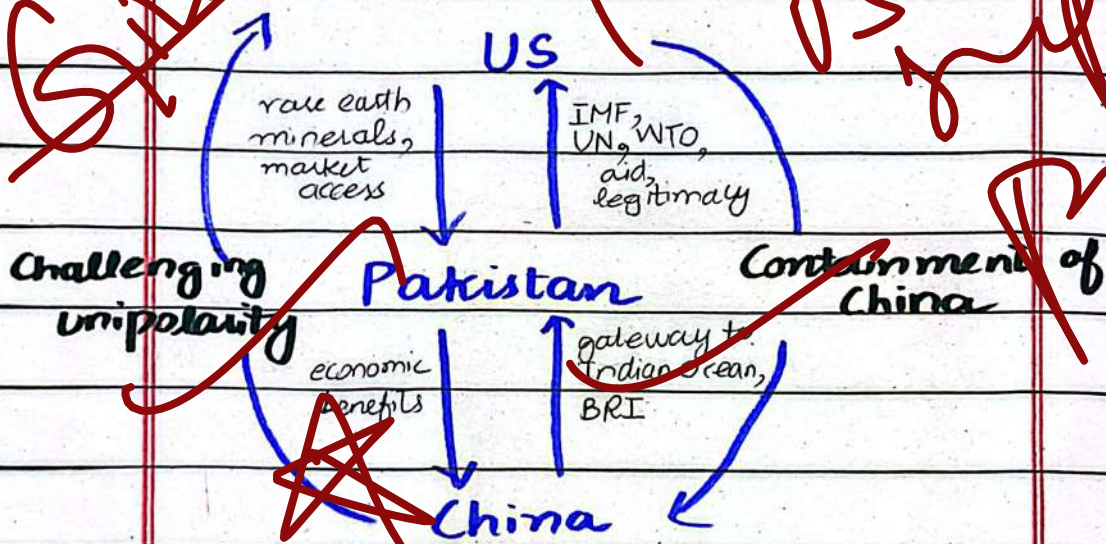


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in building a LNG terminal in Guadar. This is very important because CPEC is central to China's CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Cooperation).

It looks like that US wants to assert its influence while China is already influential.



### Historical Background

The relationship between Pakistan and US has soured many times. Since independence, Pakistan initially joined SEATO and CENTO to counter Indian influence.



But after the 1965, 1971, 1990s nuclear sanctions, the relationship had ~~always~~ soured. Pakistan became US ally in War on Terror, but after that US criticised him on militancy and democracy issues. But relationship between China and Pakistan was always cooperation. Both share shared distrust of India. **Andrew Small** in **Pakistan China Axis** called this friendship "an all weather friendship" so Pakistan needs to balance the relations between two of them to avoid confrontation.

### Reasons for tilt toward China

There are several reasons for this.

#### **(1) Defense and Security Cooperation:**

Pakistan is one of the largest Chinese weaponry importer.



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China helps to modernize Pakistan defense industry. Pakistan has ~~also~~ already faces ~~irredelism~~ from Afghanistan and escalations with India, so it cannot afford to tilt towards US.

## (2) Economic Cooperation:

CPEC is the backbone of this relationship. It joins Chinese western region (Tianjin) to ~~Quadae~~ Port. China uses Pakistan as a gateway to Indian Ocean. ~~Chinese~~ China has spend billions of dollars under CPEC. Besides CPEC, it has also invested in mining, telecom industry and automobile sector. Chinese Carmaker ~~BYD~~ is investing in Pakistan EV industry.

Why Pakistan still engages with US?



**(1) Financial Concerns:**

US has a strong influence in IMF, WTO and FATF which affects Pakistan's financial health. When Pakistan faces dollar shortages then it has to approach IMF. So ~~leaving~~ engagement with US is very important for Pakistan.

**(2) Legitimacy: Concerns:**

Strategic engagement with US makes Pakistan show as a responsible global actor. It also attracts foreign investors. Similarly, ~~for~~ in UN, USA is a permanent member so in Kashmir issue Pakistan may need its support.

**(3) Diversification:**

Pakistan wants to keep its options open because if relationship and cooperation became limited with China



Pakistan does not want to be sidelined.

## Policy Recommendations

### (1) Policy of Non-alignment:

Pakistan should adopt the policy of neutrality between the two global powers. It should <sup>try to</sup> maximize ~~its~~ <sup>national</sup> benefits from both the actors without compromising the national interests. It should not become a proxy in their confrontation. So Pakistan should maintain its strategic autonomy.

### (2) Increasing Diversifying relations with other regional and global actors:

Pakistan should engage with ASEAN, EU and gulf countries. It should <sup>try to</sup> signed free trade deals with them. Pakistan should revive SAARC



as well as ~~as~~ Diversifying relations will remove its dependency on one of them.

### (3) Transparency and Smart Diplomacy:

Pakistan should create a safe space for Chinese and US investors. Transparency and accountability of its people should be done.

### Conclusion:

Pakistan should try to balance its relations with US and China by using smart diplomacy, transparency and diversifying its options. Over reliance on any of them is not good beneficial for Pakistan.

~(Q#02)~



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# End of Ukrainian War

## Introduction:

The chances of the end of ~~war~~ Ukrainian war when the demands of Russia and NATO are poles apart seems difficult in near future. It will only happen if NATO would stop its eastward expansion or Russia would return the annexed territories.

## Historical Background

After the Soviet Union fell in 1991, Ukraine became independent along with other Soviet states. An agreement was formed between Russia and NATO that NATO would stop its eastward expansion and Russia would accept the unification of Germany as well as its disintegration.



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Since independence, Ukraine had move towards ~~EE~~ the West economically and politically. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, Russia under Putin again started resurgency, it annexed Crimea in 2014, attacked Georgia in 2008 and attack Ukraine on 2022. The war has continued for many three years.

### Russia demands

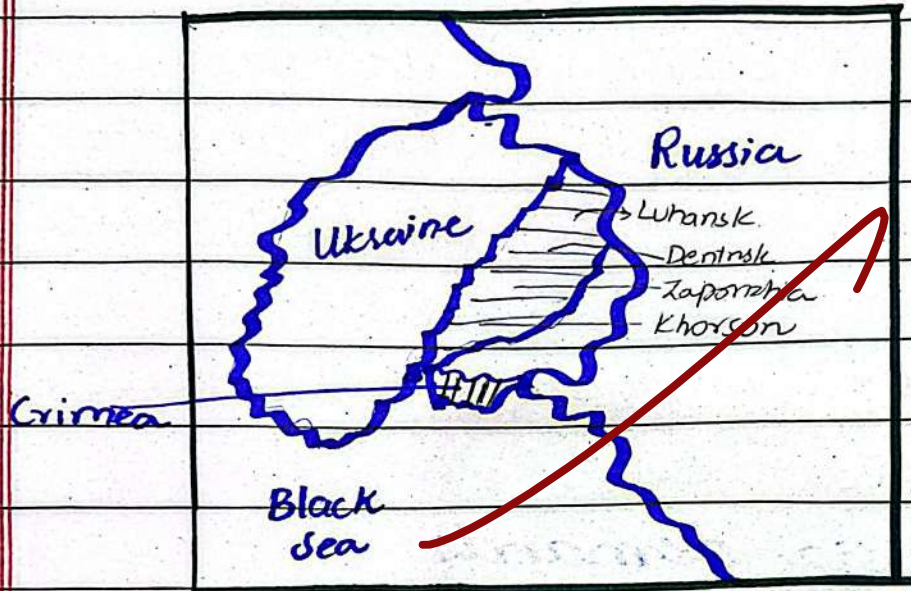
Ukraine will not join NATO. It will <sup>will</sup> ~~will~~ denuclearize. Thirdly, NATO will stop its eastward expansionism and ~~Ukraine will~~ will stop its ~~e~~ and Ukraine will remain neutral in Russia-NATO rivalry. Because if Ukraine will join NATO, NATO will deploy its forces on Russian borders which is an existential threat.



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so it looks like that Russia  
wants is resurging to protect  
its national security.



## Ukraine and NATO demands

To protect its national  
security, Ukraine wants to  
join the NATO and it  
would not develop weapons. Similarly,  
NATO members want to  
maintain balance of power  
in this benefit so they  
would not stop their  
expansionism.



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## Failed Negotiations:

During his campaigns, Trump promised to end the war. It had tried to pressurize Zelensky, but to no avail. Sanctions against Russia have also proved to ~~be~~ not beneficial. So business turned President views everything through lens, so he had announced to not support Ukraine in this war financially if ~~at~~ other NATO members will not ~~increase~~ their budget so in response to that European countries have increased their defense budget, but any effort to stop this war has not been proved to be beneficial.

## Conclusion:

The viewpoints of



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Russia and NATO are poles  
apart. War will only stop  
if one of them accepts their  
defeat or NATO members  
stop their assistance towards  
Russia.

War  
never  
ends  
until  
victory