

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - III

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

Q. 8

Evaluate the Role of key political and social ideologies in the Pakistan Movement between 1930 to 1947. How did events such as the Allahabad Address, Congress Ministries of 1937 and Lahore Resolution influence the demand for a separate home land?

1. Introduction:

Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. The long-awaited freedom for the Muslims of the sub-continent was a far-off dream; however, the stubbornness of the Indian National Congress and the harsh policies it adopted made the Muslims realize the worth of independence and a separate nation. Nevertheless, the struggle for freedom cannot be confined to specific era, or a particular organization, yet it was the amalgamation of multiple factors. Still, some years proved to be more influential than the other ones. In fact, the era of 1930 to 1947 was very significant among different stages of the freedom movement of the Muslims of India, where multiple actions and strategies adopted by the Indian

National Congress made Muslims realize the worth of living independently of Hindu domination. For instance the role of Congress ministries after winning the 1937 elections, their sarcastic reaction to the Lahore Resolution 1940, and the stubbornness of their leaders towards the policies and objectives of All India Muslim League made partition of India inevitable. As Layman Beecher said,

"No great advance has ever been made in science, politics, or religion, without controversy."

2. Alia Abad Address:

Allah Abad Address was a monumental address delivered by Allama Iqbal. It was a virtual output of separate state for the Muslims in the Indian Subcontinent. It occupied a great significance and impact on the Partition proposals. This address gave great boost to the Muslim nationalism.

In 1930, Allama Iqbal was invited to preside over the annual session of All India Muslim League. On 29 December 1930, Iqbal delivered his monumental address, which became the most significant document in Muslim history of India. It was a different address from the usual addresses delivered on such occasions.

2.1 Salient Features:

Following are the some

Salient features of AlaAbad Address:

- i. Allama Iqbal began his address with survey of Political situation in India in a highly Philosophical manner. He firstly diagnosed the ills and then gave the solutions for prevailing ills for Indian polity.
- ii. He theoretically expounded the main principles of Muslim polity and stressed about the need of religion in muslim concept of nationalism.
- iii. Allama Iqbal negated the concept of western nationalism. According to western notion, religion is a private matter of individual, so it should not be combined with polity of state. But he opined that there was no bifurcation in Islam between spirit and matter. According to Islam, he proposed, all are integrated in a compact structure, so muslim destiny is linked with Islam.

Iqbal said:

"I would like to see Punjab, NWFP, Sindh and Balochistan amalgated into a single state"

2.3 Significance:

Following is the Significance of AlaAbad address

* Successful solution for Modern Nationalism:

Allama Iqbal attained status of farsighted scholar and visionary leader, who successfully resolved dichotomy

between territorial nationalism and Pan-Islamism

* Exposition of Two Nation Theory:

Through his address, Allama Iqbal became an exponent of two nation theory, which later hall mark of movement of muslims of Subcontinent.

* Idea of Seperate homeland for Muslims:

As a visionary leader, Allama Iqbal Proved his credentials of farsighted representative of muslims in subcontinent, because he gave the idea of muslim seperate homeland.

* Spirit of Pakistan:

The address of Allama Iqbal was based on a reality, having a great significance in a sense that his address contained the very spirit of Pakistan.

3. Role of Congress Ministries (July 1937 - Nov 1939)

After winning the elections of 1937, the first Priority of All-Indian National Congress was to exclude the muslim League and other Muslim organizations from the government-making process in all provinces. Congress introduced stiff conditions for allowing the league members into the Cabinet in the United Provinces, like that of Bombay and Bihar. As

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a matter of fact, Congress wanted to have a one-party cabinet in the provinces. For that purpose, as a precondition to being part of the coalition, the muslim league was asked to get absorbed into Congress. Of course, the self-liquidation was not acceptable to the League at any cost. According to Jaswant Singh:

"All such attitude on the part of the Congress gave the Muslim League a new lease of life and set in motion a process that culminated in the Partition of India"

3.1 Atrocities of Congress Ministries:

Congress rule had following atrocities in India:

i. Congress conspiracies against All India Muslim League:

Congress started its efforts to destroy All India Muslim League (AIML) in subcontinent.

ii. Refusal to form government coalition with

League: Congress refused to form coalition government with All India Muslim League in the provinces of the subcontinent.

iii. Congress Role for toppling Muslims Government

in Assam: Congress played a major role in fall of Sir Saad ulah government in Assam, Khalid bin Sayeed mentions about remarks of Sir Harry Haig, UP Governor.

"The enthusiasm of masses for Congress Raj melted imperceptibly into Idea of Hindu Raj, which were certainly prevalent throughout Province. These ideas deeply resented by Muslims, who were invincibly determined not to be ruled by Hindus"

iv. Hindu steps for Erosion of Muslims identity:

Immediately after coming to power, Congress declared a Tri-color flag (Tiranga) as national flag and, Bande - matram as national anthem. During Congress rule, a Wardha Educational Scheme was prepared. This scheme declared as co-education and teaching of music as compulsory. Five new books were prepared under the title of New Books. The publication of books described and declared all religions are genuine and there is no need to follow any particular religion.

v. Economic Exploitation:

Congress ministries adopted very discriminatory policies towards Muslims in Sub continent. Now doors of employment were closed for Muslims. This attitude of Congress was resulted into economic exploitation.

vi. Religious Interference:

Congress ministries started religious interference in Congress governed provinces, they prohibited cow slaughtering and introduced the Criminal laws against defiant of this rule. But such steps were against Muslim religious beliefs.

These were the actions that aroused anger among Muslims, who struggled for separate homeland.

4. Lahore Resolution (1940):

Lahore Resolution is regarded as milestone in Muslim political movement of the subcontinent. It marked the beginning of Pakistan movement. Never in the history of world had a resolution consisting mere 400 words changed destiny of nation. Lahore Resolution did this miracle. Lahore Resolution was passed on the 27th Annual session of AIML.

The resolution stated;

No constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to Muslims, unless it is designated on geographically contiguous units in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as the separate states.

5. Conclusion.

In a nutshell, the Alpbach address and the policies of Indian National Congress had a profound impact on the events that led to the Partition of India. While economic planning and state control over resources were pursued with intention of fostering development and equitable distribution, they inadvertently exacerbated communal tension. This led to creation of separate state for Indian Muslims.

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Q 6. Discuss the role of ideology in Pakistan's nation-building process. How the interpretation of ideological contours evolved over time in Pakistan's political and social discourse?

1. Introduction :

Pakistan's nation-building process has been profoundly shaped by ideology, particularly the concepts of the Two Nation Theory and Islamic identity. The country's founding fathers, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, emphasized Islam as a unifying force and guiding principle for the newly created state. This response will discuss the role of ideology in Pakistan's nation-building process and how the interpretations of ideological contours evolved over time in Pakistan's political and social discourse.

2. The Two - Nation Theory and Islamic Identity :

The Two - Nation theory, which posits that Muslims and Hindus are distinct nations, served as the basis for Pakistan's creation. This ideology aimed to provide a separate homeland for the Muslims, where they could live according to Islamic principles. The theory was rooted in the idea that Muslims and Hindus had distinct cultural, social, and economic identities that could not be reconciled within a single state.

Islamic identity played a central role in shaping Pakistan's ideology. The country's founding father emphasized Islam's role in unifying the nation and providing a sense of purpose. Islam was seen as a guiding principle for governance, laws and institutions.

3. Evolution of Ideological Contours :

The interpretation of Pakistan's ideology has evolved significantly over time:

3.1 Early years (1947-1956):

In the initial years, Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan emphasized Islam's role in shaping Pakistan's identity, but also advocated for a modern, inclusive state. The Objectives Resolution (1949) and the Constitution (1956) enshrined Islamic principles

, setting the tone for Pakistan's ideological trajectory.

3.2 Islamization (1970 - 1980s):

Zulifqar Ali Bhutto's regime introduced socialism of Islam, while Zia-ul-Haq's military rule aggressively promoted Islamization, introducing Islamic laws (Hudood - ordinance) and institutions (Federal Shariat Court). This period solidified Islam's central role in Pakistan's polity.

3.3 Contemporary Era:

Today, ideology continues to shape Pakistan's politics, with debates on Islam's role in governance, human rights, and extremism. The Taliban insurgency and sectarian tensions have highlighted challenges in Pakistan's ideological landscape.

4. Impact of Ideology on Nation-Building:

Ideology has had a profound impact on Pakistan's nation-building process.

4.1 Unity and identity:

Ideology provided a unifying force, shaping Pakistan's identity and purpose.

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4.2 Sectarian Tensions:

Interpretations have fueled sectarian tensions, extremism, and human rights concerns. Because in Pakistan Peoples are divided into different sects and they have interpreted Islam according to their school of thought, which are causing problems.

4.3. Governance:

Ideology has influenced Pakistan's laws, institutions, and culture.

5. Challenges and opportunities:

Pakistan's ideological foundations continue to shape its nation-building process. Addressing challenges requires:

5.1 Inclusive Ideology:

Inclusive ideology should be adopted which will promote tolerant interpretations of Islam, balancing democratic values and human rights. Because Islam is always talks about the peace.

5.2 Democratic Consolidations:

Strengthening institutions and promoting social cohesion. Islamic ideology tells us that the people should follow the directives of Ameer

5.3 Countering Extremism:

Addressing radicalization and promoting a culture of peace. Because Islam itself meaning is peace. Through working with this ideology we should counter the radicalization and people who are mongering hate among peoples should be treated with iron hands.

By addressing these challenges and opportunities, Pakistan can harness its ideological foundations to promote national unity, democratic governance, and social cohesion.

~~6. Cohesion:~~

6. Conclusion:

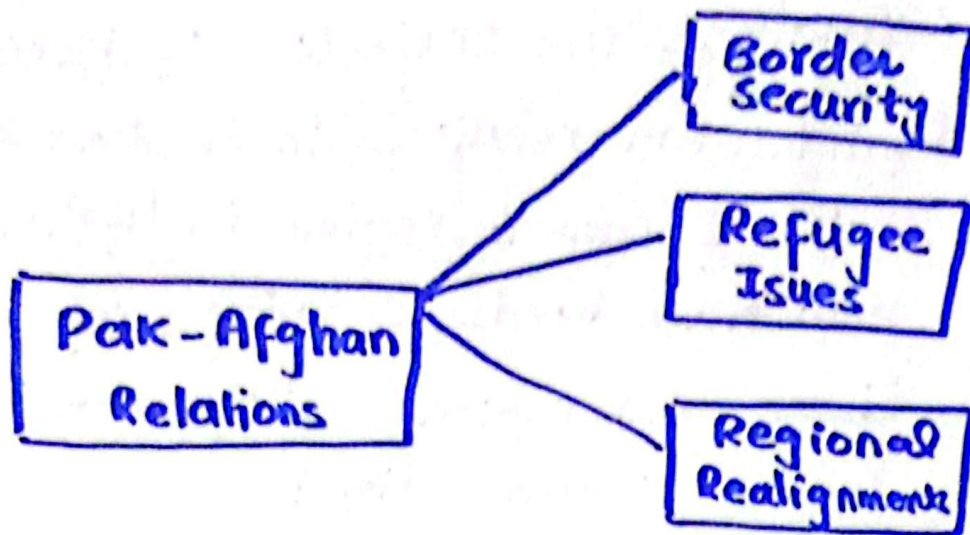
In conclusion, ideology has played a pivotal role in Pakistan's nation-building process, shaping its identity and informing governance. The evolution of ideological contours has had significant impacts on politics, society, and governance. Addressing challenges requires promoting inclusive ideology, democratic consolidation, and countering extremism.



Q4. Analyze the trajectory of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the post-2021 Period of current regime in Afghanistan. How have border security, refugee issues, and regional alignments influenced bilateral ties?

1. Introduction:

After the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, Islamabad initially pursued pragmatic engagement: recognition was not given, but Pakistan sought stability on its border, continued trade with Kabul, and quiet diplomacy. Over the following years, however, relations moved from cautious cooperation toward recurrent tension and episodic hostility as cross-border militant attacks, competing border-post construction and trade/transit disruption increased. By 2023-2025 the relationship hardened: high-profile border skirmishes, closures of major crossings, and a tougher Pakistani posture on Afghan refugees and repatriation made relations markedly more fraught. Regional alignments have also played its part in bilateral relations.



2. Border Security – the Central fault line:

From permissive tolerance to blame and clashes. Pakistan repeatedly gave evidences to Afghan's Taliban that some groups like TTP are operating from Afghan soil of staging attacks in Pakistan. Pakistan has accused of Afghanistan as launching pads of different terrorist organizations.

Those accusations and incidents on ground – translated into exchange of fire, closure of borders notably Torkham, and arrests along the Durand line. In several episodes in 2021 – and 2025 both sides reportedly fire fights recently in October 2025, and temporary shutdowns of trade routes.

2.1 Strategic vulnerability for Pakistan:

Cross-border militant activity threatens Pakistani security forces and strategic projects (e.g. Port / Chinese-linked projects were attacked in some attacks), increasing pressure on Islamabad to demonstrate a tougher stance. This in-turn reduces incentives to accommodate the Kabul authorities.

2.2 Operational friction at the border:

Disputes over construction of border posts, policing of Durand line, and mutual suspicion have turned routine border management into a security flashpoint - affecting trade, civilian movement, and confidence building.

3. Refugee Issues:

Humanitarian politics turned security politics:

3.1 Large Afghan population in Pakistan:

Pakistan hosts millions of Afghans from earlier waves and saw renewed arrivals after 2021. The demography creates both humanitarian obligations and domestic political pressure.

3.2 Policy shift:

Islamabad moved toward a securitized posture: crackdowns on undocumented migrants, registration drives, and announcements of phased repatriation plans. Political rhetoric and enforcement increased, especially where Islamabad linked refugee presence to cross-border militancy and criminality. This has produced pushbacks from rights groups and strains with humanitarian agencies.

According to UNHCR:

" more than 1.5 million Afghans left Pakistan - voluntarily or forcibly, between the start of campaign in 2023 and mid - October 2025 "

Closing borders and mass returns risk humanitarian crisis inside Afghanistan and also undermine any soft-power leverage Pakistan might retain inside Afghan politics.

4. Regional realignments:

4.1 China's stronger role:

Beijing has expanded engagement with the Taliban for security and economic reasons. China's growing footprint (diplomacy, investment) gives Kabul alternatives to Pakistan and raises Islamabad's strategic calculations

4.2 Gulf states and Central Asia:

Some Gulf states have engaged the Taliban for different reasons like security, sectarian balance and economic ties. Central Asian transit ambitions and corridor politics have also shifted regional incentives over Afghanistan. As external states deepen ties, Pakistan's unilateral leverage over Kabul is diluted.

Pakistan once exercised outsized influence over Afghan politics; diversified patronage and regional economic interests have reduced Islamabad's bargaining power and created competing incentives for the Taliban that don't always align with Pakistan's security priorities

5. How these three interact to shape bilateral ties:

5.1 Reinforcing negative cycle:

Pakistani closures and tougher refugee measures to Taliban defensiveness or denials. Pakistan publically pressures Kabul and some Pakistani political actors press for punitive steps. This creates periodic escalation and episodic de-escalation. Examples: repeated Torkham closures and exchanges in 2021-23 that disrupted trade and humanitarian flows.

5.2 Domestic Politics Matter:

Pakistani government and security establishments face domestic pressure to be seen as protecting territory and citizens. That limits Washington-style engagement options and favours kinetic responses or strict migration control.

5.3 Humanitarian and Economic Costs:

Border closures and refugee expulsion damage trade, truck convoys stranded at Torkham, increase local economic pain in border provinces, and worsen humanitarian conditions in Afghanistan, which in turn can produce more instability and militant recruitment.

6. Conclusion:

Since August 2021, Pakistan - Afghanistan ties moved from guarded pragmatism to a tense, security-driven relationship. Border security incidents, a ~~security~~ securitized refugee

Policy, and Afghanistan's increasing engagements with other powers have reduced Islamabad's leverage and produced a cycle of occasional clash and economic pain. Durable improvement will require verifiable counter-terror cooperation, institutional border mechanism, humanitarian responsibility on refugees and smart regional diplomacy.

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Q₃. The Current economic challenges of Pakistan are challenges of Political Economy or the issues are deep rooted in structural flawed in our economy. Take a side and biggest policy measures to address these challenges.

1. Introduction:

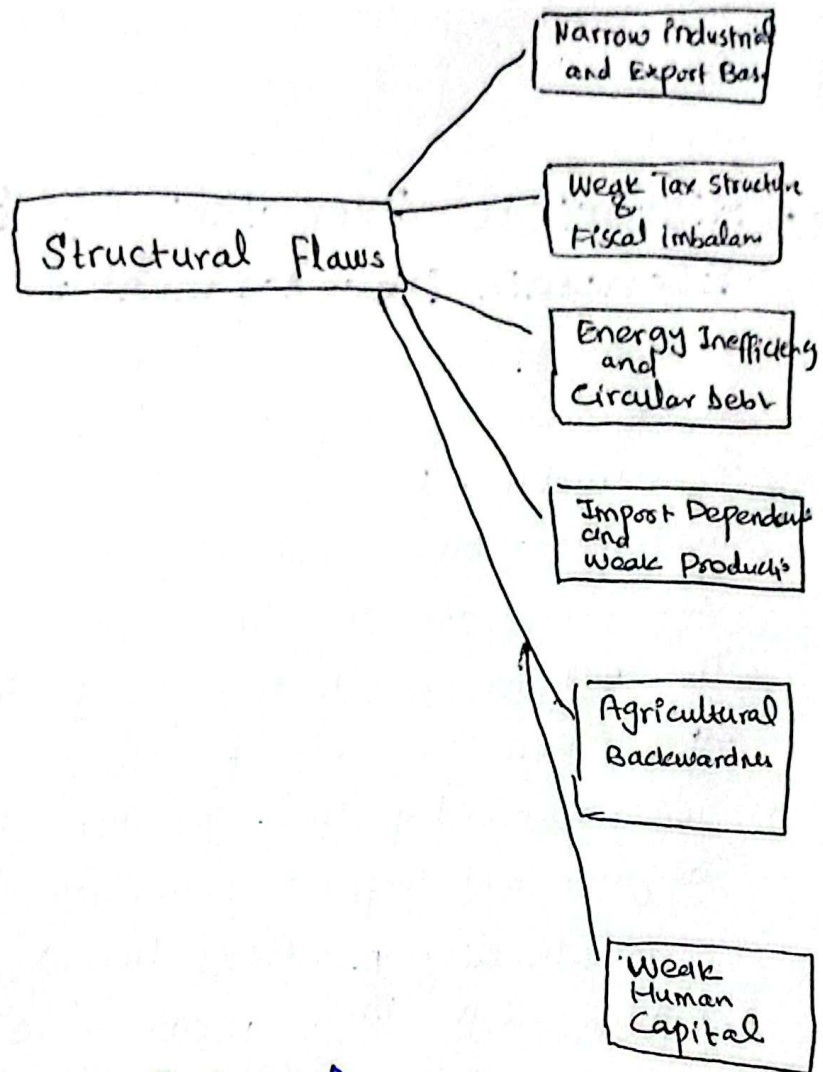
Pakistan's economy stands at a crossroads, caught between recurring fiscal crisis and slow growth. From rising inflation and mounting external debt to low industrial productivity and unemployment, the economic outlook appears grim. The core debate, however, revolves around whether these challenges stem from country's political economy, the mismanagement, corruption and policy discontinuity caused by political instability or from structural flaws deeply rooted in its economic foundations. While political instability has certainly amplified economic uncertainty, the roots of Pakistan's economic malaise are structural

in nature. The weakness in its tax system, energy structure, export composition, and human capital formation have constrained growth and perpetuated dependence on external assistance. Thus, sustainable progress requires not short-term political fixes but comprehensive structural reforms that address the fundamental weakness of the economy.

2. Historical Overview of Pakistan's Economic Development:

At independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited an agrarian economy with limited industrial infrastructure. The early decades witnessed moderate growth, primarily driven by agriculture and foreign aid. The 1960s were often termed the "decade of development," yet the benefits of growth were unevenly distributed, leading to social and regional disparities. The 1970s brought nationalization and inefficiency; the 1980s and 1990s saw alternating periods of liberalization and populism, with little institutional reform. Pakistan has oscillated between brief periods of growth and repeated balance of payment crises, necessitating 23 IMF programs. This chronic dependency underscores structural weakness rather than temporary political missteps.

3. Structural Flaws in Pakistan's Economy :



3.1 Narrow Industrial and Export Base:

Pakistan's export structure remains heavily concentrated in low-value added goods, primary textiles, accounting for over 60% of total exports. There has been minimal diversification toward high-tech manufacturing, engineering goods or service. In contrast, countries like

Vietnam and Bangladesh have successfully diversified their exports baskets. This lack of diversification makes Pakistan highly vulnerable to global price fluctuations, energy shocks and external demand downturns.

3.2 Weak Tax structure and Fiscal Imbalance:

One of the most glaring structural deficiencies lies in the taxation system. Pakistan's tax to GDP ratio hovers around 9-10%, significantly below the regional average. Less than 2% of the population pays income tax, while indirect taxes account for the bulk of revenue. This reliance on regressive taxation fuels inflation and inequality while starving the government of resources for development spending. Furthermore, the informal economy - estimated ^{to be} around 36-40% of GDP - remain outside the tax net.

3.3 Energy Inefficiency and Circular Debt:

The energy sector represents a critical bottleneck in Pakistan's growth. Circular debt - arising from poor collection, theft and insufficient subsidies has crossed 2.6 trillion. The power mix is heavily dependent on imported fuels, exposing the

economy to global price volatility and foreign exchange pressures. Frequent power outages and high tariffs erode industrial competitiveness and deter investment.

3.4 Import-Dependent Competition and Weak Production Base:

Pakistan's growth model has been consumption-driven rather than production-driven. The economy relies excessively on imported fuel, machinery, and consumer goods, leading to chronic trade deficits. When foreign exchange reserves dwindle, the government resorts to import restrictions and currency depreciation, further squeezing domestic growth. This cycle is symptomatic of a structural dependence on imports without corresponding export capacity.

3.5 Agricultural Backwardness:

Despite employing nearly 37% of the labor force, agriculture contributes only around 19% of GDP. Productivity remains stagnant due to outdated farming techniques, water management, and limited mechanization. Inadequate investment in agro-based industries means that Pakistan continues to export raw commodities rather than value-added agricultural products, forfeiting significant exports potential.

3.6 weak Human Capital and Institutional Fragility:

Pakistan ranks low on the Human development index (HDI). the literacy rate below 66%, and only a small percentage of the workforce possesses vocational or technical training. Weak institutions, bureaucratic inertia, and policy inconsistency further aggravate the structural crisis, discouraging both domestic and foreign investment.

4. Policy Measures to Address Structural Challenges:

4.1 Comprehensive Tax Reforms:

There should be comprehensive tax reforms to widen the tax base by integrating agriculture, real estate, and retail sectors. Taxation should be shifted from indirect to Direct to improve equity. Federal Board of Revenue should be strengthened through digitization and autonomy to curb evasion and corruption.

4.2 Export Diversification and Industry Policy:

Develop high-value sectors such as information

technology, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods. Establish special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC to attract investment in manufacturing. Provide targeted incentives for export-oriented industries and foster research and development.

4.3 Energy sector overhaul:

There is overhaul needed in energy sector. Rationalize energy pricing to reduce circular debt. Promote renewable energy to decrease reliance on imported fuels. Improve governance in distribution companies (DISCOs) through ~~private~~ Privatization or performance-based management.

4.4 Agricultural Modernization:

Promote corporate farming and mechanization. Invest in irrigation infrastructure and climate-resilient crops. Encourage agro-based industries and food processing to enhance value addition.

4.5. Human Capital and Skill development:

There is urgent need to invest in human capital and skill development. Allocate at least 4% of GDP to education and 1% to health, as pledged in national policy documents. Align vocational and technical training with market demands. Strengthen universities-industry linkages to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship.

4.6 Institutional Strengthening and Governance:

The institutions should be strengthened and governance should be improved. Ensure continuity in economic policy across political transitions. Independent institutions like State Bank of Pakistan and planning commission must be empowered. Transparency should be promoted and accountability in public spending.

4.7 Sustainable External Financing:

Reduce reliance on IMF and external borrowing by promoting exports and remittances. Enhance regional trade integration with Central Asia, China and the Middle East. Build sovereign wealth and stabilization funds to absorb external shocks.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's economic challenges are structural at their core. Political instability and mismanagement have certainly aggravated them, but the true roots lie in a fragile production base, an inefficient tax system, energy dependence, and weak human capital. Without addressing these underlying flaws, no amount of political reform can bring sustainable economic stability.