

(1)

Pakistan Affairs

Q.2:- Critically evaluate the evolution of Pakistan's Political system and Culture after 1999? - ...

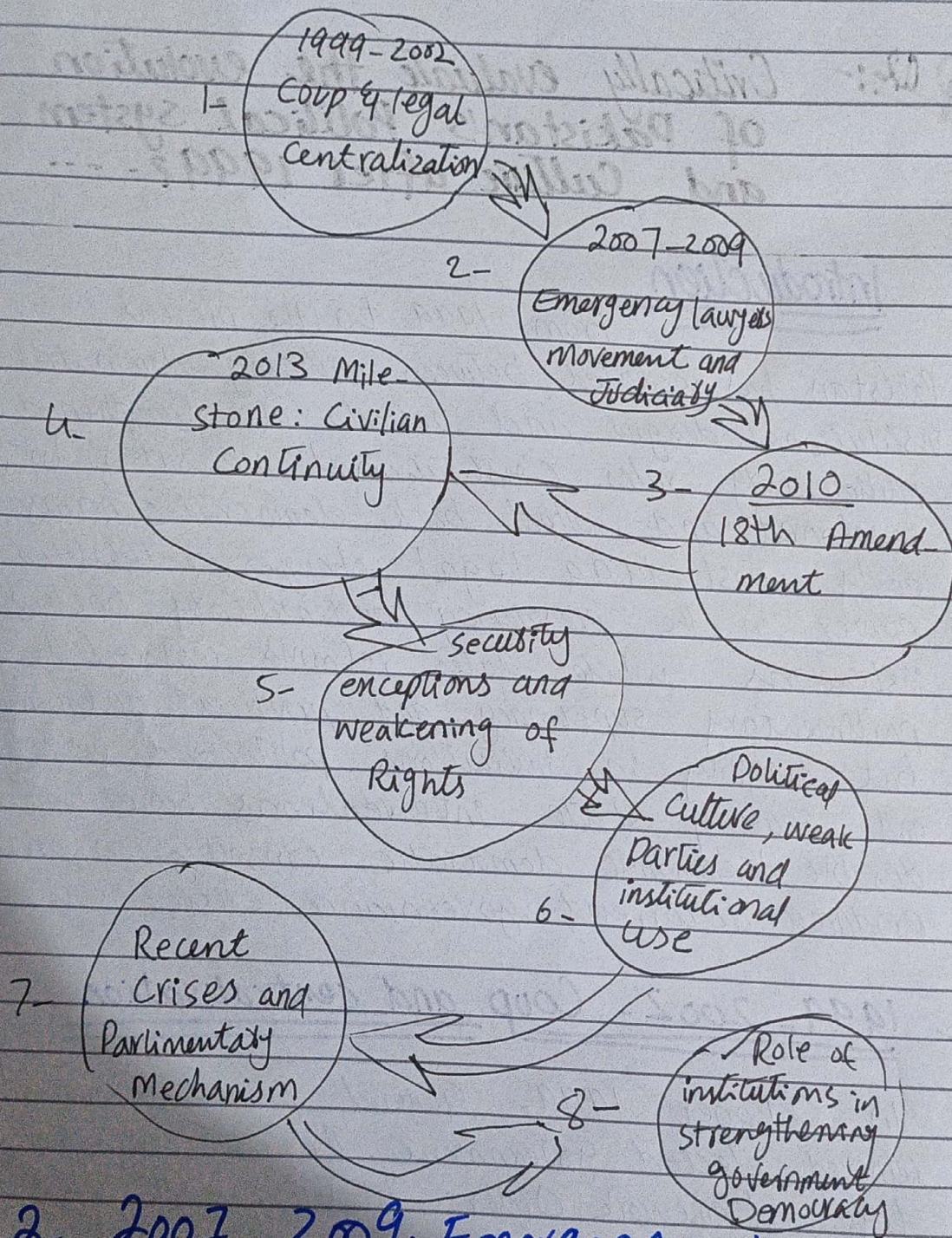
Introduction

From 1999 to the present, Pakistan has oscillated between military dominated institutional designs and periods of strengthened parliamentary rules. Constitutional measures both reinforced and rolled back democratic norms early post 1999 legal changes centralized power in the presidency and military backed institutions, while later reforms restored the parliamentary supremacy and provincial autonomy but fragility in institutions politicized judiciary and security state interventions have limited durable democratic consolidation and produced recurrent governance crises.

1. 1999-2002 - Coup and centralisation

In October 1999, General Pervez Musharraf removed elected government. The military used Legal Framework Orders (LFO) and other measures to expand presidential powers and weaken parliamentary checks. This period created strong executive control and set back democratic norms.

Time line



2 2007-2009: Emergency, Lawyer's movement and Judiciary

Musharraf's 2007 emergency and removal of Judges sparked the Lawyers' movement. Mass protest forced restoration of Judges and increased the judiciary's Public role. The judiciary got more assertive but also more politicised.

3- 2010: 18th Amendment: Constitutional Re-balancing

The 18th Amendment (2010) is the most important Constitutional change after 1999. It took away many discretionary powers to the President, strengthened parliamentary supremacy and increased provincial autonomy by shrinking the federal concurrent list. On paper, this shifted Pakistan back towards Parliamentary democracy and federalism.

4- 2013 Milestone: Civilian Continuity

In 2013, Pakistan achieved important democratic milestone. A civilian government completed its full term and power transferred through elections. This showed improving democratic continuity, though governance problem remained.

5- Security ~~expect~~ exceptions and weakening Rights

Despite Constitutional gains, the state has repeatedly used emergency powers and security driven laws. For example, 21st Amendment allowed temporary military courts for terrorism cases. Such measures addresses security needed but weaken rule of law and civil liberties.

6- Political Culture: Personalization, weak parties and institutional use

Politics often revolves around personalities and elite bargaining. Political parties are weakly institutionalized state institutions have sometimes been used against opponents. This behavior undermines trust, makes policy unstable and reduces democratic quality.

7- Recent Crises & Parliamentary Mechanism

Parliamentary tools have worked - For example Imran Khan was removed via a NO-Confidence vote under Article 95A showing parliamentary mechanism can function but fall out (mass protest, arrests, legal cases) show to somehow fragility remains in political settlements.

8- Role of Institutions in Strengthening Democracy

2

institutions such as Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Judiciary and Parliamentary committees have become more active and independent. Reforms in electoral laws, accountability mechanism and financial management reflect Pakistan's continuing journey toward good governance.

Political Economy Measures to Enable Reforms



1- Build Cross Party Consensus

Major Fiscal and Structural reforms must be negotiated with opposition and key stakeholders. A bipartisan compact can reduce policy reversals.

2- Sequence Reforms with Compensations

Use carefully designed compensation (transfer and relief for vulnerable groups) to make reforms politically feasible.

3- Strengthening accountability

Parliamentary budget committees, empowered audit offices and independent regulators must be reinforced to reduce rent seeking.

4- Engage civil society & Media

Transparent dialogue and public education about reform benefits will reduce resistance and misinformation.

Conclusion

Pakistan current economic crises can not solved by technical fixes alone. Political economy obstacles are the main barriers to implementation. Therefore the priority should be to create credible depoliticized policy frameworks and strengthen institutions that can carry out structural reforms. Pakistan can overcome short term turbulence and set the economy on a path of inclusive, resilient growth.

X ——— X

Qn Analyze the trajectory of Pakistan Afghanistan relation in the — — — — — ?

Introduction

After the Taliban control over Kabul in 2021, Pak Afghan relations entered a new phase of cautious engagement mixed with rising tensions. Border Issue Refugees issue management and the regional realignments have been the main drivers of the bilateral trajectory. At times, Islamabad sought pragmatic cooperation with the new Afghan authorities, at other

~~With the~~ ~~After~~ times, security incidents saw cross border militancy and large refugee movements pushed relations towards confrontation.

Border Security:

(from guarded cooperation to periodic confrontation)

1- Initial approach (2021-2022)

Pakistan adopted a pragmatic stance after 2021, August trying to stabilize relations borders through negotiations and confidence building while keeping security forces ready. Islamabad emphasised diplomatic engagement with Kabul to control militant flows and secure trade and transit points.

2- Rising Tensions: (2022-2025)

Afghan uses to support Tehrik E Taliban Pakistan (TTP) against Pakistan for attacks. Islamabad responded with intensified border surveillance, occasional cross border strikes or artillery exchanges allegations and periodic closure of major crossing when incidents occurred.

These incidents have produced recurring spikes of confrontation and mutual recrimination

Effects The net effect is securitisation and militarisation of frontier management, more fences, check points, closures and episodic clashes which undermines trades, people to people link and confidence building. Recent closures and exchange of fire show the volatility of the border situation.

2- Refugees Issue:-

① Large flows and mixed status:-

The Taliban take over provoked a renewed Afghan exodus. Pakistan hosts a large Afghan population - a mix of long term refugees, more recent arrivals and undocumented persons. Managing this mixed population has been politically and economically sensitive for Islamabad.

② Policy Shift:- Pakistan initially extended temporary protection while also encouraging voluntary returns and coordinating with UN over 2023-2025. Islamabad moved toward stricter measures, announcing large scale returns for certain groups and increasing round up in some urban areas. This shift has drawn domestic support but also

(3)

Conclusion

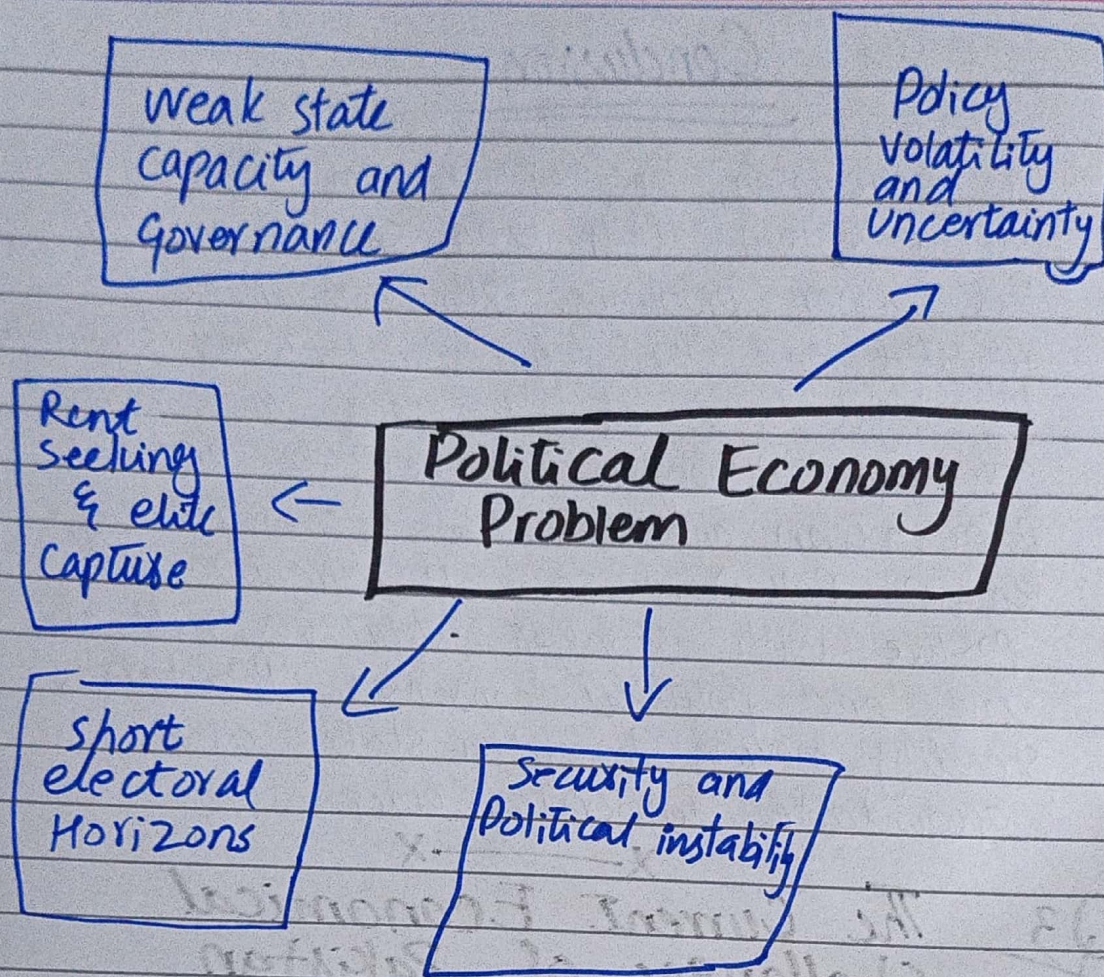
In Conclusion, the evolution of Pakistan's political system after 1999 shows progress but minor problems. 18th amendment regulated and the regular elections strengthened the legal base of democracy and improved governance. Although challenges like political polarisation and institutional inefficiency remain, Pakistan's overall direction is positive. With stronger institutions, rule of law and political consensus, Pakistan is steadily moving toward a stable and accountable democratic order.

x ————— x

Q3 The Current Economical Challenges of Pakistan are challenges of Political Economy or the ?

1- Introduction : while Pakistan's economy suffers from long standing structural weakness like

Pakistan faces high fiscal and external deficits, low investment and slow growth. These problems have structural roots, but political economy factors and unstable policy, weak institutions, and short term policies. Fixing politics driven obstacles is therefore the priority: structural reforms must follow with political commitment.



① Policy volatility and uncertainty

Frequent changes in economic managers, abrupt policy reversals and adhoc measures reduce investor confidence and disrupt long term projects.

② Weak State Capacity & Governance

Tax collection, public procurement and public sector enterprises operate with low efficiency and high leakages because institutions are under resourced

and politicised.

③ Rent Seeking & Elite Capturing

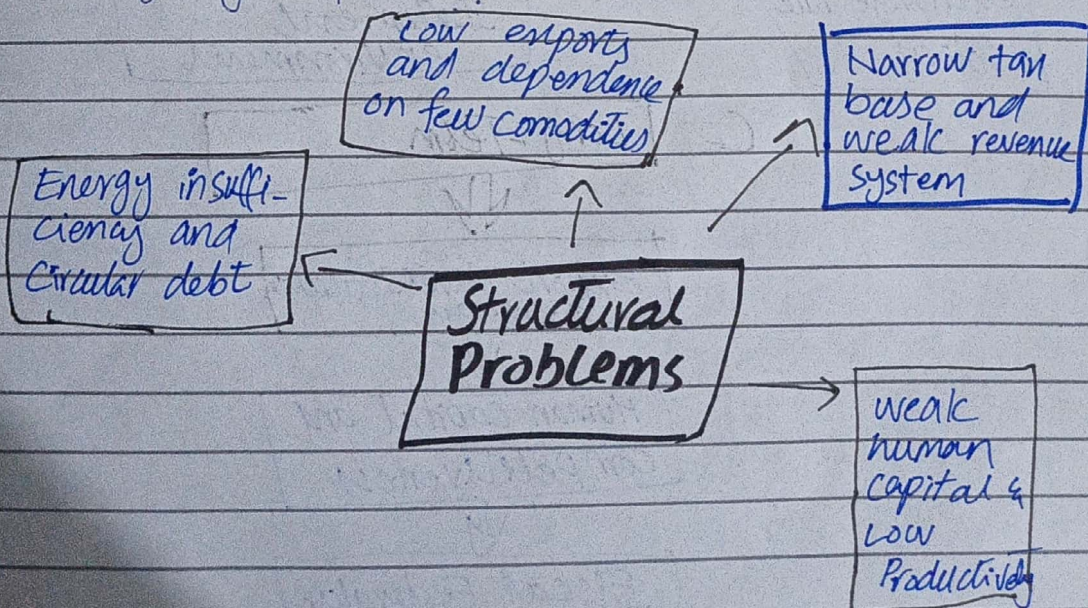
Subsidies, tax exemption and state contracts often serve narrow interests draining public resources and blocking market competition.

④ Short electoral horizons :-

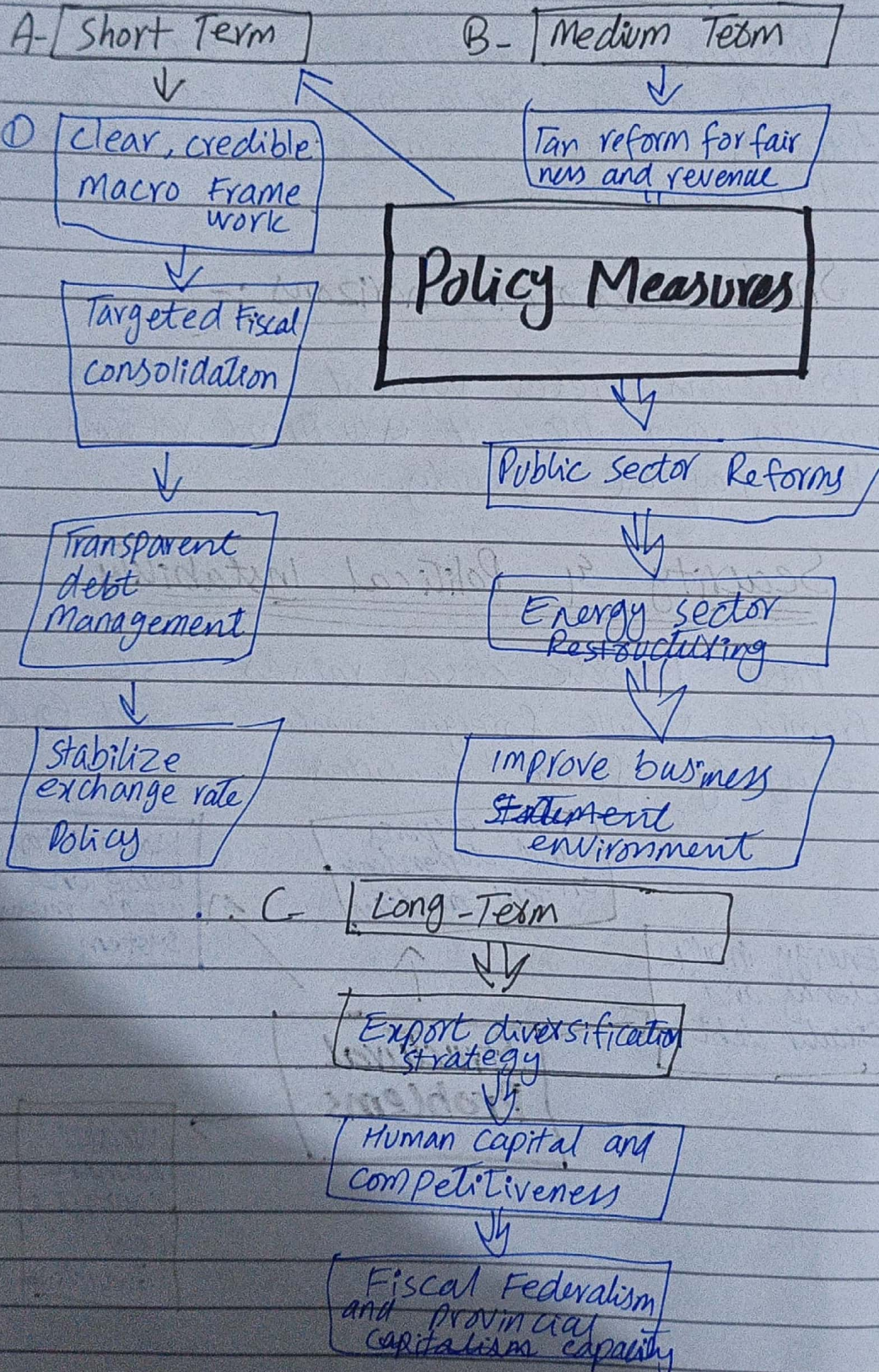
Politicians prefer populist short term measures over difficult structural reforms that pay off slowly.

⑤ Security & Political Instability

~~Periodic~~ Periodic crises raises risk premia, shrink foreign investment and force emergency fiscal measures.



These need technical reforms but require political backing and institutional capacity to succeed.



international concerns about forced returns and humanitarian risks.

u) Regional Realignments and changing Power Dynamics

The post 2021- era has also seen major regional realignments. Afghanistan under the Taliban has tried to strengthen ties with countries such as "China, Iran, Russia" and "Central Asian states" partly to reduce dependence on Pakistan and western aid.

China has taken interest in adding ^{more} Belt and Road initiative (BRI) into Afghanistan, while Russia and Iran have engaged with Kabul for security and economic reasons.

→ Pakistan on its part, continues to pursue a "Balance Regional Policy". It has worked closely with China and Central Asian Countries to promote regional connectivity, peace and counterterrorism cooperation.

→ Pakistan also participated in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to address Afghan related challenges collectively. However, as Afghanistan diversifies its regional Foreign Relations, Pakistan's direct influence on Kabul has declined & diplomacy more complex.

Policy Recommendations

Institutionalized Border Management
Counter-Terrorism Corporation

Humanitarian Approach

Economic and connective incentives.

Regional diplomacy

Public Diplomacy.

Conclusion

Oct 2025 tensions
underline fragility and potential of
Pakistan - Afghan relations.