

Subjective Part.

Q#6:

Ukraine-Russia War

→ Introduction.

The Ukraine-Russia war has evolved from a regional dispute into global geopolitical confrontation. At present the contest between Russia's demand for strategic depth and NATO's quest to uphold a Western-led international order. The sharply divergent goals of both sides have created this regional dispute.

→ Russia's Strategic Objectives.

Russia sees Ukraine's Western alignment as a threat to its national security. It demands the recognition of Crimea and eastern territories, coupled with Ukraine's neutrality outside NATO.

→ NATO's Counter-Position

NATO and its Western allies, on the contrary, reject any form of territorial concession. NATO sees Russian aggression as a direct violation of international law. It could encourage other revisionist powers if left unchecked. NATO upholds Ukraine's right to determine its alliances.

→ Strategic Stalemate

The conflict has settled into a prolonged stalemate. Russia maintains its territorial hold while Ukraine depends heavily on the Western weapons and aids. Both sides are militarily capable. This whole situation creates a repeating cycle of escalation without decisive victory.

→ Domestic & Political Constraints

Domestic and political constraints have narrowed the negotiations.

→ President Putin uses wartime nationalism to

consolidate power.

→ In NATO states, public sympathy for Ukraine and fear of resurgence sustain political support.

→ Global Outcome & War Fatigue

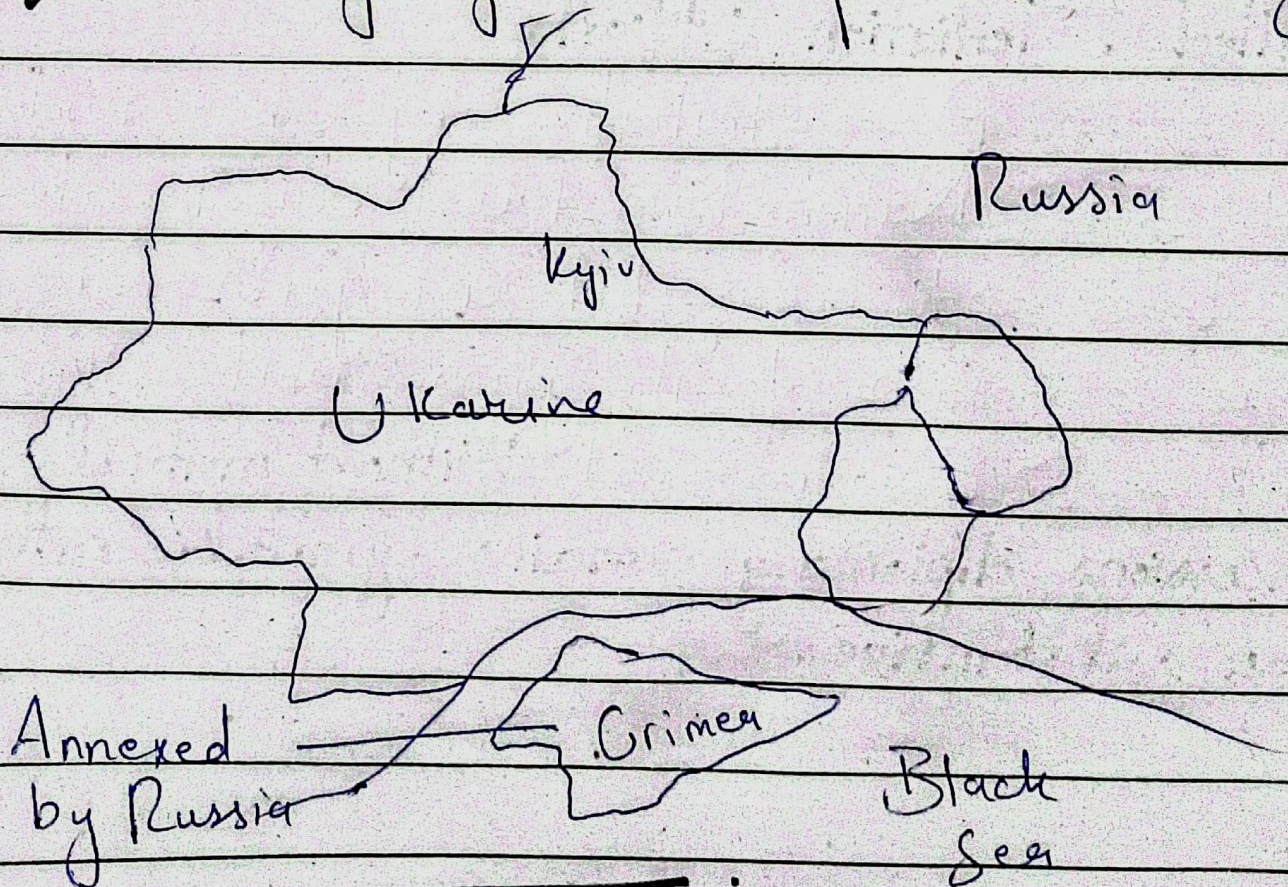
The war has disrupted energy supplies, increased food insecurity and inflation worldwide. The global South's call for peace have so far lacked sufficient diplomatic leverage to alter the conflict's course.

→ Failed Mediation Efforts

Peace Initiatives by China, Turkey and United Nation have failed due to absence of trust and incompatible end goals. Russia seeks recognition of its gains, while Ukraine demands full withdrawal. Without mutual concessions, diplomacy remains symbolic rather than substantive.

→ Critical Analysis.

The Ukraine war extends beyond borders. From a realistic perspective, neither Russia nor NATO can afford outright defeat, making complete victory for either side improbable. It reflects the struggle over the future of the world order. Russia aims to reshape global power dynamics in favor of multipolarity while NATO defends a liberal, rule-based system resulting into a "**frozen conflict**" - lingering without peace or victory.



Q # 8.

Pakistan - Saudia Defense Pact.

→ Introduction.

On 17th September, 2025, Pakistan and Saudia Arabia signed the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) in Riyadh under which, an aggression against one is to be treated as an aggression against both. This pact marks a major upgrade of long-standing defense relationship amid changing global and regional dynamics.

→ Causes.

1. Regional Security Concerns.

Saudia Arabia faces persistent threats from Iran and regional instability, coupled with uncertainty over U.S. commitment to

Gulf security. Signing defense pact with Pakistan - a nuclear state with strong military capabilities - ensures Saudi's regional deterrence.

2. Pakistan's Economic Interests.

Pakistan seeks to revive economic ties, attract Saudi investment to reaffirm its economic stability. The pact promises defense collaboration and financial dividends.

3. Timing and External Catalyst.

The pact coincided with heightened tensions in the middle East, such that, Israel-Qatar strike and a major India-Pakistan border escalation earlier in 2025, which sharpened Pakistan's value to the Gulf security architecture.

4. Strong Historical Ties

Both nations share decades of defense cooperation, religious affinity. The pact merely formalize what had long been an informal tie.

→ Implications

1. Bilateral Benefit.

For Pakistan → Gains in strategic relevance, economic potential and enhanced deterrence posture

For Saudi Arabia → Credible defense assurance, diversification from US dependence.

2. Regional Repercussions.

India views the pact cautiously as it may enhance Pakistan's defense capacity. Iran, too, may perceive as it part of a containment strategy.

3. Linkages.

The pact may pave the way for joint defense production, Pakistan training of Saudi forces, and Saudi investment in Pakistan's infrastructure and in defense industry.

4. Risk and Strategic Costs.

Pakistan risks entanglement in Middle Eastern rivalries, while Saudi Arabia's closer alignment with Islamabad could strain its relations with India & the West.

⇒ Critical Analytic Conclusion.

The pact reflects mutual needs rather than purely ideological alignment. But this pact is both a diplomatic milestone and a strategic gamble. It strengthens the mutual ties with deepening risks of polarization in the Gulf and South Asia. The success of this agreement will depend on whether both states can translate symbolism into sustainable, balanced co-operation.

Q#2.

Pak-Afghan Relations.

→ Introduction

Despite cultural, religious and even geographic proximity, Pakistan-Afghanistan terms remained strained. Even after Chinese mediation through the trilateral dialogue, mistrust continue to dominate.

→ Major Factors of Tension.

1. Cross-Border Terrorism

Pakistan blames Afghanistan for sheltering TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan), which conducts attack inside Pakistan. Conversely, Kabul accuses Islamabad of interference in Afghan affairs.

2. Durand Line Dispute.

Afghanistan has historically refused to recognize the "Durand Line" as an international border. Border clashes at Chaman and Torkham worsened tensions.

3. Taliban's Non-Cooperation.

Pakistan expected a friendly term after the Taliban's regime in 2021. However, they have shown little willingness to act against anti-Pakistan militants.

4. Refugee & Economic Burden.

Pakistan hosts over a million Afghan refugees, which strains its economy & security. Moreover, trade disruptions and smuggling continue to fuel friction.

5. Regional Geopolitics.

India's presence in Afghanistan and the broader US - China rivalry complicate the regional environment.

→ Ways to Improve Relations.

1. Joint Counter-Terrorism

A joint Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Mechanism could help address cross-border militant threat.

2. Border Management & Legal Trade.

Completion of border fencing, establishment of verified crossing points and formal trade routes can reduce illegal movement and smuggling.

3. Economic Cooperation.

Reviving Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTA) and integrating Afghanistan in CPEC could generate mutual economic stability.

4. People-to-People Diplomacy.

Cultural exchanges, student scholarships and visa facilitations can help counter hostile narratives.

> Critical Analytic Conclusion.

Pakistan seeks a stable, cooperative neighbour but remains wary of Afghan nationalism & Indian influence. Lasting improvement requires a shift from coercion to cooperation, from suspicion to shared responsibility. Both nations must realize that enduring peace will come through mutual respect and consistent dialogue.



Q # 7.

Pakistan Relation with US and China

→ Introduction.

Pakistan foreign policy is once again at a crossroads. With the rekindling of engagement with United States and its deepening strategic partnership with China, Pakistan faces the challenge of maintaining equilibrium between two global rivals. Balancing these relations is crucial for Pakistan's economic revival, security interests and regional stability.

→ Historical Context.

Pakistan has traditionally relied on both the US and China at different stages. During the Cold War, Pakistan

was a close US ally, but relations soured after the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Conversely, China has been Pakistan's "All Weather Friend", particularly through projects like CPEC.

→ Major Challenges.

1. Rivalry between US and China.

The intensifying competition between the Washington & Beijing, especially in the Indo-Pacific region, places Pakistan in a delicate position.

2. Dependence on Aid.

Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities compel it to seek IMF-backed and Western financial support, often influenced by US while CPEC investment remains central to growth.

3. Security & Technological Pressure.

US security partnership with India &

its restrictions on Chinese Technology create strategic complications for Pakistan's defence & trade.

→ Strategies for Balancing Relations

1. **Multi-Alignment Policy.**
Pakistan should adopt Multi-Alignment Policy. Engage both powers based on national interest, avoiding binary choices.
2. **Economic Diversification.**
Expand trade with ASEAN, the EU & the Middle East to reduce dependence on any single power bloc.
3. **Active Diplomacy.**
Use forums like SCO, UN and OIC to project Pakistan's independent & peace oriented foreign policy.

4. Regional Stability Initiatives

Promote Cooperation in Afghanistan & counter-terrorism where US and China interest overlap

→ Critical Analytical Conclusion

Pakistan's success in balancing both powers depends on its domestic stability and economic resilience. A weak economy limits diplomatic flexibility, forcing dependence on external factors. Pakistan must pursue strategic autonomy grounded in economic strength, consistent diplomacy and regional peace efforts. Otherwise, Pakistan is at a risk of becoming a pawn rather than a partner in great power politics.