

QNo: 8

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Defence Pact

Introduction:-

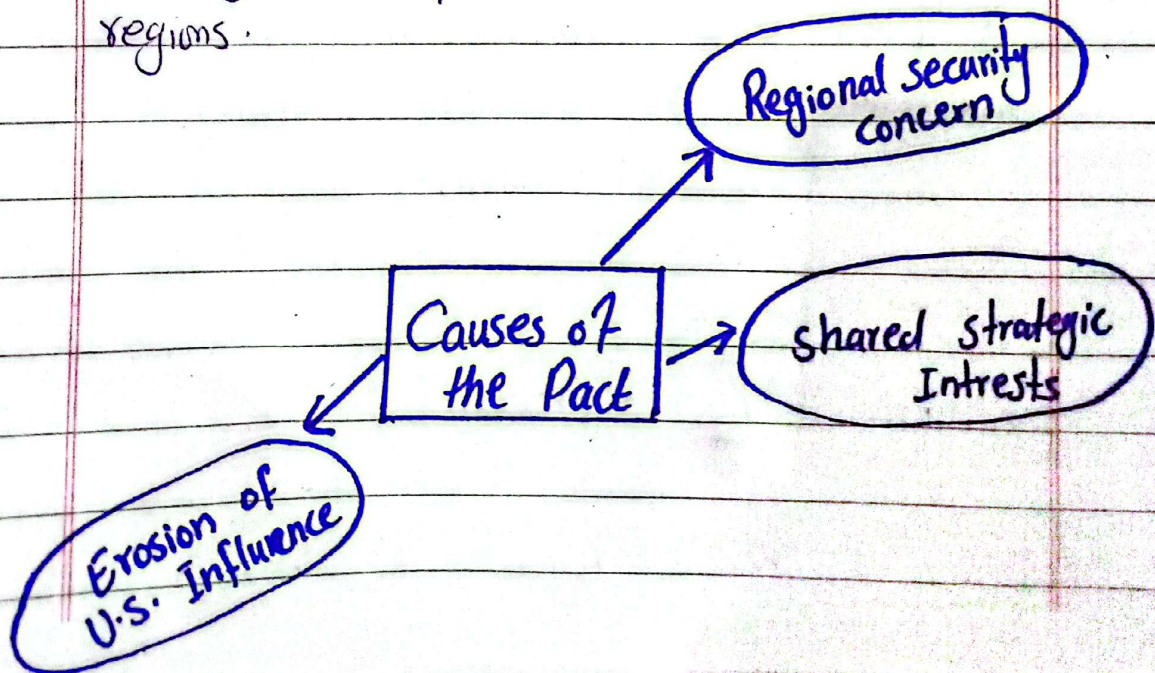
ON September 17, 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) in Riyadh, marking a significant milestone in their longstanding security partnership. The pact stipulates that any act of aggression against one nation will be considered an act against both, committing each to respond with all defensive and military means deemed necessary. This development underscores the evolving geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East and South Asia.

Historical Background

The bilateral relationship between

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been characterized by deep-rooted ties, primarily driven by shared religious affiliations and strategic interests. Over the decades, the two nations have collaborated in various domains including defense, economic assistance, and diplomatic support. Notably, Pakistan has provided military training and expertise to Saudi forces, while Saudi Arabia has been a significant source of financial aid to Pakistan.

The recent SMPA formalizes this longstanding cooperation, reflecting a mutual recognition of the shifting security landscape in their respective regions.



1- Regional Security Concerns

The agreement was influenced by escalating regional tensions, particularly following Israeli airstrikes in Doha, Qatar, which heightened fears among Gulf states about regional instability and the reliability of U.S. security guarantees.

2- Shared Strategic Interests

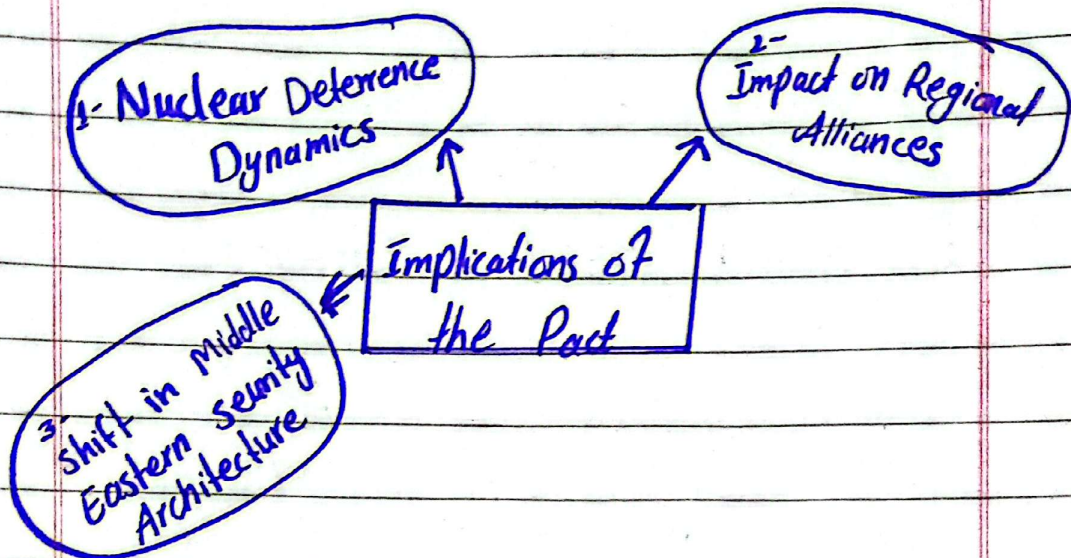
Pakistan's nuclear capabilities and military expertise offer a strategic deterrent that aligns with Saudi Arabia's security objectives, especially amid concerns over Iran's regional influence and potential nuclear ambitions.

3- Erosion of U.S. Influence

Saudi Arabia's increasing skepticism about U.S. security commitments, coupled with the desire for a more diversified defense strategy,

prompted Riyadh to seek closer ties with Pakistan as a means to bolster its defence posture.

Implications of the Pact



1- Nuclear Deterrence Dynamics

While the pact does not explicitly include nuclear provisions, Pakistan's nuclear capabilities are ~~per~~ perceived as a significant deterrent. Saudi Arabia's alignment with Pakistan may be interpreted as extending Pakistan's nuclear umbrella over the kingdom, despite, official statement to the

Contrary.

2- Impact on Regional Alliances

The arrangement may strain Saudi Arabia's relations with India, given India's historical tensions with Pakistan. Any conflict involving with Pakistan could now be viewed as an indirect threat to Saudi Arabia, potentially complicating Riyadh's diplomatic relations in South Asia.

3- Shift in Middle Eastern Security Architecture

The SMDA signifies a shift towards a more multipolar security framework in the Middle East, with Pakistan emerging as a key security partner for Saudi Arabia.

This development reflects a broader trend of Gulf states reevaluating their defence strategies and seeking alternative alliances beyond traditional Western partnership.

Critical Evaluation

The SMPA represents a strategic realignment in Middle Eastern geopolitics, driven by shared security concerns and a desire for diversified defense partnerships. However, the ambiguity surrounding the nuclear dimension of the agreement raises questions about its long-term implications for regional stability and non-proliferation norms. While the pact strengthens Saudi-Pakistani ties, it also introduced complexities into Saudi Arabia's broader foreign policy, particularly concerning its relations with India and the West.

Conclusion:-

The Saudi-Pakistani defense pact is a pivotal development that underscores the evolving security dynamics in the Middle East. Its success will depend on transparent

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communication, adherence to international norms, and careful management of regional relationships to ensure it contributes positively to regional peace and stability.
