

PART-II
ANSWER: 1
TRANSITION TOWARDS
MULTIPLIARITY

INTRODUCTION:

"The World has changed
from vertical command
and control to horizontal
connect and collaborate"

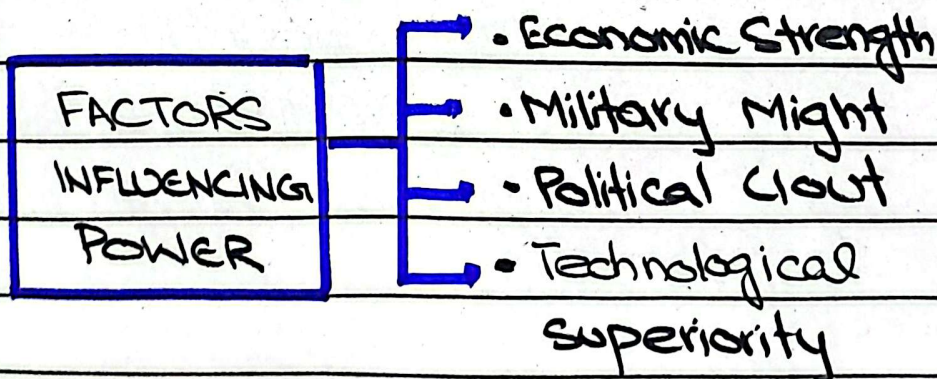
- Thomas Friedman
(The World is Flat)

Global politics after the end of cold war has seen a transition from bipolar system towards a multipolar one. Increased pace of globalization, decline in soft image of USA, economic imperialism of China through BRI, establishment of alternative institutions like BRICS and the unyielding thirst for power have all contributed to this change.

(1) Analyzing Global Polarity:

There are certain factors that explain the mechanism of polarity. Political, Economic, Military, Technological and soft-power superiority is required to become a global hegemon. But the most central factor is wealth. It is economic power that paves way to attain all other powers. Fareed Zakariya's article, "From wealth to power" critically analyses this intricate relation.

China's industrial rise based on a cluster-model of SEZs with complete autonomy in 1958 enabled it to surpass USA as the world's greatest economic power. This led to its rise in all subsequent domains and evolution of global order.



(2) Factors Driving Multipolarity in IR Theory Lens:

"Every smaller power desires to attain more power and become a global hegemon....."

- John Mearshimer
(The Tragedy of Great Power Politics)

The entire global polarity shift occurs on this idea of becoming a greater power.

Powerful State → Regional Power → Superpower

(2.1) De-dollarization - A Dent to US Hegemony:

International trade has been greatly based on Dollar. With the advent of Chinese economic

rise, countries are now trading in their own currencies. Russia is the largest country to trade in Yuan.

The worth of Dollar was also associated to Energy Trade. The end of Petro Dollar Agreement on 4 June, 2024 has caused Dollar to lose its global worth.

(2.2) BRICS - Rise of Global South:

The emergence of a new bloc that represents the voice of Global South has also impacted polarity. The organisation has made alternate financial institutions like CIPS (Chinese Interbank Payment system), ADB (Asian Development Bank) and CRA (Contingent Reserve Agreement) with European Union.

The power of global south can also be statistically validated

with BRICS share of global GDP and population. Over 15 countries including oil-rich KSA, have applied for membership.

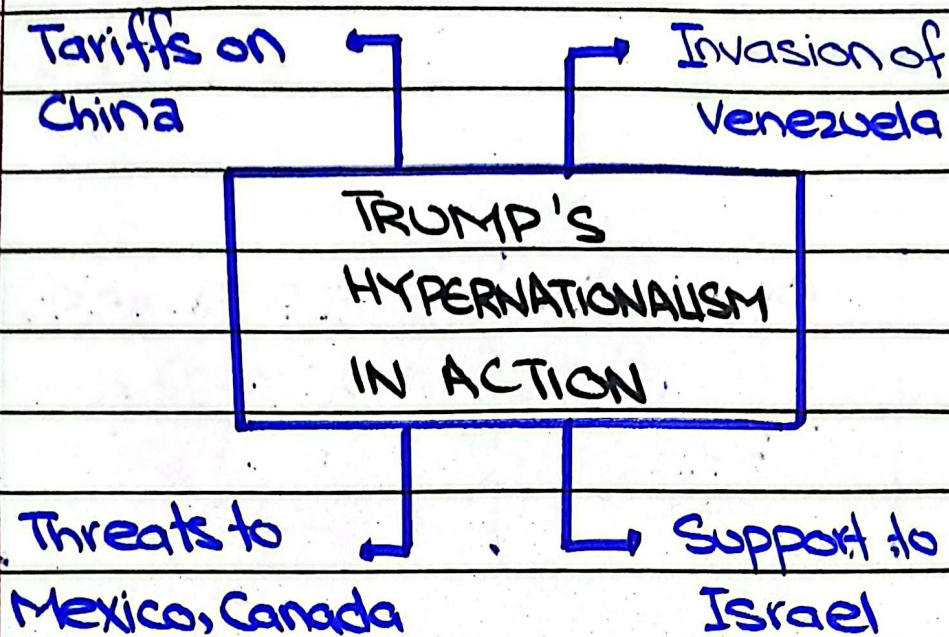
Organisation	GDP share(%)
G-7	27 %
BRICS	41 %

(2.3) Alteration of Soft Power Dynamics:

USA's exits from its self-created liberal institutions like COP, WHO, UNICEF and the end of US-AID after Trump's regime are all setbacks to soft image of USA that was the leader of the world.

On contrary, Chinese initiatives like issuance of K-Visas for STEM scholars, Global Development Initiative, COVID-19 free vaccines supply and Saudi-Iran rapprochement mediation - all reflect deep resolve

for progress.



(3) Trump's Realism is shaping Global Order:

In the lens of IR Theory, US President Trump is a hardcore offensive realist who stands by the idea of expansionism.

"A state either expands or it expires."

- Machiavelli
(The Prince)

Trump's actions in South America, increasing budget of NATO and

over-stepping in other states issue reflect his amoral expansionist national interests.

(4) Chinese Economic Imperialism under BRI:

China is adopting policy of neo-colonialism by building infrastructural projects around the seven most critical global chokepoints and trade routes under strategy of **String of Pearls**. This will allow China to politically control these states in Indian Ocean Region and gain global influence.

(5) 'Russian World' - Revisionist Russia is challenge to Unipolarity:

In 2020, Russia came up with this policy of Russian world where it aims to become a great power by 2030.

The Arctic Game - Northern Sea Route:

Russia has placed a fleet of 40 ice-breakers in the arctic. This is largest fleet in the region, it aims to control the area and trade via the Northern sea route. Putin is an offensive realist in Ukraine too.

CONCLUSION:

The world today faces multiple powers, operating on all levels. Wars, conflicts and issues are prevalent. The rising multipolarity explains the instability.

Kenneth Waltz in his "Theory of International Politics" has expressed that unipolar and bipolar order is more stable than multipolar ones.

ANSWER: S PAK- AFGHAN RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and Afghanistan are called "cousins at war" by Al- Jazeera. Throughout history, they have had tough relations. Afghanistan's irredentist claims over KP, the extended support to TTP by Afghan Non- State Actors and denial to use diplomatic channels for peace-making have caused strained relations. In addition, India-Afghanistan nexus against Pakistan, the sudden exit of USA from Afghanistan in 2021 are external influences on the bilateral relations.

(1) Persistent Challenges in Pak- Afghan Relations:

There are multiple factors that are constantly influencing the equation of these neighbours:

(1.1) Strategic Disalignment with Taliban:

Regardless of the ideological and ethnic affinities that are shared by many on both sides of border, The return of Taliban (2.0 Regime) does not have a congruence of interests with Pakistan. International Relations fail due to no involvement of interests.

(1.2) Resurgence - Taliban and TTP Nexus:

The most dynamic part of challenged ties is the evil nexus between Taliban regime in Afghanistan and Non-State TTP in Pakistan.

UN Report has termed relations between Taliban, Al-Qaeda and TTP as 'Strong and symbiotic'.

This creates security issues in Pakistan, largely border skirmishes.

In the first 24 months of Taliban Regime, over 27% rise in terrorism attacks has been witnessed in Pakistan.

(PIPS Report)

(1.3) Irredentist Claims of Afghanistan:

Afghanistan objects the idea of border fencing and demands hold over Pashtun belt areas. This has led to Separatist narrative in KP. It is threat to National Integration and Security.

Pakistan must issue

Exclusive Permits to 17 divided tribes on both side but under strict monitoring. They reject Durand Line.

(1.4) Border Tensions:

Pakistan-Afghanistan border is a battleground for skirmishes and insurgencies.

It has been over two-months that the border has been shut after grave breaches in October 2025. It is costing a lot to both the countries economically.

(1.5) Refugee Repatriation Issue:

The Pakistani government decided to send back all unregistered Afghan citizens. Crackdowns conducted in harsh manners and tough deadlines to leave issued by MOI have created distance between people from both sides of border. **SSAR 2013** must be implemented by Pakistan to solve the issue in a peaceful way.

(1.6) India Factor- Taliban's ceding space to India:

The current strain in ties is largely based on Taliban's alliance with India.

On 9 October 2025, Amir Khan
Muttazzi, the Afghan Foreign Minister
made his first ever visit to India.

Days later, worst border strikes
occurred. This collusion with
an India against Pakistan is what
makes Taliban hostile neighbours.

(1.7) Opium Trade - A persistent Challenge:

Afghanistan's 70% opium
production occurs in 5 provinces
and all 5 are located next to
Pak-Afghan border according to
UNODC. This issue is a persistent
threat to good relations.

(1.8) External Involvement creates Water Issues at Kabul River:

India has been helping the
Afghan Taliban to construct
Shahrest Dam on River
Kabul. This project will affect

the water availability in Pakistan. Issues of water are very critical for an agrarian economy like Pakistan.

(2) Failed Diplomacy - an indicator of War:

"When Diplomacy fails, war is an extension of politics."

- Hans J. Morgenthau
(Politics among Nations)

Taliban and Pakistani leadership failed when Qatar provided Good Offices for negotiations. Currently, no flexibility on both sides exists. This leads to lingering insecurity and tensions on western border.

Conclusion:

Persistent issues, differences induced by other powers; mainly India and the lack of political consensus to resolve conflict on both sides is what drives the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Both states must engage on diplomatic front to fix issues.

ANSWER: 4

FOREIGN POLICY CALCULUS

INTRODUCTION:

∴ India and Pakistan have been involved in Limited War in May 2025. There is a presumed Strategic Stability in South Asia due to nuclear deterrence. It was challenged. The episode has changed regional perceptions.

India emerged as an aggressor state for the world. Pakistan regain geo-strategic links with USA and KSA. It also influenced foreign policies of both nations.

(i) Security Impact of post-Pahalgam Attack:

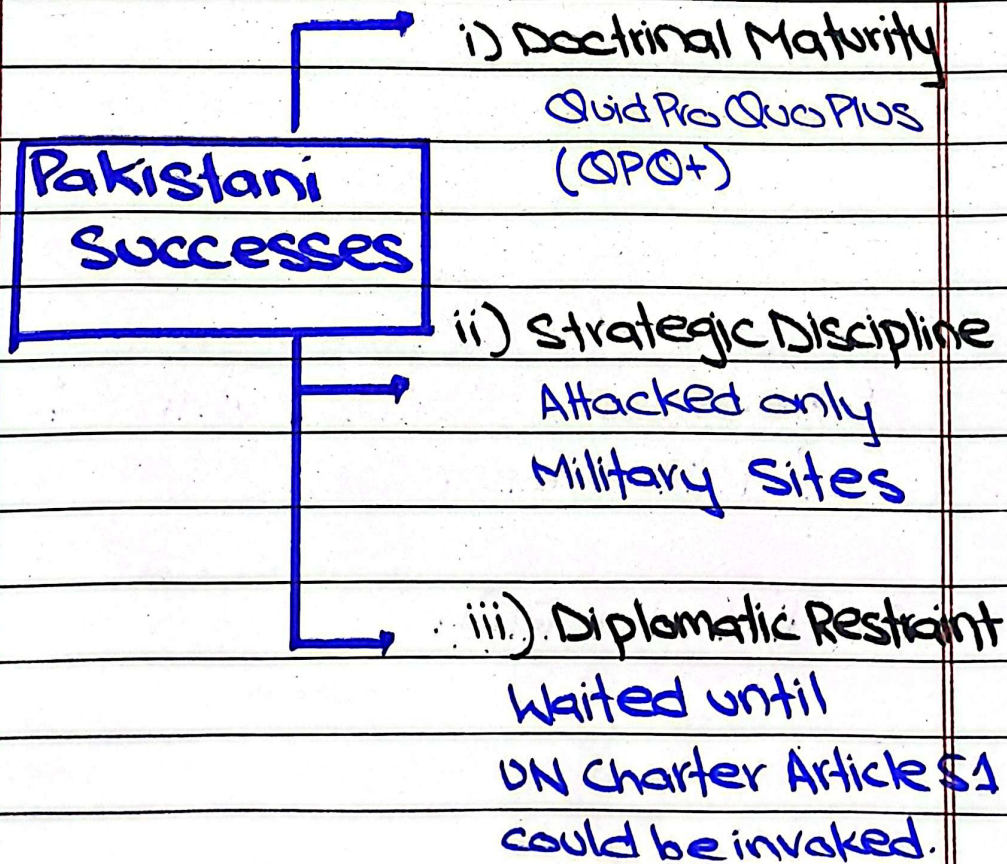
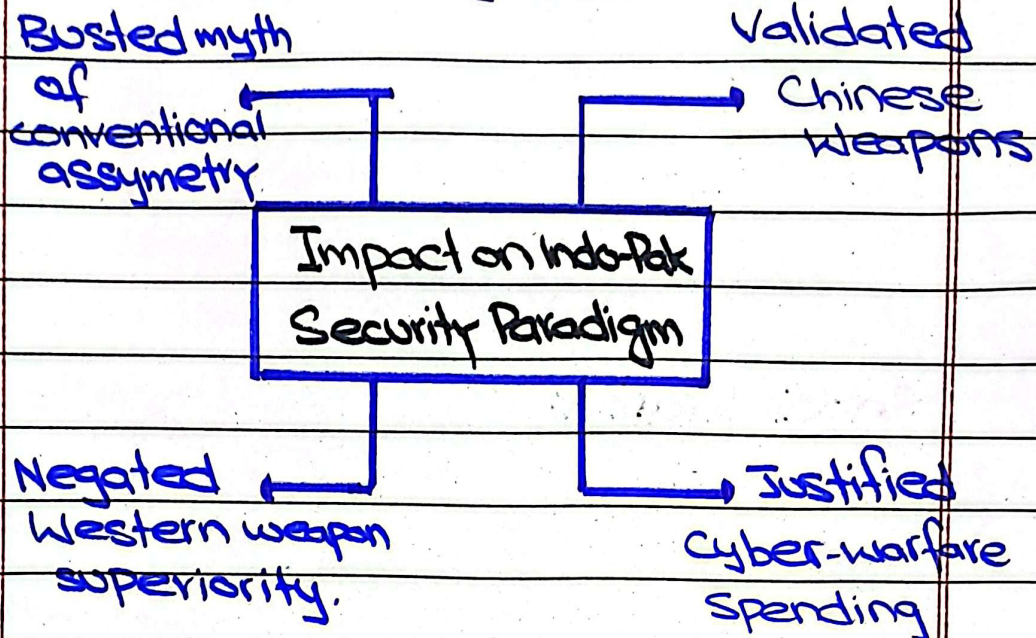
India executed the policy of **Brinkmanship** against Pakistan in May 2025. It was an evident display of Cold Start Doctrine. Pakistan responded with exemplary strategic restraint, discipline and doctrinal maturity.

"Pakistan has given a bloody nose to India in May."

- ISSRA Insight
(July 2025)

If anything, May war has exposed the strength of

Pakistan's Air Force. and undermined
Western Military Dominance.



(2) Reshaping of Regional Alliances and Perceptions:

China:

China proved its 'reliance' and aided Pakistan with all necessary help.

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia and India were growing close ties on all fronts. IMEC has been announced and in pipeline. However, Saudi perception of Pakistan shifted from beggars to military leaders.

It led to finalizing of Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) with KSA on 17 November 2025.

Saudi-India Rift:

Indian foreign policy had to undergo a strategic recalculation after the signing

of SIDA. The India F11 views this as a national security threat.

"This is a grave misstep on part of Saudi Arabia"

- Kanwal Sibal
(Indian Analyst)

Pak-USA Reset of Ties:

On 10th May, President Trump mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan adopted a Foreign Policy of Flattery towards USA, mentioned Trump playing 'Fox', as Machiavelli would say, and regained space in US sphere of influence.

US has signed a Critical Mineral Agreement worth \$500 Million (USSM-FW) and provide more economic incentives.

(3) Future Implications on Region:

An already security-based region will now be more pivoted towards arms race and Balance of Power.

Modi is driven by his RSS Ideology-based Hindutva Foreign Policy. Pakistan is shifting from geo-strategy to geo-economy.

It also creates future fear of war in the region.

Offensive Realists do not end the use of force. Pakistan has this perception of India as an adversary, construct of it being an offensive rival.

CONCLUSION:

Increased regional arms races; incentives for alliance and Security Dilemma would engulf South Asia.

ANSWER: 7 PALESTINE ISSUES AND ITS IMPACT

Introduction:

"The strong do what
they have the power
to do, and weak
accept what they
have to accept."

- Thucydides

Israel-Palestine issue is a long lingering conflict in Middle East. It has turned oil-rich Middle East into a war zone, quite literally. The Domino Effect radiated from Gaza, to the West Bank, then to Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and now Qatar in the recent past. It has altered global stance on matters, France and Canada accepted Palestine. Pakistan faces a double-edge

domestic backlash and international relevance.

(1) Phenomena of Spill-over wars in Middle East:

Middle East has become a hot battle-ground after Gaza issue resurfaced after Hamas 7/10 Attack.

With over 67,000 dead and thousand others injured, Gaza remains in rubble. The West Bank has also faced wrath of disturbance of connectivity with world.

Jordan is skeptic of massive influx of refugees after the completion of Phase-1 of Trump's peace deal.

Egypt faces diplomatic pressures from West.

Lebanon was targeted with deadly pager and radio attack in 2024.

(2) Exposed Western Hypocrisy towards Liberal Norms:

The conflict has led to a great decline in western support. This is mainly because of hypocrisy displayed by US.

It supported Israel throughout the war and then carried out a fragmented Peace plan in hopes of winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Ironik.

Principle	Violation
self-determination	Gaza
IHL, IHRL	Women & children attacked emblems, hospitals attacked.
UN	Ceasefire Violations

(3) Europe's Recognition of Gaza - Geopolitical Shift:

On event of UN's 80th General Assembly session, France and Canada recognized Palestine as a state.

This depicts the changing western perception, one that instigated Trump to implement a ~~pe~~ ceasefire, in Gaza.

(4) Challenges for Pakistan:

- Domestic Backlash - TLP Factor:

Pakistan's link with US based on Gaza Peace Plan and issue of sending troops to ISF (International Stabilization Force) can trigger domestic backlash for government. Rightist faction in Pakistan is very sensitive and violent.

• Sectarian Backlash-Iran:

Neighbouring Iran is also skeptical of Pakistan's increasing involvement with KSA and US. In particular, Pakistan is at cross-roads to protect neighbouring religious ties or fight for global dominance.

• Balancing US-China:

In case Pakistan extends extensive support to US over ISF and ceasefire, China would be threatened. The shift towards US would impact CPEC progress.

• Kashmir Revolt - A Threat:

If Pakistan supports Gaza on creation of ISF for its right protection, many in Kashmir would ask to combine and form a Kashmiri armed force for freedom.

(5) Opportunities for Pakistan:

• Strategic Relevance:

Pakistan can use this opportunity to foster ties with USA and KSA as well as other stakeholders.

• Gain Diplomatic Support on Kashmir:

By aiding people of Palestine, it can express the deep resolve to gain rights for those in need.

OIC, Muslim world and even Trump can be maneuvered to extend support on permanent solution of the Kashmir issue.

CONCLUSION:

"Mankind must put
an end to war, or
war will put an
end to mankind."

- John F. Kennedy
(Former US President)

The world must unite to
end the atrocities in Gaza.
Peace shall prevail. One centred
on abidance with international
law, diplomatic negotiations
and intention.