

Final-Mock

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

Part-II

Question #2

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Political Strategy and its Contrast with Indian National Congress

Introduction

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan emerged as the most influential muslim thinker and reformer of 19th century British India at a time ~~of~~ when muslims were facing Political marginalization, economic decline and educational backwardness after the failure of the war of independence (1857). While the British crown consolidated power and new political institutions began to emerge, Muslim found themselves ill-prepared to compete with the Hindu majority, which had rapidly adapted to western education and colonial administrative structures. In this context, Sir Syed devised a pragmatic, cautious and community centric Political Strategy aimed at safeguarding muslim interests without direct confrontation with the colonial state. A critical examination of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's strategy reveals its long-term significance in shaping muslim political consciousness and laying the intellectual foundations of Muslim Separation.

Political Context After 1857

The failure of the 1857 uprising proved disastrous for Muslims, who were viewed by the British as the primary

instigators. As a result Muslims were excluded from government services, traditional institutions collapsed and Economic decline intensified. Sir Syed recognized that political survival required reconciliation, not resistance and adaptation of the new power structure.

Core objective of Sir Syed's Strategy

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's political strategy revolved around the protection of Muslim's identity, Political safeguards for a minority community, Educational's uplift as a prerequisite for political empowerment and Avoidance of premature Political agitation. His politics was defensive, reformist and Long-term in vision.

Policy of loyalty to British

Sir Syed Khan believed that loyalty to the British government was essential for the Political rehabilitation of Muslims after the trauma of 1857. He argued that Muslims lacked the numerical strength, resources and organizational capacity to confront colonial power directly. According to him, cultivating British goodwill could secure administrative opportunities, Political concessions and Protection of Muslim rights. Cooperation with the British was also seen as a means to restore trust that had been shattered after the uprising.

Emphasis on Educational Reform over Agitation

Unlike revolutionary or populist Political movements, Sir Syed prioritized education as the true foundation of Political empowerment. He believed that without

modern education, Muslims could neither compete with Hindus, nor effectively participate in colonial governance. Through the Aligarh movement and establishment of the Muhammad Anglo-Oriental College in 1857, he sought to produce an educated Muslim elite trained in Western Science, Law and Administration.

Two-Nations Consciousness

Sir Syed was among the earliest Muslim leaders to articulate the idea that Hindus and Muslims, constituted two distinct Nations. He emphasized that differences in religion, culture, history, language and social customs made the idea of a homogeneous Indian nation unrealistic. This two-Nation Consciousness shaped his skepticism toward joint Political Platforms and mass nationalism. He feared that democratic majoritarianism in a united Political System would inevitably marginalize Muslims, making cultural coexistence without Political safeguards unsustainable.

Opposition of the National Congress

Sir Syed strongly opposed the Indian National Congress after its establishment in 1885, viewing it as a Hindu-dominated organization masquerading as a representative body. He criticized Congress for advocating majority rule without recognizing the distinct Political need of Muslims. In his view, Congress Policies would result in Muslim Political Subjugation and Hindu numerical dominance.

Advocacy of Separate Political Identity

To safeguard Muslim interests, Sir Syed urged Muslims

to avoid the Congress, Organize Separately and demand Constitutional Safeguards as a minority Community. He emphasised the need for independent muslim Political Organisation to articulate communal ~~return~~ concerns. This advocacy laid the intellectual foundation for later demands such as separate electorates and distinct muslim political Platforms, which eventually became central to Muslim Constitutional Politics in British India.

Methods of the Indian National Congress

The Indian National Congress adopted methods rooted in mass mobilization, agitation, protests and Constitutional Pressures on the British government. It claimed to represent a unified Indian nation and promoted majoritarian and nationalist rhetoric. Sir Syed considered these methods dangerous for muslims, as they ignored minority vulnerabilities and assumed Political equality in a deeply unequal Socio-Political landscape.

Differences between Sir Syed and Congress

The Political strategies of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and the Indian National Congress differed fundamentally. Sir Syed favored cooperation with the British, gradual Political development and Communal Pluralism, whereas Congress pursued confrontation, immediate Political demands, territorial. Sir Syed emphasized minority safeguards and education as prerequisites for Political Participation, while Congress largely overlooked minority concerns and Prioritized mass Politics.

Critical Evaluation of Sir Syed's strategy

Sir Syed's strategy had notable strengths and limitations

on the positive side, it prevented further alienation of Muslims, laid the foundations of Muslim Political awareness, produced an educated leadership and introduced the discourse of minority rights. However, his approach relied heavily on British good will, avoided mass political mobilization and remained elitist in character due to the limited reach of the Aligarh movement.

Long term Impact of Sir Syed's strategy on Muslim Politics

The long term impact of Sir Syed's Political thought on Muslim politics was profound and enduring. His idea directly influenced the formation of All-India Muslim League in 1906, inspired the demand for separate electorates under Mores-Minto reform of 1909 and prepared the intellectual groundwork of the two Nation theory.

Conclusion

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's political strategy was a product of realism, foresight and deep understanding of colonial power dynamics. By prioritizing education, political caution, and separate Muslim identity, he sought to protect Muslim interests in an era of profound ~~the~~ vulnerability. In contrast, the Indian National Congress pursued mass agitation and majoritarian nationalism, which ignored Muslim concerns and deepened communal divisions. While Sir Syed's approach lacked immediate political assertiveness, it proved historically consequential by laying the ~~intellectual~~ intellectual and institutional foundations of Muslim Separatism and Constitutional Politics in British India.

Question #2

Climate change as a major non-traditional Security Threat to Pakistan

Introduction

In 21st Century, the concept of Security has expanded beyond traditional military threats to include non-traditional challenges such as climate change, Pandemics, Food ~~in~~ insecurity and water scarcity. For Pakistan climate change has emerged as one of the most serious non-traditional security threats, despite the country contributing less than one percent to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Ranked among the top ten most climate vulnerable countries, Pakistan faces increasing frequency and intensity of floods, heatwaves, drought, glacial melt and erratic monsoon patterns. Climate change is no longer merely an environmental issue but a comprehensive security challenge demanding urgent and coordinated institutional responses.

Climate change as a Non-Traditional Security Threat

~~the~~ climate change undermines human security by directly affecting access to food, water, health, shelter and employment. Unlike conventional threats, it is slow onset yet persistent, transboundary and difficult to deter through military means. In Pakistan, climate change act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and governance deficits.

Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability Profile

Pakistan's geography makes it highly susceptible to climate risks due to its heavy reliance on glacial melt from the Hind Kush to Himalayan region, strong dependence on agriculture and monsoon rainfall, rapid and unplanned urbanisation, weak infrastructure and limited adaptive capacity. These structural vulnerabilities have repeatedly manifested in large-scale climate disasters.

The 2025 monsoon-related floods, which impacted several districts of Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan, it once again highlighted Pakistan's continued exposure to extreme weather events and the slow pace of adaptation despite policy recognition.

Socio-Economic Implications of Climate Change

Impact on Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture employs a large portion of Pakistan's population and is highly climate-sensitive. Erratic rainfall, droughts, floods and rising temperatures have reduced crop yields, damaged farmlands and increased food insecurity. This has intensified rural poverty and increased dependence on food imports.

Water Scarcity and Resource Stress

Pakistan is approaching absolute water scarcity due to glacial retreat, mismanagement and changing rainfall patterns. Water shortages threaten agriculture, urban supply and industrial productivity, increasing inter-provincial tensions over water distribution.

Health and Human Development challenges

Heatwaves, floods and waterborne diseases have placed immense pressure on Pakistan's fragile healthcare system. Malnutrition, displacement and disease outbreaks disproportionately affect women, children and marginalized communities, worsening human development indicators.

Urbanisation, Migration & Economic Loss

Climate-induced displacement has accelerated rural to urban migration, leading to the expansion of informal settlements and overburdened urban services. According to estimates, climate disasters cost Pakistan billions of dollar annually, diverting resources from development to recovery.

Political and Governance Implications

Internal Displacement and Social Unrest

Large-scale displacement caused by floods and droughts creates governance challenges, strain provincial administration and increases the risk of social unrest, crime and political instability.

Federal - Provincial Coordination Challenges

Climate governance in Pakistan is complicated by weak coordination between federal and provincial governments, often resulting in delayed response, overlapping mandates and inefficient resources utilization.

Foreign Policy and climate Diplomacy

Climate vulnerability has increasingly shaped Pakistan's foreign policy. Islamabad has advocated for climate

Justice, demanding loss and damage compensation from developed nations, particularly after the 2022 floods.

Evaluation of Pakistan's Institutional Response

National Climate Policies and Framework

Pakistan has developed several policy instruments, including:

- Pakistan Climate Change (2012; updated 2021)
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris agreement.

These frameworks demonstrate political acknowledgment of climate risk but face implementation gaps.

Disaster Management Institutions

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) play central roles in disaster response. While emergency response capacity has improved, proactive disaster preparedness and early warning systems remain inadequate.

Climate Finance and International Engagement

Pakistan has actively engaged in global climate forums (COPs) and secured international climate finance. However, access to funds is often slow, fragmented and insufficient relative to the scale of damage.

Role of Armed Forces and Civil Institutions

The armed forces have played a crucial role in disaster relief and rehabilitation. While effective in emergencies, reliance on military assistance highlights weakness in civilian institutional capacity.

Institutional Gaps

Despite policy progress, Pakistan's institutional response suffers from:

- weak implementation and monitoring
- Limited technical capacity
- Poor data integration and forecasting
- Insufficient funding for adoption
- Lack of community-level resilience planning.

As a result, climate governance remains largely reactive rather than preventive.

Strengthening Climate Security

To effectively address climate change as a non-traditional security threat, Pakistan must integrate climate risks into its national Security Planning, recognizing their potential to destabilize society and the economy. This requires sustained investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and agriculture to protect livelihoods & reduced disaster-related losses.

Strengthening federal-provincial coordination is essential for coherent policy implementation and efficient resource allocation. Moreover, enhancing early warning systems and disaster preparedness mechanisms ~~can mitigation, given its high vulnerability~~ ~~despite low emissions~~. can significantly reduce human and economic cost. Pakistan must also prioritize climate adaption alongside mitigation, given its high vulnerability despite low emissions.

Conclusions :

Climate Change Poses a Profound non-traditional security threat to Pakistan by undermining socio-economic stability, exacerbating political challenges and testing institutional capacity. While Pakistan has made notable strides in climate policy formulation and international ~~policy~~ advocacy, significant gaps remain in implementation, coordination and resilience building.

Question #4

Internal Political Instability has Constrained Pakistan's Economic & Diplomatic Performance

Introduction

Political stability is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth, effective governance and coherent foreign policy. In Pakistan, however, persistent internal political instability has remained a defining feature since independence, periodically undermining economic performance and weakening diplomatic credibility.

Political instability has not only hampered economic development but has also adversely affected national security and foreign policy coherence, limiting Pakistan's ability to project itself as a stable and reliable regional actor.

Understanding Political Instability in Pakistan.

Political instability refers to frequent disruptions in governance caused by leadership crises, institutional conflicts, constitutional breakdowns and public unrest. In Pakistan, instability is structural rather than episodic, deeply rooted in institutional weaknesses & governance failures.

Structural Causes of Political Instability

Weak Democratic Institutions

Pakistan's democratic institutions, including Parliament and Political Parties, remain underdeveloped and personality-driven. Weak legislative oversight, poor internal party democracy and lack of institutional continuity has resulted in fragile governments unable to complete policy agendas.

Civil-Military Imbalance

A persistent imbalance in civil-military relations has contributed significantly to political instability. Repeated military interventions and informal influence over civilian governments have disrupted democratic evolution, weakened civilian authority and created uncertainty in governance.

Weak Rule of Law and Judicialization of Policies

The politicization of accountability institutions and frequent judicial interventions in political matters have created governance uncertainty. Selective accountability erodes public trust and fuels political victimization narratives.

Economic mismanagement and Governance Deficit

Chronic economic mismanagement, corruption and fiscal indiscipline generate public dissatisfaction, leading to political unrest. Economic crisis often triggers political instability, creating a vicious cycle between governance and instability.

Impact on Economic Performance

Political instability discourages domestic and foreign investment due to policy uncertainty and inconsistent economic direction. Frequent changes in economic teams, delays in reforms and lack of continuity have undermined industrial growth, export, & IMF program credibility.

Impact on National Security

Internal Security challenges

Political instability diverts state attention from counterterrorism, border management and internal security reform. Governance vacuums and weakened civil authority create space for extremist & criminal networks, undermining internal stability.

Institutional Erosion and Crisis Management

Frequent political crises weaken institutional coordination during emergencies including terrorism, natural disaster and economic shocks. This reduces the state's ability to respond effectively to multidimensional security threat.

Impact on Foreign Policy

Diplomatic credibility and Policy Inconsistency
Political instability results in inconsistent foreign policy positions, frequent changes in diplomatic priorities and lack of follow-through on international commitments.

Weak Economic Diplomacy

Unstable Political environment weakens Pakistan's ability to pursue long-term economic diplomacy, including trade agreements, regional connectivity projects and foreign investment initiatives such as CPEC.

Limited Strategic Autonomy

Dependence on external financial assistance due to domestic instability constrains Pakistan's foreign policy autonomy. Economic vulnerability limits diplomatic maneuverability and bargaining power in regional and global affairs.

~~St~~

Stabilizing Politics For National Strength

To overcome chronic instability, Pakistan must strengthen democratic institutions, ensure constitutional supremacy, promote tolerance, reform accountability mechanisms and institutionalize civil-military balance.

Conclusion

Internal Political instability has significantly constrained Pakistan's economic performance, national security effectiveness and diplomatic standing. Rooted in structural institutional weaknesses, polarization and governance failures, instability has prevented Pakistan from realizing its full potential as a stable and influential regional actor. Sustainable political stability, grounded in institutional maturity and constitutional governance, is indispensable for strengthening Pakistan's economy.

Question #5

Introduction

Federal cohesion is the backbone of national unity and Political Stability is a multi-ethnic and geographically diverse state like Pakistan. While the federal structure was designed to accommodate regional ~~div~~ diversity, persistent political, economic and administrative imbalances have undermined trust between the center and the provinces. In the context of economic stress and political polarization, strengthening federal cohesion has become imperative to ensure national integration, internal stability, and sustainable governance.

Political Factors undermining Federal Cohesion

Centralization of Political Power

Despite constitutional provisions, excessive centralization of authority at the federal level has marginalized provinces in decision-making. This has weakened provincial ownership of national policies and fueled perceptions of dominance by the center.

Weak Democratic Continuity

Frequent disruptions of democratic processes, including military interventions and premature dissolutions of assemblies, have undermined provincial political development and accountability.

Economic Factors undermining Federal Cohesion

Unequal Resources Distribution

Disparities in resource allocation, development

Spending and revenue generations have deepened regional inequalities. Smaller provinces argue that they receive an unfair share of national resources.

Contentions of NFC Awards

Delays and disputes over National Finance Commission (NFC) Awards have strained Center-

Province relations. Lack of timely revision creates fiscal uncertainty and mistrust.

Exploitation of Natural Resources

Perception that provinces rich in natural resources, especially Balochistan, do not receive adequate benefit from extraction activities have fueled resentment and alienation.

Administrative Factors undermining Federal Cohesion

Weak Implementation of 18th Amendment

Although the 18th ~~Amendment~~ Constitutional Amendment devolved powers to provinces, incomplete implementation and federal encroachment have limited its impact, creating confusion and conflict over jurisdictions.

Inefficient Governance and Service Delivery

Poor administrative capacity, corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies at both federal and provincial levels have undermined public confidence in the federal system.

Center - Province Coordination Deficit

Lack of effective coordination mechanisms, particularly through institutions like the Council of Common Interests has exacerbated administrative friction and policy paralysis.

Consequences of Weak Federal Cohesion

Weak federal cohesion leads to political instability, economic underdevelopment, security challenges and the rise of separatist tendencies. It undermines national unity and hampers collective responses to crises.

To prevent Regional Alienation

Strengthening Constitutional Federalism

Full implementation of the 18th Amendment & respect for provincial autonomy are essential to restoring trust and balance within the federation.

Equitable Economic Development

Addressing regional disparities through targeted development programs, fair resource-sharing and timely NFC awards can reduce economic grievances.

Effective Intergovernmental Coordination

Revitalizing institutions such as the CCI and ensuring regular consultation between federal & provincial governments can improve policy coherence.

Conclusion

Federal cohesion in Pakistan has been undermined by a combination of political centralization, economic inequities and administrative inefficiencies.

These structural challenges have fueled regional alienation and weakened national unity.

Drawing lessons from past failures, Pakistan must reinforce constitutional federalism, ensure equitable development and promote inclusive governance to prevent further alienation.