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NOA Final Mock

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NOA Batch: 003-MOC 26-NOA-1581

Subject: Pakistan Affairs.

Question : 01

Outline:

01. Introduction.
02. Political Strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.
03. Political Strategy of Indian National Congress.
04. Comparative Analysis of Both Strategies.
05. Critical Evaluation of Sir Syed's Political Strategy.
06. Conclusion.

Introduction:

The aftermath of the war of Independence 1857 marked a decisive turning point for the Muslims of Indian Subcontinent. Politically marginalized, economically devastated, and socially discredited in the eye of the British rulers, Muslims faced an existential crisis. In this context, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan emerged as

a visionary reformer who devised a pragmatic and forward-looking political strategy aimed at safeguarding Muslim interests within the colonial framework of British India. Unlike, confrontational nationalist movements, Sir Syed's approach was rooted in realism, gradualism and community uplift. He believed that Muslims due to their backwardness in modern education and political awareness, could not compete with the Hindu majority in representative institutions. This philosophy sharply contrasted with the Indian National Congress. A comparative analysis of these two approaches highlights the ideological fault lines that eventually led to Muslim separatist politics.

Political Strategy of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

1. Policy of Loyalty to British:

Sir Syed strongly emphasized loyalty to the British Crown as a survival strategy

for Muslims. He argued that cooperation with the rulers would rebuild trust after 1857 and create space for Muslim advancement. His work "The causes of the Indian Revolt" (1858) aimed to explain Muslim grievances to the British rather than incite resistance.

2. Education Empowerment as Political capital:

Sir Syed believed political power without intellectual strength was unsustainable. Through the Aligarh Movement and the establishment of MAO College (1875), he sought to equip Muslims with the modern scientific and administrative education.

3. Two-Nation Outlook (Proto-Theory)

Sir Syed openly declared that Hindus and Muslims were two distinct nations, differing in religion, culture, and social values. He warned that democratic institutions based on majority rule would permanently marginalized Muslims.

"Hindus and Muslims are two eyes of the beautiful bride that is India — but they

cannot see the same way".

This idea later evolved into the Two-Nation Theory.

4. Opposition to the Indian National Congress.

Sir Syed advised Muslims to stay away from the INC, calling it a Hindu-dominated body, representing elite interests. He feared that joint electorates would allow the Hindu Majority to dominate legislative councils.

Political Strategy of INDIAN National Congress.

1. Majoritarian Nationalism:

The INC claimed to represent All Indians, but was dominated by Hindu leaderships and English-educated elites. Its demands were framed within a one-national model.

2. Immediate Political Agitation:

Unlike Sir Syed's gradualism, Congress pursued

petitions, protests, and constitutional pressure. This strategy suited the numerically dominant Hindu community but ignored minority anxieties.

3. Rejection of Communal Safeguards:

The INC opposed separate electorates and special protection labeling them divisive. This stance intensified Muslim fears of political subjugation.

Comparative Analysis of Both Strategies.

Aspect	Sir Syed Ahmed	Indian National Con.
Political outlook	Pragmatic & communal	Idealistic & Nationalist
Strategy	Loyalty and education	Agitation and Representation.
View of Democracy	Majority Rule	Supportive.
Muslim Interests.	Central Focus	Secondary.
Long-term impact	Muslim political identity	Hindu political dominance.

Critical Evaluation of Sir Syed's Strategy.

Sir Syed's political strategy has often been criticized as conservative or pro-British. However, a contextual analysis reveals it as a defensive realism, aimed at preserving Muslim identity in an unequal political order. His foresight regarding majoritarian democracy proved accurate, as later developments validated Muslim concerns.

Conversely, the INC's inclusive rhetoric masked structural inequalities. Its unwillingness to accommodate Muslim fears ultimately fractured Indian nationalism and strengthened separatist sentiment.

Conclusion:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's political strategy was not a rejection of nationalism but a recalibration of priorities in favor of Muslim survival and empowerment. In contrast,

Indian National Congress pursued an idealistic but exclusionary nationalism rooted in numerical dominance. Sir Syed's approach emerges as a strategic masterstroke — less dramatic, and deeply aligned with ground realities. His ideas directly influenced later Muslim leadership, culminating in the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Question : 02

Climate Change in Pakistan.

Outline:

1. Introduction.
2. Socio-Economic Implication of climate change.
3. Political and security Implications.
4. Pakistan's Institutional Response to Climate-Induced challenges.
5. Conclusion.

Introduction:

Climate change has emerged as one of the most critical non-traditional security threats confronting Pakistan in the 21st century. Unlike conventional military threats, climate change undermines national security by destabilizing economic systems, disrupting social cohesion and weakening state capacity to govern and protect its population. Despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse emissions, Pakistan consistently ranks among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries according to the Global Climate Risk Index. Recurrent floods, prolonged droughts, heatwaves, glacial lake outburst floods and erratic monsoon patterns have transformed climate change from a developmental concern into a full-spectrum security challenge with far-reaching socio-economic and political implications.

Socio-Economic Implication of Climate Change.

1. Impact on Agriculture and Food Security:

Agriculture forms the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing around 19-23% of GDP and employing nearly 40% of the labor force. Climate variability has severely disrupted crop cycles due to rising temperatures, irregular rainfall patterns, and increased frequency of droughts and floods. The 2022 floods caused economic losses exceeding USD 30 billion, and wiped out millions of acres of standing crops.

2. Water Scarcity and Public Health Crisis:

Pakistan is approaching absolute water scarcity, with per capita water availability declining from 5000 cubic meters in 1951 to below 1000 cubic meters today. Melting glaciers in the Hindu Kush initially increase flooding risks and later threaten long-term water availability.

Climate stress has also intensified health challenges i.e Heatwaves have caused thousands of deaths (notably in Karachi), and increased spread of dengue, malaria, and water-borne diseases.

3. Poverty, Inequality and Climate-Induced Migration.

Climate disasters disproportionately effect low-income and rural populations, pushing millions below the poverty line. Loss of livelihoods has accelerated internal displacement particularly from flood-prone and drought-affected areas, creating urban stress and social tensions.

Political and Security Implications:

1. Climate - change as National Security.

Climate change acts as threat multiplier by intensifying existing political and governance challenges. Resource scarcity,

especially water, risks aggravating inter-provincial tensions and complicating Indus Basin diplomacy with India.

2. Governance and Institutional Stress.

Frequent climate emergencies divert state resources toward relief and rehabilitation, limiting long-term development spending. Weak coordination between federal and provincial govt. further hampers effective climate governance, highlighting capacity gaps within Pakistan's institutional framework.

Pak's Institutional Response to Climate-Induced challenges.

1. Policy and Legal Frameworks:-

Pakistan has developed several institutional mechanisms, including:

- National Climate Change Policy (2012, updated 2021)
- Climate change Act 2017, establishing the

Pakistan Climate Change Council and Authority.

- National Adaptation Plan focusing on resilience and risk reduction.

2. Mitigation, Adaptation and Green Initiatives:

Key initiatives include:

- Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, enhancing carbon sinks and ecosystem resilience.
- Expansion of renewable energy in the national energy mix.
- Climate-resilient reconstruction under the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework after the 2022 floods.

Conclusion:

Climate change has fundamentally redefined the security Paradigm of Pakistan by threatening economic stability, Political governance simultaneously. Addressing climate change is no longer optional for Pakistan — it is a strategic imperative central to its survival, sovereignty and sustainable future.

Question - 03

Geo-Economic Significance

Outline:

1. Introduction.
2. Geo. Economic Significance of connectivity.
3. Strategic Dimensions and Evolving Regional Alignment.
4. Has Regional Alignment Reduce Pakistan's Strategic Relevance?
5. Conclusion.

Introduction:

Pakistan's geographic location at the crossroad of South Asia, Central Asia, the middle East and the Indian Ocean gives it inherent geo-economic and strategic value. Under China's Belt and Road initiatives, Pakistan has emerged as a core node through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) — a flagship project designed to enhance connectivity, catalyze investment, and integrate regional markets.

Geo-Economic Significance of Connectivity Initiatives.

1. Massive Infrastructure and Investment Inflow:

- CPEC Investment: Originally estimated at around \$46 Billion, growing to approximately \$62 billions in planned investment, covering infrastructure, energy and transport.

- Transport Infrastructure:

Roads, motorways and expressways such as Gwadar Eastbay Expressway help link deep-sea ports with internal corridors.

2. Trade and Market Access:

- China remains Pakistan's largest trading partner with significant in-bound FDI — accounting for a large share of Pakistan's foreign investment.

- Improved port infrastructure at Gwadar not only serves Pakistan but also positioned the country as a potential regional trade hub linking China, Central Asia, West Asia and Africa.

3. Economic Spillovers:

Scholars project that completion of CPEC could increase Pakistan's GDP by approx. 6-14% by 2030, reduce poverty, and create millions of jobs if complemented by domestic reforms.

Strategic Dimensions and Evolving Regional Alignment.

1. Strategic Value in China's BRI Network

Pakistan's role as a critical transit route enhances China's access to the Arabian Sea, by passing chokepoints like ~~an~~ the strait of Malacca. This elevates Pakistan's strategic relevance, especially in Beijing's broader global connectivity framework.

2. Regional Rivalries and Alignments

- India perceives CPEC as infringing on its territorial claims in Gilgit-Baltistan, reducing cooperation on multilateral infrastructure projects.

- The increasing US-China strategic competition in Asia and the Indo-Pacific has led to alternative regional initiatives that offer rival connectivity frameworks. This challenges the uniqueness of Pakistan's strategic position.
- While Pakistan can act as a gateway to central Asian markets, progress is constrained by political instability in Afghanistan and competition from other corridors backed by Russia, Turkey and Iran.

Has Regional Alignment Reduced Pakistan's Strategic Relevance?

Rising alternatives connectivity platform dilute Pakistan's singular importance. Strategic competition between major powers could pivot away from Pakistan if BRI slows or shifts focus. On the other hand, Pakistan remains central to China's south and Central Asia strategy. Its location still offers a

a unique multimodal corridor linking landlocked regions to the Arabian Sea.

Overall, while regional alignments are evolving, Pakistan's strategic relevance persists. Its leverage now depends on how effectively it can diversify partnerships and integrate itself into broader regional supply and trade network, rather than rely solely on China.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's connectivity initiatives under BRI have profound geo-economic significance, enhancing trade capacity, and bolstering its role as a regional transit hub. However, evolving alignments in Asia, particularly China-US strategic competition and India's rise in regional economic frameworks, means Pakistan must recalibrate its diplomatic and economic strategies to maintain and enhance its strategic relevance in the long run.
