

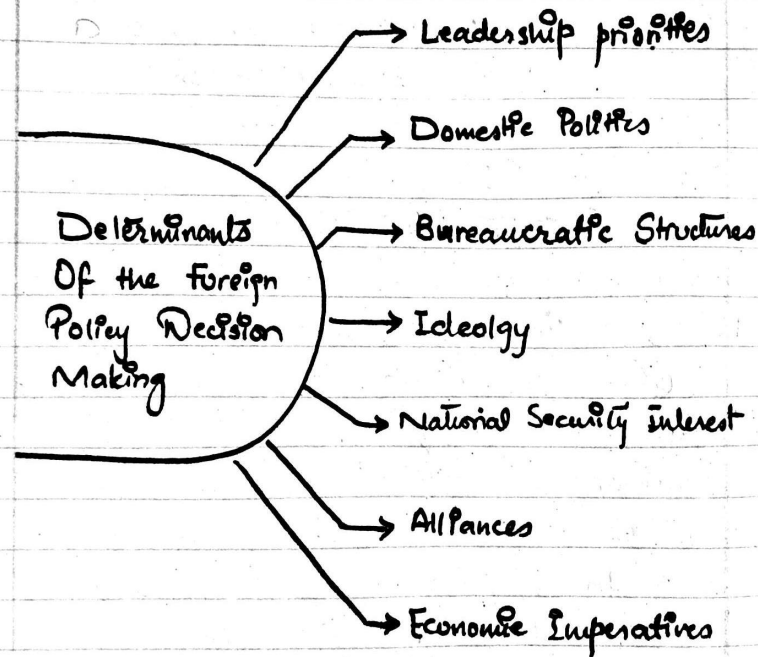
Q3: DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN
POLICY DECISION MAKING
AND INFLUENCE OF DOMESTIC,
INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC
FACTORS USING US EVOLVING
FOREIGN POLICY EXAMPLE:

(I)

INTRODUCTION:-

Foreign policy represents a state's interest to protect its interest, secure its sovereignty and navigate the international system. Its determinants are multi-dimensional shaped by domestic political dynamics, economic considerations and global power structure. The United States as a pre-eminent actor, provides a clear illustration of these factors intersect over time to produce a coherent yet evolving foreign policy. By examining domestic politics, international system and economic imperatives we can understand the rationale behind US foreign policy shifts from isolationism to global interventionism.

II DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING:



Foreign policy is influenced by structural, institutional and normative factors that guide a state's behavior in international arena. Leadership priorities, domestic politics, bureaucratic structures, ideology,

national security interest, alliances, and economic imperatives collectively determine the foreign policy outcomes. Realists, Liberal and Constructivist theory of IR emphasize the interaction between material power, institutional framework and ideational factors in shaping states' decisions.

(III) DOMESTIC FACTORS INFLUENCING USA'S FOREIGN POLICY:-

1) POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND IDEOLOGY:-

US foreign policy priorities shift with presidential administrations. Democratic leaders often emphasize multilateralism and human rights, as in Obama's diplomacy, whereas Republican leaders prioritize military assertiveness and strategic deterrence, such as in Iraq invasion in 2003.

2) BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS AND STRATEGIC ELITES:

Decision making involves negotiation among the State Department, Pentagon, intelligence agencies, and presidential advisors. Disagreements over troop deployment in Syria highlights the influence of the bureaucratic politics on policy outcomes.

3) PUBLIC OPINION AND MEDIA'S INFLUENCES:-

Domestic public sentiments can constrain or enable interventions. The Vietnam war demonstrated limits on policies due to public opposition, while post 9/11 counter terrorism policies gained broad support showing media and public opinion as a key determinant.

4) INSTITUTIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES:-

Congress, judiciary and budgetary

oversight shape the scope of US foreign policy. The War Power Act illustrates how domestic institutions regulate presidential authority on military engagements.

(IV) INTERNATIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING USA'S FOREIGN POLICY :

1) GLOBAL SYSTEMIC PRESSURE:-

The structure of the international system constrains foreign policy options. Realist theory explains US interventions in Europe, the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific as efforts to maintain global hegemony and balance rising powers like China and Russia.

2) SECURITY THREAT PERCEPTIONS:-

External threats drive strategic initiatives. Nuclear program in North Korea, China's

maritime assertiveness, and global terrorism shape US defense planning and diplomatic engagement.

3) ALLIANCE DYNAMICS:

Alliances such as NATO, Quad and bilateral treaties enhance influence and constrain unilateral action. These partnerships determine intervention thresholds and diplomatic levers.

4) NORMS, IDENTITY AND LEGITIMACY:

Ideational factors influence US choices. Wilsonian democracy promotion, humanitarian intervention, and climate diplomacy demonstrate how norms, legitimacy and national identity shape strategic behavior.

(V)

ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES INFLUENCING US'S FOREIGN POLICY :-

1) TRADE, SANCTIONS AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS:-

Economic goals drive policy decisions. US sanctions on Iran, trade tariffs on China, and Gulf energy security initiatives reflect how economic interests guide foreign policy choices.

2) GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE:-

US strategies consider global markets, multilateral institutions, and investment flows. The 2008 financial crisis and pandemic era supply chain strategies exemplify the need to align foreign policy with economic stability.

(VI)

CONCLUSION:

The determinants of the foreign policy encompass domestic, international, and economic factors which interact to shape state's strategy. The USA demonstrates how leadership, alliance, institutions, security threats, and economic priorities converge to produce

dynamic foreign policy response. Understanding these determinants provides insight into state's behavior, illustrating the combined influence of Realist, Liberal and Constructivist frameworks on contemporary international relations. The US example underscores the importance of balancing domestic constraints with global ambitions to achieve strategic objectives.

Q2: CONCEPT AND APPLICATION OF ASYMMETRIC WARFARE IN CONTEXT OF PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS AND IT'S AFFECTS ON STRATEGIC CALCULATIONS AND MILITARY STRATEGIES IN SOUTH ASIA:

(I)

INTRODUCTION:

Asymmetric warfare involves conflicts where opposing actors have unequal military capabilities leading the weaker side to use unconventional tactics to offset traditional disadvantages. In South Asia, Pakistan-India tensions illustrates this phenomena with Pakistan leveraging asymmetric strategies to counter India's conventional military superiority. Understanding asymmetric warfare is crucial for analyzing strategic calculations, deterrence dynamics, and broader security concerns in the region.

(II) CONCEPT OF ASYMMETRIC WARFARE :-

Asymmetric warfare occurs when a weaker actor employs ~~and~~ unconventional methods such as insurgency, guerrilla tactics, cyber operations and proxy forces to challenge a stronger adversary. Realist and strategic studies frameworks emphasize that these tactics aim to exploit vulnerabilities, impose cost and avoid direct confrontations with superior forces. The concept challenges strategic traditional war-centric doctrines, requiring adaptive military and political strategies.

(III) TYPES OF ASYMMETRIC TACTICS:-

1) INSURGENCY AND GUERRILLA TACTICS:-

Weaker actors often use insurgent

groups to conduct low intensity, high-impact operations. In South Asia, cross border militant movements and non-state actors serve as asymmetric tools, compelling conventional forces to direct resource to counter insurgency.

2) CYBER AND INFORMATION WARFARE :-

Cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns and strategic communications manipulate perception and exploit critical infrastructure vulnerabilities. Both India and Pakistan have invested in cyber defense and offensive capabilities, reflecting asymmetric adaptations to technological threats.

3) PROXY WARFARE AND NON-STATE ACTORS:-

The use of ~~the~~ proxies allow a state to achieve strategic objectives indirectly. Pakistan has historically leveraged proxies in contested regions while India relies

on surveillance and counter insurgencies operations to mitigate threats. This expands conflicts beyond conventional military boundaries.

4) ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE TARGETING:-

Attacks on critical infrastructure, energy grids, and economic nodes weaken adversaries without large scale conventional warfare. These tactics exemplify cost imposing strategies central to asymmetric thinking.

(IV)

APPLICATIONS IN PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS:-

1) HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ASYMMETRY:-

Pakistan's conventional forces are smaller than India's, creating strategic incentives to employ asymmetric

strategies. Cross border insurgencies and tactical maneuvers in Kashmir reflect a deliberate use of irregular methods to challenge Indian superiority while maintaining deniability.

2) STRATEGIC DETERRENCE THROUGH ASYMMETRY:-

Asymmetric warfare allows Pakistan to maintain deterrence against India without direct confrontation. Tactical nuclear doctrines, proxy engagement, and border skirmishes signal capability and resolve, shaping Indian threat perception and military planning.

3) IMPACT ON MILITARY DOCTRINE:-

India adjusts its conventional strategies to counter potential asymmetric threats, including enhanced counter insurgency operations, border fortifications and rapid reaction forces. The iterative cycle of threat

and adaptation underscores the dynamic nature of asymmetric warfare in South Asia.

(Y)

STRATEGIC CALCULATIONS AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS :

1) COST BENEFIT CALCULUS:-

Asymmetric strategies reduce the weaker state's reliance on costly conventional forces while inflicting disproportionate damage. This shifts the adversaries' calculations, forcing India to account for low-intensity threats alongside conventional military planning.

2) RISK OF ESCALATION:-

While asymmetric tactics avoid direct confrontations, they carry risk of escalation. Misinterpretation of proxy attacks or cyber intrusions can trigger larger conflicts, highlighting

the delicate balance in South Asia's strategic calculus.

3) INFLUENCE ON REGIONAL STABILITY:-

Persistent asymmetric threats shape border security policies, leading to military modernization, regional alliances and heightened vigilance. Both states' strategies now integrate intelligence, surveillance and rapid mobilization in anticipation of irregular challenges.

4) NORMATIVE AND

LEGAL DIMENSIONS:-

Use of asymmetric tactics raises international law and ethical concerns, including targeting civilians and use of non-state actors. Global norms increasingly influence domestic policy, compelling Pakistan and India to navigate legality, legitimacy and strategic efficacy simultaneously.

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CONCLUSION:-

Asymmetric warfare reshapes strategic thinking in South Asia, allowing weaker actors like Pakistan to counterbalance India's conventional advantages through unconventional tactics, proxy engagement and technological means. This form of conflict influence deterrance military doctrine and regional security calculation while highlighting the risk of escalation and legal dilemmas.

Q6: IMPACTS OF IMF FINANCIAL INTERVENTIONS ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIES PARTICULARLY PAKISTAN AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY, RISKS, AND CRITICISM ON IMF PROGRAM:-

(I)

INTRODUCTION:-

IMF financial interventions aims to stabilize economies, restore investor's confidence, and promote structural reforms in developing countries. While such programs can provide temporary relief and macro-economic stability, they can carry social, political and economic risks. Pakistan's repeated engagement with the IMF exemplifies both the potential benefits of such support and the challenges arising from dependency, austerity and conditionality.

(II) IMF LOANS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY:-

1) SHORT TERM MACROECONOMIC STABILIZATION:-

IMF payments provide liquidity, reduce balance of payment deficits, and strengthen foreign reserves. In Pakistan IMF programs have temporarily stabilized currency fluctuations and inflation, allowing the state to meet immediate fiscal obligations and prevent economic collapse.

2) POLICY DISCIPLINE AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE:-

Compliance with IMF conditions signals fiscal and monetary discipline, attracting foreign investment and lending from multilateral institutions. Pakistan's adherence to IMF programs has historically improved credit ratings

and encouraged Gulf based and international investors to engage economically.

(III) STRUCTURAL AND LONG- TERM LIMITATIONS:-

1) RISK OF IMF DEPENDENCY:-

Frequent borrowing fosters structural dependence, weakening domestic productive capacity. Pakistan has undertaken 24 IMF programs up till now highlighting recurring reliance rather than self sustaining growth. Dependency limits fiscal autonomy and constrains independent economic planning.

2) SOCIAL COST OF CONDITIONALITY:-

Austerity measures disproportionately impacts low-income groups through subsidy reductions, energy price hikes and cuts in social spendings. Pakistan's electricity tariffs increase in 2024-2025, for instance,

sparked public's discontent and reduced purchasing power reflecting the social trade offs on IMF compliance.

3) IMPACT ON GROWTH AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE:

While IMF investments restores confidence for external investors, austerity can slow down domestic growth, creating paradoxical recovery scenarios. Pakistan has experienced improved FDI interests alongside contraction in local consumption illustrating short term gains versus long term growth trade offs.

4) SOVEREIGNTY AND POLICY AUTONOMY CONCERNS:

IMF oversight often constrains domestic policy making. Pakistan's budgetary, subsidy and energy decisions are heavily influenced by IMF prescriptions.

Limiting democratic flexibility. Scholars like Joseph Stiglitz argue that excessive conditionality undermines long term developmental priorities and national sovereignty.

5) LONG TERM DEBT BURDEN:

IMF loans while concessional, add to external debt stock and require future repayments under tight fiscal constraints. Debt servicing diverts resource from developmental projects weakening structural foundation for sustainable growth.

IV

POLITICAL ECONOMY CONSIDERATIONS:

1) DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS:

The success of IMF programs depends upon domestic governance, political stability,

and institutional capacity. In Pakistan weak implementation, inconsistent policies and patronage politics have diluted the impacts of IMF reforms, creating credibility gaps and partial compliance.

2) SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

LIMITATIONS:-

IMF programs primarily address macroeconomic stability rather than structural development. Industrial expansion, export diversification, and human capital investment remain largely outside IMF focus and Pakistan continues to face limited manufacturing capacity and narrow export base despite repeated stabilization efforts.

3) BALANCING IMF SUPPORT WITH DOMESTIC REFORMS:-

For IMF assistance to achieve meaningful long term results, Pakistan must align program with national development strategies including industrial modernization, energy reforms, industrial modernization, regional connectivity initiatives.

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CONCLUSION:-

IMF interventions stabilize economies temporarily and attract investment but repeated reliance and conditionality limit sovereignty and growth. Pakistan's sustainable recovery depends on combining IMF support with structural reforms, strong governance, and long-term development planning.

Q5: BALANCE OF POWER UNDER
GEOPOLITICAL, GEO STRATEGIC,
AND GEOECONOMIC OF ASIA-
PACIFIC HOTSPOTS AND DIPLOMACY
TOOL IN ACHIEVING STABILITY:

(I)

INTRODUCTION:

The balance of power is a foundational concept in international relations, designed to prevent any single state or alliance from dominating a region. In the Asia-Pacific, ongoing territorial disputes, rising military capabilities and economic competition have intensified the need for equilibrium. Geopolitical, geo-strategic, and geo-economic factors interact to shape regional security dynamics, while diplomacy serves as the essential tool to manage rivalries and sustain long-term stability. Understanding these dynamics helps policymakers navigate the strong interplay of power, strategy and regional interests.

(II)

CONCEPT OF BALANCE OF POWER:

Balance of power refers to states aligning or counterbalancing each other to prevent hegemony and maintain regional stability. It operates through alliance, military capabilities, and strategic partnerships.

(III)

GEOPOLITICAL REEMERGENCE OF
ASIA PACIFIC HOTSPOTS:

Rising tensions in Taiwan, South China Sea, and Korea illustrate shifting power dynamics and competing territorial claims. These hotspots threaten regional equilibrium and attract global strategic attention.

IV

GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE
IN THE REGION:

The Asia Pacific is crucial for military

positioning maritime routes and strategic choke points like Malacca Strait. States leverage naval deployments and security alliance to safeguard national interests

(V)

GEOECONOMIC SHIFTS:

Economic growth in China, India, ASEAN creates competition over trade routes, technology and energy security. Economic interdependence intensifies power calculation making balance of power multidimensional.

(VI)

ROLE OF ALLIANCES IN

MAINTAINING REGIONAL BALANCE:

US-Japan-Australia-India Quad and ASEAN frameworks exemplify strategic coalitions to counterbalance rising powers. Alliances combine military deterrence and diplomatic coordination

to sustain equilibrium.

(VII)

MILITARY CAPABILITY

AS A DETERRENT:

Force projection and defense modernization ensures that no single actor achieves unchecked dominance. Regional arms race in Asia Pacific reflect this principle in action.

(VIII)

ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN

BALANCE OF POWER:

Trade, investment and sanctions are tools of ~~rival~~ to influence rival states' policies. Economic dependency can complement or replace military deterrence in maintaining regional balance.

(IX)

DIPLOMACY AS STABILIZING INSTRUMENT:

Negotiations, confidence building measures,

and multilateral dialogues prevent escalations and build trust. Diplomacy allows states to reconcile competing interests without resorting to conflicts.

(X)

SOFT POWER AND INFLUENCE:-

Cultural, technological and institutional influence enhances a state's strategic position. Soft power reduces tensions and fosters regional cooperation alongside hardpower mechanisms.

(XI)

ACHIEVING LONG-TERM REGIONAL STABILITY:-

Sustained stability requires long-term coordinated diplomacy, robust alliance and balanced economic relations. Integrating military, economic and diplomatic strategies mitigates the risk of conflict in Asia Pacific hotspots.

(XII)

CONCLUSION:-

The balance of power in Asia Pacific is multidimensional, encompassing geo-political-geo strategic and geo-economic elements. Diplomacy combined with alliance and economic leverage, remains essential to maintaining regional stability and securing long term strategic objectives.