

Question : 1Introduction

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's political strategy took shape in the post-1857 environment when Muslims faced severe political marginalization, economic decline, and British distrust. Recognizing the altered balance of power under colonial rule, Sir Syed adopted a pragmatic and community-oriented approach aimed at safeguarding Muslim interests through education, political caution, and constitutional engagement. His strategy differed fundamentally from the Indian National Congress, which emphasized representative democracy, mass politics, and all-India nationalism. These divergent approaches reflected contrasting assessments of India's social composition and political realities.

1. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's Political Strategy for Muslim Protection

(a) Education as the Foundation of

Political Empowerment

Sir Syed regarded modern education as the primary means of restoring Muslim political relevance. He believed that without intellectual competence and administrative skills, Muslims would remain excluded from government institutions dominated by educated Hindu elites. Consequently, he prioritized educational reform over immediate political activism.

This vision was translated into practice through institutions such as the Scientific Society and the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriented College at Aligarh. These initiatives were aimed at producing a modern Muslim elite capable of competing in administration and gradually securing political safeguards within the colonial system.

(b) Policy of Political Loyalism Towards the British

In the aftermath of the 1857 revolt, Muslims were widely perceived

as politically disloyal. Sir Syed therefore advocated cooperation with the British government rather than confrontation. He believed that loyalism would rebuild trust, reduce repression, and create opportunities for Muslims. This approach was rooted in political realism rather than submission. Sir Syed viewed loyalism as a temporary strategy to stabilize Muslim socio-political conditions in an environment where resistance could invite further marginalization.

(C) Rejection of Majoritarian Representative Democracy

Sir Syed was skeptical of Western-style representative democracy in a plural society like India. He argued that numerical majority rule would enable Hindu dominance and marginalize Muslims politically and culturally. He therefore emphasized the need for communal safeguards and cautioned Muslims against participating in political arrangements that did not guarantee minority protection.

2. Political Method of the Indian National Congress

a. Constitutional Agitation and Mass Politics

The Indian National Congress adopted a contrasting political strategy centered on constitutional agitation, petitions, and demands for representative institutions. Over time, it increasingly relied on mass mobilization and public participation. Congress leaders promoted the idea of composite nationalism, arguing that political rights should not be based on religious identity. However, Sir Syed viewed this approach as potentially majoritarian in practice, given the numerical dominance of Hindus in India.

3. Comparative Assessment of the Two Approaches

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and the

Indian National Congress differed fundamentally in their political outlooks. Sir Syed prioritized minority protection through gradual reform and educational uplift, whereas Congress emphasized immediate political participation and democratic representation. These contrasting strategies reflected differing assumptions about democracy, nationalism, and communal balance in colonial India.

Aspect	Sir Syed Ahmed Khan	Indian National Congress
Political Strategy	Gradualism and loyalty	Constitutional agitation
View of Democracy	Skeptical in plural society	Normative commitment
Core objective	Muslim safeguards	All-India nationalism

Keep proportion in your ideas

Conclusion

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's political strategy was shaped by contextual realism rather than ideological idealism. His emphasis on education, political caution, and minority safeguards sought to protect Muslim interests in an unequal colonial environment. In contrast, the Indian National Congress pursued mass-based representative politics grounded in majoritarian assumptions. While Sir Syed's approach delayed direct political mobilization, it laid the institutional and intellectual foundations upon which later Muslim political movements were built.

Question : 2

Introduction

Climate change has increasingly been recognized as a non-traditional security threat due to its capacity to undermine human security, economic stability, and political order without the use of military force. Pakistan is among the most climate-vulnerable countries despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Recurrent floods, heatwaves, droughts, and glacial melt have transformed climate change from an environmental issue into multidimensional security challenge with serious socio-economic and political consequences. An assessment of these implications, alongside Pakistan's institutional response, highlights both emerging capacities and persistent governance gaps.

1. Climate Change as a Non-Traditional Security Threat

Unlike traditional military threats, climate change operates through indirect pathways, by exacerbating resource scarcity, livelihood insecurity and social tensions. In Pakistan's context, climate-induced disasters threaten food security, economic productivity, and internal stability, thereby expanding the meaning of national security beyond territorial defense to human survival and resilience.

2. Socio-Economic Implications of Climate Change in Pakistan

i. Impact on Agriculture and Food Security

Pakistan's agriculture sector, which employs a large proportion of the population, is highly climate-sensitive. Irregular monsoon

patterns, rising temperature, and water scarcity have reduced crop yields and increased food price volatility. For instance, the **2022 floods**, which submerged nearly one-third of the country, caused massive agricultural losses, directly affecting rural livelihoods and national food supplies.

ii. Economic Vulnerability and Development Setbacks

Climate disasters impose heavy fiscal burdens on an already fragile economy. Infrastructure destruction, displacement costs, and disaster relief expenditures divert resources away from development. According to official estimates, climate related events have cost Pakistan billions of dollars over the past decades, deepening fiscal deficits and slowing economic growth.

iii. Human Security and Social Stress

Climate-induced displacement has increased internal migration, particularly from rural to urban areas. This has intensified pressure on urban infrastructure, housing, and employment markets, contributing to informal settlements and social marginalization. Heatwaves, such as those experienced in Sindh, have also raised public health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations.

3. Political and Security Implications

a. Governance Challenges and Political Stress

Climate change complicates governance by increasing demands on state capacity during disasters. Inadequate response can erode public trust.

in institutions, while unequal relief distribution may fuel grievances. Moreover, climate stress can aggravate existing regional disparities, particularly in provinces already facing developmental neglect.

b. Climate Change and Internal Security

Resource scarcity, especially water stress, has the potential to intensify inter-provincial tensions. The melting of glaciers and reduced river flows pose long-term challenges to Pakistan's water security, which has implications for internal stability and regional diplomacy.

4. Pakistan's Institutional Response to Climate Change

1. National Disaster Management Authority

The NDMA has been at the forefront of Pakistan's response to

climate-related disasters, including floods and extreme weather events. Its role includes preparedness, emergency relief coordination, and post-disaster recovery, helping to minimize human and economic losses.

2. Climate Policy and Planning

Pakistan has developed strategic frameworks such as the National Climate Change Policy and the Pakistan Climate Change Act. These policies guide provincial and federal agencies in adaptation measures, emission reduction initiatives, and long-term resilience planning.

3. Provincial Engagement

Provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs) implement localized climate adaptation measures. Coordination with federal agencies ensures that early warning systems,

resource allocation, and emergency response regions are effective across

4. Institutional challenges

Despite progress, challenges persist including overlapping responsibilities, limited funding, and inconsistent implementation. Strengthening institutional capacity and clarifying roles between federal and provincial bodies is crucial to ensure timely and effective response.

Conclusion

Climate change has emerged as a critical non-traditional security threat to Pakistan by undermining economic stability, human security, and governance capacity. Its socio-economic and political implications extend far beyond environmental damage, affecting food security, public health, and internal cohesion. Although Pakistan has developed institutional mecha-

measures to address climate-induced challenges, these efforts require stronger coordination, preventive planning, and sustained investment in climate resilience. Addressing climate change as a security issue is essential for Pakistan's long-term stability and development.

Question: 5

Introduction

Federal cohesion in Pakistan has historically faced multiple challenges, affecting national integration, governance, and stability. The federal structure, designed to balance provincial autonomy with central authority, has often been tested by political, economic, and administrative disparities - regional grievances, perceived inequities, and institutional weaknesses have periodically threatened unity. Understanding these factors and learning from past experience is essential for fostering a more cohesive and inclusive federation.

1 Political Factors Undermining Federal Cohesion

a. Centralization of Power

Excessive concentration of authority

at the federal level has created a sense of alienation in provinces. Political decisions, particularly regarding resource allocation and governance, are often perceived as favoring the central government or dominant provinces. For instance, debates over fiscal federalism and delayed implementation of constitutional provisions have fueled political distrust.

b. Weak Provincial Representation

Historically, the underrepresentation of provinces in federal decision-making, coupled with limited participation in policy formulation, has contributed to regional discontent. The struggle for equitable political participation has been a recurring theme in movements for provincial autonomy, especially in smaller provinces such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

2. Economic Factors Undermining Federal Cohesion

(i) Unequal Resource Allocation

Disparities in development spending, infrastructure investment, and natural resource management have undermined perceptions of fairness. Provinces rich in resources, such as Sindh (water and industry) and Balochistan (minerals), have often complained about inadequate revenue sharing. These imbalances exacerbate regional resentment and weaken trust in federal institutions.

(ii) Fiscal Federalism Challenges

The implementation of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award has faced delays and contestation, reflecting friction between center and provinces over equitable revenue sharing. Such economic disputes directly affect provincial development plans and create long-term structural weaknesses in federal cohesion.

3. Administrative Factors

a. Governance and Bureaucratic Inefficiency

Fragmented coordination between federal and provincial administrations often leads to duplication of efforts, slow policy implementation, and inconsistent public service delivery. Administrative neglect of local needs strengthens the perception that the federal state is distant and unresponsive.

b. Security and Militarized Interventions

Frequent central interventions in provincial matters, often justified under security pretexts, have deepened mistrust. The perception that military or federal authority overrides provincial autonomy has weakened the legitimacy of federal institutions in the eyes of some regions.

4. Lessons for Preventing Regional Alienation

i. Strengthening Participatory Decision-Making

Ensuring that provinces have a meaningful voice in national policy and resource allocation is crucial.

Mechanisms such as inter-provincial councils, timely implementation of NFC awards, and inclusive legislative processes can reduce alienation.

ii. Equitable Economic Development

Federal and provincial governments should prioritize balanced development projects and fair resource distribution. Transparent allocation of funds for infrastructure, health, and education can address economic grievances and strengthen trust in the federation.

iii. Administrative Reforms

Improving coordination between federal and provincial bureaucracies, enhancing

service delivery, and respecting provincial competencies can reduce administrative friction. A professional and impartial civil service capable of implementing federal policies locally is essential.

Conclusion

Federal cohesion in Pakistan is influenced by intertwined political, economic and administrative factors. Historical patterns of centralization, uneven development, and bureaucratic inefficiencies have periodically alienated regions. Lessons from these challenges emphasize the importance of participatory decision-making, equitable resource allocation, and strengthened provincial governance. A proactive and inclusive approach is essential to maintain national unity and prevent regional discontent from undermining the federal system.

Question: 7

Introduction

Pakistan's security establishment, particularly its military and intelligence agencies, has historically played a central role in shaping both foreign and domestic policy. This influence stems from Pakistan's strategic geography, regional security challenges, and periodic political instability. While the constitution provides for civilian supremacy, the security establishment has often exercised considerable authority over policy-making, impacting diplomatic decisions, defense strategy, and the country's international image. Understanding this role requires a nuanced examination of historical interventions, institutional capacities, and policy outcomes.

1. Historical Role of the Security Establishment

a. Early Years and State Formation

Following independence in 1947, Pakistan

faced multiple security challenges, including the Kashmir conflict and the 1947-48 war with India. The nascent civilian government relied heavily on the military for strategic guidance, establishing a precedent for security-led policy influence. The early military leadership, in coordination with intelligence agencies, shaped foreign policy decisions, particularly regarding India, Afghanistan, and relations with global powers.

b. Military Interventions in Governance

From 1958 to 1971, Pakistan experienced several military coups, during which the security establishment directly controlled policymaking. These periods saw strategic foreign alignments, such as joining **CENTO** and **SEATO**, prioritization of defense spending, and close ties with the United States, reflecting military priorities over civilian preferences.

2. Contemporary Influence in Foreign Policy

1. Strategic Diplomacy and Regional Policy

The security establishment continues to exert influence over Pakistan's posture toward India, Afghanistan, and other regional players. It has been instrumental in shaping counterterrorism strategies, negotiating ceasefires along the Line of Control, and managing relations with key allies. For example, military diplomacy played a central role in mediating the Afghan reconciliation process and coordinating intelligence-sharing with regional partners.

11. Coordination with International Actors

Security agencies have guided policy on nuclear deterrence, defense collaborations, and participation in multilateral security forums. This includes Pakistan's approach to the United Nations, counterterrorism alliances, and participation in frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organi-

zation (SCO). Such involvement enhanced Pakistan's credibility in security matters, while sometimes complicating civilian-led diplomatic efforts.

3. Influence on Policy-making Mechanisms

a. Civil-Military Relations and Institutional Autonomy

Even under democratically elected governments, the security establishment exercises considerable influence over foreign and defense policy through institutional channels, advisory roles, and policy oversight. While the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister retain formal authority, critical decisions, particularly those concerning defense, strategic alliances, and border security, often reflect military priorities.

b. Balancing Domestic Stability and International Standing

The security establishment's role has

been dual: ensuring domestic stability during periods of political unrest while projecting Pakistan as a credible strategic actor internationally. Military-led policy has sometimes enabled swift responses to crises, such as counter-terrorism operations, but it has also attracted criticism regarding transparency, civilian marginalization, and occasional diplomatic friction.

4. Implications for Pakistan's International Standing

a. Strategic Credibility

The security establishment's guidance in defense, nuclear deterrence, and counter-terrorism operations has enhanced Pakistan's credibility internationally. Its capacity to respond to crises quickly demonstrates operational strength and reassures regional and global partners about Pakistan's strategic reliability.

b. Civil-Military Balance and Diplomacy

Civil-military involvement sometimes limits civilian-led diplomatic initiatives. This can create perceptions that decision-making is centralized within the security establishment, affecting transparency and reducing flexibility in foreign negotiations.

c. Democratic Perceptions

Overemphasis on security priorities over political or economic considerations has occasionally complicated Pakistan's relations with democratically governed countries. While the country's strategic competence is acknowledged, questions about democratic consolidation and civilian oversight remain.

Conclusion

The Pakistani security establishment has been a central actor in shaping foreign and security policies, balancing national interests with regional and global imperatives. Its role has

contributed to Pakistan's credibility as a strategic state while occasionally raising questions about civilian oversight and democratic consolidation. Understanding this dual influence is essential to assess Pakistan's international standing, as well as the dynamics of civil-military relations that continue to shape national policy outcomes.

12