

QNO1

What are the constitutional provisions of the foreign policy of Pakistan. Explain the salient features, gains and losses of the foreign policy of Pakistan in 21st Century.

Introduction: The constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan apply guides the state's foreign policy. Every government has to follow those directions and calibrate Pakistan's foreign affairs. Many constitutional articles and the directives set the determinants of the foreign policy of the country. Similarly, the salient features of the foreign policy of Pakistan include: Islamic ideology, Balancing major powers, active role in multilateralism, Islamic solidarity with muslim world, Kashmir as a core and foundational part of Pakistan, and the protection of the overseas Pakistanis rights. Similarly, post 2000, Pakistan has gained and realigned its foreign policy with change world affairs. It has also ^{faced} many challenges, which would be explained briefly.

Graham Allison explains foreign policy as:

"The set of policies of the state to deal with other states"

Constitutional provisions of Foreign policy of Pakistan

The framework of pursuing foreign policy of Pakistan is

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Set by the constitution of the country 1973.

Article 40 of the constitution guides the policy framework

This article of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's constitution has set the policy framework as follows:

4) Peaceful settlement of international conflicts

1) Preserved and strengthened relations with muslim world (Islamic solidarity)

Article 40
of the
Constitution

3) goodwill, peace and security among all nations

2) Support common interests of Asia, Africa and Latin America

Other key constitutional directives

- i) Unity of the muslim Ummah
- ii) Peaceful Coexistence
- iii) Support for oppressed nation
- iv) Promotion of ~~diplomacy~~ over conflict
- v) Promotion of International peace and stability

Federal Control over foreign policy

Article 97 gives authority to federal government to exercise power over the foreign affairs under the sight of the parliament. Centralized foreign decision making is done through this.

Being security centric state, military diplomacy is also very significant in Pakistan under Article 243 of the constitution

This article allows military personals, very common in many states, to practice the defense diplomacy for the best policy making in Pakistan to pursue interests.

Article 2 and 2(A) reflects the Islamic values in all decisions including the foreign policy.

Sovereign belongs to Allah and the foreign policy of Pakistan should reflect the Islamic norms like Justice, equality, peace and solidarity with muslim ummah.

Salient Features of the foreign policy of Pakistan in 21 century

i) Islamic ideological orientation to remain vocal for the muslim causes:

This feature has enabled Pakistan to show solidarity with Islamic world and support its causes like Palestine (Two state solution pre 1967 borders) and Kashmir as the legitimate part of Pakistan.

ii) Security centric approach altered to pursue geo-economics

India centric approach due to unattended Kashmiri dispute and emphasis on strategic deterrence against India (full spectrum deterrence with first use policy)

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Other than India, Pakistan adopted geo-economics as a policy in 2002.

"Pakistan will remain very relevant in world affairs due to its nuclear capabilities".

(Pakistan at a crossroads, Christophe Jefferlot)

(i) Balancing Major powers
through multi-vector foreign policy.

Pakistan has now practising hedging policy through which it has ^{been} pursuing strategic partnership with China, careful transactional relations with The United States and growing engagements with Russia.

"71% of the arms import and military technology of Pakistan is Chinese".

(SIPRI 2022 report)

iv) Geo-Economics as cornerstone of Pakistan foreign policy

Pakistan's flagship initiative with China CPEC is the first step towards geo-economics with focus on trade, connectivity and investments with CARs and other neighbouring states.

v) Active participation in

Multilateral forum to protect interests

Pakistan is the vocal member of the UNO with participation in peace-keeping missions abroad, OIC as the forum of Islamic states for ummah issues, SCO

as the changing trajectory of the world order.

Major gains of Pakistan's Foreign policy in the 21st Century (Post 2000)

i) Strategic partnership with China

China and Pakistan are trusted friends but the strategic partnership between them has strengthened the relations.

China has invested \$ 62 billion dollars in Pakistan under CPEC. It supports China in one China policy over China and China supports Pakistan over Kashmir issue and the FATF related issues.

ii) Nuclear deterrence and net regional stabilization

Pakistan has maintained ^{tain} strategic balance with India through the nuclear deterrence with full spectrum. It has stabilized the region by preventing wars with India in 2002, 2017, and 2019.

iii) Counter-terrorism recognition at global level

Pakistan's role in eradication of the terrorism is acknowledged by the world. Pakistan has suffered a lot at the hands of terrorism and lost 80,000 people in G.WOT.

"NO country has suffered a lot at the hand of terrorist except Pakistan".

(US Secretary state John Kerry)

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v) Improved relations with Russia after Cold war differences

Pakistan engaged with Russia under hedging policy with no zero-sum mindset. Both are engaging in energy sector and diplomacy particularly SCO. Prior to that, Russia (Soviet Union) was anti-bloc of Pakistan during Cold war.

vi) Active role in Afghan peace process from 2017 to 2021

Pakistan facilitated Afghan peace process between the US and Afghan Taliban. Pakistan's efforts gave safe passage to the US to exit Afghanistan after 20 years of war on terror. Pakistan remained diplomatically silent country then.

Losses and challenges for Pakistan in Foreign policy grounds in 21st Century

Parallel to the gains in foreign policy, Pakistan also faced persistent challenges in foreign policy. Those issues are following.

i) Over-dependence on Security Paradigm

Pakistan heavily dependent on Security posturing and neglected the economic diplomacy. This security-centric approach many times affected the economy of Pakistan. Internal hedging is important to give apt weightage to the economy as well.

ii) Economic vulnerability and dependence on financial institutions

Pakistan's economy remained throughout fragile in 21st century. Weak exports and lack of FDI's due to multiple factors compels the country to depend to IMF bailouts. Friendly states like China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE helped Pakistan in economic strains.

Out of 23 bailout packages, 10 were given by IMF to Pakistan after 2000.

iii) FATF graylisting of Pakistan

FATF graylisted Pakistan for two times in 21st century. It damaged its financial credibility and increased cost of doing business under bad reputation.

iv) Strained relations with The US

Despite a major role as state in US led global war on terror, Pakistan and ~~India~~ US relations remained strained due to US Pivot to Asia strategy and zero sum relations with India. Till 2024, Pakistan, US relations remained fragile. Thaw has been seen in 2025 but that is not long lasting.

Conclusion In essence, 21 century remain yet strategically successful for Pakistan but economically fragile. Pakistan foreign policy is clearly guided by constitution to pursue the policy towards the world with only change of mind with change of governments. Through this, it has gained and lost many thing in 21st century at external domain.

add a few more arguments in this part.....

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Q NO 2

What are main non-traditional Security threats faced by Pakistan? How these threats are different in grounds and diverse in nature to address. Explain

Introduction: Traditionally, threats were defined as the military or territorial terms. However, the post cold war scholarship broadened its scope from traditional security to non-traditional security and threats. The non-traditional security threats are trans-boundary, multi-dimensional and beyond territorial boundaries. Pakistan is also facing some major non-traditional security threats including asymmetric warfare in the shape of terrorism and extremism, Economic challenges, climate change and environmental issues, water security, food insecurity, Social polarization and bad governance, and population explosion. These threats in the case of Pakistan are different and diverse in nature from discussion and on paper.

Emergence of non-traditional security concept

During cold war, the traditional security issues were seen as direct threat but Barry Buzan broadened its scope by explaining non-traditional security threats. On the other hand United Nations Development Program (UNDP) also explained the human development paradigm in the following pre-requisites:

i) Economy

ii) Food

iii) Health

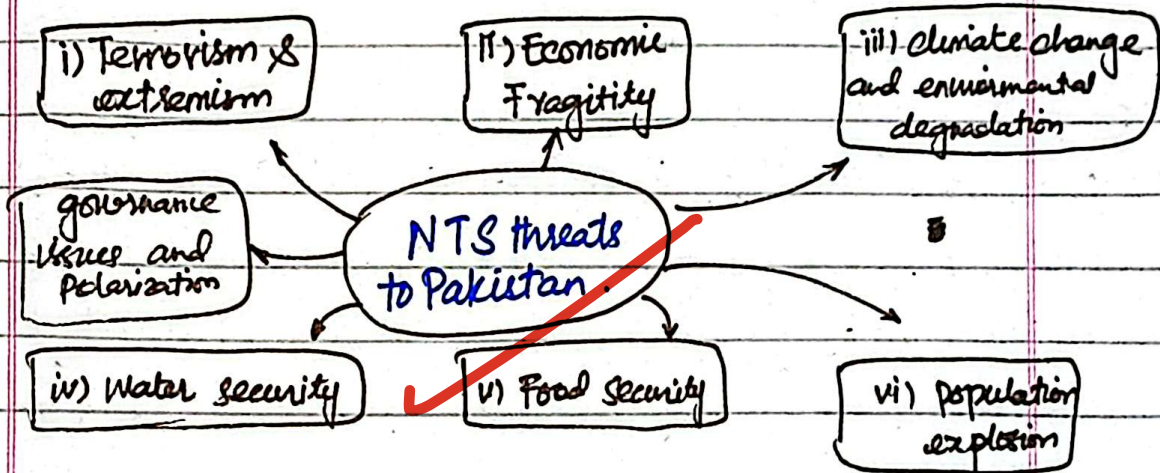
iv) Environmental

v) Community

vi) Political stability

Almost all of the non-traditional security issues are align with the UDOP definition in the case of Pakistan. Due to the nature of non-tradition security threats, they are more serious in nature than conventional or traditional threats.

Major non-traditional security threats to Pakistan.



i) Terrorism and extremism

Terrorism is the most serious not traditional security threat rooted in religious extremism, militancy and regional instability.

"More than 120,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives due to the terrorism since 2001"

(Pakistan institution of peace studies report 2022)

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all conventional war of Pakistan have not costed Pakistan this much in terms of lives. This is how this is more serious.

ii) Economic instability endangering the future of the country

The state capacity and sovereignty is in danger due to the economic instability. Persistent current account deficit, heavy external debt and IMF dependency is destroying the integrity of the state more than the territorial terms.

"Total external debt of Pakistan \$130 billion which is equal to the 24% of the total GDP of the country in 2025".

(IMF report)

iii) Climate change and environmental degradation

Pakistan is among the top 10 countries which are most affected by the climate change in the world. Heavy rain-falls and severe heatwaves with changed patterns have been affecting the country very badly. More than \$45 billion have lost in 2022 and 2025 floods. This much cost have not given by any traditional security threat to Pakistan.

"Pakistan ranks at 6 globally as the most vulnerable country to climate change".

(German watchdog global climate index)

iv) Water security

Pakistan is facing very severe water scarcity and declared as the water stressed country by UNDP. Only 850 m^3 is available for per capita in Pakistan. In 1947, this was 5600 m^3 . Population growth, transboundary water issues and climate change are main drivers.

"Water is the next oil and reason of war in 21 century".

"Per capital water availability in Pakistan is 850 m^3 ". (Global water resource institute)

v) Food insecurity despite agrarian economy

Food insecurity is alarming issue in Pakistan as agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy with 24% share in economy. Malnutrition is spreading and the country is importing wheat and other grains for national consumption.

"40% of the children are facing malnutrition". (National Nutrition Survey 2024)

"The share of economy by agriculture is 24%". (Economic Survey 2024-25 Pakistan)

vi) Population explosion as time bomb for Pakistan.

Pakistan is among the top five countries in terms of population with 240 million. The annual growth is 2% which means 500000 people are adding in

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economically fragile country. Unchecked population is the recipe of disaster for the country.

v) Social polarization and governance bad

Weak institution with political instability hinder governance and societal growth. Society becomes polarization and rule of law erodes. Institutional inertia weakens the state growth and enhances the protest politics. The case of Pakistan is same.

"Bad governance is the mother of all security threats". (UNDP)

There are some of the major non-traditional security threats faced by Pakistan. Traditional security threats have not costed Pakistan this much. Non-traditional security threats is the most critical issue for the survival of Pakistan.

How these issues are different in ground,

1) Non-military origins

These issues have grounds in state and societal weaknesses not in military conflicts

2) Transnational and internal grounds

The threat of non-traditional security threats are porous and borderless

3) Human Centric approach

It affects directly the populace rather than only territorial boundaries of the state.

4) Structural and systemic

Structural flaws of state and systemic flaws allows them to appear not sudden invasions

Diversity in nature of NTS to address the menace

1) Required non military responses

Military is ineffective against climate, inflation, population and cyber war. Sector specific approach can effectively eradicate this issue.

2) Multi-stakeholder approach

All stakeholder like bureaucracy, media, civil society and IQB can collectively fight against all NTS.

3) Sector specific solutions

All threat like climate, economy, cyber, health and extremism required adaptation, reforms, technology, system and countermeasures to fix issues respectively.

4) Civil-military coordination

Civil-military coordination can assess, counter and research on persistent non-traditional issues like traditional threats.

Conclusion: Non-traditional security threats are human and multidomains centric including, economy, society, institutions, natural disaster and more severely vulnerable than the traditional military threats. It depends on tools, trainings, and policies to act timely against heavy dent. Thus they are major multidimensional governance challenge in Pakistan.