

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper
Question No. 8
Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

INTRODUCTION

Key Guidelines: Each question should be attempted with 12-13 clear headings. The answer must be 8-9 pages (sides) in length to score above 15 marks per question. Questions usually contain 3-4 parts; each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

Content & Argumentation: Always use examples from current and ongoing events to justify your arguments. Demonstrate strong analytical depth, not mere narration of facts. Support arguments with relevant data, reports, international indices, treaties, and recent developments.

Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement—pick words and phrases from the question itself.

Alignment with the Question: Each argument must be explicitly linked to the specific part of the question being asked. If your heading is not aligned with the demand of the question, the content—no matter how accurate—will not be rewarded. Avoid generic or unrelated headings; precision is key.

Language & Visuals: Use subject-specific terminology relevant to international relations, geopolitics, economics, and security studies. Incorporate simple graphs, flowcharts, tables, or maps wherever relevant to enhance clarity and scoring potential.

Good Luck for CF 2026  

Gaza Peace Plan

Donald Trump formulated and announced the Gaza Peace Plan during the month of November 2025.

Purpose of Gaza Peace Plan

The purpose of Plan is to eliminate the security threat to Israel systematically, under the supervision of US. However, the supervision is still a conundrum because of taking the difficult decision of maintaining supervision + stabilizing force.

Core Assumptions of Gaza Peace Plan

The core assumptions of the peace plan are as under.

1. Demilitarization of resisting Forces
↓
2. Rebuilding and Reconstruction of the damaged Properties
↓
3. Setting up a Governance Model including the Palestinians while excluding Hamas
↓
4. Opening up Humanitarian aids supplies to affected regions.
↓
5. Phased-wise withdrawal of Israel Forces from occupied territories.
↓
6. Supervision of Interim Government
↓
7. Setting up Stabilizing Force of Muslim Regional States
↓
8. Funding for reconstruction through multilateral institutions

9. Release of Prisoners of War - alive or deceased.

Merits of Gaza

Peace Plan

1- Revival of Peace

Importantly, the Peace Plan has ceased hostilities between hostile parties - Hamas and Israel.

2- Supervision Given to Muslim States

The Peace process would be supervised by regional muslim states

3- Revival of Humanitarian Aids

Israel had blocked any kind of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Thus, the plan allowed humanitarian aid to alleviate human sufferings.

4- Reconstruction of Infrastructure in Gaza

The Plan aimed at rebuilding and reconstructing the damaged infrastructure of Gaza.

Demerits of Gaza Peace Plan

Plan

1- The Question of Supervision of Int'l Stabilizing Force

An important drawback is to who will supervise and lead the Int'l Stabilizing force in Gaza.

2- Duration of Gaza Peace Plan

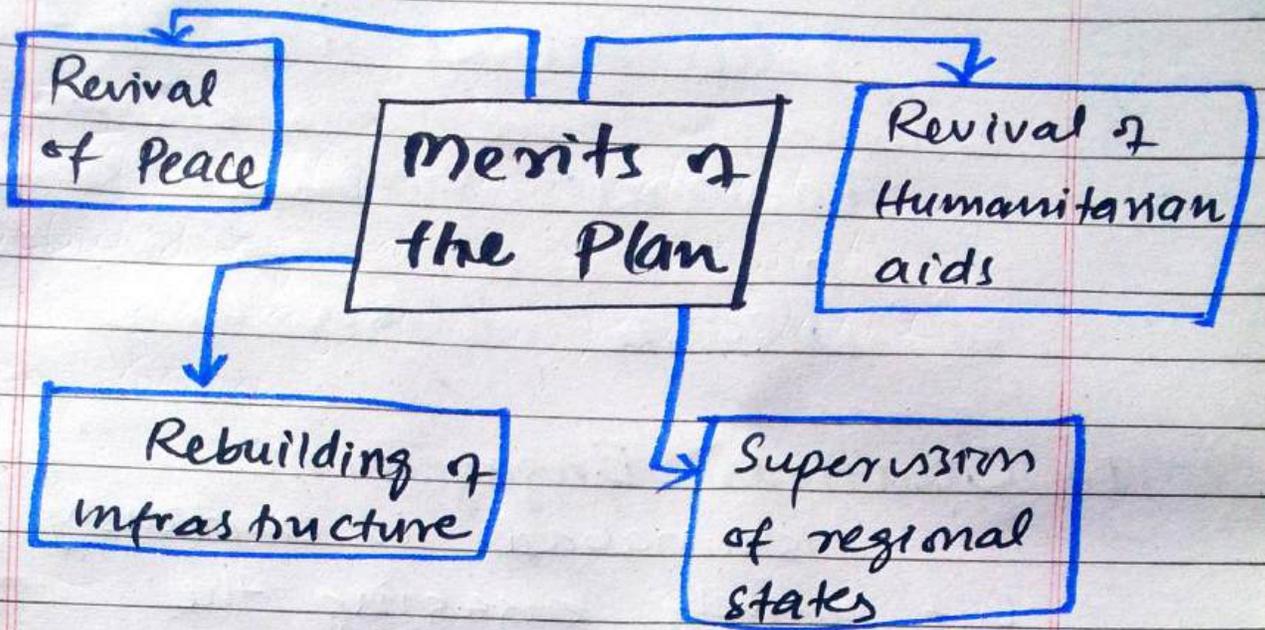
It is ambiguous as to how long the stabilizing force would be deployed in Gaza.

3. Role of stabilizing Force

The vague role of the stabilizing force also questions whether it will protect Gazans against external threats or demilitarize the resistance groups.

4. Funding Channels for the Implementation of Plan

It is merely an assumption in the plan that reconstruction of the infrastructure would be done. However, the question of who will fund the entire process or if funded by some organization who will raise funding and how will be channeled to Gaza? remain striking open.



Demerits of the Gaza Peace Plan

- ① Supervision of Forces
- ② Duration of employment.
- ③ Role of supervising Forces
- ④ Funding channels of the money

Islamabad Policy

Towards Gaza

Peace Plan

1- Cautious Engagement

Islamabad is cautiously but actively engaging the regional states in the peace process.

2- Humanitarian Support and not demilitarizing the resistance factions

Islamabad policy is clear in alleviating the suffering of human in Gaza but it doesn't engage the community with the assurance of demilitarizing the resistance fronts

3- Maintenance of Peace in the region

Islamabad's active participation in the deal shows its concerns of

preserving peace in the region

Neutrality to avoid Entanglement in the Middle East's Conflicts

Islamabad holds neutral stance on supporting the Palestinians or Hamas, but it also reiterates the right to self-determination of the Palestinians.

Concerns of Islamabad

The think tank of Islamabad maybe suggesting avoidance in active participation in the ISF because of the fear of supporting Israel indirectly. Similarly, in future, if Hamas gained power and assumed resistance Pakistani force, which would be part of ISF combat Hamas, meaning inviting enmity with Iran. Thus, Islamabad forecast an inclusive governance to avoid rising of future resentments

Conclusion:-

In short, the plan remained successful in partially ending the war; however, the success seems short-lasting because of its exclusive and ambiguous nature. Greater may arise concerns of local community supporting Hamas. In this situation, Pakistan must remain neutral to avoid being entangled in the middle eastern conflicts.



Questions No. 7

INTRODUCTION

US and China have been impeding the flow of economic globalizing forces. This interdependence of economies is now being weaponized by US and China, giving rise to the notion of 'new oil of geopolitics.' US challenges the monopoly of China in rare-earth minerals while the Chinese authorities are trying to acquire strategic autonomy in the realm of technology, because dependency now creates a vulnerability and risk of losing technological sovereignty. Thus, the struggle to reciprocate each other is continuously increasing. Hence, trade wars are last realm to abrupt supply chain and halt each other growth.

Weaponization of Chips

The US, along with the West, has sophisticated technology in making chips. Thus, during Biden and Trump eras, US has repeatedly imposed ban on companies for selling chips to Chinese firms.

Chinese Monopoly in Rare-earth Minerals

China holds top monopoly in rare-earth minerals.

When the Biden administration asked Dutch companies to stop selling ASMR lithography to China, China realized two things:

- ✓ Diversifying means to reduce dependency
- ✓ Acquiring strategic autonomy in Tech. world while using rare-earth minerals as strategic leverage.

The US Diversification and Pak-US Mineral Deal

After sensing the sensitivity, the US — signed deals with many third world countries, including Pakistan to diversify the means of acquiring minerals essential for green transition and defense

US Deal with Pakistan

- ↓ Antimony → Defence ^{Used in PL-15 missile}
- ↓ Lithium → Batteries
- ↓ Copper → Chips & Computers
- ↓ Gold → Semi-conductors
- ↓ Chromium → solar system & Green Transition

Chinese Quest for Strategic Autonomy

China has been searching for means to avoid dependency because it risks sovereignty. The economist reported that China has successfully tested and operationalized its own EUV - similar to ASMR - used for chip-cutting in highly state supervised secrecy.

The Trade war and Dependency Thesis

Neo-liberals suggest complex interdependence between US and China that avert any direct military confrontations; thus, they resort to tactics and strategies to ~~halt~~ a halt and ~~apart~~ each other's economies. In the words of Kenneth Waltz:

"States reciprocate each other activities for strategic leverage."

Application of Waltz Thesis

①

Trump initiated tariff on china because of economic Nationalism



China countered tariffs with imposing tariffs on the US products

②

China banned rare-earth minerals export



Trade war began



To affect the monopoly of China in other field.

J. Mearshiemer

Theory of Survival

Mearshiemer argue that "States prioritize their survival and their interests instead of institutional arrangements"

Thus, US and China have weaponized and set example for other states to weaponize natural resources in future, reshaping the global norms of cooperation.

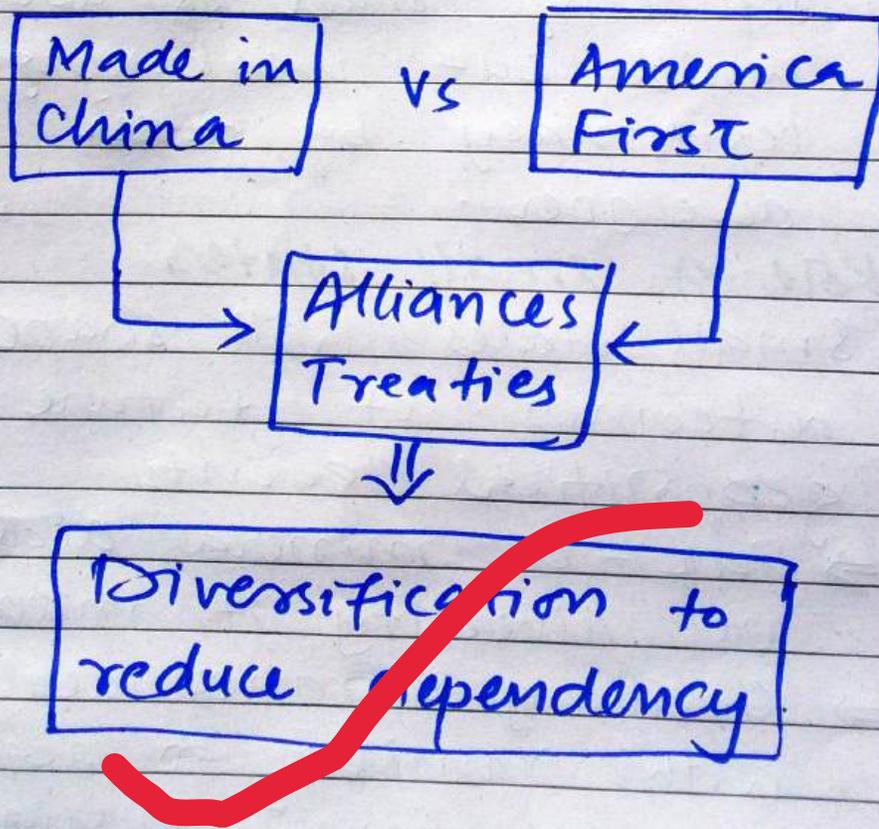
The Neglect of WTO

Principles

With the view of Mearshiemer in minds, US and China ignored the principle of free trade and institutional arrangements.

Rise of Techno-Nationalism

G. Allison, in *Destined for War* observes that the strategic competition from traditional power politics is now shifted towards controlling the chips supply chain, reshaping "the nature of great power politics". Hence, national interests are now redefined as controlling the choke points and chips-making materials.



The Future Prospects of US-China

Trade war and

Interdependence

Strategic Autonomy:

- ① → Both states will quest for strategic autonomy as noted by J. Nye in *The Future of Power*.

Weakening Liberal Order

- ② → Russia assistance to China not in changing or replacing order of liberal world but weakening its legitimacy by their developer.

Role of small states

- ③ Small states will shape outcomes of future geopolitical events.

⇒ Pore - US mineral deals helped US diversify its means.

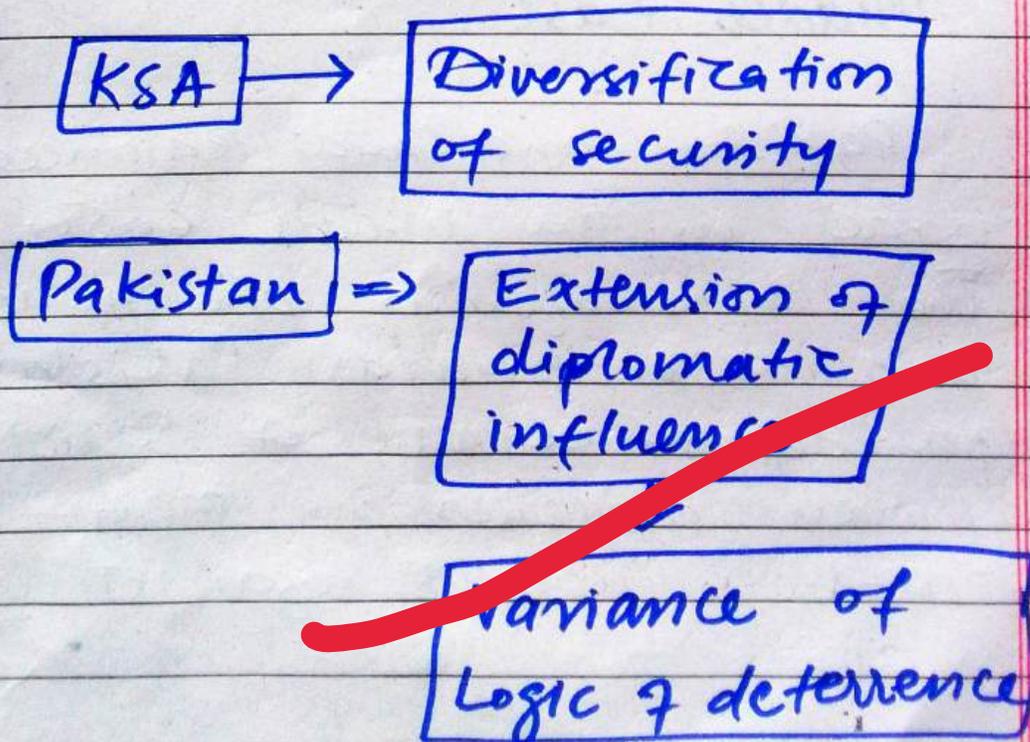
⇒ Germany & France deals with Namibia to acquire leverage against Russia.

Question No. 5

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia defence pact is a major achievement, challenging the so-called hegemony of Middle East and South Asia - India and Israel. This theoretical deterrence for both Israel and India. For Pakistan, it would tighten its grip in Middle East and for KSA its leverage against Israel and intention to diversify its security dependency against the US. This shift bring the kingdom, away from US, towards China. Economically, it would boost remittances for Pakistan. Pakistan would export more military ammunition to KSA. While KSA can invest and cater for its food security in the arable land of Pakistan and CPEC. Thus, the defence pact has far more implications and opportunities for Pakistan and KSA.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Defense Pact

The Defense Pact was signed on 17 September 2025. It was mutual recognition of defense needs and buttressing to each others countries. To KSA, it ~~was~~ ^{is} diversification of security while to Pakistan, it ~~was~~ ^{is} extension of diplomatic influence and variance of logic of deterrence.



Geopolitical Achievements of Pak-KSA Defense Pact

1- Extension of Diplomatic Clout

For Pakistan, the pact is a decision-maker of the events in the Middle East especially related to Saudi Arabia. Pakistan active participation in Gaza Peace Plan is seen best example of extending legitimacy to the Plan.

2 Deterrence to Israel in Middle East

Pakistan, and Saudi Balanced Israel in the Middle East.

The Bandwagoning phenomenon pulls KSA towards Pakistan for defense because of Pakistan's proven abilities in may-complex in 2025 against India.

3 Influencing the Geopolitical Dynamics in South Asia

India's Cold start doctrine often go unanswered from the Gulf countries due to its investment in Gulf states and their investment in India. However, such doctrine would be impeded with NATO clause of Pact

- Support to Kashmir
- Impede Cold start Doctrine of India

4- Institutionalization of Previous

Defense Cooperation:

Foreign Minister of Pakistan argued that the defense pact was translating the previously existing cooperation. Because Pakistan already committed to providing security to the Holy place in case of existential threat.

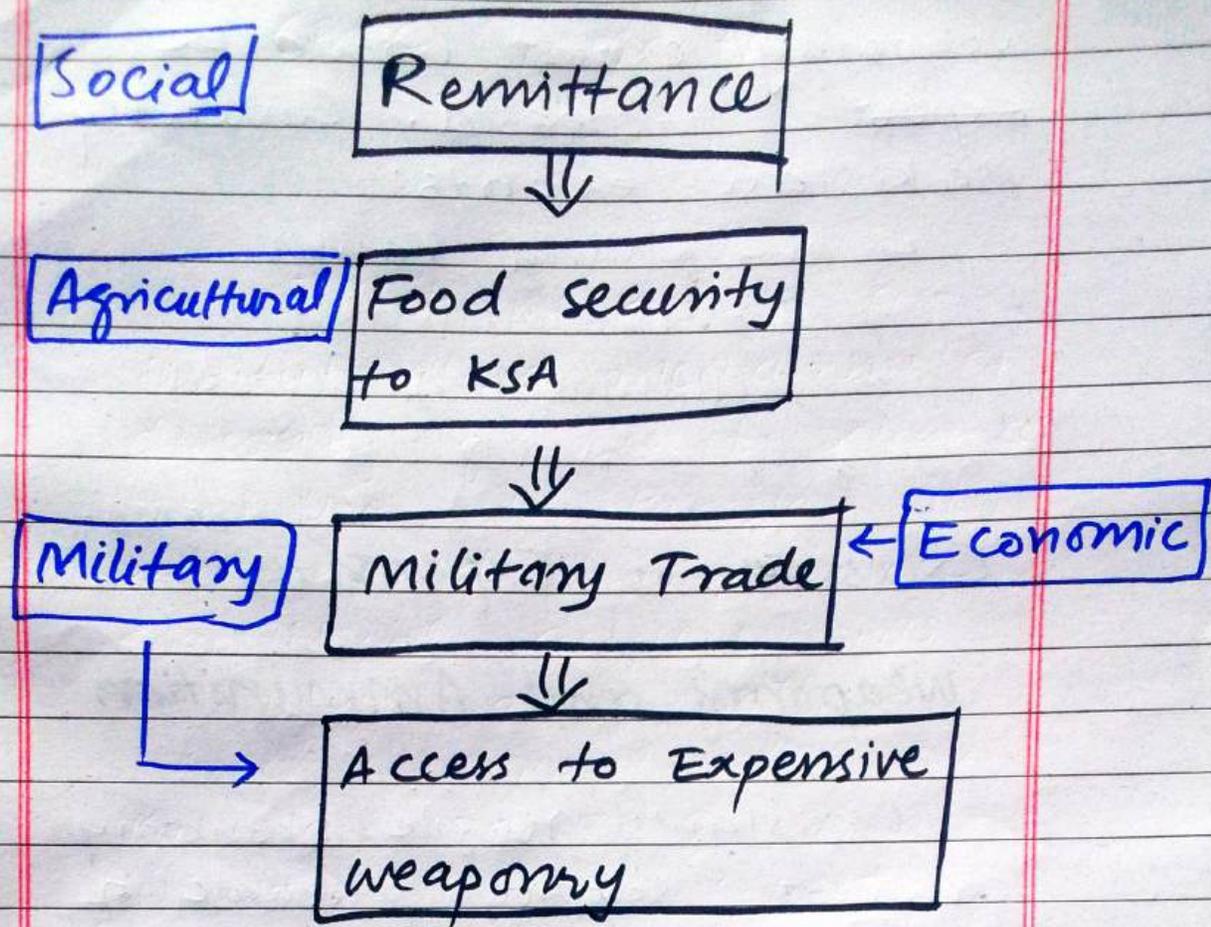
5 Doha Attack of Israel

An important aspect of the deal was, Israel's attack on ~~doha~~ Doha where the US which was security guarantor, remained silent. This was realization of self-help phenomenon among the GCC states.

Economic Opportunities for Pakistan

Boosting Economy through Remittances:

Increased remittance would boost economy of Pakistan. Because Pakistan receives more than \$32 B from Pakistani abroad.



2 Food Security to KSA

Pakistan's land is fertile and offer incentives to KSA. It caters for the food & security of KSA, meaning increased in agricultural products export abroad and stabilizing economy.

3 Military Trade

Pakistan already trade military equipment with KSA. After the pact, these

weaponry export would be
export increased. Currently
Pakistan exports:

- Al-Khalid Tanks
- JF-17 Thunders
- Ornaments of airjets

~~Excessive~~ to Expensive

Weaponry and Ammunition

Pakistan's fragile economy
cannot support purchase of
expensive weaponry, thus after
the pact, it will be able to
access to the western and US
sophisticated ammunition,
furthering mutually mutual
cooperation of KSA.

Investment in CPEC

Institutionalizing cooperation
in one field extends to
another, thus, the pact earned
credibility & reliance of KSA
on Pakistan. The consequence
would be KSA investment

in CPEC projects.

Conclusion

The de-risk fact is an institutionalized mechanism of diversifying security reliance from USA to Pakistan. This fact would bring more geopolitical achievement in future along with economic opportunities for Pakistan ranging from investment to export and remittances.

Question No. 4

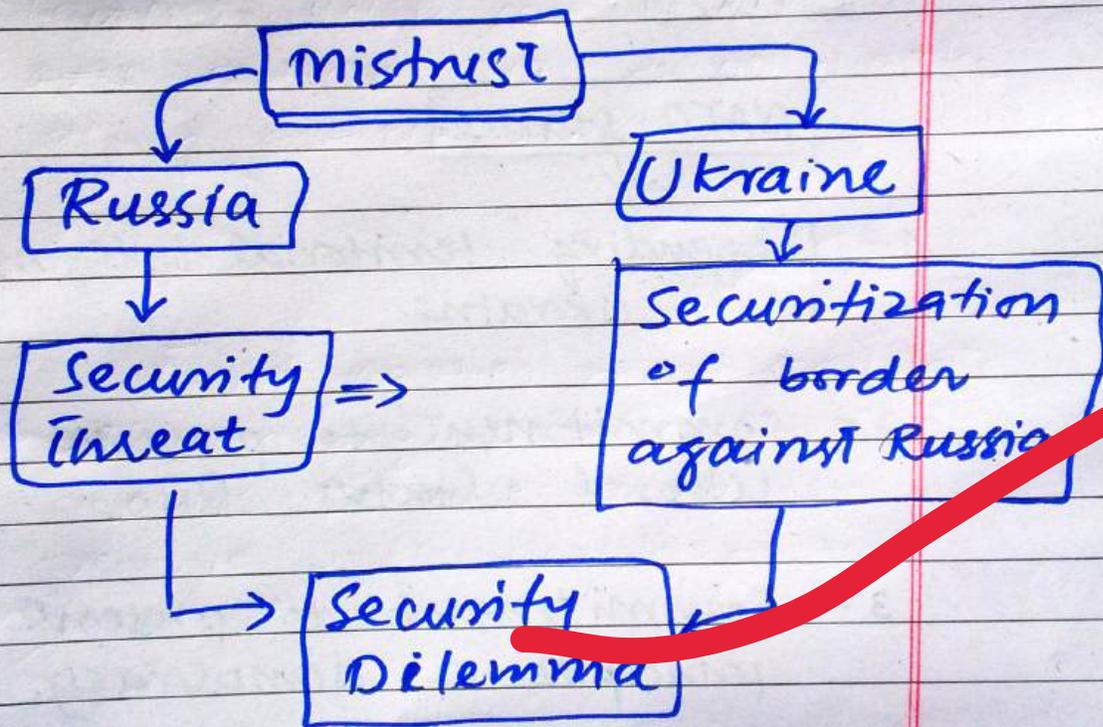
INTRODUCTION

Russia and NATO are having two different ideologies. The rivalry in ideological realms have become tangible struggle in the shape of Russia-Ukraine war. The contrasting views of great powers have extended the duration of the war. To Trump the MAGA project is more essential than Ukrainians sovereignty. To Europe, surrender in Ukraine is boosting morale for Russian imperialism.

However, the warring parties - Russia and Ukraine - are in controversy of neutralizing the threat or totally eliminating it. Nevertheless the solution lies in negotiation, compromise, and security guaranteed to both.

Russia's Stance on Ending the War

Russia wants guarantees from the west that border of Russia would not be threatened in future, thus rejecting the Ukraine inclusion in NATO or EU.



"Russia's goal is breaking western unity against Russia."

(Kunberger in After the Victory.)

NATO Stance on Ending the War

Russia is seen as imperialistic in the western think tank. Thus, rigid stance of resisting instead of negotiating have created more challenges for the west.

NATO Stance



- 1- Defending territorial integrity of Ukraine
- 2- Commitment to preserve liberal Status Quo
- 3- Commitment to preserve principles of democracy.
- 4- Supporting Ukraine militarily, financially, and morally to reject Russian redefining of states values.

Recommendations to End the war

Security Guarantee

Security guarantees to both by the UNSC that their territorial integrity will not be violated, and if so happens, UNSC can invoke ~~the~~ article 42 of UN charter along article 25.

Negotiation and good offices

Third parties may facilitate both warring parties to discuss because discussion remove misunderstandings and distrust.

Phased-wise withdrawal of

Russia forces

They should be given option to withdraw forces phased-wise, so making trust reliability or credibility of another.

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

Conclusion

In short, the ways of ending war are different to all the stakeholders, yet compromise and negotiation can do the impossible by eliminating mistrust and fear of security threat from region.

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