

Instructions to Secure Good Marks in the Current Affairs Paper

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Important Note: Marks will be awarded strictly on the following parameters: Content 60%, References 15%, Subject-specific language 15%, Graphs, charts & diagrams 10%.

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 10 marks per question. Questions usually contain 3-4 parts; each part carries equal weightage, so all parts must be discussed equally and proportionately.

General Knowledge II

Current Affairs

Part - II

Question no : 2

Privatization is inevitable in Pakistan, give recommendations.

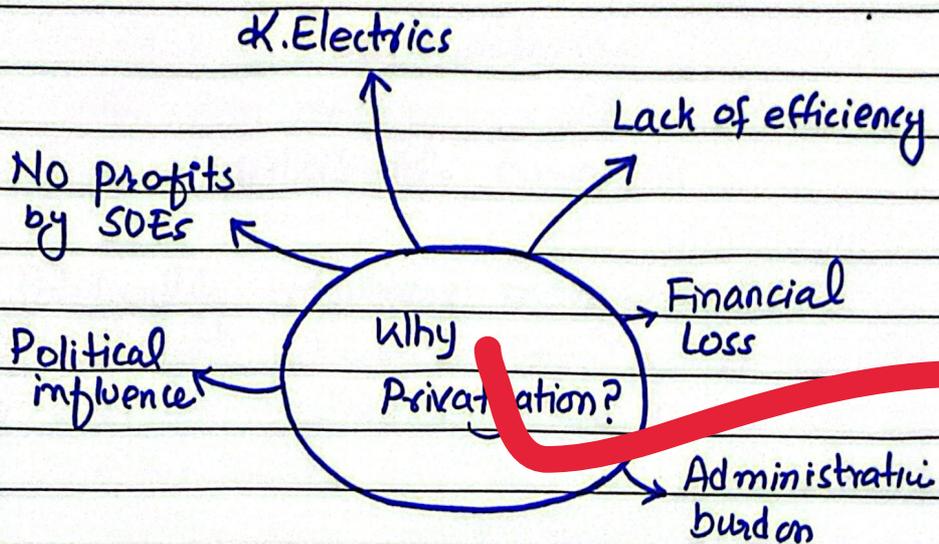
Structure & Presentation: Begin every answer with an attractive, context-setting introduction. End with a forward-looking, well-linked conclusion that ties back to the question. Use headings directly derived from the question statement - pick words and phrases from the question itself. Alignment with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

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inevitable policy option to reduce the budgetary burden and improve economic performance

II- Why is Privatization inevitable in Pakistan



i) Lack of Efficiency:

Most SOEs in Pakistan suffer from operational inefficiency, overstaffing, out-dated systems and weak accountability.

Example: PIA is the example of poor management and low productivity.

Pakistan Railways has failed to modernize its infrastructure and operation.

ii) Administrative burden on economy:

SOEs place a heavy burden on Pakistan's budget. Billions of rupees are spent every year in the form of subsidies, bailout, and debt servicing for loss making entities such as power distribution companies.

iii) Politically influenced managements

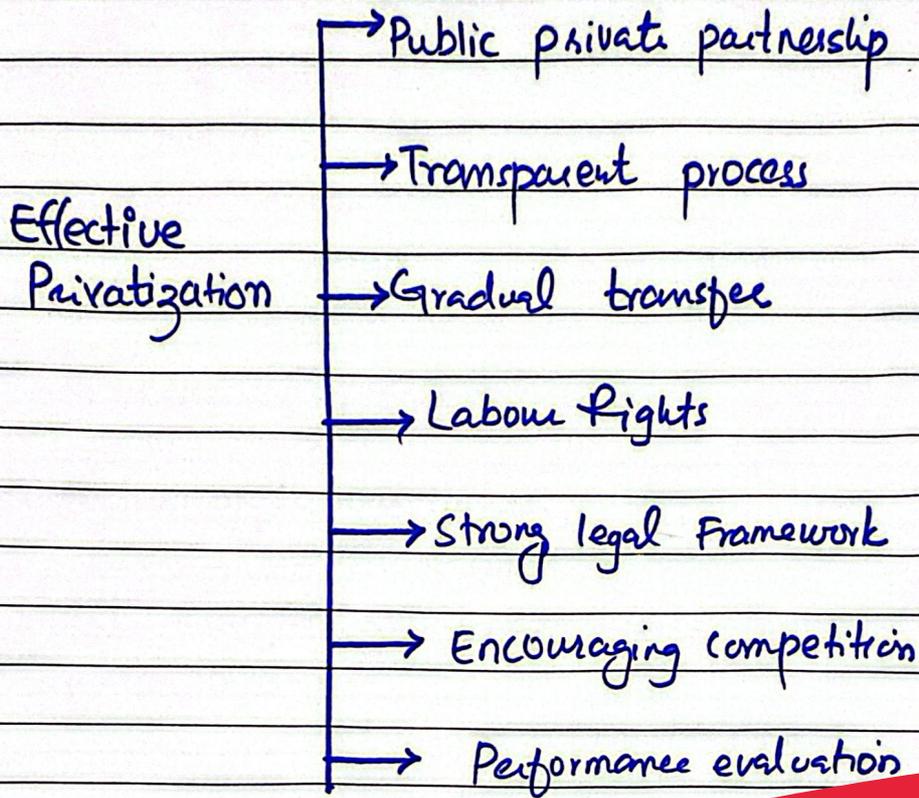
Political influence is one of the major causes of SOEs failure. Appointments in SOEs are often made on political considerations rather than merit, leading to incompetent leadership and poor decision making.

iv) Successful Examples of Privatization:

K-Electric

The privatization of K-Electric demonstrates how private management can improve performance. After privatization, K-Electric improved bill recovery, reduced power theft, and invested in infrastructural development. This shows privatization can enhance efficiency and service delivery.

III- Recommendations for effective privatization:



i) Public-private partnership:

Instead of complete privatization, Pakistan should adopt PPP in strategic sectors such as Railways, Ports and Postal services.

It can combine private sector efficiency with public oversight.

ii) Gradual and Transparent transfers:

Privatization should be carried out gradually and transparently to prevent corruption and public distrust. Clear

evaluation

competitive bidding and

parliamentary oversight

are essential for transparency.

iii) Protection of Labour rights:

Privatization raises concerns about unemployment. Therefore, government should protect labour rights through

retaining programs

social safety nets.

Skill development opportunities should be promoted to reduce social resistance.

IV) Conclusion:

In Pakistan's fragile economic situation, loss-making SOEs have become an unsustainable burden on the national economy. Persistent inefficiency, political interference, and administrative failures make privatization inevitable. Therefore, a balance approach through transparent privatization can help Pakistan

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reduce fiscal pressure and improve public service delivery for long term economic stability.

Question no 06

Trump's pull out from Paris climate agreement..... COP 21?

I Introduction:

The Paris climate Agreement (COP21) of 2015 aims to limit global warming below 2°C . The US, as a major emitter, played a key role. In 2017, President Trump announced the US withdrawal, citing economic reasons. This decision affected global climate efforts and raised concerns about meeting COP 21 targets. However, the decision has increased the burden of responsibility on the shoulders of China, and Europe to meet the targets of COP 21 despite being large emitters after US.

II: Implications of US pull out from Paris Agreement.

i) More emissions from an industrialized states:

US withdrawal led to rollback of climate policies like clean power plan and support for renewable energy. This increases global emissions at time when urgent cuts are needed. US absence weakens collective effort.

ii) Difficulty to reduce global emissions:

Without the US fully participating, reaching global targets become harder. Global warming is a cumulative problem, and other countries now face more pressure. Developing countries may hesitate to take strong action if industrialized countries do not share responsibility.

iii) Absence of Major economy in loss and damage policy:

US withdrawal affect climate funding for vulnerable ~~finding~~ countries. Poor countries depend on supports to cope with floods, storms, and droughts. Without US contribution, global programs for

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adaptation face funding gaps.

iv) Intensifying Global North-South Divide:

The withdrawal worsens tensions between developed and developing countries.

Developing nations expect industrialized nations to lead in reducing emissions and providing finance.

III- US claim, "We are still in" initiative

Even after Federal pullout, many US states, cities, and companies joined "We are still in" coalition to follow Paris goals.

This shows that some climate action continues but can not replace global leadership and international funding.

IV- Role of China and Europe

i) Acknowledgment of Large economies:

China and Europe are now the largest emitters and have taken active roles

since US pullout. China aims for

carbon neutrality by 2060 and invests

in renewable energy and electric

vehicles. Europe launched European

green deal to reach net zero by 2050.

ii) Geo-political influence:

China and Europe have political power to push other countries to stay committed. Europe limits trade deals to climate rules, and China promotes green energy through Belt and Road initiative projects. Their influence supports global cooperation even without US leadership.

iii) Putting finances for implementation:

Europe provides billions of euros to help poor countries, and China funds renewable energy projects world wide. Still, their combined contribution cannot fully replace US funding. Their leadership, however, prevents global climate effort from stalling.

V. Conclusion:

Trump's pull out caused higher emissions, harder targets, funding gaps and more inequality. US states continue some action but federal absence is significant. China and Europe are important leaders, yet, full global success still depends on all major economies.

Question no 05

Pakistan-KSA Defense Pact Pakistan

I- Introduction:

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (KSA) have had a long history of political, economic and military cooperation. Recently, both countries signed a defense pact to strengthen military ties and enhance regional security. This agreement comes at a time when the Middle-East and South-Asia face growing geopolitical tensions. This pact is significant not only for security but also for economic cooperation, offering opportunities for Pakistan.

II- Geo-political achievement of Pact for Saudi and Pakistan.

i) Strengthening Mutual Deterrence:

By working together, Pakistan and Saudi can deter regional threats more effectively. Both countries are better prepared to better handle security challenges.

Pakistan builds deterrence against Afghanistan and India.

Saudi builds defense capacity against Iran, and Israel.

ii) Saudi Arabia's reduced dependence on US defense support:

The pact allows Saudi Arabia to diversify its security partners and reduce dependence on US military for support.

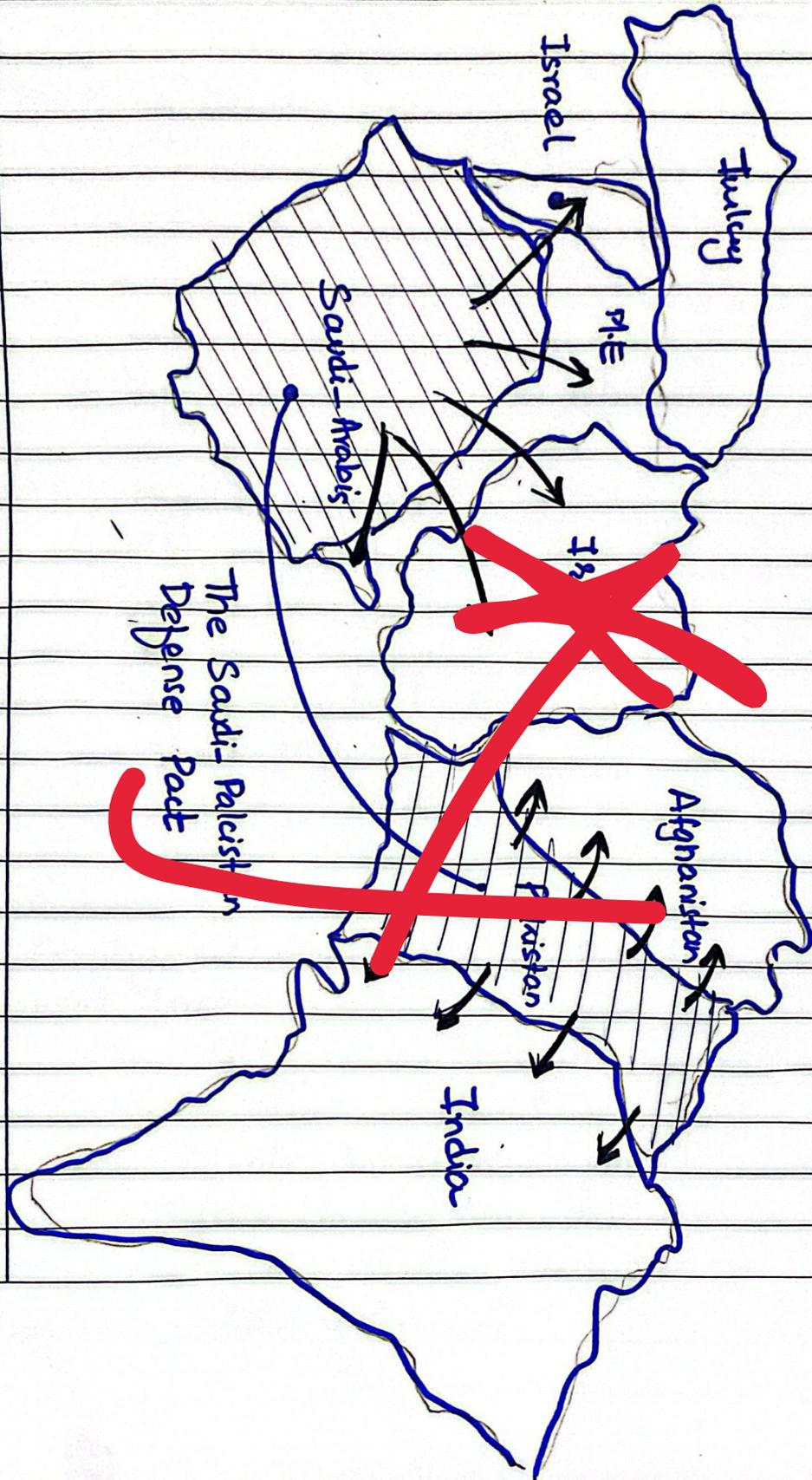
iii) Enhancing Regional security capacity:

Pakistan's military expertise and cooperation contributes to broader stability in Gulf region, which benefits both countries economically and politically.

iv) Increased diplomatic influence:

Stronger defense ties boost the international stature of both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. For Pakistan it enhances its role as a strategic partner in the middle east. For Saudi Arabia, it strengthens alliances that can influence regional policies.

in Asia and the Gulf.



IV. Economic opportunities for Pakistan:

i) Boosting defense economy:

The pact allows Pakistan to export defense equipment and technology to Saudi-Arabia. This will give a major boost to country's defense industry. around 6 billion\$.

ii) Attracting Investments:

closer ties with S.A encourage investments in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia has committed to significant investment in Pakistan about 10 b\$ to shift from traditional aid to commercially viable projects.

iii) Employment opportunities for Pakistan's work force

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 development plan present significant opportunities to double Pakistan's annual work force to kingdom. This increases number of workers from 500,000 to one million -w

iv) Remittance stability:

Pakistan received a record of **38b\$** in remittances in fiscal year 2024-2025. This increase is about **8b\$** over previous year indicating remittance growth and stability with Pak-Saudi strategic deal.

V. Conclusion:

The Pak-KSA defense Pact is a strategic and economic milestone for both countries. Geopolitically it strengthens mutual deterrence, reduces Saudi dependence on US, improves regional security and increase diplomatic influence. Economically, it supports Pakistan's defense industry, attracts investments, and creates jobs. Thus, this pact not only reinforces security but also paves new avenues for Pakistan's economic growth.

Question no 8

Evaluate Gaza peace plan... its fallouts on Pakistan

I- Introduction:

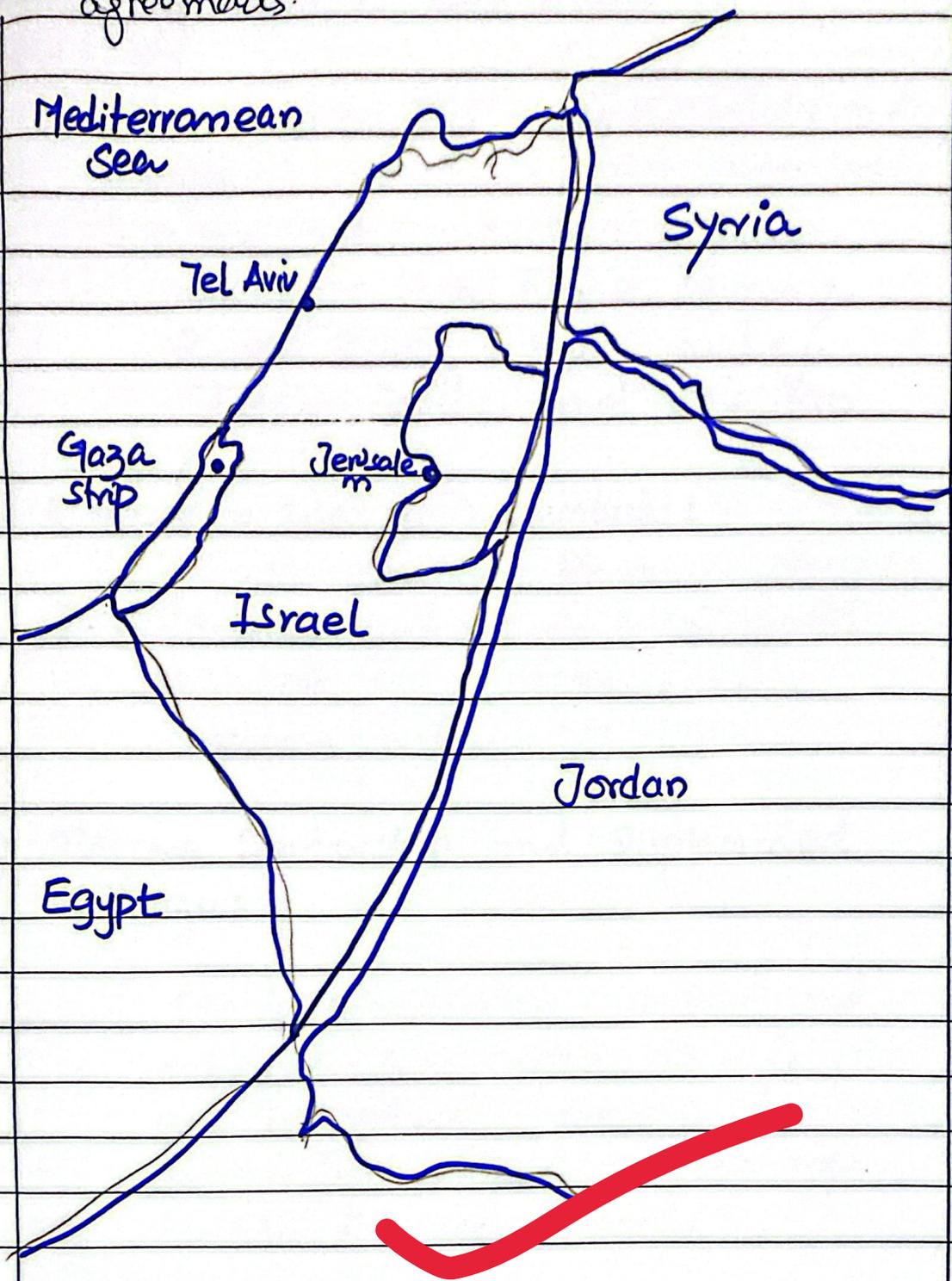
The Gaza conflict has been a long-standing issue between Israel and Palestine causing massive destruction. To resolve this, several peace plans have been proposed, including the latest Gaza peace plan. While it promises to end violence and bring stability, its success depends on multiple political, social, and regional factors. Pakistan, as a supporter of Palestinian cause, closely watches these developments and its policy could affect depending on the outcomes.

III- Why Gaza Peace Plan can be successful

i) US mediation:

The US has strong influence over Israel and can push for

agreements.



ii) Involving multiple stakeholders:

The plan includes regional countries and organizations to monitor peace and support reconstruction. It includes contribution from France, Germany, Russia, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, Canada, and Pakistan.

iii) A pause to war torn countries:

The plan provides temporary ceasefire, allowing civilians to access food, medical aid, shelter, and reducing suffering in Gaza.

iv) Massive Destruction and Displacement in Gaza:

Due to high civilian casualties and destroyed infrastructure, there is an international pressure for peace. This urgency creates opportunity for reconstruction.

Why Gaza Peace plan may not succeed

i) US- Israel Hegemony:

Critics argue that the plan favours Israel due to US support. This imbalance can lead to mistrust and rejection by Palestine.

ii) Disarmament of Hamas

The plan requires Hamas to disarm which they may refuse as a major obstacle, as Hamas sees its weapons as essential for defending Gaza.

iii) IAF and External Armed Forces:

The presence of international and Israeli forces to monitor peace could cause tension and resisted by local groups.

V- Policy of Islamabad and its fallout

i) Support for Palestine:

Pakistan has traditionally supported and may oppose plan favouring Israel over Gaza.

ii) Input in Gaza Peace plan:

Palestine has contributed in Gaza peace plan. However, holds reservation on one of its points from plan.

iii) Sending Militia in JSF?

Palestine could face pressure by US to provide militia for JSF. However, Palestine should thoughtfully respond to ensure Palestinian security.

VI- conclusion:

The Gaza peace plan has the potential to reduce violence and end years of conflict. However, its success is limited due to Israel's dominance in the region. Palestine supports Palestine and may provide diplomatic backing but is cautious about direct involvement.