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QUESTIONS

Q1: A critical analysis of Pakistani's foreign policy post 9/11.

Ans: FOREIGN POLICY:

Relations between sovereign states. It is a reflection of domestic politics and an Interaction among sovereign states. It indicates the principles and preferences on which a country wants to establish relations with another country.

However, Pakistan post-9/11 turnaround was not the result of any considered institutional policy review. There was no parliament in place at that time. There were no consultations at any level, nor did the military government make any visible effort to build a political or quasi-political consensus on abandoning its policy which for more than two decades had constituted the mainstay of its strategic end-game in the region. No matter how necessary or justified the policy turnaround was, it only showed the ad hoc and arbitrary nature of the decision-making process in Pakistan on crucial national security and foreign policy issues during the days immediately after 11 September 2001. This was also reminiscent of the earlier policy of recognizing and supporting the Taliban regime.

In Pakistan, vital policy-formulation and management issues have always been the exclusive prerogative of those wielding military power. This reality was never lost upon Washington which consistently engaged with and had honeymoon phases with Pakistan only when it was under a military or military-controlled government.

President Musharraf in his own authority and wisdom not only rolled back the controversial policy of support for the oppressive and reactionary regime in Afghanistan but also decided to become part of the evolving US strategic end-game in the region. He gave the American forces complete access into Pakistani territory, and started a full-fledged war against terrorism in his country.

THE TRADE-OFF:

9/11 represented a critical threshold in Pakistan's foreign policy. In President Musharraf's own words, 9/11 came as a thunderbolt that presented (him) acute challenges as well as

opportunities. He was right in claiming that he had to absorb external pressure and mould domestic opinion in readjusting Pakistan's policies to the new global environment. He chose, and rightly so, to avoid the wrong side of a wounded super power, and made Pakistan a vital ally in the US-led anti-terrorism coalition.

Pakistan's prominence in the international community increased significantly as it assumed its new role as a pivotal player in the global war on terror and made a commitment to eliminate terrorist camps on its own territory. It started receiving special attention in Washington and in European capitals. In a US effort to shore up the Musharraf government, sanctions relating to Pakistan's 1998 nuclear tests and 1999 military coup were quickly waived.

In a major policy address to the nation on 12 January 2002, President Musharraf announced far-reaching measures to root out extremism, violence and fundamentalism from Pakistan's society and to restore its true image as a forward-looking and moderate Islamic state. He reaffirmed that Pakistan's behaviour would always be in accordance with international norms.

OVERCOME:

Pakistan needs to overcome its domestic weaknesses through political reconciliation and national confidence-building. The country must return to genuine and inclusive democracy rooted in the will of the people, constitutional supremacy, rule of law and good governance, and a culture of political consistency and institutional integrity. This is how it will correct its image and enhance its regional and global clout as a respectable member of the international community.

QUSTON:2

CPEC prospects and challenges

ANS: Balochistan is rich in natural resource but due to the extremely harsh geographical environment and under-developed civil infrastructure (including roads, energy and water supplies), these natural resources could not have been tapped adequately in the past. With the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (C-PEC), there are ample opportunities for the exploitation of these resources that are expected to pave the way for unprecedented economic activities in Balochistan. From the perspective of natural resources these activities include,

- Development and management of water resource
- Mining of coal and minerals
- Exploration of unexplored hydrocarbons
- Exploitation of dimension stones and construction material

- Establishment of related and subsidiary industries.

All these activities require human resource development, better health, and educational facilities especially institution for technical and skill development of masses and most importantly the sustainable development of water resources and reservoirs for drinking, municipal and industrial purposes. In this paper key natural resources of Balochistan are identified in the context of their sustainable use under the CPEC induced development projects. These include water, minerals, hydrocarbons, shalegas, and coal. Suggestions are presented for a way forward to take maximum advantage of these resources for revenue generation and for the ultimate benefit to the local communities in Balochistan. A large number of mega projects including development of deep-sea Gwadar port, power generation plants, highway construction, and the establishment of special economic zones have been part of the C-PEC and are already being undertaken. However, it appears that small and medium-sized local industries and production units have not been given due attention. It is proposed here that the local people through local bodies may be identified and matched with relevant Chinese counterparts to develop joint ventures. Most of the areas of production and development identified in this paper are those whose products are already being exported to China through Karachi port. Hence the demand for these products in China is already established and need not any further survey. The products proposed in this paper are considered viable as all kinds of transport for C-PEC shall be passing through a large part of Balochistan where these resources occur naturally.