PAKISTAN STUDIES ASSIGNMENT

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Q1: A critical Analysis of Pakistan’s Foreign policy post 9/11

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN FOREIGN POLICY POST 9/11**

**Introduction:**

Foreign policy of any state is an important aspect while dealing with other states and accomplishing the basic goals. The formulation of these policies not only result in positive, but it also affects the country. In case of Pakistan, its geographical location has been the main factor of designing the policies. The region has always been under the influence of world powers. Post 9/11, not only changed the world politics but also impacted Pakistan. The alliance with world powers against terrorism was imposed on country due to its weak economic conditions and existential threats. There were advantages but that fades in front of losses that Pakistan paid.

**Foreign Policy:**

The strategies used by sovereign state to protect its international and domestic interests. The foreign policy is solely guided by country’s national interest. It is used as tool by a particular country for dealing with outside world in various areas such as security, economy, trade, commerce, culture, and technology. It is the reflection of country’s internal environment and this policy formulation changes in nature, scope and orientation from time to time. Thus, foreign policy is never static and rigid, it is pursued to seek national interest.

**Objectives of Pakistan Foreign Policy:**

The guiding principles of foreign policy were laid by the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. These included, peaceful coexistence, peace promotion, friendliness and good will gesture towards the neighboring countries.

The objectives of Pakistan Foreign Policy in contemporary era are as follows:

* To safeguard the national security, territorial integrity and political sovereignty of the country.
* To protect the economic interests.
* Promotion of peace and stability around the world.
* Friendly relation with neighbors.
* To resolve all the issues and disputes with India, including Kashmir issue.
* Cordial relations with Muslim countries.

**Foreign Policy of Pakistan Post 9/11:**

The terrorist attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001 changed the dynamics of world politics. Pakistan, a developing nation was under severe pressure of United States. All the nations of world condemned the tragic incident, and affirmed their support towards America. This paved the way for Global War against terrorism. These sudden variations around the globe, posed critical challenges to Islamabad, while formulating a wise policy towards playing a responsive role. Pakistan had no option but it revised its foreign policy and became a front line state against terrorism. The existential threat of India, freedom struggle of Kashmir and diplomatic relations with Taliban regime were the critical determinants of changing the dynamics of external policy.

The geostrategic location of Pakistan was of great importance to the United States in War on Terror. The country shares a long border of 2430 km with Afghanistan in the North West. As the war against terrorism was started against Taliban regime in Kabul, United States needed Pakistan’s support. This was challenging state as Islamabad decided to be ally and acted as front line state in global war against terrorism. The country agreed to the demands and provided territorial access to the allied forces and shared intelligence reports, in order to intercept Al-Qaeda cross the border.

**Important Factors which Led to Foreign Policy Shifts:**

* Within 24 hours of the attack, the Security Council Unanimously adopted Resolution 1368 that authorized the use of force against the perpetrators, organizers and the sponsors of those terrorist strikes. It was important for Islamabad to side United States, it might have declared Pakistan as a terrorist state and supporter of Taliban regime.
* Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for the first time in the history invoked Article 5, the joint defense. And collective action was taken against all the terrorist affiliated along with Taliban regime in Afghanistan.
* Different sanctions were already imposed on Pakistan. Pressler Amendment which was imposed in 1990, not pursuing the Nuclear Weapons, Islamabad had to side with the United States for relief. Glenn Amendment for Non- Nuclear states that detonate nuclear devices and Democracy Sanctions as country witnessed a military coup in 1999.

**Benefits of Foreign Policy Shifts:**

* Pakistan’s key role as a frontline state in the War on Terrorism resulted in dismantling of nuclear and democracy sanctions led by European Union, United States and Japan. They resumed assistance to the country.
* All the outstanding debts were rescheduled and inflow of fresh economic aid started, giving new strength to the economy. Pakistan started receiving new military hardware including the F-16 aircrafts.
* Pakistan’s standing at international forum was improved and its role in War on Terror was widely appreciated.
* Bilateral relations with United States improved, as the past on-off trajectory in relations between the two states created trust deficit.

**Challenges Faced by Pakistan:**

* Pakistan has paid a heavy price of joining the United States war on terror. It has done irreparable economic and social losses for the country. However, it has been accused by the United States of playing a “double game” and alleged support for Afghan Taliban.
* Since the United States invasion of Afghanistan, Baluchistan is focused by American policy, as the role of China in developing trade and economic hub in Gwadar Port. This posed serious challenges of security and destabilized the region entirely.
* Nuclear proliferation issue, as United States expressed serious concerns regarding the protection of nuclear assets.
* President Musharraf cooperation with United States was opposed by some faction of society, which led to serious threats and attacks on the President of country. Domestic law and order was destabilized with the rise of extremism and terrorism. This paralyzed the social life of common people, there was diverse division among the members of state regarding security and peace. This led to misconception related to state and its responsibilities.
* Sovereignty of Pakistan was challenged, as United States led drone attacks with in the territory of Pakistan.

**Present Scenario:**

 It is evident from the history that Pakistan has not witnessed democratic regimes in majority and totality. As one of the main ingredient of foreign policy is political setup and democratic regime. Presently, the country is led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf, as the majority party in parliament. Islamabad has focused on cordial relations with neighbors, a peaceful region can bring prosperity to the region. China one of the leading power in the globe is investing on economic corridor (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), this will change the dynamics of economic growth as country is currently facing a crippling economy. The relations with Afghanistan are never smooth since independence, it is a wise step by the government, providing a table for negotiation. Peaceful Afghanistan is essential for the region, no war can bring stability. Similarly, the country is wisely dealing with Iran, the stability of Baluchistan and Gwadar Port are of great importance. Improving ties with the neighbor is best possible solution to deal with such circumstances. Recent atrocities and abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir is indeed an alarming situation. The incumbent government opted for international platforms as the economic condition of country cannot bear another war. The policy related India shall be wisely formulated in terms of the core issues, as the country is trying to deal with it through dialogue. The relationship with United States is complex, but the ongoing peace process was unable to achieve without the efforts of Islamabad. Now United States have tilted towards India, in order to counter the weight of China in the region. Similarly, the presence of India in Afghanistan is no more less than threat, as both the states have witnessed conflicts and wars. In these changing dynamics the country needs to firmly hold relations with China.

**Conclusion:**

Since independence, the country is in quest for security. The existential threat of India and all the conflicts and wars, made the country to design India centric policy. The long war in Afghanistan was another factor in shaping the policy. With the passage of time, the dynamics of politics also changed. The war on terror was undeniable factor, the country pursued its policy keeping in view the national interest. The country suffered a lot in terms of human loss and economic loss. Presently, the situation is shifted and the need of economic growth is the most important factor. Stability can only bring prosperity with in the country as well as in the region.

Q2: CEPEC: prospects and challenges.

 **CPEC: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

**Introduction:**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the revival of Old Silk Road, as the latter played a significant role in trade promotion between China and South Asian region. It is framework of regional connectivity and this will not only benefit China and Pakistan, but it will have positive impact over the whole region. This will improve and modernize the country’s infrastructure and also strengthen the economy. The issue of threats and challenges for mega project are not new at any part of the world. It only needs deliberate efforts to counter the hurdles. The prospects are much more important than challenges, as this can guarantee a secure future. In present times, the economic stability can address several issues, it is better to focus on the completion of project to achieve the desired goals.

**Belt and Road Initiative:**

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is also called One Belt One Road (OBOR). It is world’s largest project, President of China started it in 2013. Total estimated cost of this project is between 1 trillion dollars (U.S) to 8 trillion dollars (U.S). The main focus of this gigantic project is on three areas; international trade, infrastructure development, and financial investment. The land part of this project is called “Economic Belt” and sea part is called “Maritime Silk Road”. This mega project consists of six economic corridors and approximately covers 30 percent of overall GDP of world.

**China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is major project of Belt and Road Initiative, which was proposed by Chinese President. In 2013, under Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, work on this project started. Beijing describes this project as “flag ship project” of BRI, as it provides the shortest route among all other economic corridors to reach Arabian Sea. The estimated cost was 46 billion dollars (U.S) in 2013, now the worth has reached to 62 billion dollars (U.S). It actually connects Gwadar sea port in Pakistan to Xinjiang province in China, enhancing the import and export of Beijing. China imports oil from Gulf, minerals and raw materials from Africa. In return it exports manufactured good to these areas. Thus, the shortest route of CPEC is not less than blessing for enhancement of trade.

**Challenges and Prospects:**

This mega project has emerged as a framework for cooperation between China and Pakistan. It is not only the connectivity of two countries, but also includes huge investment in various sectors. It is common observation that economic development and relation bonds are never welcomed by the opponents. In case of Pakistan, this gigantic project is also under the threat of challenges, but there are also opportunities that can change the fate of the nation.

**Challenges:**

**External Challenges:**

* The most prominent challenge arises from India. It is the only country in South Asia, which strongly opposes this project. They have rejected CPEC by claiming, it passes from the disputed region of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Consequently, supporting the militants of Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and involvement of RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) covertly sabotaging the project in Balochistan. This is evident from the destabilization in the region as well as the arrest of Kulbhushan Jadhav. He has accepted to be involved in covert activities to fail the project.
* Chabahr port located in Iran, the only port in the region that offers alternative to the Central Asian Republics (CARs), Afghanistan and China to reach Arabian Sea through Iran. The country is relatively peaceful and the structure is governance is stable as compared to Pakistan. It is also one of the largest oil producer, as these circumstance may attract the regional countries to opt for Iranian Corridor for trade.
* Hybrid warfare, the circulation of fake news and propaganda against any project to turn people against it. In case of CPEC, it is evident from the last news reported, CPEC is another East India Company, which may entrench Pakistan into further debt trap.
* Pakistan has been target of external terrorism, as the past decade has experienced a wave of terrorism. This issue of instability in law and order situation in country was from Afghanistan. The militants of Tehreek-i- Taliban (TTP), Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), has so far operated in several areas to create chaos in the state. This directly affects the investment of several projects including CPEC.

**Internal Challenges:**

* The issue of Balochistan is major challenge for the country. The reservations of Baloch people are against the project. The fear of deprivation has aggravated the situation. The influx of workers from other territories have emerged the sense of minority among the people. The apprehension of exploiting the mineral resources without providing enough share to the province are the popular demands that poses threat to the CPEC project.
* People of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa are against the changing of route by the government. The demand of completion of western route is creating diverse opinions regarding the project. Consequently, the thought of Punjab getting more benefit from CPEC is emerging.
* The colonial governance structure of Pakistan is another hurdle in the progress of project. The issue of poor governance is fact, as to pass any project from different governments obligations is very difficult task. The implementation of project is time consuming.
* The problem of internal security issues from various militant groups. Chinese workers security and creating stable environment for flag ship project is up-hill task. The military operations have reduced the threat, but it is not eliminated completely. Special Security Division has been formed which includes 9000 army personnel and 6000 civil arms forces, providing security to the project and its affiliates.

**Prospects and Opportunities:**

* The agriculture of Pakistan contributes 18.5 percent to the GDP. This project will ensure the installation of factories to produce hybrid seeds in accordance with the climate conditions. Development of high quality fertilizers, pesticides and vaccines for the crops. Food-processing plants will be set-up for the production various food items from raw fruit. Cold storage facilities and logistics will save the vegetables from being cherished. Pakistan is fourth largest milk producer and plans for the scientific methods to improve the live-stock breeding will enhance the process of milk. Irrigation system will be updated to bring more land under cultivation.
* This project includes industrialization of the country on the basis of routes provided by CPEC. Western route that includes KPK and Balochistan, regions rich in mineral resources. Industries will be set-up for Chrome, Gold, Copper, Marble, and Granite. Central route that passes through Punjab and Sindh, incorporates the industries of textile, house hold appliances and cement. Southern zone, Karachi and Gwadar, provides feasible environment for steel, chemical, automobile industries.
* Pakistan faced severe energy crisis before 2013. The implementation plan for industries also includes energy projects to overcome the issue of electricity. Energy production from solar, wind, thermal and water generation, will improve the overall electricity issue. Estimated production of 1652 mega watt, will eliminate the load shedding by 2025.
* It will provide job opportunities for the citizens of Pakistan. The construction and industrialization will enhance the opportunities for various people and specially labors. Already 75000 Pakistanis are working in this mega project in different regions and sectors.
* It will expand the telecommunication sector. The fiber optic cables installation for fast internet will increase the capabilities of various technologies. The system of monitoring and surveillance will be set-up in different cities to promote security purpose.
* Pakistan provides the shortest route among all the economic corridors of BRI. This will provide a unified market to Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan and China. As the entire goods will be collected and shipped to different regions from Gwadar port.
* The rapid growth of industries and raod connectivity will provide opportuinity for the tourism sector. The sea belt from Katli Bander, Sindh to Iranian border will be developed with spring hotels, spas, public and recreation parks under CPEC
* The BRI is connecting Asian, European, African countries. The economic corridors will bring regional integrity. This will bring peace in the region, as China is involved in various areas for the prospect of the mega project. The political settlement of the issues, especially, in Afghanistan and huge investment in under developing countries, provides evidence of peace and prosperity. China is struggling hard to ensure better ends for this world largest project.

**Conclusion:**

Pakistan is currently facing several problems, and the most severe problem is the crippling economy. This project ensure the economic development and also enhances the regional connectivity. The security issues and external threats are prevalent, so far the country is tackling it by eliminating the dangers with military cooperation. The political consensus and good governance is essential for the completion of project. It is better to focus on the completion of project and treat the distracting hurdles with unity.