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**Pakistan study Assignment**

1. **Critical analysis of Pakistan Foreign Policy in post 9/11:**

Foreign policy of any nation is determined by the number of factors like security, economy, geography, ideological interest and many more. Pakistan, because of its historic past and its position in the Muslim world had to face tough choices in terms of foreign policy making.

**The post 9/11:**

9/11 was a watershed moment in the annals of the modern times. It was an event which shook the world and changed the dynamics of world politics. This all happened when twin towers in America were hit by hijacked planes and the men from Al- Qaeda were said to responsible for the attack. It was referred as the **“War of Terror”.**

**Relationship between Pakistan and US:**

The shaping of events after 9/11 granted a new lease to the relationship between US and Pakistan. The US needed Pakistan for its strategic reasons, as the latter being the neighbor of Afghanistan could prove a potent weapon in its fight against terror. When 9/11 happened, Pakistan was headed by the powerful military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, so the US had no choice but to deal with him and to seek his support. Also, Pakistan supported the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

**Relationship between Pakistan and India:**

The incident of 9/11 worsened the already fragile security situation in South Asia where the relations between Pakistan and India have for the most part remained adversial. Pakistan’s foreign policy towards India has been primarily security driven. The two countries have over the period of time fought four wars and border skirmishes have marked their relationship for most of the times.

After the 9/11 incident, Pakistan’s growing proximity with the US caused discomfort in the Indian camp and with both parties in order to please the US were accusing each other of fomenting trouble in their respective countries.

**Pakistan foreign policy towards Afghanistan:**

After facing the difficult situation in the wake of 9/11 attacks, in their bid to improve relations, the two countries signed 2002 „Kabul Declaration on Good Neighborly Relations‟ which was based on the policy of non-interference.

This was followed by the visit of Pakistan’s Foreign Minister to Afghanistan in 2003 where in Pakistan ensured of not allowing its territory being used against any attack inside Afghanistan.

**Relations between China and Russia:**

The relationship between the two countries has for the most part been cordial and even after the incident of 9/11, the relationship between the two witnessed an upward trend and the period was marked by frequent exchanges of heads of states and the signing of various agreements, one among them being the Treaty of Friendship.

Also, Pakistan has handed over Gwadar Port to China which links South Asia to China and Central and West Asia and can help Pakistan to give a further push to its economy.

Pakistan’s foreign policy towards Russia has come a long way from its Cold War days when they fought alongside US and Afghan Mujahedeen and both the countries realized the importance of maintaining good relations, improved their relationship post 9/11 incident.

1. **CPEC:**

The CPEC project was announced in Pakistan on July 2013. Probably no policy

initiative has received more attention than CPEC in Pakistan. Prime Minister of

Pakistan has repeated on numerous occasions that the CPEC could be a game changer

not only for the country but for the entire region as well.

Similarly, CPEC was described as the “flagship project” of the One Belt One Road initiative by the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi.

**Prospects:**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has the potential to bring regional economic integration and cooperation. It is a win-win situation for both China and Pakistan as they are the primary beneficiaries of the project. It has a capacity to cater to the needs of the landlocked Central Asian states. Moreover, it will provide a safe and the shortest route to the fastest growing Chinese economy. It will also stimulate the economy of our country.

Pakistan has a strategic importance in the region. On the eastern side, the arch-rival India is situated. India is the largest democracy and the biggest emerging market in the world. On the western side of the border is Afghanistan, which is one of the most troubled zones in the world, with an ongoing war since 9/11. China, the second largest economy and the most dominant over all the global markets, is on the northern side.

**Challenges:**

Pakistan faces several challenges in the implementation of the China Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. These challenges can be identified as external and

internal. If these challenges can be effectively tackled then it may result in economic interdependence which could be a milestone for peace and economic development in the region.

* **Poor security:**

Domestically, the poor security situation is one of the biggest challenges of the country. Terrorism engulfed the region after 9/11. Suicide bombings and targeted killings were a routine. The situation went from bad to worse. Fear gripped the entire country. Hardly any city was immune from this menace.

* **Political instability:**

Political instability is another important challenge which our country is facing. Since its inception, Pakistan faced instability due to the absence of a Constitution. The first Constitution was promulgated 9 years after independence. The Constitutions of 1956 and 1962 were abrogated by military dictators soon after their promulgation. After the death of Liaquat Ali Khan, six Prime Ministers were dismissed in a short span of time between 1951 and 1958.

* **Inter-provincial grievances:**

The other serious challenges which the CPEC is facing is the inter-provincial grievances. It is alleged that the ruling party in the center is trying to maximize benefits for the Punjab province at the cost of other provinces. This has created rifts between the federal government and the provinces. The major bone of contention has been “the route change”. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government protested that the federal government wanted “to work on the eastern route” which passes through central Punjab was longer than “the western route”.

* **Indo-Afghan nexus:**

For CPEC, the Indo-Afghan nexus remains an arduous challenge. India, in collusion with Afghanistan, is creating security problems for Pakistan. India has made a base in Afghanistan from where it carries out terrorist activities. Afghanistan, General Stanley McCrystal also advised his government to stop India from interfering in Pakistan that afflicted American interests in Afghanistan resultantly. This Indo-Afghanistan nexus is particularly troublesome because of the porous border. Infiltration becomes easier since Pakistan shares the longest border with Afghanistan.

* **Gulf states:**

In addition to that, Gulf states are also creating problems for CPEC. Oman and Arab Emirates are particularly anxious about it, because once the Gwadar port starts operations, it will minimize the importance of their ports. UAE’s port is the busiest port and it is mostly used for transit trade. Due to the strategic significance of Gwadar port in the region, the ports of the Gulf states will be affected. The development of friendly ties between India and Gulf states is also due to these converging interests