***Assignment***

**University: IQRA National University Peshawar**

**Name:** Mahad Bin Imran

**ID:** 15791

**Teacher:** Mam Beenish

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1. ***CPEC: prospects and challenges***

***Introduction:***

Introduction In the seventy years history of Pakistan, the initiation and launching of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (C-PEC) is a significant economic activity that has been truly termed as s "game changer" [1]. Since the fall of Dhaka that led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, Pakistan has been continuously struggling to regain its positi on on the economic front. One after the other several internal and external conflicts and issues that surrounded Pakistan unwillingly, including, Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, IranIraq war, Kuwait war, Iraq war, continuous turbulence in Afghanistan for the last four decades, intermittent escalation of tension with India on Kashmir issue, nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, political instability in Pakistan due to military rule , and continuous, mostly uncontrolled, population growth, have been the major causes that did not allow the planners to frame and implement any long-term sustainable economic policy that would have helped Pakistan regain its economic status [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] . The One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative and the launching of C-PEC in 2013, when the official MoU was signed between China and Pakistan, has emerged as a strong ray of hope for Pakistan to regain its lost economic strength. The C-PEC aimed to connect western regions of China and Pakistan through integrated investments in energy, trade, and communication. The C-PEC is going to enhance trade activities through Pakistan between China and the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. The corridor will be a strategic game-changer in the region and would certainly bring long-term opportunities for Pakistan to become a richer and stronger economy. This paper provides an overview of the present and future opportunities for economic growth of Pakistan, especially Balochistan for which comprehensive long-term planning in urgently and essentially required. The paper also identifies the focus areas for effective economic development and the available natural resources in Balochistan for a profitable business. Such businesses are recommended to be initiated as joint ventures of local people of Balochistan and Chinese companies so that the real benefit of development percolated down to the deprived communities.

***Focus Areas of Technology for Pakistan:***

Focus Areas of Technology for Pakistan According to the latest biennial report of the US National Science Foundation and the National Science Board, China has gained the status of second-largest R&D spender in the world, accounting for 21% of the of approximately $2 trillion, which is next to the United States (26%) [8]. The rate of increase in R&D spending is the point of particular interest. R&D budget in China grew at the rate of 18 percent a year between 2000 and 2015, that is more than four times faster t han the United States’ rate of four percent. It is almost definite that by the end of 2018, China will be the largest spender on R&D in the world. This should be of interest to not only Pakistani policymakers, but also to the policymakers of the neighboring countries of China. Pakistan is required to train as many people , especially youth, from its rapidly growing population as it can, using both indigenous and foreign institutions. In the context of the latest growing anti-immigration and anti-Muslims sentiments in the United States, China may be an attractive alternative for Pakistani youth. Increased funding for R&D by the Chinese government has resulted in the increase in the trained technical workforce that ultimately led to a dramatic increase in technical output [8]. The number of science and engineering graduates increased in China increased from 359,000 in 2000 to 1.65 million in 201 4, almost a five-fold increase as shown in Table-1 [8]. The number of technology-based research papers being published by Chinese scholars is increasing at an unprecedented rate [9]. Chinese researchers and technologists are heavily involved in technology development and have made impressive contributions in artificial intelligence, telecommunications, robotics, electric cars and renewable energy [10]. These are the areas in which Pakistan also needs to develop expertise and human resource with the help of China.

***Major Areas of Current Activities in Pakistan:***

Major Areas of Current Activities in Pakistan At present a major portion of the funds under C-PEC are allocated to the projects in the following seven areas; 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. Construction of highways and railway tracks Development of Gwadar port Energy generation projects Establishment of industrial zones along the C-PEC route Laying down of pipelines for oil and gas transmission Cyber networking and telecommunication (Fig.1) Water supply projects for industrial and municipal use (mostly in Balochistan) All projects require technology development and human resource development. Therefore, it is imperative for Pakistan to create and strengthen proper infrastructure and facilities at R&D organizations and universities in Pakistan so that the future demand of technologies technologists, scientists and engineers are met. The list of C-PEC projects and their current statuses are tabulated in tables 2 to 6, [11]. The energy and power generation sector comprised of 18 pr ojects, the overall progress varies from 15 to 75% while a few are completed, table 2. The transportation and communication infrastructure including eight projects, the overall progress varies between 15-70%, table 3. Six projects are related to industrial

***Human Resource Development:***

Human Resource Development Education and training of indigenous human resource are integral parts of all developmental activities. Human resource in all academic disciplines including engineering, medical, computer, social, business, and natural sciences will be required for C-PEC projects in Balochistan. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Balochistan are to be provided special funds to develop state of the art laboratories either independently or in collaboration with Chinese Universities. In Pakistan, the skilled labors constitute about 6% of the entire labor-force [21]. The technical and vocational trade institutions are far less to meet the present and future demands in a broader context of CPEC. In Balochistan, the situation of primary, secondary and the technical and vocational training colleges and the institution is very grim. The number of technical institutions, students enrollment capacity and the number of pass-outs figures are very low as compared to other provinces of Pakistan. Establishment of technical and vocational institutions are required on an emergency basis to fulfill the present and future demands in diverse technical and professional trades. Chinese language institutions are also required to be established for the skilled workforce to learn the Chinese language for a better work-place understanding with their Chinese counterparts. 7. Opportunities for Joint Ventures in Balochistan

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***Conclusion:***

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (C-PEC ) has opened up vast opportunities for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Pakistan needs to focus on key areas of artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energy, agriculture, and biotechnology to develop its human resource. Trained technical human resource in these areas will be essential for a sustainable development with Chinese investment. Similarly, Balochistan being a resource-rich but highly deprived and underdeveloped province, also needs to focus on seven key areas to take maximum benefits from C-PEC induced trade and transport projects. These are minerals and coal exploration, construction materials, Oil and Gas exploration, Energy generation including renewable energy, Water, including surface water, groundwater, and seawater, and Human Resource Development. Additionally, Balochistan has the potential offer joint industrial ventures with Chinese counterparts in the production and marketing of dimension stones, mining of mineral deposits, fish farming, a agriculture products that are not available in China, farming of Livestock, cement manufacturing, and Ferro-Chrome manufacturing industry.

1. ***A critical Analysis of Pakistan’s Foreign policy post 9/11***

Since its emergence in 1947, Pakistan has had to face daunting crises and challenges. The aftershocks of 9/11 have impacted on Pakistan severely necessitating radical revisions in some of its key foreign policy goals. The country is under intense international scrutiny as a frontline state in the global fight against terror. There is need for Pakistan to undertake far-reaching domestic reforms as only political, economic and social stability under a democratic dispensation will enable it to overcome the internal and external threats that it now confronts. This necessitates more emphasis on internal restructuring and the crafting of

***The Turning Point:***

On 9/11, that fateful day, Pakistan faced the worst dilemma of its life. It did not know which way to go, and which way not to. Its options were limited and bleak. The world had changed overnight altering the fundamentals of global relations. Political, economic and security shocks had been transmitted across the globe at an electronic pace, if not faster. Terrorism became world’s foremost and “univocal” challenge transcending all other preoccupations with issues of peace, security and development.

With its own post-independence political history replete with crises and challenges that perhaps no other country in the world had ever experienced, Pakistan stood there aghast already burdened with a legacy of multiple challenges, both domestic and external, when the tragedy of 9/11 presented it with new ominous realities, and also an opportunity to think anew and act anew.

The world’s sole super power was overwhelmed by anger and lost no time in determining the nature and scale of its response. President Bush threatened strong action against the terrorists and vowed that the US would do “whatever it takes” to punish them. He warned other nations that there can be “no neutral ground in the fight between civilization and terror.”[1] Stern punitive measures would also be taken against those who “harbored” terrorists.

No nation had any choice in its relationship with the United States. The option was a stark “black or white.”  In the words of a senior Administration official: “You’re either with us or against us.” To that end, special focus was brought on Pakistan’s association with the Taliban of Afghanistan who were accused of supporting Osama bin Laden, and giving his militant organization, Al Qaida, the freedom to operate.[5] Even at the level of the American public, there was a voluble emotional backlash against Pakistan for its alleged complicity with the “terrorist” groups.

The signals to Islamabad were both tough and ominous. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz was quoted by the New York Times on its front page saying [6] that US action will be aimed at “removing the sanctuaries and support systems” and “ending states which sponsor terrorism.” Senator Joseph Biden, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was also quoted as having warned Pakistan that it must decide whether “it is a friend or an enemy.”[7]

The “belligerent” mood of the Administration was further stoked by the American media which openly talked of “choosing sides” as the only option for Pakistan. Islamabad had to decide whether it wanted to be a “partner” or a “target.” In its editorial on 13 September, the New York Times stated that Pakistan was the only country which, “despite international sanctions,” had been sustaining the Taliban over the last five years.[8]

According to another report, the Bush administration officials had made it clear that “they will not be satisfied with condolences and boilerplate offers of help from Pakistan.”[9] President Musharraf was among the very first international leaders to be told that failure to cooperate in the fight against global terror would put his country on a collision course with the US.

On 13 September, Powell said that the United States was now prepared to go after terrorist networks and “those who have harbored, supported and aided that network,” wherever they were found.[11]

The same day, President Bush while appreciating Pakistan’s readiness to cooperate spoke of giving it a “chance to participate” in “hunting down the people who committed the acts of terrorism.” According to a senior US official, Pakistan was told that “it isn’t what you say, it’s what you do

***The Reckoning:***

Pakistan was thus under tremendous pressure to comply with the US demand to sever its relations with the Taliban and to assist in apprehending Osama bin Laden. Through UN resolutions, Washington had already built an international consensus on combating terrorism which Pakistan could not ignore. Given the prevailing mood in Washington, any reservation or reluctance on Pakistan’s part would have been seen as “defiance” and triggered grave consequences including economic sanctions and possibly military reprisal.

Faced with serious domestic and regional problems, Pakistan’s military ruler now had a clear signal from Washington that if Islamabad did not choose to cooperate with the United States, it could find itself a target in any retaliation for the 9/11 terrorist attacks.  It was indeed a moment of reckoning for Pakistan.

After a meeting of cabinet ministers and senior military officers, President  Musharraf addressed the nation on 19 September, in which he reassured his US counterpart of Pakistan’s “unstinted support” in the fight against terrorism. He spelt out three main elements of support that the US expected from Pakistan. These included sharing of intelligence information, use of air space and logistical support.[14]

In practical terms, however, Pakistan was required to do much more. It was asked to seal its border with Afghanistan, cut off fuel supplies to the Taliban, and block any activities or movements of Al-Qaida members. According to some reports,[15] the list of demands was exhaustive, and included:

i) Stop Al-Qaeda operations on the Pakistani border, intercept arms shipments through Pakistan and all logistical support for bin Laden.

ii) Blanket over-flights and landing rights for US planes.

iii) Access to Pakistan’s naval bases, airbases and borders.

iv) Immediate intelligence and immigration information.

v) Curb all domestic expression of support for terrorism against the United States, its friends and allies.

vi) Cut off fuel supply to the Taliban and stop Pakistani volunteers going into Afghanistan to join the Taliban.

vii) Pakistan was to break diplomatic relations with the Taliban and assist the US to destroy bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network.

***The Crunch:***

As anywhere else in the world, Pakistan’s foreign policy is inextricably linked to its domestic policies and situation. And domestically, Pakistan’s post-independence political history has been replete with endemic crises and challenges that perhaps no other country in the world has experienced.

The tally of Pakistan’s woes includes costly wars and perennial tensions with India, loss of half the country, territorial setbacks, political breakdowns, military take-overs, economic stagnation, social malaise, societal chaos and disintegration, and a culture of violence and extremism.

In the post-9/11 scenario, terrorism-related problems afflicting Pakistan have placed it on the global radar screen, giving it the unenviable distinction of being one of the epochal “frontlines of the war on terror.”  The world watches Islamabad with anxiety and concern as it seek to correct its image. Pakistan’s crucial role in this campaign complicates its tasks, both at home and at regional and global levels.

The world’s major powers also need to recognize that under a democratically elected civilian government and with stable institutions strictly adhering to their constitutional roles, Pakistan will be a more responsible, more reliable, more effective and more appropriate partner of the free world in pursuit of common goals and in defence of shared values.

In Pakistan’s external relations, it could best serve its interests by following Hafiz Shirazi’s advice for “kindness to friends”, “courtesy to enemies” with equal faith in Allama Iqbal’s message of “self-pride, self-confidence and dignity.” Pakistan needs a low profile foreign policy with greater focus on domestic consolidation.