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**QUESTION 01**

**ANSWER:**

# Post-9/11 Foreign Policy ofPakistan

**(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  “a low profile foreign policy.” – Editor).**

**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 “unifocal” 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 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.**

**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]](file:///C:\\Users\\a\\Desktop\\Quarterly%20Criterion\\VOL%201%20No%201\\V1CRN1%20Shamshad.doc" \l "_edn15) 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 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.**[**[18]**](file:///C:\Users\a\Desktop\Quarterly%20Criterion\VOL%201%20No%201\V1CRN1%20Shamshad.doc#_edn18) **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.**

**Question no 02**

**Answer :**

As a flagship of China’s One Belt One Road initiative, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is pivotal to China’s energy security owing to the growing row in the region of South China Sea among China and other regional and global players. The ongoing contestation between China and other countries in the Asia Pacific has compelled China to look for alternative pathways to meet its increasing energy needs in case of any blockade of the Strait of Malacca as a consequence of any conflict between China and other countries. The CPEC could also bring economic avenues to Pakistan and can foster regional and cross regional economic and trade integration between South Asia, Central Asia, East Asia and West Asia. However, it is also surrounded by some serious challenges ranging from regional security environment, internal instability to political discontent among various political actors in the Pakistani polity.

**INTRODUCTION**

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (hereafter CPEC) is the flagship of China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative envisioned by president Xi Jinping back in 2013 for the economic integration of Eurasia through belts and roads initiatives. The OBOR is part of China’s grand strategy of its peaceful rise as a great power on the global stage through a financial initiatives of $40 billion Silk Road Fund and the 57 members Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to 1 generate new growth engines along the New Silk Road with a win-win and cooperative approach ( Aneja, 2016)

**CPEC as pivot to China’s Economic and Energy Security**

The CPEC if become operational can connect China directly to the Indian Ocean and the region of the Middle East from the deep Gwadar Port in Pakistan thus reducing its existing dependence on the South China Sea. The South China and East China Seas are increasing becoming contentious territories between China and many regional powers and their allies including Japan, Philippines and the United States, who have challenged the ownership claims of China over these strategic seas in the Asia-Pacific

**CPEC Fostering Regional Trade and Economic Integration**

Geopolitically Pakistan is the most suitable economic corridor for trade and transit activities providing a gateway to Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia and West Asia. Its role has remained important both during the cold-war and post cold war era due to its geostrategic location and being neighbor to the rising economies of the region namely; China and India. It can act as an important economic geography for regional trade in the greater region of Asia. However, Pakistan has failed miserably to take economic advantage of its strategic location and geography in the region. The existing bilateral trade volume between China and Pakistan is miserably low and asymmetrical favoring China more. The CPEC if extended to India will further enhance trade between China, India and Pakistan. Inclusion of India to the CPEC will further enhance the bilateral trade between China and India to new heights.

**Figure**

Map of the proposed CPEC and the existing energy transportation route of China from Strait of Hormuz to mainland China 

**CAN CPEC BE TRANSFOMRED INTO AN IICPEC?**

Can China Pakistan Economic Corridor be transformed into India/ Iran China Pakistan Economic Corridor (IICPEC)? To address this question one has to understand the recent geopolitical and economic developments in the region of South and Central Asia that could foster the regional environment to transform the CPEC into the IICPEC. The TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India) gas pipeline agreement signed in December 2015 between India, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan signifies the melting of the long existing cold attitude and trust deficit between India and Pakistan and Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**CHALLENGES TO THE CPEC**

Despite its strategic significance both for China and Pakistan, the CPEC is not without challenges. It is surrounded by some serious challenges ranging from regional security to the political discontent within the provinces of Pakistan.

**Regional and Internal Security Challenges**

Regional security could be the biggest issue to the CPEC as it passes through the areas facing the biggest security challenges. The biggest challenged to the CPEC is the regional security environment; specifically the Afghanistan conundrum and its spill over to Pakistan. China’s huge investment in the region is hinged on the peace and stability both in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Western parts of China (Small, 2015).

**CONCLUSION**

As a major component of China’s One Belt One Road strategy, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has strategic importance for both China and Pakistan. While one the one hand the CPEC will ease China from the Malacca Dilemma- by providing China with an alternative route to secure its economic interests in the region of the Middle East, on the other hand the CPEC can rejuvenate the deteriorating economic conditions of Pakistan by injecting a huge investment of 46 billion US dollar mainly in the energy production and infrastructure development. Given the geostrategic location of Pakistan, the CPEC can also foster regional and cross regional trade and economic integration between the regions of South, Central, East and West Asia. Such an economic integration within the framework of CPEC may be a harbinger to resolve the political differences through economic cooperation between the states of South Asia mainly China, Pakistan and India.