

**Class:** BS-4 History  
**COURSE:** General-V  
**Foreign Policy of Pakistan**

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# **FOREIGN POLICY OF PAKISTAN**

## **Lectures-1,2,3,4,5,6**

# DEFINITION OF FOREIGN POLICY

- **Foreign policy is defined as the connections or associations amongst the sovereign nations.**
- **In broader perspective actions of the independent states which they embark upon to develop close relations between them in order to benefit from each others achievements in various fields of human activity.**
- **Foreign policy is a nation's contemplation , longing and reflection of domestic political trends and behaviors.**
- **It is always the product of interaction of many forces like ideological, historical, economic, national interests and geo-political locations.**

## BACKGROUND

- The particular location of Pakistan with its linkages with the West and Central Asia, its cultural and ideological orientations as well as circumstances surrounding its birth culminating in the partition of the Indian sub-continent make the task of fashioning a **rational approach** to international affairs complex and difficult.
- The wars with India, the loss of its eastern part, its policy with regards to Afghanistan, friendship and dependence on the USA constitute the basic elements of the foreign relations
- To these may be added close links with China and the Muslim countries, especially Saudi Arabia, Gulf States, Iran and Turkey.

# **DETERMINANTS AND FEATURES OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY**

- 1. Ideological obligation**
- 2. Historical legacy**
- 3. Geographical location**
- 4. The Indian threat**
- 5. Economic compulsions**
- 6. Relations with all states**
- 7. Relations with major powers**
- 8. Muslim States**
- 9. Solidarity with the developing states**
- 10. United nations**
- 11. Anti-colonialism, right of self determination**
- 12. Arms control**
- 13. Nuclear policy**
- 14. War on terror**

## **IDEOLOGICAL OBLIGATION**

- **Islamic ideology is very important factor in the determination of Pakistan's foreign policy.**
- **Pakistan calls itself a Muslim country for two reasons; firstly, more than 96% (85% at the time of independence) adhere as to Islam, secondly, Pakistan was created in the name of Islam where Muslim of sub-continent could preserve their religion and culture.**

## **HISTORICAL LEGACY**

- **Historical legacy of British was another factor that determined Pakistan's foreign policy.**
- **British's hostile relations with Afghanistan and expansion of Soviet Russia towards the north-west of India to reach warm waters and the Chinese presence in the north-east urged the British authorities to devise a mechanism assuming safety the northern threats.**
- **Therefore, the decision makers in Pakistan always sought the western assistance to stop the Russian advances towards their territory.**
- **However, after the disintegration of Soviet Union, Pakistan got rid of that permanent threat.**

# **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

- **Pakistan's strategic location also makes it very important state on the map of this world.**
- **Pakistan is located at a region which has great political, economic and strategic location.**
- **It has been hub of activities of great powers for last many years.**
- **It has witnessed intervention of three great powers i-e. Britain, USSR, and USA.**
- **Its significance was further enhanced during cold war when it becomes ally of US policy of containment of USSR and now the post cold war era has witnessed its significance particularly after the events of 9/11.**
- **Pakistan significance is enhanced as it lies near the Persian Gulf where 65% of the world's oil is produced.**



# THE INDIAN THREAT

- Indian hegemonic designs with powerful military remains a great threat for Pakistan's security and survival, therefore, India remains a big factor in determining Pakistan's foreign policy. In fact Pakistan's foreign policy is Indo-centric.
- Since independence the two nations have fought four wars (1948, 1965, 1971, 1999) and experienced countless borders clashes.
- Major issues between two rival states are Kashmir, Siachen, Water, and Indian involvement in Balochistan and Afghanistan.
- Pakistan has shaped its foreign policy to address its security issue and placed China and West to contain India as emerging power

## **ECONOMIC COMPULSIONS**

- **At the time of independence, Pakistan was not a prosperous state as most of the developed areas containing industry became the part of the new India.**
- **Thus the new state of Pakistan was confronted with a multitude of socio-economic and political problems and looked for foreign assistance and loans in her struggle for economic and political survival**
- **Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan's first visit to America in 1950 was motivated by the same consideration.**
- **The American economic aid to Pakistan started in fiscal year 1951 and increased in 1954 and 1955, 1980s and even after the 9/11 incident in the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century.**
- **Pakistan also gets financial assistance from World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank.**
- **This aid factor is very strong in shaping our foreign policy even today.**

## RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES

- The other feature of Pakistan's foreign policy is the relations with all states.
- Pakistan maintains its relations with all kinds of states irrespective with the type of the political system on the bases of common interest.
- Pakistan does not interfere in the internal domestic affairs of all the states with which it has relationship. Similarly Pakistan will not like other states interfering in it domestic and internal affairs.
- Pakistan wants that problems should be resolved peacefully, amicably and through talks so that the problems are either resolved or kept within manageable limits.

## **RELATIONS WITH MAJOR POWERS**

- **The nature of relations with major powers has varied based on the mutual interests related to sectors like economy, war on terror, nuclear and energy etc.**
- **Pakistan maintains its relations with sole super power United States of America, Russia, China and United Kingdom (UK)**

## MUSLIM STATES

- The next feature of Pakistan's foreign policy is its relations with the Muslim states.
- Pakistan attaches great importance to developing relations and the ties with the Muslim States. It is one of the basic principles of Pakistan's foreign policy.
- Being Islamic country, Pakistan has been always in search of good relations with the Muslim countries. It has been a central point in the ideology of Pakistan even before Independence.

# SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEVELOPING STATES

- The next feature of Pakistan's foreign policy is solidarity with the Developing States.
- Pakistan is a developing country, trying to develop itself in all fields of life in economic development in industry and in other areas.
- Pakistan had been concerned with the issues and problems of the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- **As it is developing countries it is well aware of the problems of underdevelopment, poverty, disease, famine, civil strife and border disputes, refugees and drug addiction.** Pakistan has always cooperated with the developing countries so that they can meet with the problems of underdevelopment and poverty.

# UNITED NATIONS

- **Next feature of Pakistan's foreign policy relates to its membership with UN and other international bodies. Pakistan joined the UN as a new member on Sept. 30, 1947.**
- **And since then it has commitment to the UN Charter and is an active member in UN bodies. One Pakistani has served as the president of the UN General Assembly and Pakistan has been a non permanent member of the UN Security Council for 6 times and the latest membership for the UNSC is the year 2003-04.**
- **In addition to the UN Pakistan is also a member of other international bodies and within UN Pakistan has been active in different specialized agencies and organs of the UN.**

# **ANTI-COLONIALISM, RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION**

- **Next feature of Pakistan's foreign policy is Pakistan's support to anti-colonialism and opposition to the racial discrimination that existed in the past and sometimes it now manifest in certain parts of the World.**
- **As we have been suffering from colonial rule after our independence and we always support decolonization for Asia and Africa.**
- **In this context, Pakistan recognizes and demands right of self-determination for Kashmir**



## **ARMS CONTROL**

- **The next feature of foreign policy is Arms Control. Pakistan is not in favour of spread of weapons and arms in the international system because it diverts resources to non development purposes and if arms and weapons proliferate there is a danger of wars and conflict therefore Pakistan had joined global efforts to control weapons and that control.**

# NUCLEAR POLICY

- **Pakistan has been a great champion and supporter of peaceful uses of nuclear technology although Pakistan has acquired nuclear manufacturing capabilities in the mid 1980s but Pakistan avoided making weapons.**
- **Pakistan was of the view that this technology should primarily be used for energy and economic needs.**
- **Pakistan exploded nuclear weapons in May 1998 in response to India's nuclear explosions. India's nuclear explosions created strategic imbalance in the region.**
- **Even after its explosions Pakistan talked about nuclear restrained regime in this region.**

## **WAR ON TERROR**

- **Pakistan does not support any terrorist country or terrorist organizations like Al-Qaida and ISSI (Daash).**
- **After 9/11 incident, Pakistan became frontline state with United States and played its role to eradicate the menace of terrorism.**
- **Pakistan withdrew support to Taliban and joined hands with the international community. She also acted against terrorists within Pakistan, as it was victim of terrorism & sectarianism.**
- **Pakistan believes that to eradicate terrorism first the root causes of the problem should be removed.**