



Introduction to Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Background

What is a Foreign policy? Why do we need a Foreign policy? How relations of countries are going to be with other countries? These are some of the questions that need to be answered. In today's world no country can survive on its own. In individual capacity, an individual can be employed by some employer and can earn his/her living. However, when it comes to states they cannot be employed by other states so, they must carry out business with other states to give boost to their economy and improve their socio-economic situation inside the country. Therefore, to cater the domestic needs, every state needs a viable foreign policy to take care of their interests.

What is Foreign Policy?

Foreign policy is generally defined as the relation between the sovereign states. It is the reflection of domestic politics and an interaction among sovereign states.

It is the establishment and development of relations with other countries to protect the national interest by taking appropriate steps at an international level. The relationships between the two countries are established based on the principle of equality. It is the choice of any state to have relation with other state. For example, Pakistan and Israel are two sovereign states but the foreign policy of Pakistan states, not to have any diplomatic relations with Israel. At domestic front Pakistan, do not approve any Zionist state in occupied land of Middle East. That is why Pakistan has never accepted Israel as a sovereign state. Thus, termed these nonexistent relations as a reflection of domestic politics. At domestic level Pakistan, consider India as a threat for its security, survival and existence. That is why the foreign policy of Pakistan towards India is aggressive in nature and vice versa. At domestic fronts, we have good relations with Muslim countries and they are reflected in our foreign policy.

Pakistan is a Muslim state and it came into being as result of an ideology, so we have friendly relations with all of the Muslim countries. In this case too, the domestic aspirations are reflected in foreign policy.

Foreign policy also indicates *the principles and preferences on which a country wants to establish relations with another country.*

Pakistan has good relations with China because it is in its preferences. Pakistan considers China as her good friend and this relationship is beneficial in economic terms as well as the security. That is why we have good relations with China.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy

No country today can think of a life independent of other nations, as this is an era of interdependence we need to achieve our own interest. Every country has to develop relations with advanced countries to meet its requirements in economic, industrial and technological fields and is dependent on economically strong countries to support us in various fields. Pakistan needs to maintain good bilateral relationships with other countries for the sake of trade and security measures. It is thus necessary for every country to formulate a sound foreign policy.

Pakistan is an important third world country in its developmental stage. It has formulated its foreign policy keeping in mind its geography, geopolitics and economics needs.

Principles of Pakistan Foreign Policy

Following things should be taken care while formulating the foreign policy of a country.

1. Peaceful coexistence (Live and let live others)
2. Non-alignment (Be Neutral)
3. United Nations Chartered
4. Unity of Islamic world
5. International and Regional Cooperation: Member of South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC), Organization of Islamic countries (OIC), World health organization (WHO).

Objectives of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Pakistan's foreign policy intends to achieve the following objectives;

- National Security
- Economic Development
- Ideology

Determinants of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

The key determinants of foreign policy of Pakistan are as under:

- Security
- Ideology
- National Interests
- Diplomacy
- Public Opinion
- Decision making

Guiding Principles of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

1. Protection of freedom and sovereignty

Pakistan came into being after great sacrifices of millions of the Muslims, like any other country. It also considers with deep regard the need for preservation of its independence and does not allow any country to harm its freedom. Therefore, the principle of protection of independence and sovereignty is the cornerstone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy.

2. Cordial Relations with Muslim Countries

Pakistan always tries to establish cordial and friendly relations with Muslim countries. It has always moved its concern against Israel, India and Russia capturing Palestine, Kashmir and Afghanistan respectively. It has shouldered high responsibilities and used its influence for safeguarding the rights of the Muslims. Pakistan is also an active member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

3. Non-Interference in Internal Affairs of Other countries

Pakistan has sought to establish normal and friendly relations with all countries especially its neighboring countries based on universally acknowledged principle of national sovereignty, by using force and interfering in the internal affairs of state. Pakistan should not interfere in the internal policy matters of other countries

4. Implementation of U.N Charter

Pakistan's policy is to act upon United Nations Charter and to support all moves by the UN to implement it. Pakistan has been the member of UN since the year of its birth.

Pakistan must be implementing United Nations charter on the world stage. If United Nations' policy talks about fundamental human rights then United Nations should implement that policy.

We are also facing educational emergency in Pakistan because there are some millennium developmental goals (MDG) for sustainable development. They are the part of the United Nations charter. Pakistan is part of those implementation efforts such as the policies of (WHO) for eradicating POLIO which are diligently implemented in Pakistan.

5. Promotion of World Peace

Pakistan's Policy is to promote peace among nations. It has no aggressive designs against any country. Neither does it support any such action. Pakistan has always held that the international disputes should be settled through negotiations rather than in battlefield. Pakistan plays the role of mediator to settle down the conflicts between various countries with negotiations and by peace talks. As a guiding principle of foreign policy, Pakistan raises its voice for oppressed countries as is the situation prevailing in Palestine and Kashmir. Pakistan is the part of many groups in which they play their role to promote world peace. Therefore, Pakistan is promoting those efforts.

6. Non-Alignment

Pakistan followed the policy of non-alignment that is to keep away from aligning with any big power block and avoids taking sides in the cold war. It has also withdrawn its association with SEATO and CENTO.

We should play a neutral role, but this neutrality is related with cold war. In cold world war, there were two blocks socialist or communist and capitalists. There was another group which non-alignment group they were not part of any group and they remained non-aligned. Therefore, under a lot of constraints and security considerations Pakistan became part of capitalist block as it just signed SEATO and CENTO with United States of America. So it formally became part of capitalist group, but when they thought, their interest has been fulfilled then they no longer remain aligned.

7. Right for Self-Determination and Condemnation of Racial Discrimination

Pakistan is a staunch supporter of the right of self-determination and has been in the forefront of efforts to eliminate colonialism. It has advocated the right of self-determination of Kashmir.