

Chapter

2

Pakistan in World Affairs

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Define the objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy.
2. Narrate Pakistan's relations with immediate neighbouring states.
3. Explain the genesis and development of the Kashmir problem.
4. Comprehend Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian countries.
5. Discuss Pakistan's relations with OIC countries.
6. Explain Pakistan's relations with SAARC countries.
7. Describe Pakistan's relations with USA, China, U.K., EU, Russia and Japan.
8. Discuss Pakistan's contribution towards peace keeping in the world.

Geo-Political Importance of Pakistan

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is situated in the north-west of South Asia. To its west and south-west lie, respectively, the Muslim countries of Afghanistan and Iran. While to its northeast and east lie China and India respectively. To the south of the country lies the Arabian Sea.

Because of its central location in Asia and the geo-strategic importance of the area it occupies, Pakistan plays a key role in world politics. Its geographical position makes it conducive for promoting regional and world trade and the interests of the Muslim world.

**Map of
Pakistan**



Pakistan lies at the center of the Muslim World which expands from Morocco in the west to Indonesia in the east and which has huge reserves of natural resources like oil, gas and minerals besides agriculture produce.

In addition, Pakistan is neighbour to China which is an emerging world power. Pakistan has cordial relations with China. Many development initiatives are currently undergoing in Pakistan with the collaboration of China. The Karakoram Highway Is an important trade route between the two countries. This highway has also great strategic importance. Being an atomic power it has importance in the world.

On the shores of the Arabian Sea lies Pakistan's major port city of Karachi. Its location at the crossroads of world trade routes (marine and air transport) give it great importance. The building of a new port at Gwadar in Balochistan with Chinese co-operation and assistance, has also greatly increased the strategic importance of Pakistan.

The landlocked countries of Afghanistan and Central Asia can carry out their external trade through Pakistani ports. Afghanistan conducts much of its foreign trade via Pakistan.

Pakistan is expanding and modernizing its transportation and communication networks which is expected to facilitate the development of trade and commerce not only within the domestic realm but also on regional and global levels by providing a link between the Central Asian Republics and the world through the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy

No country can expect to live in isolation from the rest of the world and meet its own economic needs and requirements. It is a country's foreign policy that determines the kinds of relations it wants to establish with others in the international community. The ultimate objectives of a country's foreign policy are the safeguarding and promotion of the country's interests. Foreign policy of a country not only depends on the

emerging conditions in the world around it but also on a country's re-evaluations of its priorities to preserve and/or attain its national interests. Thus, in international relations, there is no enemy and no friend forever. Nothing is permanent but only the national interests.

Objectives of Pakistan's Foreign Policy:

Pakistan was created on the basis of ideology. Ideological considerations and national interests were taken into account while laying down the foundations of its foreign policy. Following are the objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy:

1: National Integrity and Security:

National and territorial integrity is the fundamental goal of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan has always given primacy to the national security in its relations with other states. Pakistan respects security of other countries and expects the same from them.

2: Ideological Protection:

Since Pakistan is an ideological state, the protection of its ideological frontiers is an important objective of Pakistan's foreign policy. As the ideology of Pakistan is rooted in Islam, promotion of unity within the Muslim world has a central place in Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan has constantly played an important role in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO).

3: Economic Development:

Being a developing nation, economic development is among the country's top priorities.

Pakistan wants to have better relations with those countries with whom trade or economic co-operation can help achieve this. In recent years, Pakistan has adopted its foreign policy keeping in view the trends of economic liberalization, free trade and privatization to get maximum benefits.

Relations with Neighbouring Countries

China:

After the Communist Revolution in 1948, the Peoples' Republic of China had faced difficulties in its international relations. Pakistan recognized and maintained diplomatic relations with Communist China. Pakistan and China relationship became very friendly in the 1960s. Pakistan played pivotal role in restoration of China as permanent member of the Security Council of the UN.

In 1950s there came to surface a border dispute between the two neighbours that was peacefully resolved with a bilateral treaty signed in Peking (present-day Beijing) in 1963.

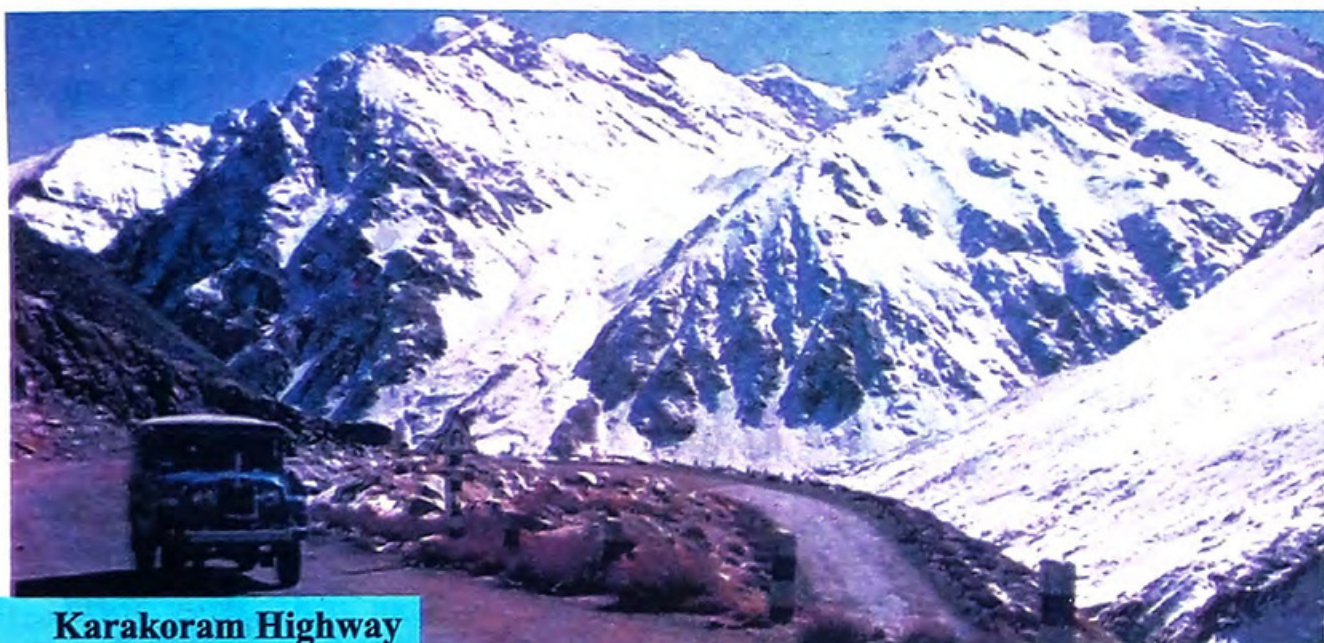
In 1963, the first trade agreement between China and Pakistan was signed leading to the import of jute, cotton, chromite, leather and leather goods, cement, chemicals and raw material by China. The development of bilateral trade led to the consolidation of relations between these countries on the basis of shared interests. Today, despite having good economic co-operation and trade relations, China and Pakistan are also bound by strong defense ties.

JF 17 Thunder fighter plane is one symbol of collaboration in the defense production sector.

The Karakorum Highway and the Gwadar Port (Pakistan's second largest port after Karachi) are important monuments of the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the economic field. The Heavy Mechanical Complex at Taxila, the Aeronautical Complex at Kamra, the Sandak Project, Chashma Power Plant, Chitral Tunnel, and the Al-Khalid Tanks are some of the other examples of Chinese co-operation in both the development and defense sectors of Pakistan.

Pakistan and China often have the same position on international issues, in and outside the United Nations Organization.

To maintain and promote these relations, visits between heads of states and governments, as well as other high-level delegations are regularly exchanged.



Karakoram Highway

(Shahrah-e-Resham)

India:

The relations between Pakistan and India have been stained right from independence. The fundamental cause for this is the Kashmir issue. The Kashmir issue is not merely the source of friction and cold war between these neighbours; it has led them to war on no less than three occasions.

The water dispute between Pakistan and India was resolved by the Sindh Tas (Indus Basin Treaty) agreement of 1960 which was achieved with the help of the World Bank.



In 1971, India provided support to secessionist elements in East Pakistan which led to the Fall of Dacca.

In July 1972, Pakistan and India signed the Simla Agreement in the Indian resort town of Simla, calling for both the countries to resolve their disputes through bilateral dialogues. The relations between India and Pakistan witnessed some improvement. Travel restrictions between the two countries were relaxed, facilitating people to people contacts. Bilateral trade commenced, though on a limited scale.

On the occasion of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) conference in 1988 the Prime Ministers of the India and Pakistan signed an agreement barring the two countries from targeting each other's nuclear installations. In 1989, armed struggle against the Indian rule in the Indian-held Kashmir gathered momentum. India accused Pakistan behind this movement.

India wants to resolve all bilateral issues between the two countries, including the Kashmir issue, through bilateral dialogue, without any third-party intermediation. Pakistan, on the other hand, considering dialogue futile and wants to resolve issues and particularly the Kashmir issue, through and according to the UN resolutions.

In 1990, relations between India and Pakistan slightly improved. Mutual trade and travel between the two countries also increased. But these relations could not flourish as India is not ready for a just resolution of the Kashmir issue.

An important meeting took place in Agra between the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of India on July 14-17, 2001. All the world was anxious for its outcome. The President of Pakistan presented its stand on Kashmir issue. But the 3 days talks ended without any conclusion.

In 2004 during SAARC conference in Islamabad, a meeting took place between the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India.

Many agreements were signed. Later on, in September 2004, both the heads of the states met during the UN General Assembly Session. They agreed to continue dialogue. But still the tension exists between the two countries.

Iran:

Pakistan enjoys friendly relations with Iran right from its birth. Indeed, the ties between the people of Iran and of the lands now known as Pakistan are ancient, going back to pre-history. Owing to their historic, cultural and social relations, Iran and Pakistan are very close to each other.

Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan soon after its birth. Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first Prime Minister, went to Iran on official visit which was reciprocated by the Shah of Iran who visited Pakistan in 1950.

The relations between these two countries are deep-rooted and are based on mutual interests. In 1964, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey entered into a pact called Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD). In 1965, Pakistan and Iran signed a cultural agreement for the promotion of exchange of students, teachers, scholars and artists between the two countries.

RCD became defunct after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran. It was succeeded by the Economic Co-operation Organization which was founded in 1985. The ECO was founded with the explicit objective of promoting mutual economic co-operation among the members states. In 1992, following the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), the Muslim countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan also joined the ECO.

Iran and Pakistan have supported each other on various occasions. In 1961, following the efforts of the Shah of Iran, relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan were re-established.

During the 1965 and 1971 wars Iran supported Pakistan morally, financially, and diplomatically. Likewise, when relations between Iran and Egypt deteriorated, Pakistan offered its services for normalizing these relations. Pakistan also tried to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

In 1997 Pakistan and Iran, joined by six other developing countries, formed the D-8. In 1998, when Pakistan became an atomic power, sanctions were imposed on the country. In these difficult days, Iran provided support to Pakistan.

Though sometimes tensions surfaced in the relations between the two countries, they have often been both momentary and minor, without affecting the foundations on which the relations between these countries are built.

Afghanistan:

Pakistan shares with Afghanistan not only deep religious ties but the two countries are locked in common history and culture. In spite of all this, they could not forge friendly relations.

Afghanistan was the only country to have opposed Pakistan's membership of the United Nations Organization, still the UNO accorded membership to Pakistan on September 30, 1947.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan paid an official visit to Afghanistan in August, 1956 which was followed by the visit of his Afghan counterpart to Pakistan in November, the same year. These visits paved the way for normalization of relations between the two countries. Afghanistan is a landlocked country. In 1958 Pakistan agreed to let Afghanistan conduct its foreign trade using Pakistan for transit of goods to and from Afghanistan.

The communist revolution in Afghanistan caused further hurdles in Pak-Afghan relation. Its people started an armed resistance to the revolution. Pakistan supported them on the basis of Islamic spirit and the interest of the country. It provided shelter and basic amenities to millions of Afghan refugees.

The resistance finally won and in 1992 Pakistan recognized and established full diplomatic relations with the government of the *Mujahideen* which

had taken over Kabul. But tensions broke out between the various Mujahideen factions leading the country to civil war. In 1996 the *Taliban* took control of Kabul and formed a government there. Pakistan was among the three countries which recognized *Taliban* as Afghanistan's legitimate government.

In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001 Afghanistan was invaded by the United States and its NATO allies. The *Taliban* government was toppled down. A new democratic government under Hamid Kharzai as President came into existence which was duly recognized by Pakistan. So relation between two countries have strengthened. Pakistan is one of the prominent countries, which provided financial assistance to Afghanistan.

Central Asian Republics:

Soon after their becoming independent states in the wake of the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), Pakistan gave recognition to and established diplomatic relations with the Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan:

After the independence of Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan signed various agreements to promote relations. The first treaty on aviation between the two countries was signed in Karachi in 1992. In March 1992, a bilateral agreement for the promotion of economic and trade relations in the private sector was arrived at between the two countries. Under various agreements Pakistan and Uzbekistan are currently co-operating in the energy, trade, banking and communications sectors.



Uzbekistan is of the view that the Kashmir issue be settled amicably and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people who are the main stakeholders in the whole issue. For the promotion of ties between the two countries, summits are frequently held between their heads of governments and heads of states.

Turkmenistan:

Although Pakistan and Turkmenistan lie at great distance from each other in terms of geography, they are joined by the fabric of a common religion, cultural traditions, and a history.

Pakistan and Turkmenistan maintain good bilateral relations. The two share similar views on most of the issues in the region.

Pakistan International Airline (PIA) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) have opened their offices in Ashkabad, the capital of Turkmenistan. As early as in 1991, Pakistan signed an agreement with Turkmenistan for the purchase of natural gas. In 1999, a joint commission for the promotion of co-operation in various sectors was formed by the two countries.

Kazakhstan:

Pakistan maintains good relations with Kazakhstan, which in terms of territory, is the largest country of the Muslim world. The two countries have unanimity of views on almost all the issues concerning the region.

During the visit of the Kazakh President to Pakistan in 1992, the two countries entered into various agreements on co-operation in the fields of science and technology, trade, economy, and communications. In 1998 an agreement on Transit Trade was

signed between Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and China, that would promote trade in all these four countries.

Kyrgyzstan:

Pakistan enjoys friendly relations with Kyrgyzstan. The two countries have the same views on most of the issues affecting the region and the world.

In 1991 Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement for the promotion and expansion of economic and cultural ties between the two countries. The two have also an agreement on the control of drug trafficking.

In 1994 Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan came to agreement on upgrading the Karakoram Highway to international standards and on extending it to the Kazakh capital Almatay and the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. At the same time, the representatives of the four countries signed Memoranda of Understanding on diverse subjects of common interest.

Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan first exchanged diplomatic missions in 1994.

Tajikistan:

Among the Central Asian Republics, Tajikistan is Pakistan's closest neighbor. It is separated from Pakistan by a narrow strip of Afghan land known as the Wakhan belt. Tajikistan and Pakistan are united by common religious and cultural traditions and they maintain close, friendly relations.

In view of the power shortage faced by Pakistan, in January 1992 Tajikistan offered Pakistan the supply of electric power. The two also signed agreements on air transport. Pakistan offered Tajikistan transit trade facility. In 1994, the two signed bilateral agreements on co-operation in the fields of science and

technology, trade, and economic affairs.

Pakistan's Relations with the Muslim World:

As a Muslim country, it is understandable that Pakistan should like to maintain friendly relations with the Muslim world and to try to forge unity among the Muslim countries.

The World of Islam:

Pakistan has friendly relations with Afghanistan, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Malaysia and the Central Asian Muslim States. We have already discussed Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan, Iran and the Central Asian Republics.

Saudi Arabia:

Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The government of Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan not only since its inception but even before that, in its support for the Pakistan Movement. Saudi Arabia is among those countries that recognized Pakistan soon after its independence. The relations between the two countries are time-tested. Saudi Arabia has extended diplomatic, moral, and economic support to Pakistan on occasions when Pakistan had needed it. These relations grew dramatically during the Zia regime. Tens of thousands of Pakistanis are working in Saudi Arabia who with their remittances that they send back home are making invaluable contributions to the country's foreign exchange. The Faisal Mosque and the International Islamic University in Islamabad were built with the financial support of Saudi Arabia.

When sanctions were imposed on Pakistan following her nuclear detonations in May 1998, the Saudi government provided oil on soft loans, which helped to ease the effects of sanctions on Pakistan.

Following the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005 the Saudi government and people provided ample assistance to the government and the people of Pakistan.

Turkey:

Pakistan's relations with Turkey have been cordial since the beginning of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two countries share a common heritage. During the Balkan War and the World War I (1914-1918), the Muslims of British India supported Turkey.

At the end of the war, they started *Khilafat* Movement to protect *Khilafat* and Turkey from the ill designs of Allied Powers.

A treaty of friendship was signed between Pakistan and Turkey in 1951, which calls for political, economic, and cultural co-operation between the two countries with view to safeguarding their own common interests and the interests of their common allies. The two countries have also entered into agreement on co-operation in defense production and technology. As members of the CENTO (the Central Treaty Organization) defense collaboration between the two countries grew. In 1964, the organization of Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD) was created by Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. In 1985 the RCD was succeeded by the Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO) which was later on joined by Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics.

During the wars of 1965 and 1971 between India and Pakistan, Turkey supported Pakistan morally and politically. Turkey has

supported Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue also.

Azerbaijan:

When Azerbaijan became independent in 1992, Pakistan welcomed it and established diplomatic ties with her. Azerbaijan is the Caucasian Republic farthest from Pakistan in geographical distance, but nearer because of being an Islamic state.

Soon after the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, the two countries concluded bilateral agreements for the promotion of co-operation in the fields of culture, economy, science and education. In 1994, agreement was also signed for the promotion of co-operation in the field of health, leading to the exchange of medical students and collaboration in the manufacture of medicine and vaccines. Also, agreements have been signed between Azerbaijan and Pakistan regarding exploration of oil and gas.

Pakistan has opposed Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and maintains that land disputes between the two should be peacefully resolved, keeping in view the wishes of the people in the disputed areas and in accordance with the UN resolutions.

On its part, Azerbaijan has expressed its desire to resolve the Kashmir issue through peaceful means.

The two countries are exploring ways in which to deepen their co-operation in matters relating to defense. Heads of both the states pay visits to each other's country.

Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC):

The dream of political unity has been shared by many Muslims all over the world.

In the wake of the 1969 fire incident in occupied *Bait-ul-Muqaddas* the foreign ministers meeting of the Arabs proposed the idea of holding a conference of the heads of states and governments of the Muslim countries. The task of organizing the conference was handed over to the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Morocco, who after thorough deliberations constituted a seven member committee for realizing the task. This committee was composed of representatives from Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia.



First OIC Conference

Following consultations with the governments of the Muslim countries, the Committee organized the conference in the Moroccan capital, Rabat in September 1969. Twenty-four Muslim countries participated in this conference that led to creation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

Goals of the OIC are as under:

1. Resolving the problems faced by the Muslim world.
2. Supporting the liberation movement of the Palestinian people and providing them with assistance in their recovery of lands occupied by Israel.

3. Ensuring the defense of Muslim holy places.
4. Defending the independence and territorial integrity of the OIC member states and the efforts for the creation of an environment conducive to the promotion of unity and co-operation between them.

OIC summit is held every three years. The OIC headquarter is in Jeddah, a city of Saudi Arabia. It is the largest organization of countries within the Islamic world with its fifty-seven member states at the present.

SAARC:

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) came into existence primarily with the efforts of Bangladesh though Pakistan also showed great interest in its formation.

Foreign Secretary level meetings were held in Colombo, Kathmandu and Islamabad. Islamabad's meeting led to the formation of SAARC. The first SAARC summit was held in 1985 in Dacca, the capital of Bangladesh. Head office of SAARC is in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.

Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan. In recent years Afghanistan also joined SAARC as a member state. SAARC's numerous meetings, including the summit meetings provided an opportunity for Pakistan to develop closer ties with all the member countries which would not have been otherwise possible. The SAARC platform has facilitated a continuous and constant interaction with the other member countries of the Association.

Pakistan's Relations with Great Powers:

Right from beginning Pakistan has endeavored to establish friendly ties with the great powers with the view to facilitating the growth of its own economic and military power with their co-operation. So Pakistan extended its hand of friendship to USA, China, Britain, Russia, European Union and Japan. Relations with China have already been discussed.

United States of America:

Pakistan's relations with the US have witnessed many ups and downs.

Soon after gaining independence, Pakistan expressed its intentions of friendship with the United States and its Western Allies. For its own vested interests, Pakistan's first prime minister visited US in 1950's. Pakistan formally joined Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) and South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO). The two countries also signed a mutual defense pact in May 1954.

In Pakistan's 1965 war with India, the US did not provide Pakistan any help. Instead it imposed an arms embargo on both the warring sides. Pakistan's war efforts were seriously undermined by the embargo.

Also in the 1971 war, the US did not provide any substantial support to Pakistan. Consequently, Pakistan's foreign policy began to tilt towards non-alignment and the country left both SEATO and CENTO.

In 1979, following the Iranian Revolution and the Communist Revolution in Afghanistan, the relations between Pakistan and the US took a new turn. The two countries entered into a phase of deep collaboration in their support of the Afghans in their fight against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. But after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (1989), US interest in the region waned and so did the US military and economic assistance to Pakistan.

Following the nuclear detonations by India and Pakistan in 1998, the US imposed economic sanctions on both the countries.

After the events of September 9, 2001 the US declared war on terrorism and invaded Afghanistan. Relations between Pakistan and the US took a new turn again. Because Pakistan's support in this war on terror was and continues to be indispensable for US, thus the two countries have been drawn together into an alliance. Now US has repeatedly declared that she wants permanent relation with Pakistan. But the fact is that in International Relations there is no permanent friend or foe. The real thing is the national interest.

United Kingdom:

Relations with the United Kingdom are of special importance to Pakistan. This is so, to a large extent, because of its membership in the British Commonwealth. Both the countries have unanimous view point about international issues. Though relations were strained in 1971 during constitutional and political turmoil in Bangladesh. Later on, relations become normal with the changed scenario.

Britain was among the first countries to give recognition to Pakistan as an independent sovereign state and to establish diplomatic relations with it. In 1965, the issue of Ran Kuch between Pakistan and India was resolved with the efforts of Britain.

During the constitutional and political crisis of 1971 in East Pakistan and the consequent independence of Bangladesh, relations between Pakistan and Britain became tense. Later on, though, these were normalized.

In September 1971 an agreement was signed between the two countries under which Britain committed itself to giving Pakistan economic aid of £250,000 for the construction of Tarbela Dam. In 1979, Britain wrote off Pakistan's debt amounting to £64,000,000. In 1981 British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited Pakistan and announced aid to the Afghan Refugees in Pakistan.

Britain has a long history of co-operation with Pakistan in the defense sector. Britain played a positive role during the 1965 and 1971 wars. Likewise, in 1999, Britain played a positive role in defusing the tension between India and Pakistan following their nuclear detonations.

But Britain also has friendly relations with India. In 2002 Britain offered India advanced weapons technology, including the Hawk fighter planes, worth a billion Pounds. Pakistan protests that this sale would affect the balance of power in the region but in vain

European Union (EU):

Pakistan enjoys friendly relations with the European Union. Twenty percent of Pakistan's exports end up in the European Union. Since 2001

Pakistan's relations with the EU have been constantly growing. These relations have grown particularly after the 2009 EU and Pakistan summit.

The EU is one of the largest donors of aid to Pakistan, co-operating with both government and non-governmental organizations in such fields as health, education, population welfare, human development, environmental protection, and the eradication of child labor and drug abuse.

Japan:

Diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Japan were established in 1952. Relations between the two countries are based on sound footings. Trade and aid is quite prominent in these relations. Pakistan exports cotton to Japan whereas Japan has helped Pakistan in its industrial growth.

Japan emerged as a modern and advanced industrial nation during sixties. It not only offered massive financial aid but also made a lot of investment in Pakistan towards its progress.

The Indus Highway that links Peshawar with Karachi, the Kohat Tunnel, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad and Ghazi Brotha Power Project are some of the most important examples of Japanese economic co-operation with Pakistan.

Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (Now Russian Fedration)

Bilateral relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Now Russian Federation) commenced in 1948. These relations are based on historic and cultural bases. For some time the relations between the two remained friendly during 1947-1950, but the relations between the two lost warmth in 1958. During the cold war the relations between Russia and Pakistan saw many ups and downs. After the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, normalcy returned to relations between Pakistan and the USSR.

In the 1980s following Pakistan's support to the *Mujahideen* in their war against the pro-Soviet government of Afghanistan, these relations were at all times low. With the beginning of the new millennium, relations between the two countries have started to improve. Both the countries have started bilateral exchange of educational, cultural, military and governmental delegations.

The Kashmir Issue:

The issue of Kashmir goes back to the partition of British India. According to the June 3, 1947 plan, the rulers of the Princely States of British India were free to join either India or Pakistan keeping in view the wishes of their population and the geographical location of their states.

At the time of the Partition, Kashmir was ruled by its Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra. On August 12, 1947, he entered into the Standstill Agreement with Pakistan, assuring her that the decision on the future of Kashmir would not be taken in haste. Then, in spite of Kashmir's greater proximity with Pakistan rather than with India and in spite of the fact that 75 percent of its population were Muslim, on October 27, 1947 the *Maharaja* proclaimed his decision of Kashmir's accession to India. In view of the unpopularity of this decision among the Kashmiri masses, and the anticipation of an uprising that it might lead to, he also requested India to send its military into Kashmir. As expected, this declaration provoked widespread protests throughout the valley which soon turned into an armed uprising against the state authorities.

So in 1947-48 Pakistan had to indulge in Kashmir to safeguard its borders. Pakistan gave its support to the liberation movement by, apart from other means, allowing the tribesmen from the tribal areas of Pakistan to fight alongside the freedom fighters. Parts of Kashmir adjoining the Pakistani frontier, and which were almost completely Muslim, were liberated and the government of Azad Kashmir was established there. In the rest of Kashmir, which had fallen under Indian control, a movement for independence from Indian rule persisted.

On January 1, 1948 India put the matter of Pakistani interference in Kashmir at the Security Council of the United Nations. The United Nations enforced a ceasefire agreement between the India and Pakistan and passed two resolutions for the peaceful resolution of the dispute, one on August 13, 1948, and the other on January 5, 1949. These resolutions called for the holding of a plebiscite in Kashmir, under UN mandate, for deciding its future on the principle of self-determination.

For various reasons these resolutions could not be implemented. The UN has sent many Commissions to the subcontinent with a view to facilitate implementation of these resolutions. But India has squarely refused the holding of a plebiscite in Kashmir.

In the meanwhile, the situation in Indian-held Kashmir remains restive. The freedom fighting goes on with varying intensities, while the cruelties of the Indian Army also continue.

Pakistan maintains a principled stance on extending its moral and diplomatic support to freedom fighters. It is hoped that they would determine their future over the status of Kashmir.

Pakistan's Role in the United Nations:

Pakistan became member of the United Nations Organizations (UNO) on September 30, 1947 and has been playing an active role in its affairs ever since.

Pakistan has attempted to use the platform provided by the UN for projecting its point of view on issues of national as well as international interests and for pursuing them.

Pakistan has become non-permanent member of the UN Security Council on several occasions. In 1980, General Zia ul Haq was appointed the president of the General Assembly as the representative of Muslim world.

Pakistan has offered its military and police services to the UN for its peacekeeping missions in various conflict zones all over the world.

Various UN agencies like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and UN Habitat have been providing invaluable services to Pakistan in the fields of humanitarian assistance, social welfare, and economic development. UN has disappointed Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir. In spite of the two resolutions of the UN for plebiscite the issue is still unresolved since 1948.

Exercise

I: Choose the correct answer to the following questions:

- 1) When was the border agreement signed between Pakistan and China?
A. 1950
B. 1956
C. 1961
D. 1963
- 2) With whose co-operation was the Gwadar Port built?
A. Iran
B. China
C. Kuwait
D. USA
- 3) How many wars have been fought to date by Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue?
A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 5
- 4) When was the Simla Agreement signed between Pakistan and India?
A. 1969
B. 1972
C. 1976
D. 1980
- 5) Which agreement took place between India and Pakistan in 1960?
A. Indus Basin Water Treaty.
B. The agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations
C. The Simla Agreement
D. Trade Agreement
- 6) When did the Shah of Iran visit Pakistan for the first time?
A. 1948
B. 1950
C. 1952
D. 1953

- 7) The members of the Regional Co-operation for Development included:
- A. Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
 - B. Pakistan, Iraq, and Turkey
 - C. Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia
 - D. Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey
- 8) What is the number of the member counties of D-8?
- A. 7
 - B. 8
 - C. 9
 - D. 10
- 9) When did Pakistan become member of the UNO?
- A. August 1948
 - B. September 1947
 - C. October 1948
 - D. November 1948
- 10) Which city did the Taliban conquer in 1996?
- A. Kandahar
 - B. Jalal Abad
 - C. Kabul
 - D. Khost
- 11) How many states are there in Central Asia?
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 8
 - D. 9
- 12) Which country, in terms of territory, is the largest in the Muslim world?
- A. Pakistan
 - B. Kazakistan
 - C. Uzbekistan
 - D. Turkmenistan
- 7) How many Muslim countries participated in the first Organization of Islamic Conference meeting in 1969?
- A. 22
 - B. 23
 - C. 24
 - D. 25

- 14) After how many years is the OIC Summit held?
- A. 1 years
 - B. 3 years
 - C. 4 years
 - D. 5 years
- 15) When was the Kashmir issue brought before the UN?
- A. 1 January 1948
 - B. 22 January 1948
 - C. 5 January 1949
 - D. 14 March 1949
- 16) When was the Standstill Agreement signed?
- A. August 1948
 - B. August 1949
 - C. August 1947
 - D. October 1947

II: Give short answers to the following questions.

- 1) What are the fundamental objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy?
- 2) Explain the importance of Pakistan's geographical location.
- 3) Write a note on the relations between Pakistan and China.
- 4) Describe the relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan
- 5) What is OIC? Why did it come into being?
- 6) Write a note on Pakistan's role in the UN.
- 7) Write a note on the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

III: Give detailed answers to the following questions.

- 1) What is the importance of Pakistan's relations with its neighboring countries.
- 2) What do you know about Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian Republics?
- 3) Describe the importance of Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia.
- 4) Analyze Pakistan's relations with the Big Powers.
- 5) Describe in detail the Kashmir issue and the relations between Pakistan and India.

Activity

- Point out the Muslim world and SAARC countries on world map.
- Arrange a debate on Pakistan's Role in the UN.
- List all the regional and international organizations and alliances joined by Pakistan since her inception.