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SOLVED QUESTION

**Pakistan's National
Culture Reflects Unity in
Diversity. Elaborate**

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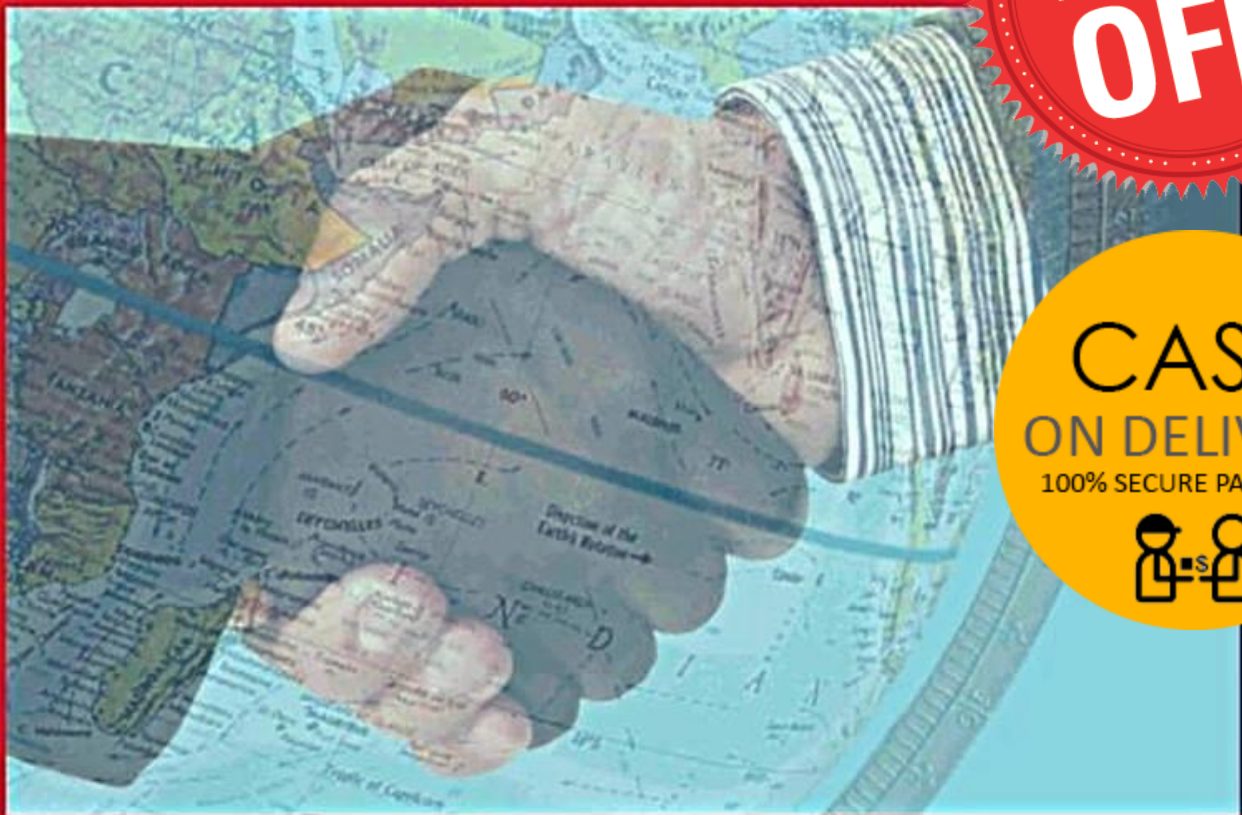
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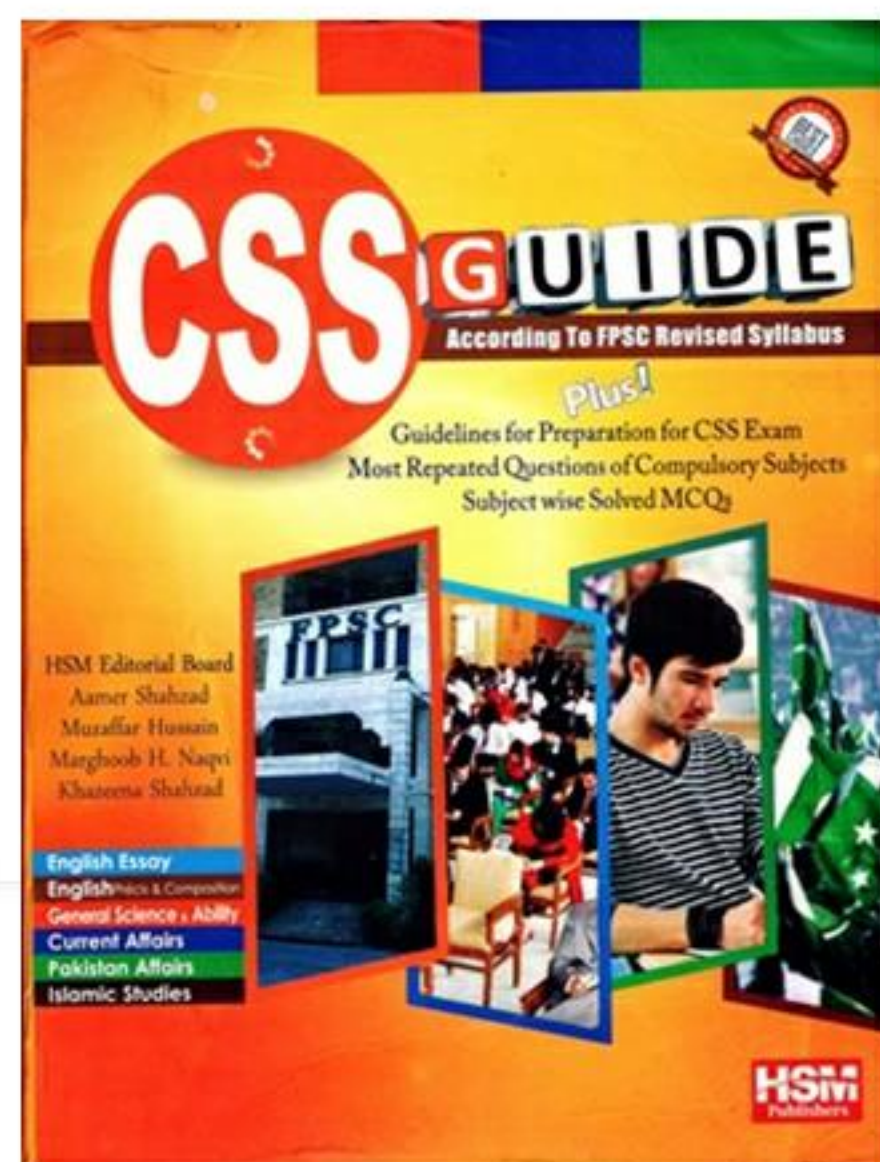


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Q . Pakistan's national culture reflects unity in diversity. Elaborate.

Outline:

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Introduction:

Pakistan is a multi-cultural society where different ethnic communities live. The culture does not vary from province to province but also from city to city. Though the languages, costumes, leaders, events, religious beliefs, music, cultural practices and cuisines vary throughout the country and demonstrate the diversity of culture in Pakistan, these factors unite Pakistan on many levels. This is the reason that despite a diverse culture, patriotic Pakistanis cherish these cultures and have learned to accept each other. The regional and local cultures are different from each other but the national culture is all-inclusive and embracing. The national Culture of Pakistan is a mix of Punjabi, Pashtun, Baloch and Sindhi outlooks which altogether different in their material and non-material approaches. The unity of the culture of Pakistan is achieved through shared goals and common beliefs. Apart from minor rifts ignited by provincialism and ethnicity, the national culture of Pakistan has remained a single whole throughout its history.

Definition of the national culture of Pakistan:

The national culture of Pakistan is a set of norms, behaviors, beliefs and customs that exist within the entire nation.

Aspects of national culture incorporating diversity

The aspects of national culture that have incorporated the diversity are mentioned as following.

- a) **Language:** Linguistically, Pakistan is an extremely diverse country where no single language is spoken. Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, Pashto and other local languages are spoken throughout the country. Though only 8% of Pakistani population speaks Urdu as its first language, it is a significant factor that demonstrates unity. Majority does not speak it as its first language but it can be spoken by any Pakistani. Urdu does not represent any specific culture of Pakistan which does not make it anything but a Pakistani identity. People of every region can communicate through this language.
- b) **Tourism:** Another common factor of Pakistan is the availability of tourist spots throughout the country. Either it is architecture of Lahore or beautiful valleys of KPK, there are thousands of tourist destinations. People of Pakistan travel within the country to explore and enlighten themselves with rich Pakistani culture.
- c) **Poetry:** Another uniting factor in Pakistan is the fascination of its people with poetry. Many great poets have dominated the culture of Subcontinent and ultimately that of Pakistan. Even one of the founding father of Pakistan was a great poet. His poetry helped inspire many great figures and people who participated in Pakistan movement. Moreover, spiritual poets like Bulleh Shah, Khwaja Ghulam Farid and many others belonged to the areas which are in Pakistan now. There would rarely be any Pakistani who would not remember at least one poetic verse. Poetry in local languages constitutes the major portion but Urdu poetry remains a uniting factor.
- d) **Music and dance:** Music of Pakistan is famous around the world. Be it folk, sufi or popular, music is enjoyed equally in every city or state of Pakistan. From local musicians like Saein Zahoor and Aalim Lohar to national musicians like Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan who did nothing but put people in a trance that surpassed ethnic and cultural boundaries. Along this beautiful and diverse music culture, traditional dances of Pakistan present how peace-loving the country is. From Attan, Luddi and Chap to Sammi, Dhammal and Ho Jamalo, Pakistan is enriched with local beauties that unite it. These cultures are celebrated at all big events and national occasions.
- e) **Religion:** Another biggest reason behind the making and unity of Pakistan is religion. Pakistan was made under the slogan of "Pakistan ka matlab kia La Ilaaha Illah". Whether it was Baloch nationalists, Pakhtoons, Punjabis or Sindhis, Pakistan was a dream of these all nationalities so that they could enjoy freedom of religion and unity under one religion and political ideology. 98% of Pakistani people are Muslims which is why the faith and belief in one God makes them united despite their different cultures.
- f) **National holidays:** As majority of Pakistanis are Muslims, most of the holidays like Eid and other bring people together. The month of Ramadan brings in people a spiritual unity that helps them become more compassionate and embracing. Moreover, holidays like 14th August, 23rd March and Quaid's Birthday are celebrated with passion in every corner of Pakistan.
- g) **National dress:** Due to different cultures, the dressing style differs in different areas. Western clothing has also emerged as dominant attire in the urban areas of Pakistan but still the majority wears national dress of Shalwar Kameez.

- h) **Food:** Pakistan is famous for its scrumptious cuisines all around the world. There are many predominant foods that are eaten most enthusiastically in the whole country. The main food is roti throughout the country. But tea, mutton, kabab dishes and South Asian cuisine is liked by every household in every city and rural area of Pakistan.
- i) **Hospitality:** Pakistani people are very hospitable and welcoming; this is why it is not hard for people to get along. The culture of joint family system, valuing the guests and respecting the elders are the most beautiful aspects of Pakistani society that contrast it clearly from western culture. These values and social customs make Pakistan a united country despite a diverse culture.

Unity in the diversity of the national culture:

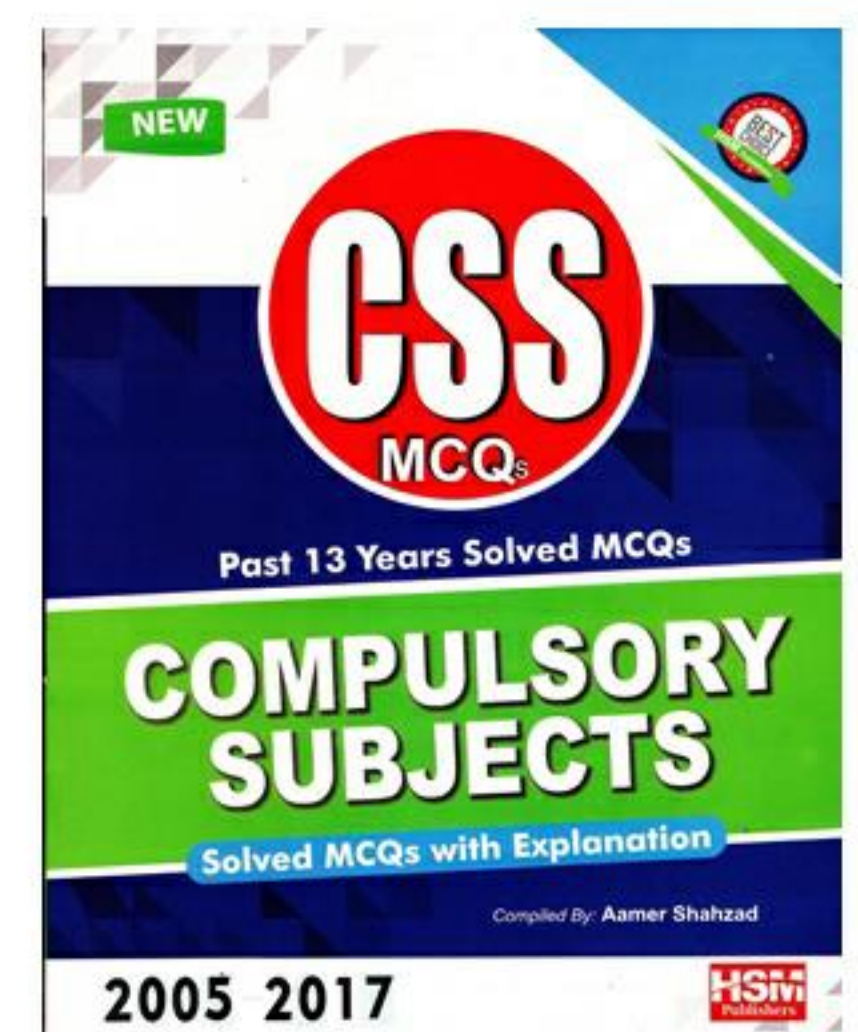
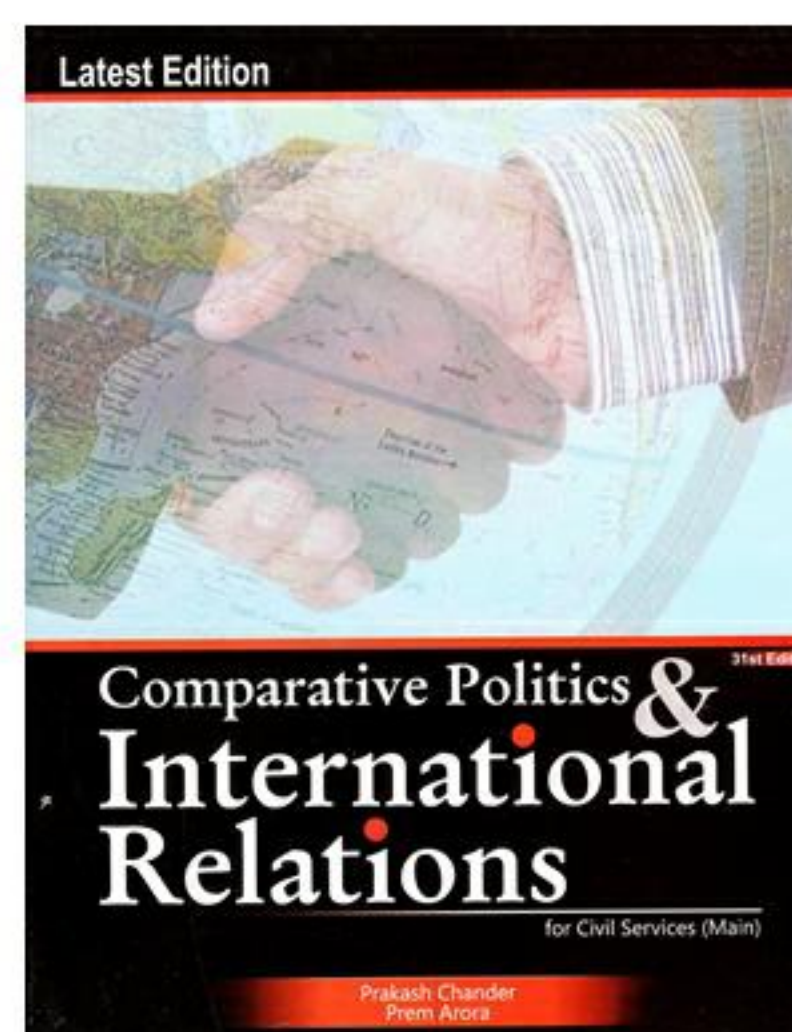
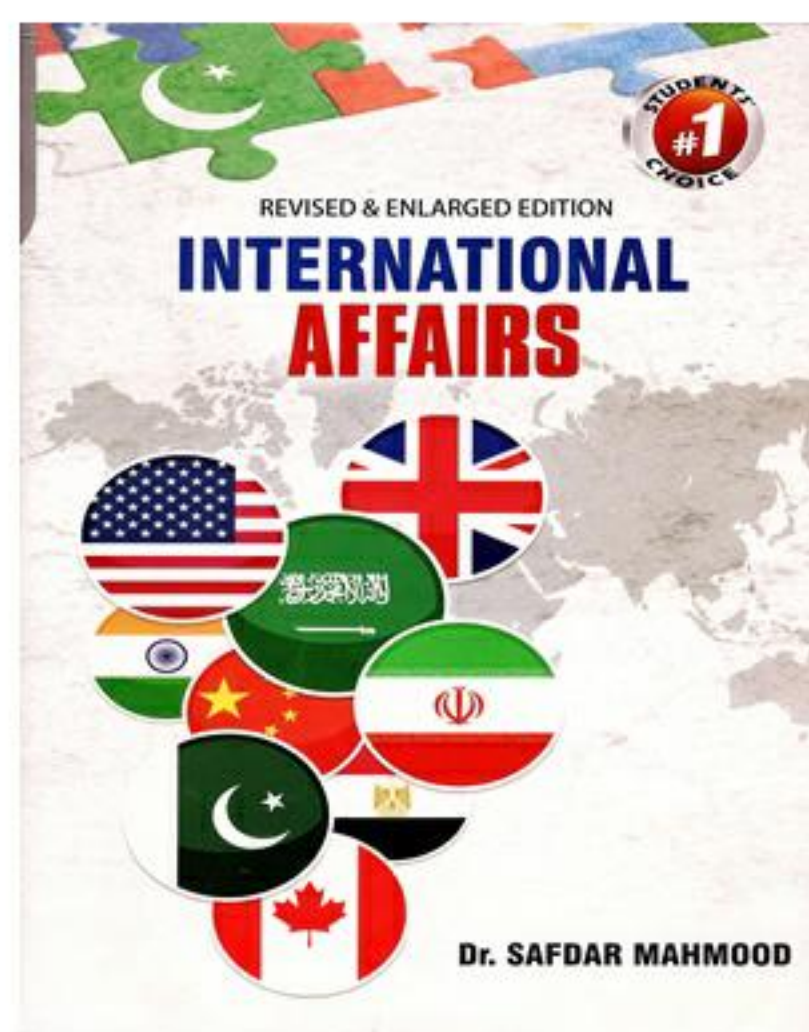
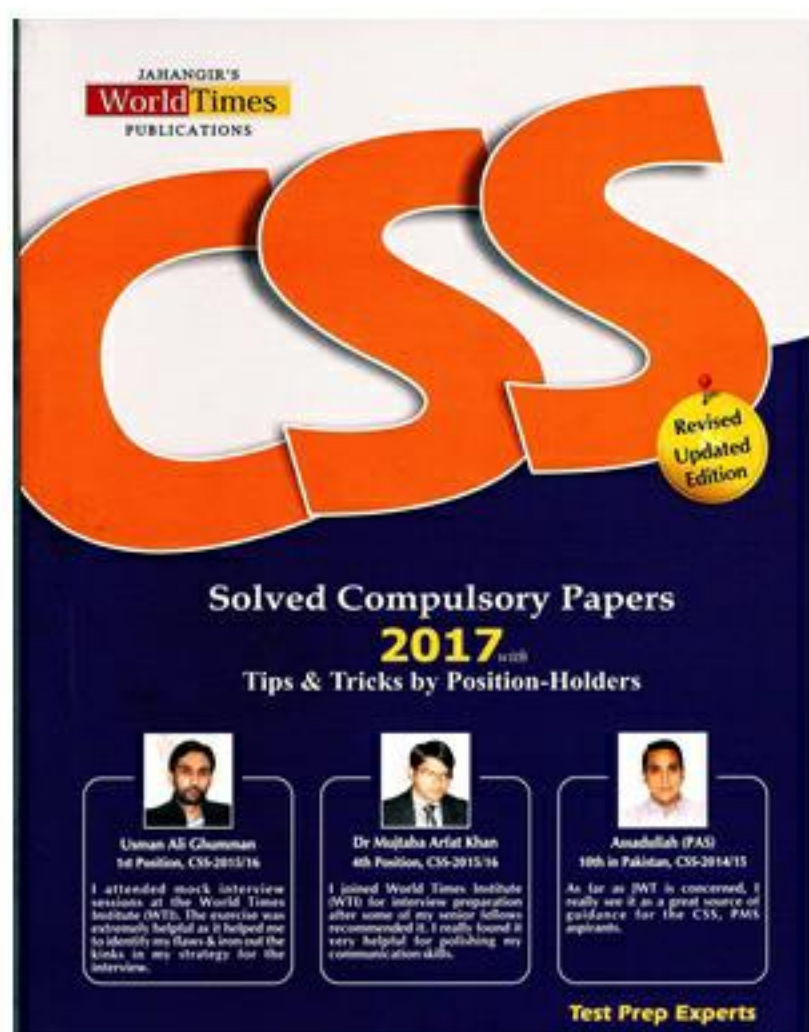
The diverse national culture of Pakistan is contributing towards unity by following ways

- Different social customs of all the ethnic groups are considered by the national culture.
- It brings harmony among the various socio-economic approaches among the variety of the citizens of Pakistan.
- It produces the environment of mutual co-existence for all the cultural patterns no matter how different they are from one another.
- It gathers the people to the common goals nation's defense, prosperity and development.
- Creates the elements of tolerance and acceptance of one another.
- The people of different backgrounds are occasioned with the shared beliefs, one ideology and common religious sentiments.
- It provides the opportunities of social mobility to everyone beyond ethnicities.

Conclusion

Pakistan is a developing country with an amazing rich and beautiful culture. There are leaders, art and so many cultural factors that help Pakistan stay united and strong but the recent wave of terrorism, sectarianism and ethnic issues have played a negative role. Moreover, discriminatory political policies and foreign interventions have contributed to divisions in the country. There is a need to revive an all-embracing national culture which has no room for hatred and discrimination. Nobody else but Pakistani people themselves have to take this step. Moreover, there is a need to understand the words of Mikhail Gorbachev that,

“Peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity, in the comparison and conciliation of differences.”



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