



RESEARCH PAPER

Pakistan Strategic Prospect with USA during PTI Government

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ABSTRACT

The prime objective of this research is to elucidate the relationship between US and Pakistan during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Government. Pakistan and the USA have had a complex and evolving relationship throughout their respective histories. When it comes to everything from formal involvement to economic partnership, military links, and worries about regional security, the connections between these two countries have gone through periods of collaborating together, strain, and recalibration. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's and the United States' complex relationship while highlighting significant developments that have shaped the way they interact under the direction of the PTI and USA influences. For this Descriptive study, data has been acquired from a variety of sources, including books, research articles, government annual reports, news releases and the statements of the head of states to elucidate the analysis.

KEYWORDS CENTO, SEATO, Taliban, USA, War on Terror

Introduction

Pakistan-United States relations have undergone a complex and dynamic history, shaped by geopolitical interests, cooperation, and challenges. Since Pakistan's independence in 1947, the bilateral relationship has experienced various phases, influencing regional and international dynamics in South Asia. This introductory paragraph aims to provide an overview of the historical context and multifaceted nature of Pak-US relations, highlighting the importance of understanding the evolving dynamics between the two countries. The United States and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1947 the US agreement to provide economic and military assistance to Pakistan and the latter's partnership in the CENTO and SETO strengthened relations between the two nations. However, that US suspension of military assistance during the 1965, 1971, 1975, generated a white spread feeling in Pakistan that the United States was not a reliable ally. The soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 highlighted the common interest of Pakistan and the United States in peace and stability in South Asia. The purpose of this paper is to analyze Pakistan US relationship in historical perspective, highlighting lesson that Pakistan should learn from its past's experiences with the US and recommended a viable strategy for the future.

America and Pakistan have a polarized relationship. Nevertheless, these relatives are no longer as significant to Pakistan or the United States. Pakistan and the US have mutual mistrust and suspicion. Additionally, the Pakistanis and the USA appear to understand the critical significance of each difference in achieving national hobby goals. This has given the impression that the connection between Pakistan and the United States is only a transactional one and not one that lasts forever or is trustworthy. Despite having common objectives and ambitions, there may be a belief and frustration gap between Pakistan and the US. An important turning point in Pakistan-US ties was Prime Minister Imran Khan's trip to the United States and his private meeting with President Trump. (Naqvi and Masood,2017)

Literature Review

Following are the review of important relevant literature. Donald Trump's policy and posture towards Pakistan: The emerging dynamics and drivers of the bilateral ties by Dr. Rabbi in this research work published in the year of 2022. In this research paper, the author explains US-Pakistan ties during the Trump administration. Due to their conflicting interests in Afghanistan, it also draws attention to Washington and Islamabad. The author claims that the stability and security of the region directly affect Pakistan's foreign policy towards the United States of America. Additionally, the international actions of Pakistan and the United States of America have been assessed in this situation.

Strategic autonomy or isolation: An analysis of major dynamics of Pakistan's Foreign policies by Elharathi published this research work in the year of 2022. Imran Khan's shifting foreign policy is highlighted in this article, which also assesses both internal and external variables affecting Pakistan's strategic foreign policy. According to the author, Pakistani decision-makers have been attempting to strengthen and maintain relations with all of the countries. Pakistan and the US bilateral relations are dependent on mutually exclusive interests.

Pakistan-United States Relations in Trump Era and FATF by Dr. Hassan published this article in the year of 2020. It additionally emphasizes the negotiations for peace in Afghanistan, where Pakistani authorities play a cooperative role. This article emphasizes Trump Era connected foreign affairs Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the author highlighted the USA peace deal with Islamabad, Pakistan. This research was extremely beneficial with regard to my research work.

Twitter diplomacy between Pakistan and the United States: A case study of Imran Khan US visits by Dr. Azeema published this research work in the year of 2020. The importance of Twitter during the recent visit to Russia by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was highlighted in this study. This research study also explains the significance of Twitter for politicians during elections and foreign trips. This study analyses in-depth social media user comments about Imran Khan's visit to Russia. Billions of people follow Imran Khan's opinions on a national and worldwide level. The authors of these pieces highlight the time when governments established new, extremely powerful international contacts.

Pakistan Foreign Policy Contemporary Development and Dynamics by Dr. Ali published this book in the year of 2022. In this book, the author explained both the new Imran Khan government and Pakistan's national policies. This book's opening chapter focused on Pakistan's foreign policy. In the second part of this book, the author discusses Imran Khan's administration and its global effects. The book provides us with a thorough analysis of Pakistan's international policy as well as options to admire the country's distinctive internal policies throughout the Imran Khan era. The author contends in Chapter 3 that Pakistan is a Middle Power, but it also has significant strategic and ideological components. It informs us of the significance of various countries' foreign policies because states cannot exist in the global community without them. In this book, recently published, are explained Pakistan's connections with Afghanistan. Pakistan have been open a new strategic policy.

The Battle for Pakistan by Dr. Nawaz published this book in the year of 2019. Shuja Nawaz is one of the authors in this book who I think does a good job of explaining both the national and international perspectives. He described the link between Pakistan and the USA of America as the reason why Pakistan receives various aids and supports itself. In the first chapter of this book, he discusses the economic difficulties that Pakistan and the United States of America face. Throughout the majority of this work by Shuja hid Pakistani-US military ties and how the two armies were rivals at the time. Nawaz offers a variety of viable suggestions to firmly establish Pakistan-US relations in the future. He informs us that the

USA of America finds Pakistan's strategic location to be highly appealing. This book, *The Battle for Pakistan*, uses the phrase Shuja defended himself and noted that Asif Zardari's explanation of his plot as Pakistan's president was the greatest. Pakistani officials must respect and value them in their own right, rather than only as the region's coordinator for American border policy. That book is, in my opinion, a must-read for everyone who is seriously interested in the strategic, civil, and military relations between the USA of America and Pakistan.

Research Methodology

Although the study defining a review of the USA impacts on Islamabad during the PTI administration. In order to analyse the effects of USA on the PTI era in Pakistan, many methodologies we have been used. The primary as well as secondary data we have yielded a wide range of information, which we have been employed in the study.

In this context, a government's annual report and news releases, the statements made by the heads of state during their speeches and press conferences, and their statements are important. The information we have gathered from a variety of sources, including books, research articles, public documents, official reports, newspapers, and online resources. The research is analytical and descriptive. A qualitative approach has been used. Any research endeavor must include a research methodology because it gives researchers a framework to work within and helps to verify the veracity and accuracy of the study findings. In order for other researchers to duplicate their research and build on their findings, it is crucial for researchers to fully document their study methods. However, this highlights Pakistan's strategic alliance with the US under the PTI leadership and the influence of Russia. The impact of the US and Moscow on Pakistan over the course of the PTI era could be analyzed using a variety of techniques. Numerous statistics can be acquired from primary and secondary sources and used in this context. For more details, look at the Officially Reports on Annual Activities and News Releases, Releases of Heads of States, and Addresses of Heads of States. Data can be acquired from a variety of sources, including books, research articles, trustworthy data, trustworthy reports, newspapers, and online resources.

Data can also be found in reports from international organizations like the SAARC and the UN. For instance, the World Financial Condition and Outlook 2021 report from the UN gives an overview of the world economy, while the official website of the SAARC has information on regional cooperation projects. It is possible to analyze coverage in the press and public opinion using online resources like news sources and social media networks. For instance, news reports from Dawn and Express Tribune can shed light on how these relationships are covered in Pakistan's media. You can also use Facebook and Twitter to study popular opinion. In-depth comprehension of complicated social issues, like the country's interactions with the US and Russia under the PTI government, can be attained through qualitative research. In order to obtain insights into people's attitudes, opinions, and experiences, this method entails gathering and analyzing non-numerical information such as observations, interviews, and study of secondary sources.

Realists highlight how these relationships have changed through time as a result of historical, political, and economic causes. For instance, Tahir Abbas' article "Pakistan's foreign policy towards the US under Imran Khan: continuity or change?" offers a thorough study of Imran Khan's foreign policy in Pakistan. Overall, these sources and other pertinent information can give a thorough knowledge of Pakistan's strategic relations with the US and Russia. In-depth conversations and document analysis will be used to gather and analyze data for this study's qualitative research design. The study design is suitable since it will enable us to investigate intricate links and dynamics and obtain a thorough understanding of the topic.

Historical Background of Pakistan US Relations

As soon as Pakistan gained independence from Britain, it tended to establish strong links with the USA of America so as to survive in the global arena and embrace democracy and capitalism. To avoid being a target of Soviet Union's communist growth, which tended to govern the area, Pakistan chose an anti-communist stance from the start in order to forge relations with the United States. Pakistani and the U.S. established tight connections soon after attaining independence in order to work together. But since then, the connection has gotten worse. Mistrust is the cornerstone on which ties among Pakistan and the US are built. Pakistan has supported the US since its founding, and the two countries have been allies for more than 60 years. Dragging other people down on one side while holding each other on the other. However, in order to stop the Soviet Union's expansion during the Afghan War, the United States provided Pakistan with complete cooperation. Pakistan quickly complied with all conditions made by the United States of America to combat the threat of terrorism. (Majeed and Shah, 2017)

Pakistan's skill in recasting the historical record in its favor enables the country to extract benefits from the U.S., which seeks to prove that it is a reliable ally. • Given the varying levels of support for militancy within both the Pakistani public and the military and intelligence agencies, Islamabad likely will be unwilling to abandon militancy as a tool of foreign policy and contend with the emergent militant threat ravaging Pakistan and the region. • Washington and its partners have been unable to either fundamentally change the way Pakistan assesses its cost-benefit calculus toward India or find some means of ameliorating Pakistan's neuralgic fears of India. Years of U.S. policies toward Pakistan based on financial allurements and conventional weaponry have done little to induce change. • Given Pakistan's regional equities and the changing regional dynamics, the international community should abandon optimism that Pakistan can or will change course and should prepare for increasing Islamist violence in the region and beyond.

The Cold War officially started in 1949, the same year Pakistan first appeared on the political map of the world. The final days of the Second World War (WWII) marked the start of the American Era, which propelled the country from being a minor global power to one of the two major ones, alongside the Soviet Union. (Burton, 2020)

When Pakistan's first leader, Liaquat Ali Khan, travelled to the US in the 1950s, both state representatives expressed a commitment to cooperating towards a brighter future. The United States pledged to help Pakistan in any way it could, as they were in dire requirements for infrastructure and development. India was part of the Communist partnership with the Soviet Union; therefore, it is clear that the USA desperately needed Pakistan's assistance. As a result, the US profited from Pakistan's cooperation to gain entry into the South Asian region (Malik, 2018)

This report contained ten key suggestions. The state-wide expansion strategy for Pakistani is still government notes, pointing out that "in spite of some improvements in particular efforts and organizations." The report's support for Pakistani reform was its lone bright spot; both the apparent absence of reliable measurements and the persistent challenges preventing Pakistan from accessing American markets received poor ratings. CGD sent a letter to the Department of State at the beginning of 2012 with three recommendations for improving the effectiveness of American assistance to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. increasing market access for Pakistani products while scrapping plans to establish ROZs; charging Americans for their goods International hold the USA investment in Pakistan. (Kronstadt, 2013)

Pakistan US Relations during PTI government (2018 to 2022)

There are times of cooperation, frayed connections, and shared interests in the difficult relationship between Pakistan and the United States. Numerous essential factors have an impact on the significance of the two of their bilateral linkages. Cooperation in counterterrorism: Given its advantageous location in the region, particularly its proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan is an essential partner for the USA in its counterterrorism activities. The two countries have collaborated on sharing data, offensives, and diplomatic efforts to defeat local terrorist groups. (Nasir, 2018).

The symbiotic necessity of both countries continues to decrease rather than lessen as a result of changes in regional and global geopolitics. The United States also rejected Pakistan's application to join the NSG. On September 5, 2018, US Chief of State Mike Pompeo, Jr. came in Pakistan to meet with the country's newly elected Imran Khan-led administration. The United States Department of Defense officially decided to halt the \$300 million Partnership Support Facility for Pakistan before Pompeo arranged his trip there. According to a Pentagon spokesperson who talked to Reuters, "the leftover three hundred million dollars was altered, Alliance backing Fund compensates Pakistan for expenditures incurred countering extremism on its own soil due to insufficient Pakistani decisive measures in favor of the South Asia Strategy." (Panda, 2018)."

India's larger involvement in "Afghanistan's Stabilization" has been acknowledged by Trump's South Asia Strategy. The distance between Pakistan and the US has widened as a result of this new development in US-Indian relations. The US President has asked for assistance following his social media exchanges and Pakistani PM Imran Khan. In a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Trump asked him for assistance in bringing the war in Afghanistan to a close. The letter to Khan asking for his "Full backing of the US effort to further the Afghan reconciliation process" was confirmed by the NSC (National Security Council) and State Department. An official request to assist the United States in Afghanistan was made to Khan's administration in December 2018. (Holland, 2018)

President Trump appreciated Prime Minister Khan's position on the Afghan issue when speaking to the media during a joint news conference with him. Additionally, he acknowledged that the only viable option for Afghanistan is a political solution. In his opening remarks, he said that Pakistan will cooperate in our expulsion from Afghanistan. He claimed that rather than being soldiers in Afghanistan, we are acting as police officers. He asserted that Afghanistan would vanish from the face of the planet if we played the part of soldiers there. But, he said, "I don't want to murder 10 million people." (Ward, 2019)."

Economic and Trade Relations: Pakistani and the United States have strong trade and economic links, which strengthen their bilateral relationship. One of Pakistan's main commercial partners is the United States, and both nations have worked to strengthen their economic ties through a number of initiatives, such as the U.S.-Pakistan Commerce and Investment Framework Agreement. (TIFA) (Khan, 2019).

A significant improvement in Pakistan's assistance of the Afghan negotiations was also noted by the PTI administration. The U.S. government has recognized and praised Pakistan's efforts to support and advance the talks for peace between Pakistan and the Taliban. The United States acknowledged Pakistan's assistance in promoting safety and harmony in Afghanistan. Other events, though, occurred during the PTI administration and harmed ties between Pakistan and the USA. In May 2019, the US designated the Baloch Revolutionary Army (BLA) as a terrorist organization. This move was thought to be a successful means of assuaging Pakistan's worries regarding terrorist acts coming from Afghanistan. (Sial, 2021)

The US withdrawal in Afghanistan in the month of August 2021 once again demonstrated the fragile nature of ties among the US and Pakistan. The US is becoming increasingly concerned about the state of its relations with Islamabad as a result of Pakistan's allegedly dubious contribution to its commitment to the War on Terrorism. Other US officials encourage Washington to review the terms of its relationship with Islamabad, even if some American officials still think Islamabad has fulfilled its responsibility and that America must maintain working with it. Anthony Blinken, the US Undersecretary of Department, was forced to assure Lawmakers that "this is only a single of the things that we're going to do" when asked by lawmakers if it was time for America to rethink its relationship with China. Pakistan in this context. In the upcoming days and weeks, we'll be looking at Pakistan's role over the past two decades, as well as the role we hope to see it performing in the decades to come and what it will take to get there. (Mir, 2021)

When the administration of Joe Biden assumed charge, relations with Pakistan quickly deteriorated after Biden neglected to contact Prime Minister Khan, which infuriated him and resulted in a foundation of tensions. When the US withdrew from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, Pakistan once again became crucial to fulfilling its foreign policy goals, but this time largely through the lens of terrorists and border security, that continues to be the case today. After leaving Afghanistan, the Biden administration focused more on China's strategic rivalry in Asia, keeping Pakistan at a strategic distance due to its ties to Beijing. Khan subsequently criticized the United States in public of encouraging Pakistan to join the so-called Battle on Terror, which claimed over eighty thousand lives and resulted in economic losses of over \$600 billion. roughly \$123 billion in USD. Despite Khan losing the vote of lack of confidence, the United States was used as a convenient scapegoat because of the developing animosity between Joe Biden's administration and the then-Prime Leader Khan. (Tanvir, 2022).

Reasons Behind the Legitimacy Crisis of PTI's Government

General elections were held on July 25, 2018, then PTI succeeded in forming a coalition government with BAP, MQM, and PMLQ. On August 18, PTI's nominated candidate, Imran Khan sworn in as the 22nd prime minister of Pakistan. He was a former cricketer. He was not a seasoned politician who even not held a single portfolio in the cabinet before holding the prime minister's office. He is a well orator and a man of opportunity who won the hearts of youth and impressed with his speeches and promised to bring the moon and the stars but when he assumed power, unfortunately, he could not fulfill his promises. When he became premier, he claimed that he was unaware about the actual situation of the economic condition of the country. He faced many challenges including inexperienced team, mismanagement, and artificial and natural disasters.

The opposition alliance moved a confidence motion in the national assembly (NA) against prime minister Imran Khan on March 8, 2022, that passed on April 10, 2022. According to article 95 of the constitution of Pakistan 1973, a prime minister can be removed from his office through a no-confidence motion against him by members of NA. Twenty percent of the MNA's vote is required to move the motion in the assembly. After the motion is tabled, the Speaker of the NA is bound to hold a vote within four to seven days. If the resolution is passed with an absolute majority, the prime minister will be removed from office and an election will be held for the new prime minister.

These words clearly portray the current situation of Pak-US relationship. There have been more downs than the ups, in the Pak-US bilateral ties. The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) held a two-day national conference on "Irritants in Pakistan-US relations: Way Forward". Some former ministers and ambassadors presented their views and stressed, there is a dire need for remove.

Continuity and change in policy

“Two steps forward and four steps backward,” in the mutual mistrusts between the two countries and should enhance the cooperation. While speaking before conference they said, to remove the factor of distrust and enhance the cooperation it is important to debate holistically on the key irritants that spoil the relationship, should understand each other’s security concerns and should work on the common grounds (Hussain A., 2018).

The Tweet diplomacy

President Trump launched his “Foreign policy via twitter.” The President Donald Trump showed frustration towards Pakistan. The phenomenon of showing anger and frustration towards Pakistan is not new. The Trump administration viewed before Congress that if it saw the greater cooperation to fight against the Taliban and Haqqani network, then it would only allot the military assistance package. The amount of \$255 million withheld since August. President Donald Trump on 1 January 2018 tweeted on his social media official twitter account and targeted Pakistan. He wrote, “The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies and deceit (Mangala’s, 2018).” In response to the Trump’s, war of words initiated by this tweet the Islamabad administration called on the United States Ambassador in the US embassy located in the Islamabad and held an emergency meeting of national security team to discuss the Trump’s allegations of “lies and deceit (Sampathkumar, 2018).

The Dynamics of Pakistan-US Relations (2001-2019)

Cut off the military aid to Pakistan. He stated, “Frankly, would not it have been nice if we got Osama bin Laden a lot sooner than that? Think of this, living in Pakistan, beautifully in Pakistan in what I guess they considered a nice mansion I do not know; I have seen nicer but living in Pakistan, right next to the military academy. Everybody in Pakistan knew he was there. And we give Pakistan \$1.3 billion a year and they don’t tell him; they don’t tell him for years (Re, 2018).” He further added “We are supporting Pakistan. We are giving them \$1.3 billion a year, which we do not give them anymore by the way. I ended it because they do not do anything for us, they do not do a damn thing for us (Jorgie, 2018).” On November 19, 2018, Prime Minister Khan tweeted three tweets on the social media platform using his official account. He said “records need to be put straight on Mr. Trump’s tirade against Pakistan; No. 1 Pakistani was involved in 9/11 but Pak decided to participate in US War on Terror. Pakistan suffered 75,000 casualties in this war and over \$123 billion was lost to economy. US “aid” was a miniscule \$20 bn. Second our tribal areas were devastated and millions of people uprooted from their homes. Pakistan continues to provide free lines of ground and air communications (GLOCs/ALOCs) (Ground Line of Communications Air Line of Communications). Can Mr. Trump name another ally that gave such sacrifices? Prime Minister Khan further tweeted third tweet: “Instead of making Pakistan a scapegoat for their failures, the US should do a serious assessment of why, despite 140000 NATO troops plus 250,000 Afghan troops and reportedly \$1 trillion spent on war in Afghanistan, the Taliban today are stronger than before.” On the same day in November, he further tweeted second tweet: “We no longer pay Pakistan the \$Billions because they would take our money and do nothing for us, Bin Laden being a prime example, Afghanistan being another. They were just one of many countries that take from the United States without giving anything in return. (Roy,2019)

Conclusion

The US's approach to international relationships and interaction with other countries can be summed up as its international strategy. This study examined the strategic ties between Pakistan throughout the PTI era the United States are currently engaged in an

additional Cold War. That regrettable reality logically leads to policy recommendations that reflect a U.S. containment policy. President Putin has made it clear that he is not going to be a strategic or tactical ally of the United States in the coming years by beginning a broad attack on American democracy and criticizing American actions around the world. Putin instead appears to have come to the conclusion that the reduction in American power projection is necessary for Russia to play a larger regional and global role. Given its built-in benefits and the Unless Washington gives in to internal strife and alliance mismanagement, the United States can defeat the threat from Moscow thanks to the strength of its alliances.

With honest contemplation of the nature of the connection between the United States and Pakistan and a candid evaluation of whether or not the terrorists Islamabad is assisting the United States in getting rid of are more essential compared to the terrorists they keep supporting support, the American State needs to participate where it can. When there is a chance to do so and a willing partner to collaborate with, the USA should make an effort to invest in constructive social change. The armed forces and the intelligence service must be monitored in the short term as part of this engagement, not transformed over any time frame that is significant to policy. The interaction must also be focused and transactional. Simply put, the United States cannot handle this. Given the precarious situation of the economy and the political climate, such a strategy is more viable.

Additionally, the National Security Strategy of the Trump administration, which was released on the nineteenth of December 2017, explicitly states that "Russia obstacles American power, authority, and interests, trying to undermine American security and prosperity," and that "actors like the Russian Federation are using data collection methods in an attempt to destroy the legitimacy of democracies.". These are positions with which we heartily agree. Although we are not optimistic, we hope that President Trump will eventually listen to the strong and consistent views of his three most important foreign policy advisors.

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