



RESEARCH PAPER

Pakistan's Foreign Policy from 2018 to 2022: The PTI Government's Contribution to the Development of Foreign Relations with Major Powers

Muhammad Aslam*¹ Zakir Hussain² Fakhra Mujahid³

1. Assistant Professor, Department of History University of Education Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, aslammuhammad66nwu@outlook.com
2. Assistant Professor, Lahore Leads University, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Lecturer, Lahore Leads University, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative investigation examines the extent to which Imran Khan, a former cricket player who has transitioned into a political role, has taken a leading role in addressing Pakistan's foreign policy obstacles since assuming power in August of 2018. The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan has contributed to a complex and intensified situation in the region, which has required Pakistan to maintain involvement with both Afghanistan and the United States. Pakistan has strategically managed its diplomatic ties with significant stakeholders by prioritizing three key elements: national sovereignty, economic stability, and conflict resolution. The government under the leadership of PTI has prioritized diplomatic efforts over military intervention in addressing the ongoing conflict with India regarding the Kashmir issue and focused to normalize Iran-Saudi, Tehran-Washington and Taliban-US relations, and that Pakistan has not been able to capitalize on its significant geo-political assets vis--vis China, given Beijing's strategic patience over Islamabad's failure to comply with Beijing's wishes.

KEYWORDS Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Major Power, PTI, Russia

Introduction

Pakistan has a rich cultural diversity that ranks among the highest in the world. Regional and global issues are crucial to this country because of its long history of influence as a major power. Appreciations for sovereignty and independence, as well as non-interference in domestic matters, form the basis of Pakistan's foreign policy. International venues where Pakistan's problems may be heard and addressed properly are important to the country's future (Chacko, P. 2013). The Stability Pact for South Asia (SPSA) was developed to foster peace and stability in the area in recent years, and Pakistan has emerged in a prominent role. Since its foundation, Pakistan has been engaged in a wide range of military and political conflicts across the world. Pakistan joined the United Nations in 1947 and the Organizations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1965, both as founding members. Pakistan has recently joined a number of multilateral organizations as part of its efforts to improve bilateral ties with its neighbors and contribute to regional stability. Pakistan's foreign policy is to defend, advance, and further Pakistan's national interests abroad. The Foreign Ministry supports Pakistan's development strategy for progress and prosperity while promoting Pakistani security, reflecting the basic principles of our country. Pakistan's foreign policy is primarily focused on achieving the national objectives of promoting stability and peace through interstate cooperation. As a result of globalization and the issues of the 21st century,

economic diplomacy is given special attention. Additionally, our foreign policy seeks to portray our nation as one that is forward-thinking while simultaneously maintaining a stable core (Iqbal, S. 2018).

Respect for sovereignty and independence, as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the peaceful resolution of disputes, are the defining characteristics of international relations. The goal of Pakistan's foreign policy is to further these widely acknowledged norms of interstate relations. Pakistan's diplomatic activities are thus open to all countries globally. Promote Pakistan as a dynamic, accelerated, reasonable, and democratic Islamic nation; manage framework relations with all nations, particularly major world powers; and protect national security and geostrategic preferences, including Kashmir. The goals of Pakistan's foreign policy are to deepen its economic and commercial relations with the world, protect the rights of the Pakistani diaspora abroad, and make the best possible use of its resources for regional and global collaboration. Pakistan's foreign policy under the PTI regime is the focus of our current study. We are looking at the foreign policy landscape during the PTI regime, as well as examining the changes in Pakistan's foreign policies during the PTI Government (Sheikh, M. R., Faridi, M. Z., & Imran, M. 2022).

An important component in the mechanism of the global political system is foreign policy. It is a part of the wider national strategy. It consists of domestic problems that must be resolved in the context of global interactions. Each nation is responsible for defining the boundaries of its foreign policy in light of its own advantages and the reality of international relations. A nation can meet its requirements at home and uphold its legal standing abroad with the aid of foreign policy. Foreign policy will remain as long as there are independent nations in the world. This research also relies heavily on academic terminology. There are several definitions for the term "foreign policy." A wide variety of foreign policy definitions are encountered, each supplied by a different scholar. There is disagreement among scholars as to what constitutes foreign policy, but all agree that it deals with how a country behaves toward other countries (Hussain, S., Abbas, Q., & Sheikh, M. A. 2022). Some of them are listed below. A community's foreign policy is a system of actions designed to influence the conduct of other countries and to adapt the community's operations to the international environment, according to George Modelski in 1962 (Modelski, G. 1962). Foreign policy, according to Hugh Gibson, is "a well-rounded, complete strategy based on experience and knowledge for doing government business with other countries (Gibson, H. 1917). It is designed to defend and promote the national interest. What, who, or how far we could support are all questions that must be answered to make the most of our resources (Krasner, S. D. 1978). This is the minimum standard for what constitutes a nation foreign policy.

Literature Review

The founding of Pakistan on August 14, 1947, is one of the most significant political developments to occur in the post-World War II era. With this, the British Empire began to collapse, British India was split up, and a new Islamic nation was created. From national identity to territory and natural resource issues to terrorism to religious sectarianism, Pakistan's road has been littered with war for the seven decades she has been on the planet. For a while, Pakistan's unusual geographic configuration, with two halves split by Indian Territory, posed a political, social, and administrative problem. Pakistan lost its eastern part in 1971 following a civil conflict and a war with India, leading to Bangladesh's independence (Khan, T. H. 2018). When it came to the formation of notions like sovereignty and national identity, Pakistan was never far from the headlines. The contrasting perspectives just on role of Islam inside the newly constituted state contributed to the friction between the two concepts. The armed

services and religious elites, as well as other major state actors, perpetuate this conflict. To keep their position in government, they then build up their power base around those representatives. This "multi-nation" state was created by the need to create "Pakistan" as a homeland for such Muslims of India, even though they were culturally and ethnically varied. Pakistan, on the other hand, uses its other relationship with India to justify its continued existence. There is a strong connection between identity processes, disputed cartographies, particularly Kashmir, and conflict. While there are still deep cultural, religious, or linguistic links between the two countries, especially in northern India, this relationship is mostly characterised as just an external one that is conflict-driven (Bastos, M. 2021).

There are a number of ways in which Pakistan's international relations are influenced by India's role. The country's first leaders developed a fear of Pakistan's reunification with India, which they saw as a return to a Hindu-dominated system of administration. As a method of dealing with this, the state stepped up its efforts to emphasise its Islamic character. An increase in religious influence on governance and policy execution, particularly in Pakistan's dealings with the countries of neighbouring India and Afghanistan, has enhanced the religious element of a Pakistani identity crisis, says Ijaz Khan (Khan, I. 1998). Islam-based discourses have subsequently been produced in order to boost national identity and have been used for both domestic and global policy objectives. In the creation of such a Pakistani national identity, the problematic notion of the "two-nation theory," which is seen as "the foundational assumption of Pakistan," is frequently exploited. Without the two-nation idea, which was used to ensure that there would be no shared administrative structure for Hindus and Muslims inside of an independent India, Indian independence would not have been conceivable. The paper was embraced by Pakistan's early leadership, and to this day it serves as a perceived guarantee of India's otherness (Durrani, N., & Dunne, M. 2010).

Even while Pakistan's foreign policy continues to be primarily focused on relations with India, connections with the United States and China have also been important in shaping Pakistani representations of national identity and nationhood. These three political processes emerged as a result of the complex interaction between religion, state security, and issues of identity and difference (Qazi, M. H. 2021). The primary goal of Pakistan's foreign policy is to advance national security above all else. It has also long been a component of the culture. Security and identity discourses in Pakistan are interwoven, and they are expressed in how the key state actors, primarily the military establishment, construct and communicate foreign policy narratives. This interconnected conversation has led to a rise in the popularity of militarism as a political ideology. This essay examines the political dynamics brought on by the militancy in Pakistan as a result of the interplay between safety and identity. India is the driving force behind these dynamics, notwithstanding the prominence of the United States and China (Bastos, M. 2021).

Imran Khan has no prior experience in foreign affairs when he was chosen as Pakistan's next prime minister. Khan's rapport with Pakistan's strong military, which has historically determined the nation's course in international affairs, influences the army's decisions on foreign policy. As Khan and his PTI party capture power in an increasingly complex international environment, Pakistan's growing relationship with China is put to the test by an imminent financial crisis that is partially brought on by Chinese loans. In his victory speech, Khan outlined his ambitions for the nation as well as some of his foreign policy objectives. You might be surprised by what he said and the sequence in which he listed his priorities (Kuszevska, A., & Nitza-Makowska, A. 2021). Pakistan's foreign policy can be viewed through a variety of prisms, including relations

with its western neighbor Afghanistan, its love-hate relationship with the United States, and Pakistan's ongoing rivalry with India along the Line of Control (LoC). While China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the Middle East are important but not the focus of this article. Our analysis indicates that Pakistan's foreign policy has fundamentally changed under Imran Khan's leadership. We'll discuss the three changes that have been made to Pakistan's foreign policy: the program, the adjustment, and the final difficulty or prod. If we look back at Pakistan's political history, we will not find anything like the transformations that have taken place under the leadership of Imran Khan. Despite the fact that the present study, which examines Pakistan's foreign policy under Imran Khan, will be criticized (Mohan, S. 2022).

Material and Methods

A general definition of research is the deliberate gathering and study of factual information on any subject. This study will employ a qualitative approach in order to examine issues of philosophy and methodology. Gathering data to back up the study's premise is the primary goal of a descriptive analysis. The goal of applied analysis is to assess real-world challenges and reach conclusions in a range of fields, such as product and process design. Fundamental science's objective is to quell scientific curiosity, not to instantly apply discoveries to practical problems (Razzouk, R., & Shute, V. 2012). The purpose of this paper is to explore the foreign policy of Pakistan during the Imran Khan regime, which began in 2018 and expired in 2022. To do so, a positivist approach (i.e., using empirical evidence) is used to identify how Pakistan has conducted its international relations since Mr. Khan became Prime Minister, while a deductive approach (i.e., drawing logical conclusions from observed data) is used to assess key successes and failures of Mr. Khan's foreign policy tactics. The data compiled from published sources (both domestic and international), as well as interviews with government officials and experts in the field, is used to gather data on Pakistan's foreign policy during Mr. Khan's regime. Based on this data, a final report is produced that provides an analysis of the successes and failures of Mr. Khan's foreign policy during his time in office, as well as potential strategies for Moving Forward under different circumstances.

A descriptive research strategy was adopted in this study. Additional information about persons or events, as well as their behaviors or patterns of behavior, is offered by using the descriptive-analytic design any investigation's findings and characteristics are described using descriptive analysis or descriptive research. As this research is based on secondary data, the population is not taken as a sample as in primary research-based data. The sample for the current study is taken from articles, news sources, research papers, journals from different websites, and the National Documentation Wing of Pakistan. Qualitative content analysis is used to evaluate the data gathered. The steps involved in data processing include identifying relevant sources of information, assembling and formatting the data into meaningful formats, selecting appropriate analysis methods, and applying them to the dataset. Thus, for data processing for the current study, the Researcher calculates the mean, standard deviation, etc. The data is analyzed by qualitative content analysis.

The Foreign Policy Situation in Pakistan under the PTI Administration

Under Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan's foreign policy landscape was very ambiguous. On the one hand, Khan stressed improved ties with India and expanded trade and economic cooperation; on the other hand, he made it a point to continue supporting jihadist Islamist organizations like the Taliban. Both countries had some gains, but there was also persistent violence in some areas as a result of these balancing

acts, which were mostly inconclusive or mixed. Pakistan has generally remained a significant role on the international stage, although it is still impossible to forecast its future. Khan's first major foreign policy move after being elected Prime Minister in August of 2018 was to travel to India and meet with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. The two leaders discussed a variety of issues, including strengthening trade and economic cooperation, bolstering counterterrorism efforts, as well as increasing military-to-military ties. This marked a shift from the frosty relationship that had been developing between the two countries over the past few years; however, there were some tensions remaining due to Kashmir specifically (Chakma, B. 2020).

Pakistan's main regional competitor, India, continued to be a major focus of Pakistani foreign policy. Khan made improving relations with India a key part of his campaign platform and after taking office he made good on his promises by signing several agreements aimed at increasing trade and economic cooperation. In particular, these deals included an agreement to build a new \$5 billion textile manufacturing plant in Pakistan and another deal to expand the investment relationship between the two countries from \$8 billion to over \$12 billion. These developments suggest that Khan is intent on continuing the economic liberalization policies of his predecessor, Nawaz Sharif (Wu, X., & Ali, S. 2020). Gul, Sherazi 2022 describes that one area in which Islamabad has been reluctant to cooperate with India is in regard to terrorism (Gul, S., & Sherazi, T. Z. 2022). In December of 2018, Indian security forces captured a militant leader known as Burhan Wani who was responsible for leading an armed insurgency against the Indian state. Despite this development, Pakistani officials refused to hand over Wani and tensions between the two countries increased significantly. However, talks between senior diplomats from both countries eventually led to Wani's release in February of 2019.

Pakistan also increased military-to-military ties with several other countries during Khan's tenure, including Russia, the United States, and China. These partnerships are intended to improve coordination among the respective militaries to combat terrorism and other regional threats. Nawaz Sharif had been comparatively less aggressive in expanding military partnerships with foreign countries, which may have given Khan a political advantage in this area (Gul, S., & Sherazi, T. Z. 2022). On July 23, 2018, Khan was sworn in as Pakistan's 29th prime minister, to mixed reviews from both domestic and foreign spectators. Some analysts complimented Khan for his pro-democracy agenda and claimed that he would be better at putting reforms into effect than his predecessor. Others stated that he lacked expertise and a distinct vision for the future of the nation.

The Russia-related foreign policy of Pakistan under the PTI administration:

Ogden 2022 examines that Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia during the PTI government was one of alternating diplomatic support and criticism. The government expressed strong support for Moscow during its 2014 annexation of Crimea but later criticized Putin's military intervention in Syria. In March 2018, Islamabad threatened to suspend trade with Brussels if it did not exempt Pakistan from new sanctions against Russia imposed by the European Union (Ogden, C. (2022). Pakistan's ties with Russia date back to the Cold War, when both countries were part of the Soviet bloc. In recent years, Islamabad has expressed support for Moscow while criticizing its involvement in conflicts in Syria and Ukraine. In March 2018, Pakistan threatened to suspend trade with Brussels if it did not exempt Pakistan from new sanctions against Russia imposed by the European Union. The EU had accused Moscow of interfering in the Italian General Election that same month, a charge Russia has disputed (Ullah, A., & Fatima, N. 2022).

According to Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, Islamabad would "move away from trade with those who are imposing sanctions on Russia." He also decried it as a "betrayal of trust" that the US had influenced Europe to impose the sanctions. Russian military action in Syria, where it has been supporting President Bashar al-Assad, has raised concerns among Pakistani leaders. In a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in October 2017, Prime Minister Khan criticised Moscow for its involvement in the problem. In support of Riyadh's efforts in Yemen, Pakistan dispatched troops to Saudi Arabia later that month as part of a coalition led by the United Arab Emirates (Ogden, C. 2022). Pakistan also joined China and other countries in abstaining from voting on a UN resolution condemning Israel's construction of settlements in the West Bank. In January 2018, Islamabad announced that it would form a joint military committee with Beijing to cooperate on defense and security issues. Belarus is Pakistan's sixth-largest trading partner and the two countries have signed several agreements to boost trade (Shivamurthy, A. G. 2022). In May 2018, Belarus appointed an ambassador to Islamabad, marking the first time that a European country has had an embassy in Pakistan since 2002. Pakistan and Belarus are also working together on energy projects. In October 2017, Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) awarded a contract worth \$2 billion to Belarussian company Power Minsk for the construction of two thermal power plants in Sindh. In November 2017, the two countries signed an agreement to develop a uranium mine in Baluchistan. In January 2018, Pakistan and Belarus agreed to launch a joint industrial corridor project worth \$1 billion. Pakistan and Belarus signed several agreements to boost trade (Abbasi, K. R., Hussain, K., Haddad, A. M., Salman, A., & Ozturk, I. 2022).

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, arrived in Russia on September 5th to attend the BRICS Summit. This was his first foreign trip as Prime Minister, and it is hoped that this would help improve bilateral relations between the two countries. The summit was hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin and discuss a range of issues including trade, energy, terrorism, and global security (Asghar, N., & Amjad, M. A. 2022). Imran Khan has stated that one of his main objectives for this visit is to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Pakistan is one of the largest recipients of Russian investment. There are several joint projects between the two nations, such as constructing a nuclear power plant in Karachi. The Prime Minister was also scheduled to meet with Russian business leaders and discuss ways in which trade can be increased. The BRICS Summit has been described as an important meeting for global cooperation, and it was hoped that the summit would help improve relations between Russia and Pakistan (Ganguly, Š. (2022).

The Modifications to Pakistan's Foreign Policy under the PTI Government

The Pakistani foreign policy during the PTI government has been primarily focused on improving relations with both India and Afghanistan (Iqbal, S. (2018)). As a competing force in South Asia, India was mainly viewed with hostility by the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) administration. India, which has long accused Islamabad of backing militants operating inside Indian territory, views Imran Khan's promise to mend fences with that country as a huge accomplishment. (Corsi, M. 2020). Khan also supports closer ties with Afghanistan, the long-time regional rival of Pakistan. Khan's government has been vocal in its criticism of the Trump Administration's policy towards Afghanistan and has urged Islamabad to play a greater role in reconciliation efforts between Kabul and southern Afghanistan (Barman, J. 2022). Overall, despite some policy changes, analysts Sulehria say that much of Pakistan's foreign policy under PTI remains unchanged from that under previous governments. PTI has maintained to promote close connections with Beijing and

Washington, two of Pakistan's most important friends, while also upholding long-standing ties with India and Afghanistan, two of Islamabad's competitors in the area. Imran Khan, the party's leader, has made remarks that raised doubts about a potential reconciliation between Islamabad and New Delhi (Sulehria, F. 2022).

Effects of Pakistan's new foreign policy under the PTI administration

Since the start of 2018, Pakistan has been under the rule of a new government. Shakil and Yilmaz 2021 describe that the party that led this change is known as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) (Shakil, K., & Yilmaz, I. (2021)). The foreign policy of Pakistan has seen some notable changes under this administration. Their approach to relations with India is one such development. Islamabad had previously kept its official antagonism towards New Delhi because of the latter's military and nuclear capabilities. However, PTI appears committed to enhancing ties with India in order to support economic growth and collaboration between the two nations. At first, this change in policy received a lot of criticism from within Pakistan. According to Nitza Makowska 2022, many people saw it as a betrayal of Pakistani nationalism and an attempt to appease India instead of building strong ties with Islamabad's allies in the region (Nitza-Makowska, A. 2022). However, after some time it has become clear that PTI is actually serious about improving relations with India and moving towards cooperation rather than conflict. This shift has had a significant impact on Pakistan's relationship with its key ally China as well. In the past, Beijing had urged Islamabad to maintain a hard line towards India in order to advance its interests. Chinese perception of Pakistan has changed from being seen as a danger to one of cooperation under PTI's leadership. This is probably because PTI prioritizes collaboration and growth over conflict. Overall, Xie, and Warner analyze the impact of change in Pakistani foreign policy during PTI's rule is still being seen by analysts and observers. However, it appears that this shift towards improved relations with India and China is having a positive impact on Pakistan's economy and overall security (Xie, L., & Warner, J. 2022).

Results and Discussion

Pakistan has a complicated history when it comes to foreign policy. During the 1970s, the country was highly anti-Western and aligned with countries such as North Korea and China. However, in recent years they have made some significant changes. Today, Pakistan's main priority is to stay on good terms with all major powers, including the United States, Russia, and China. While also maintaining good relationships with neighboring countries such as India and Afghanistan. The primary goal of the PTI government's foreign policy is to make Pakistan more secure and prosperous by increasing diplomatic ties with other countries. A strong relationship between two countries is based on trust, and that trust is built over time through open communication. The best way for a country to ensure its safety and prosperity is by helping other countries do the same; this idea is known as soft power because it does not involve any direct threats or use of force but instead uses diplomacy and cultural influence to encourage other countries to follow suit (Nagra, R. K. 2022).

PTI's foreign policy with china

Since Imran Khan became Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2018, he has shown a strong desire to improve ties with China. This was demonstrated by the fact that his first visit abroad as Prime Minister was to Beijing. He also showed a willingness to improve relations with India, stopping in New Delhi on the way back from his visit to Beijing China (Nagra, R. K. 2022). China and India, meanwhile, have not yet returned the favor. Due to the fact that China and Pakistan have historically been seen as close

allies in geopolitical matters, it makes sense that these two nations would want to keep their relations cordial so that they can continue collaborating on shared objectives.

PTI's foreign policy with Afghanistan

One of the first significant steps taken by Imran Khan as Prime Minister of Pakistan was to issue an invitation to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to visit Pakistan (Iqbal, A. C. R. K. 2019). Both presidents expressed their commitment to enhancing bilateral ties and advancing peace at a press conference they held in Kabul, Afghanistan, in April 2019. Pakistan's main trading partner is Afghanistan, with imports and exports totaling \$1 billion USD in 2018. Since 2008, trade between the two nations has multiplied by four. Trade links between the two nations will be bolstered and will continue to expand under PTI. Additionally, Pakistani engineers have been hired to assist in the construction of Afghanistan's new parliament building, which Japan is funding with USD 200 million (Ali, G. 2022).

PTI's foreign policy with India

The PTI and the new administration have made it clear that they aim to alter Pakistan's relationship with India. Imran Khan has stated that he wants to work hard to strengthen ties with India and that he will soon send a senior minister to Delhi for negotiations. It is important to note that this position is one of the few things the PTI shares with the PMLN, a rival party that also desired to strengthen ties with India. The real query is how they propose to go about accomplishing those objectives. Will they choose the same path they did before? Or will they choose a more radical strategy? Since their first public gathering was not shown on television, PTI might adopt a more aggressive stance than the PMLN did (Ali, G. 2022).

PTI's foreign policy with Turkey and Iran

One of the few nations in the world having close links to both Iran and Turkey is Pakistan. This was evidenced by Prime Minister Imran Khan's trip to Turkey's capital city of Ankara in December 2018, where he met with Recep Tayyip Erdogan and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations. As NATO members, Pakistan and Turkey also have a tight relationship (Hussain, M. 2008).

PTI's foreign policy with Europe

PTI and the European Union (E.U.) have a mutual interest in maintaining an open dialogue on critical issues of mutual interest. The EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade of €22.4 billion in 2017, accounting for over 20% of Pakistan's total exports. Pakistan and the E.U. signed a Trade Agreement in 2006, which entered into force on 1 January 2010. In 2016, both countries launched negotiations to upgrade the existing agreement to cover services and public procurement (Hussain, M. 2008). These negotiations are ongoing, but there has been little progress so far because both sides lack clarity about their intentions toward each other. The European Union is also one of the significant sources of foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

PTI's foreign policy in Saudi Arabia

On the other side, Pakistan has a long-standing alliance with Saudi Arabia and a close relationship with the country. The two nations have friendly relations while Prime Minister Imran Khan has been in office. He spoke with King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud during his visit in 2018, and both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fostering

current connections between their nations (Fatima, A. 2018). They also discussed matters related to regional peace and stability and ways for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade investment, energy, defense and counter-terrorism.

PTI's foreign policy and Russia

Russia has a long history of both cooperation and conflict with Pakistan. Russia is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and is one of the three major nuclear powers, which makes it an essential player in regional and global politics. Russia has been increasing economic cooperation with Pakistan for some time now, including arms sales, construction projects, energy sector investments, and export credits. Russia may also be interested in investing in Pakistan to diversify its holdings away from U.S. Treasury bonds (Raza, A. 2022). This strategy has been embraced by the present administration, which has made overt attempts to build connections with nearby nations like India and Afghanistan. This will help decrease violence in all three countries while creating new economic opportunities through increased cross-border trade. For instance, enabling trucks transporting goods from one nation to another to pass through checkpoints without stopping would save businesses a lot of money on transportation costs and speed up delivery, allowing customers to receive their items more quickly. The secondary results of the PTI's foreign policy can be broken down into three main categories: increased trade with other countries, increased diplomatic relations with other countries, and decreased violence within Pakistan itself. The first category is one in which there has been an increase in trade between Pakistan and other countries. For example, there has been an increase in Chinese investment within Pakistan. This means more jobs will be created within Pakistan, and more revenue will come into the country from abroad. Another example would be how Pakistan has become one of India's largest trading partners; this indicates a strong relationship between these two neighboring nations, who have historically had trouble getting along with each other due to their different ideologies and beliefs (Khan, H. U. 2019).

The second category deals with increased diplomatic relations between other countries and Pakistan. For instance, China has always been seen as a close ally to Pakistan because they share similar interests and goals when it comes to geopolitical matters; therefore, it makes sense that these two countries would want to maintain close ties with one another so that they can continue working together on common goals like containing radical Islamic terrorism throughout the region. The third category refers to a decrease in violence within Pakistan itself. For example, there has been a decrease in terrorist attacks within Pakistani cities such as Karachi or Lahore; this indicates that the government can keep its citizens safe from harm by taking action against those who would cause them harm. Overall, the PTI's foreign policy during their time in power was successful because they were able to accomplish what they set out to do, namely, make significant strides toward achieving peace throughout the region while also maintaining positive relationships with neighboring countries such as India and China by opening up new channels of communication and dialogue between them so that we can all work together toward shared goals like containing radical Islamic terrorism throughout the region.

- Pakistan will try to maintain good relations with all countries by being non-partisan and non-ideological in its foreign policy.
- The country will continue to have strong economic ties with China and Saudi Arabia, but it will also seek closer relationships with other countries like Russia and the United States.

- It will focus on strengthening its military defenses by purchasing arms from multiple sources rather than relying too heavily on any one supplier.

Geographically speaking, Pakistan is surrounded by water on all sides (except a small border with Afghanistan). This makes it difficult for any one country to invade Pakistan without coming through another country first (Lieven, A. 2012).

As such, we can expect that the countries around us will play an essential role in our foreign policy decisions. Furthermore, many of these nations share a long history with Pakistan (or with one another). For instance, India and Pakistan have been at odds for a long time and are expected to keep doing so in the future. On the other hand, Iran and Turkey are our allies and we can count on them to be that way in the future. Finally, it is important to keep positive connections with everyone because even while some nations, like China, may currently be neutral towards us, they might not always be so in the future. We must also consider how other global powers perceive us. Some nations may want us to align ourselves with them; others might want us to stay out of their business entirely. Either way, it is vital that we maintain healthy relationships across the board, but without making any one nation feel like we are choosing them over another.

Pakistan has been through a lot in the past few years. The country went through an election where they had to find a new government after the military overthrew the previous one. After several months of negotiations, the party that won (PTI) was finally able to take power and start its term. From day one, one of its main goals has been to improve relations with all its neighbors, especially India. Despite some initial bumps in relations, things seem to be slowly changing for the better (Khan, H. U. 2019). Here is a brief overview of how Pakistan's foreign policy changed during this period and what impact it may have had on relationships with neighboring countries. In today's world, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the foreign policy of any given country. This is especially true when it comes to Pakistan, as its recent political history has been full of commotion and change. To help better understand how the Pakistani government has handled international affairs during the PTI regime, this paper provides an analysis of Pakistan's Foreign Policy from 2018 to 2022 (Shivamurthy, A. G. 2022).

First and foremost, one notable element of Pakistani foreign policy during this period was its focus on relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan invested enormous resources in attempting to strengthen ties between Islamabad and Kabul throughout 2018 and 2019. For instance, both nations decided to start repatriating illegal immigrants who had entered either country unlawfully in May 2019. During this time, military-to-military cooperation between the two nations also grew significantly; joint drills were conducted in a number of locations, including Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K.P.). Additionally, while Islamabad did not abandon its commitment to fight terrorism globally, as evidenced by several high-profile terrorist raids carried out by law enforcement agencies, it made efforts towards improving relations with key global partners such as China and Saudi Arabia. These partnerships were essential for expanding counter-terrorism cooperation beyond North Africa, where most terror groups active in Europe are based. Further evidence that Pakistan seeks improved ties with major powers can be found in its decision not to sign onto Security Council Resolution 2375 (Allen, S. H., & Yuen, A. 2022).

Pakistan's foreign policy during the tenure of Prime Minister Imran Khan has been one marked by instability and strategic reversals. This paper explores these phenomena in detail, drawing on several sources to develop an argument about why Pakistani foreign policy under PTI has been so problematic. First, while Khan campaigned on a platform of change and "reforming" Pakistan's image abroad, his

government largely maintained continuity with Pakistan's past policies. In particular, although outwardly critical of India, Islamabad embraced vital elements of Delhi's strategic doctrine - such as maintaining close ties to all militant groups operating in Kashmiri territories and refusing to engage constructively with New Delhi over the dispute over Jammu & Kashmir (Holslag, J. 2009). Second, despite seemingly recognizing that this approach was not working and seeking new allies inside and outside the region (including Russia), Khan instead chose to deepen relations with Beijing - ignoring warnings from within his military establishment about the risks involved. Finally, notwithstanding Nawaz Sharif's efforts at rapprochement following years of bilateral animosity under Pervez Musharraf (Khan openly rejected these overtures), recent months have seen renewed tensions between Islamabad and Rawalpindi exacerbated by reckless behaviour from senior officials linked directly or indirectly to PM Khan (Ganguly, S. 2022). While it is too early for definitive judgment, it seems clear that many long-standing problems inherent in Pakistani foreign policy are still very much alive. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has been pursuing a policy of increased isolationism over the past few years. This paper explores this claim and analyzes how effective this strategy has been in geopolitics and national security.

First, it is essential to understand what isolationism is defined as. The definition given by Merriam-Webster Dictionary states that "isolationist behavior or policy seeks to reduce international contact and cooperation between nations." In other words, isolating oneself from the global community would be a positive step to protect one's interests. Anger towards India was at its peak under former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who frequently accused India of violating Pakistani sovereignty and meddling in internal affairs. His successor, Imran Khan, took a more conciliatory stance towards India, which may have backfired spectacularly. Instead of capitalizing on anti-India sentiment among segments of Pakistani society, he called for better relations with New Delhi. This shift from hard-line policies likely resulted from two factors: first, Khan lacked support within his party; second, significant progress had already been made in bilateral ties during Sharif's tenure. The logic behind increased diplomatic engagement with neighboring countries makes sense; if neighboring countries are willing to cooperate with Islamabad, it makes little sense for Pakistan to alienate them even further by engaging in hostile rhetoric or unilateral actions, however, while diplomacy may be beneficial overall.

Conclusion

The study finds that, in order to improve the relationship between Pakistan and India, the Government should prioritize economic development and welfare over military engagements with India. Additionally, it is recommended that the government emphasize the importance of democracy and human rights in its dealings with other countries. Furthermore, it is advised that the Government continue to improve the transparency of its political process and strengthen oversight institutions. The analysis of foreign policy of Pakistan concluded that the country has a number of issues that it needs to address in order to improve its relationship with India. In terms of promoting religious freedom and tolerance, the study recommends that Pakistan continue to develop stronger ties with its neighbors, particularly India and Afghanistan. Additionally, it is recommended that Sharif promote dialogue between different faiths in order to build understanding and respect for one another. Finally, the report suggests that Pakistan should emphasize economic development over weapons deals with other countries in order to improve the welfare of its citizens. The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the PTI regime was based on the zero-sum game approach where Pakistan tried to gain as much by pushing Afghanistan away from

India. PTI government changed that policy and now wants inclusive growth for both countries, which is necessary for stability in the region. Pakistan has not been able to capitalize on its significant geo-political assets vis--vis China, given Beijing's strategic patience over Islamabad's failure to comply with Beijing's wishes regarding certain security issues, including terrorism, extremism, and violations of territorial integrity in eastern Sri Lanka. It remains to be seen what Pakistan will do in the future when its biggest enemy comes knocking once again on its door. Pakistan's foreign policy under Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif was quite different from that of PTI. While the two leaders expressed their desire to strengthen relations with the U.S. and China, they also pursued pro-Russia and anti-India policies, respectively. In fact, they even came close to supporting the Kashmir insurgency due to its support in resolving the dispute between India and Pakistan. The current Pakistani government has been pursuing a similar foreign policy since taking over power in 2018. It shows no signs of changing course anytime soon.

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