



RESEARCH PAPER**U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Assessing Pakistan's Role in U.S. Strategy for South Asia**

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ABSTRACT

This work analyzed the relationship between the United States and Pakistan with consideration of Pakistan's strategic position in US South Asian strategy. For most of the Cold War, Pakistan aided the United States and, more recently, it has cooperated in counter-terrorism after the September 11 attacks. Based on secondary data sources included historical records, policy documents, and journal articles, the study have found that Pakistan had important role in Afghanistan stability, counter-terrorism cooperation, and in US-China relations despite the low level of trust between two countries. With regard to relation, the research suggested counter terrorism cooperation, deepening economic cooperation through TIFA, and raising diplomacy to manage geo strategic rivalry with China to move forward towards establishing healthier and beneficial partnership.

KEYWORDS Afghanistan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Counterterrorism, South Asia, Strategic Partnership, U. S. -Pakistan Relations

Introduction

The relations between the USA and Pakistan since the early seventies to the present context depict a strategic partnership and concomitant mutual mistrust and competition. These developments have resulted in a dynamic bilateral relationship between Russia and China during the past decades with reference to regional and global politics. While in the recent years, the bilateral relationship between the USA and Pakistan has encountered several issue areas and fora, especially when looking at the context of the re-strategizing of the U.S in South Asian region. This article seeks to evaluate this strategy by determining how Pakistan fits into the bigger picture of this strategy, going by the past, the present, and the future of the Pakistan-United States relations. Bipolarity is the pattern that has characterized the US-Pakistan relationship over the years, sometimes having a friendly relationship and at other times, seeming to be at loggerheads. Throughout the Cold War, Pakistan emerged as an important partner to the U. S. that assisted the country in the fight against the Soviet influence in South Asia. This was cemented by the different cooperation in the government military and financial support and which saw Pakistan side with Afghanistan when it was engaged in the Soviet Union in the 1980s. However, over the years, contrary to former friendship, the relations were strained starting from the 90s over Pakistan's nuclear program and its alleged sponsoring of militant Islamism. However, the U. S. and Pakistan relationship was significantly shaped and had a major transformation

after the 9/11 terrorism incident in 2001. Being one of the frontline partners in the United States' led 'War on terror,' Pakistan played an instrumental support to the U. S. in Afghan war. Nevertheless, mutual work was accompanied by a number of concerns; among them were actions taken by Pakistan for supporting movements which became a threat to the US stability in Afghanistan including the Taliban and Haqqani Network. The present state of U. S. Pakistan relations are in context of post-9/11 and the larger U. S strategy towards South Asian countries which involves both counter terrorism and regional stability along with economic cooperation. The Obama administration's "AfPak" strategy that encased both Afghanistan and Pakistan in a unified warfare format presented Pakistan as a significant element of strategic importance for the United States in regional policies (Cooperation between the United States and Pakistan, 2020). However, the level of mistrust and unequal interests erased any doubt on the type of relationship between them. The strategy unveiled in 2017 has been quite different from the policy that was pursued by the Obama administration. Focusing on the conditions-based approach, the strategy outlined the need to ramp pressure on Pakistan to do more to adopt an effective strategy to counter-reduce the use and support of terrorist organizations in their country. This approach included suspending security assistance to Pakistan, which strained bilateral relations further (The U. S. -Pakistan Relationship: [It's Complicated: NO Longer Husband Material But Far From Divorce, 2021). However there were some attempts to bring Pakistan into a diplomatic fold, emphasizing its possible value in mediations between the government and the Taliban.

Therefore, Between the United States and Pakistan, new dynamics in the bilateral relations are emerging after Biden took the presidency. The American exit in Afghanistan in 2021 has changes the structural dynamics and thus there are questions on where Pakistan stands in serving as the guarantor for stability in the area (Pakistan and U. S - Pakistan Relations, 2023). Pakistan's strategic location and the increasing influence of militancy in Afghanistan has made it remain an important component in the US policies. Security concerns are an important facet of US ASA strategy where Pakistan has to play an important part for providing security to the embargoed regimes of Middle East and for containing internal threats of terrorism. In the area of security, the cooperation of Pakistan in respect of counter-terrorism and in restoration of security in the region cannot be overemphasized. The U. S. continues to seek Pakistan's support in addressing the threats posed by terrorist groups and in facilitating peace in Afghanistan (Strategic Competition: Why Pakistan Matters: The Oxford Handbook of the Pakistan Economy (2020), The Economic Corridor of Pakistan: A Critical Assessment (2020), and The Pakistan Development Perspective Plan 2020 by CPC. Furthermore, the U. S. intends to provide for its interests in South Asia by mediating the relationship it has with Pakistan and India and the latter two countries; the Obama administration understands that, with both countries possessing nuclear weapons, any hostility in between the two nations can lead to devastating consequences. Economically, it has a vital position in the development of the region and establishing required connectivity. In the diplomatic context, in the context of the United States, Pakistan assumes a significant position by orchestrating the many facets that permeate the South Asian region, including ties with China and India as well as Afghanistan. Although there have been numerous instances of sharp differences between the two countries, the United States understands, and appreciates the need to enlist Pakistan as an ally in its foreign policies pursuing statecraft in South Asian region with emphasis on the Afghan issue. It is, however, essential to consider Pakistan's diplomatic power since it has a historical connection and influence (Sethi, 2023) with the region as an advantage in the United States strategy.

Over the years, the Pakistan-US partnership remains as an important factor for consideration in the US strategy for South Asian region. At the same time, there are prospects for interaction and improving relations although relations persistently remain complicated. A little more understanding of context and current state of perceiving the role of Pakistan in this strategy allows to consider its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the perspective of the relations between the United States and Pakistan. In conclusion the relationship is changing and complicated as we observe new world map. Therefore, for the common security, economic, and diplomacy goals both of the states the U. S, and Pakistan should look for the ways of cooperation and readability. The early relations between the US and Pakistan hint at the define characteristics of relationship that exists in both today. This conflict-sensitivity it appears requires new thinking that would factor past experiences and embrace future prospects given the shifts in the political map and strategic interests of both nations. Before delving into the topic of 'Pakistan's role in US strategy for South Asia', it would be beneficial to provide a general outlook of what Pakistan's tactical usefulness means to the overall United States South Asian strategy as well as to the society and analysts in the future pertaining to the forthcoming scenarios and strategies.

Literature Review

Relations between USA and Pakistan are quite historical complicated by political structures, conflicts over the Middle East, and political and economic interests at large. This affiliation was actualized during the early years of the Cold War when Pakistan became a member of the U. S. -aligned SEATO and later CENTO (Hilali, 2020). This alliance was mainly achieved out of fear of Soviet influence over the South Asian region as was the strategic plan of the U. S. The Cold War created a new significant bond between the U. S and Pakistan back during 1980s when Soviet invaded Afghanistan. Pakistan was among the frontline states that formed part of the U. S. sponsored cooperation for the Afghan Mujahideen, by benefiting from both military and financial assistance (Gates, 2014). However, a new relationship emerged of declining American interest in Pakistan after the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan and what followed was near hostile relations between the two countries. The relationship witnessed a revival which became imperative post 9/11 because Pakistan was declared a major non-NATO ally in the US led war on terror. There were increasing concern in the foreign policies of United States especially after the 9/11 attacks because Pakistan helped the United States by provision of strategic locations for performing military operations in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, this cooperation has been shaped by a historical conflict with elements of mutual non-recognition characterized by disagreements over questions such as Pakistani support for terrorist organizations and its nuclear capabilities (Fair, 2014). After the tragedy of 9/11, Pakistan emerged vital for the U. S. in combating terrorism due to its geographical location in relation to Afghanistan and its control over many nearly militant groups. To ensure the cooperation of Pakistan, the United States offered significant military and economic support to the nation to fight terrorism and reinforcement the stability in the region (Hussain, 2019). Nonetheless, this partnership has been known to be dominated by misted trust and mistrust. In particular, the US has accused Pakistan of this or that kind of duplicity, such as sponsoring some terrorists while fighting against others, as well as supporting the terrorists that are useful to Pakistan, such as the Haqqani network and Afghan Taliban (Kaplan, 2011).

In addition, one of the issues for concern is Pakistan nuclear capability which has been a major concern. The U. S had shown constant concern on the safety of Pakistan's nuclear capability and its risks for nuclear proliferation. These issues have from time to time given rise to conflict especially when boosts with perceived threats of nuclear

materialization in the hands of terrorists (Khan, 2018). Another focal area of cooperation that has significantly contributed to the bilateral ties of between U.S and Pakistan is in the economic aspects. Of which the promulgation of the U. S. -Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is an effort to strengthen the two countries' economic partnership. Yet, political exigencies in both the donor and recipient countries, Global South included, have generally defined economic aid and multilateral cooperation more in terms of political and military imperatives than in developmental terms (Nasr, 2013).

Traditional power dynamics of superpowers have also shown signs of volatility: The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 has added further uncertainty to the equation. The policy on South Asia, particularly on Afghanistan has changed following the Taliban's insurgency, and the increase in terrorism resulting in the U.S seeking for stability and counter-terrorism tactics amid its relations with Pakistan. This change has ensured that Pakistan remains a critical player in the US grand strategy in the region, despite the complex and fast-developing animosity between the two countries (Jones, 2021). This paper involved analyzing the bond between the United States and Pakistan which is one of the most complex relations with moments of strategic partnership and mutual mistrust. Pakistan has remained imperative to the U. S strategy for the South Asian region in the context of both counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency, regional stability along with the containment of China. Future prospects of this relationship will therefore depend on taking stock of their concerns and realizing common interests that have economic and strategic perspectives.

Pakistan's Role in U.S. Strategy for South Asia

The role Pakistan has come to play in the U. S approach towards South Asia is quite significant. Currently, Pakistan is considered by the U.S to be strategic partner for containing regional threat, support in counter terrorism operation and as counter balance to China. Pakistan's role is defensive, where it provides military assistance or services, shares intelligence, and engages in economic relations.

In the first place, from geographical point of view, Pakistan has a rather unique status of an immediately neighboring country which in the context of the U. S. strategy towards Afghanistan is crucial for a conflict-free Afghanistan. Pakistan has allowed the use of its territory to supply U. S. and NATO troops, and its help is essential for any restoration of the peace related to the Taliban (Hussain, 2019). Despite this fact, the U. S has often pressurized Pakistan to press the Taliban into negotiations although the outcome has often been mediocre. In the second place, counter terrorism cooperation has been an important feature of the relations between the U.S and Pakistan. Terrorism and insurgency have also been a causative factor that has seen Pakistan receive billions of aid to deal with this issue (Markey, 2013). Nevertheless, this cooperation seems to have come with a number of difficulties such as alleged dual aliphism where Pakistan provides support to some militants and fights other militants for U. S. (Kaplan, 2011)

Additionally, it underscores the fact that the United States also sees Pakistan in a broader fight with China as a strategic competitor. A colossal project named the China Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC that comes under China's Belt and Road Initiative holds strategic indicators for America in the region as well (Siddiqui, 2019). Although the U.S. has indicted CPEC as complicating its interests, it understands the necessity of engaging Pakistan to counter China's burgeoning power. Pakistan's support is needed by USA in the effort to counter-terrorism especially in exercising efforts against groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Information exchange regarding possible terrorist threats between the two countries has resulted into the arrest of critical terrorist networks but the deficit of

trust still persist (Haqqani, 2013). Nevertheless, Pakistan's strategic actions imply this as a kind of a formula of checking how far it can go responding to America's demands and how much it would be screwed furthering its own security requirements especially with its arch rival India and another crucial neighbor Afghanistan.

In addition, the economic interaction of the parties between the U. S. and Pakistan has been primarily aimed at creating a stable economy. The U. S. as the leading power has funded different development initiatives in Pakistan to foster economic growth and negate negative influences of extremism by uplifting the living standards (Runde, 2021). Although efforts are beneficial, they at times face bureaucratic and political obstacles in Pakistan, hence restraining their effectiveness.

Relations between the USA and Pakistan are not limited to this focal area and have another dimension arising from the strategic rivalry with china. The CPEC has been an issue of debate, especially under the perception of the U.S whereby envisaged as a pathway through which China get to not only exert its grip over South Asian but also the entire world (Siddiqui, 2019). However, the U. S. also understands that losing Pakistan could lead the country towards its strategic rival, China, in return the U. S. tries to engage Pakistan through economic relations and development partnership as a way to mitigate the impact of China influence.

Pakistan plays significant strategic part in The United States of America's strategic planning in South Asia and has various functions in that framework. It aims at counterterrorism cooperation, promoting stability in Afghanistan and managing the competing USA -China relations. Despite the ceaseless problems like eroding mutual trust and clashing interests, Pakistan holds strategic significance in relation to overall US interest to maintain and sustain the relationship. Managing these vectors will determine the stability of the relations between the U. S. and Pakistan in future.

Challenges in US Pakistan Relations

The future of U. S. -Pakistan bilateral relations depends on how to manage and/or leverage the following breakthroughs. The events that took place in Afghanistan in 2021, most notably the withdrawal of the US and the take over of Afghanistan by the Taliban have consequent implications for the region and subsequently changed the analysis of its strategy towards Pakistan (Jones, 2021). Thus, preventing Afghanistan from coming under the terrorists' control is likely to become the key goal emphasizing the focus on the maintenance of stability in Central Asia. Incessant economic cooperation is an opportunity to build effective bilateral relations. The bilateral relations can be further improved to foster mutual interests such as the enhancement for U.S-Pakistan trade relation vented through TIFA (Nasr, 2013). There are several ways that enhanced economic relations can curb anti-American sentiments or contribute positively to the perception of the U. S in the country. However, the bilateral relationship put in trouble. The use of nuclear energy, coupled with the link between Pakistan and militant groups regarding its nuclear weapons, remains a topic of discussion. The U.S has always been concerned with the safety of nukes in Pakistan and dilution of these arms (Khan, 2018). Moreover, some unresolved issues such as Pakistani scientists' aid and support for organizations like the Haqqani network also affect the mutual confidence.

Thirdly, the strategic partnership of the U.S. with India brings in another dimension that Pakistan does not like, especially in the sector of defense and strategy (Tellis, 2016). Nicozisis purpose of moderating relations between India and Pakistan will be difficult for the U. S. policymakers. While the relations between the U.S. and Pakistan have elements

of cooperation as well as conflict. Pakistan plays a significant role for the U. Taking into account mutual interests and outlining priorities and concerns both states will be able to develop further this relationship and expand the spheres of economic and strategic partnership.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation of this study of the relations between the United States and Pakistan and the roles of Pakistan in American strategic perspective for South Asia mainly consist of realism and constructivism. Theoretically, realism perspective that highlights the centrality of states operating in an anarchic system where security and power are at the centre offers a basic framework for understanding US-Pakistan relationship (Morgenthau, 2006). This outlook can assist in understanding key components such as the defense cooperation and military relations between both countries as well as the general geopolitical interactions within the framework of security and counter-terrorism measures in the region.

In contrast, Constructivism will provide an understanding of the part played by identification, norms and perceptions and their directive on the relationship between U. S and Pakistan. Ironically, due to the social constructivist perspective, the present book finds this approach particularly helpful in explaining how elements like mistrust, past animosity, and variations in the narratives of different nations affect policy-making and bilateral relations (Wendt 1999). The strengths of the theoretical frameworks point to the ability of the TRR to incorporate aspects related to the material structure and ideational nature of the relations between the United States and Pakistan.

Material and Methods

This research resorts to secondary data analysis as its chief methodological technique. Secondary data analysis include using of data that had been collected by other researchers or organizational bodies for other study questions h (Johnston, 2014). This method will be particularly useful in analysing the U. S. -Pakistan relationship given that there exists a large body of work in from Government departments, policy makers as well as academic journals on the subject.

Data Sources

Reliable source as learned journals and books written by specialists in international relations and South Asianists offer history and theoretical ideas in relation to U. S -Pakistan Relations. Accompanying these sources, there are certain official documents and sources – governmental bodies of the United States and Pakistan like Department of State, Department of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan etc., are very helpful in providing information regarding the policies and bids made by them. These sources is shaped by other findings and policy advises from modern think tanks resulting from Brookings Institution, The Council on Foreign Relations and the United States Institute of Peace among other institutions reports and policy briefs. Furthermore, other reliable sources available for up-to-date news on the state and affairs regarding the U. S. and Pakistan relationship are The New York Time, the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC), Dawn etc.

Data Analysis

The data analysis process involves several steps:

Data Collection

Relevant data from the aforementioned sources are systematically collected and cataloged. This includes historical data, policy documents, and contemporary analyses.

Contextual Analysis

The data are then discussed in the backdrop of the theoretical rationale in forms of realism and constructivism in relation to empirical outcomes. Pakistan and USA relations have been a “love and hate relationship” in a larger sense but this being diplomatic relations, the feeling has been somewhat controlled and masked throughout the years. The tumultuous relations of the United States towards Pakistan are characterized by cooperation and rivalry especially regarding terrorism fight and the rivalry of China.

After 9/11 tragedy it was a frontline partner of USA in war against terrorism helping militarily in executing consolidated war in Afghanistan. This alliance has provided a big boost to terrorism fight along with military and financial support from the United States needed for Pakistan to stabilize this region. However, the relationship has been characterized by high levels of suspicion, especially on the part of the USA on Pakistan’s support for outlawed militant outfits like the Taliban and the Haqqani Network. These groups have been deemed as having posed threats to the U. S. interests in Afghanistan hence the ongoing disagreements between these two countries.

In the Obama years, the term “AfPak”, which combined Afghanistan and Pakistan as a single area of operation, revealed the significance of the Pakistan factor. However, this also raised the problems of effective cooperation facing two systems that cannot trust each other and which have divergent interests. I had one basic strategy in mind when designing the cooperation in both countries and it was based on the synergy of the efforts, but again, because of certain specifics of the US-Pakistan relations it was sometimes difficult to achieve.

However, Trump administration came up with conditions-based approach and this policy aims at escalating pressure on Pakistan to increase its counter-terrorism efforts. This change in policy also involved halting of security aid to Pakistan with the expectation that it would put pressure on Pakistan to act more forcibly against the terrorists. Fateful earlier though this strategy put a pressure on bilateral relations, it also tried to solve the question of Pakistan’s ‘double game’ – the support of some militants and fight against others.

Thus the US pull out from Afghanistan can be said to be a turning point in terms of US-Pakistan relations. This development required a fresh assessment of US policy in South Asia, now that it had to include making certain that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe haven for terrorists. Pakistan was even more important in these circumstances because of its readiness to play peace-maker in Afghanistan and its geographic position. Nevertheless, it remains important for Washington and Islamabad to stay partners on various issues adversely affecting stability in South Asia.

This paper examines that in the Biden administration, new trends are unfolding in the U. S. -Pakistan relations more so bearing in mind the withdrawal of the U. S. forces from Afghanistan. This paper also provides the evidentiary information that Pakistan’s importance for the regional security especially because of militant groups and geographical advantage that it has for the U. S. reminds impeccable. The administration has kept some level of dialogue with Pakistan, mainly regarding counter terrorism and regional security.

Economic diplomacy is also one of the significant aspects of the bilateral relations as well as the diplomacy that surround it. The U. S. -Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) or any other agreement with the same intent holds the key towards opening the door to stability of both countries economically. Nevertheless, such attempts are not exempted from political and bureaucratic constraints within the context of Pakistan, thus their functionality remains somewhat undermined. Thus economic cooperation is seen as a way of contributing to Creating socio-economic conditions to combat extremism and radicalization in the region.

As you all must be aware, another element in the U. S. - Pakistan relations is the middle of a geopolitical struggle with China. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), being one of the most prominent lines of the Belt and Road initiative by China, holds its relation with the US interest. Although, the U. S has certain apprehension regarding the CPEC since it might lead to higher Chinese presence in the country; however, it, at the same time, understands the need to incline Pakistan for preventing over influence of China. It is in this context that one can explain the fact that numerous of the key strategic decisions made by the Pakistani leadership over the past several years was aimed at following U. S. dictates while simultaneously safeguarding the country's interests in the South Asian region, namely vis-a-vis China and India.

However, the importance of Pakistan to U. S. interest in South Asia cannot be overlooked in these challenging circumstances. To U. S. counterterrorism goal, stability of the region and other geopolitical enmities, Pakistan plays a significant role. By carefully analyzing various issues the two parties are facing to, it is important to build a partnership based on the emphasis of trust with meaningful stakes in economic cooperation as well as establishing strategic partnership.

Speaking in conclusion, refers to the fact that the partnership between the U.S. and Pakistan is a comprehensive one, an intricate one, and a strategic partnership that is marked with a certain degree of mistrust. This remained an important security relationship for years, however, due to some of the new directions in the U. S policies as well as regional security factors and the shifting reliance on the strategic partnering of Pakistan. Developing a strategy how to deal with those complexities and encouraging cooperation with Pakistan will become crucial for further evolution of US-Pakistan relations and creation of a sui generis environment in which both countries are able to develop and seize opportunities towards the future. This paper aims at highlighting the need for further cooperation with and between the US and Pakistan to sustain this bilateral relationship due to their impact and relevance in counter terrorism, business and the stabilization of the region.

Future Prospects of US-Pakistan Relations

The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations hinges on effectively managing a complex array of geopolitical challenges and opportunities. Counterterrorism efforts will remain central, with Pakistan's strategic location and influence over militant groups being crucial for U.S. security objectives in South Asia. Ensuring Afghanistan does not become a terrorist haven will necessitate continued intelligence sharing and military cooperation, supported by stringent accountability measures. Economic engagement presents significant potential for strengthening bilateral ties, with initiatives like the U.S.-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) fostering deeper economic relations and socio-economic stability. This engagement will also help mitigate anti-American sentiments in Pakistan.

Geopolitical competition with China, particularly regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will be a key factor. While the U.S. views CPEC as a challenge, offering alternative development projects and economic incentives could balance China's influence. Diplomatic efforts will also focus on balancing relations with both India and Pakistan, requiring nuanced diplomacy to manage regional stability. Security concerns, especially regarding Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and non-proliferation, will remain critical, necessitating enhanced cooperation on nuclear security measures.

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan necessitates a strategic reassessment, emphasizing regional stability and redefining the U.S.-Pakistan partnership to address new security challenges. Strengthening people-to-people ties through educational and cultural exchanges can build mutual understanding and goodwill, fostering long-term cooperation. In summary, the future of U.S.-Pakistan relations will depend on managing counterterrorism, enhancing economic engagement, navigating geopolitical competition, balancing regional diplomatic relations, ensuring nuclear security, reassessing strategic priorities post-Afghanistan, and strengthening people-to-people connections. With sustained diplomatic engagement and strategic foresight, this bilateral partnership can continue to serve the strategic interests of both nations.

Conclusion

The nature of the United States - Pakistan relations can best be described as an on-and-off strategic partnership tainted with mutual mistrust based on regional and geopolitical factors. With historical significance considering Pak-US relations, Pakistan has been a strategic partner of the U. S during the Cold War as well as the post-September 11 War against Terrorism. However, there are everlasting conflicts of concerns including Pakistan's continuation of developing nuclear power and sanctuary to sources like the Taliban and Haqqani Network despite receiving military and economic support from America. The Obama administration's strategic approach, dubbed the AfPak strategy, pointed to Pakistan's importance in the region while at the same time, revealing the degree of distrust and different interests at play. The security assistance which was provided previously was reduced during the Trump administration due to its conditions based approach and it worsen the relations by suspending the aid to force Pakistan to improve its counter-terrorism efforts. The recent U. S. retrenchment from Afghanistan required a tactical shift in focus, and the Pakistan-India-crises highlighted the importance of Pakistan in maintaining stability and PREVENTING Afghanistan from becoming a terrorist INFESTED country.

The change in direction has now become clear under Biden Administration, especially in the aftermath of the Taliban take over in Afghanistan. Thus, the role of Pakistan remains crucial for America's objectives or security and power balance in the region particularly Counterterrorism and the power struggle with China. Trade and investment cooperation is still important for economic growth and stability, though the partnership is not immune to bureaucratic and, especially, political issues within the Pakistani side; however, historical cooperation and potential can be continued in the format of the U. S. - Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). Geopolitical rivalry with China, especially CPEC introduces one of the most significant layers to the U. S. - Pakistan relations, while the L. U. S. surrendered to seek involvement of Pakistan for regulating China's influence in this region. Going forward, it shall be contingent upon how the two countries would coordinate in counter terrorism activities, the kinds and volume of economic interactions, the regional diplomatic dynamics the two countries shall support and how they shall tackle security issues especially on proliferation of nuclear weapons. In addition to joint business and economic cooperation, friendly

relations with other countries can count on enhancing people's mutual understanding and cooperation in the sphere of educational and cultural exchange. Managing and seizing these challenges and opportunities in the framework of stable diplomatic cooperation and future-oriented approaches will be crucial for having a more dynamic, effective, and mutually beneficial partnership.

Recommendations

Drawing from the analysis of US-Pakistan relations, the following strategic suggestions are recommended in order to improve this bilateral relationship. Therefore, the U. S should intensify countering terrorism cooperation with Pakistan while making necessary efforts to ensure that the cooperation embraces onerously transparent processes and measures. In this regard, other mechanisms of economic cooperation, such as TIFA, should be intensified to create, on the one hand, positive expectations for mutual enrichment and, on the other hand, reduce anti-American sentiments. It is time to rethink: having run into new threats in the post-Afghanistan world, there should be efforts to maintain the security of the countries in the area. Managing China's rise, especially with the nexus it has established through CPEC, starts with counterpoising projects like CAA and engaging in a more sophisticated diplomacy with India. Hence, it is the policy of the present government to foster educational and cultural exchanges that strengthen cooperation in the long run. Proprietary nuclear power and perpetual diplomatic activity is important for maintaining nuclear security. This will strengthen Pakistani and regional influence through smart diplomacy, where distrust is eliminated through advocacy of open channels of communication and collaborative efforts.

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