

Embryonic World Order: Implications For Pakistan's Foreign Policy, Geopolitical Agendas And Foreign Affairs

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Abstract

The paper is a systematic review, based on secondary research outcomes and highlights the realism perspective which is of significant importance in understanding the post 9/11 emerging world order, realignments and implications for Pakistan, a thorough discussion has been made by considering various aspects of the changing world order after 9/11. This study has made a contribution by compiling the important findings regarding the geo-economics, geo politics and other aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy. The important concepts of world order, incident of 9/11 and impact on the foreign policy of Pakistan has been discussed. The research determines to serve objectives such as the Emerging World Order, Realignments and Implications for Pakistan, the association of Pakistan's present political and economic condition with relation to international orders and capture the current picture of the Pakistan's emerging foreign policy and condition of international relations. The findings of the research illustrate how the incident of 9/11 has drastically changed the world economy, particularly of Pakistan. Since then, Pakistan has to bear a huge cost being a Muslim country and an ally to United States. Further the challenges and opportunities have been discussed with association to the present foreign policy realignments.

Key Words: New World Order, Pakistan, China, India, United States, Global Politics, Foreign Policy, Peace and Security

Introduction

U.S. presence in Afghanistan since 9/11, the 2005 US-India strategic partnership and the Indo-Afghanistan strategic partnership, posed a challenge to the Pak-Afghan-India relations. The Northern Alliance strengthened its ties with the U.S. and India at the cost of Pakistan (Inayat, 2013). Pakistan became the US's frontline ally in the battle against terrorism in Afghanistan as a non-NATO supporter. Pakistan's foreign policy, which had been non-aligned, was quickly pushed by dependency on the U.S. With such a strategic location in South Asia, major challenges to Pakistan's survival arose from the regional

politics i.e. tensions with Afghanistan, the Kashmir conflict and Indus basin water dispute (Kundi, 2009).

In geopolitical terms, the U.S. policy of incorporating coastal states of the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific into a cooperative strategic partnership architecture, such as Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, and Indonesia, is bolstering its strategic outreach while on the other hand, provoking Chinese reservations about the U.S. policy. Although the U.S. sought to emphasize that this cooperation framework was not intended to be unfriendly to China, it was being

implemented in the present political and economic situation to assist preserve the value-based alliance (Khan, 2015).

The 9/11 attacks changed the relations between the two countries (Levi and Wall, 2004), U.S. quickly identified Al-Qaeda organization as the only culprit and regarded terrorism as a global security problem. U.S. launched a military operation in Afghanistan against al-Qaeda on October 7, 2001 and within a few months, the International Security Assistance Force had taken key cities in Afghanistan (Afzal, Iqbal and Inayat, 2012). Pakistan's relations with the U.S. and China have altered after major geopolitical events. Post 9/11 global political developments and the increasing Indo-US strategic partnership forced Pakistan to seek strategic collaboration with China in for a power balance in South Asia (Maqsood, 2021). Pakistan was an important Cold War actor, and its grand culmination in Afghanistan (1979–88) was crucial. Even after the defeated Soviet army departed Afghanistan and the enormous American CIA operational unit was disassembled from Islamabad, the spectra of that conflict and its numerous manifestations still haunts Pakistan. Afghanistan has a huge influence on Pakistan's security, whether they are caused by natural calamities or the Taliban government's radical ideas (Shah, 2001). Pakistan faced a new type of terrorism as a result of a shift in its foreign policy. Suicide bombers and the indiscriminate targeting of foreigners were the first manifestations. International pressure could never force Pakistan to openly halt the operations of Jihadi/fundamentalist organizations (Kundi and Faiqa, 2005).

After the Cold War, the dimensions of Pakistan's global relations were assessed, and historical alliances and interconnections were examined (Mazhar & Goraya, 2013). Pakistan played a mixed role in maintaining operational access to Afghanistan after 2001. While diplomatic and economic instruments were helpful in persuading

Pakistan to support and providing access to Afghanistan, they were inadequate in gaining access to areas of vital interests, depriving the U.S. of its strategic goal of eliminating terrorism that had come to rely on Pakistan as a safe haven (Rossbach, 2021).

After 9/11, Pakistan had to deal with a lot of problems while staying true to national goals. Pakistan began to assess its foreign policy alternatives, seeking new ways to engage as a result of its major strategy toward China and the Golden Ring for Security. Pakistan, China, Iran, Turkey, and Russia formed the Golden Ring, an influential group, since 2016. Pakistan selected new pathways to create a balance of power in South Asia and maintain a multi-pronged foreign policy front. General Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's president (1999-2018), could not deny the U.S. plea for assistance in the battle against terrorism. Pakistan and China are committed to collaborating to safeguard their independence and expand their economies. The significance of China and Pakistan's strategic partnership in the construction of Gwadar Port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor cannot be overstated. Through Gwadar, Pakistan may promote economic growth and strengthen strategic connections with other nations. The participation of Russia in the CPEC, could provide longstanding investment, security, and stability to the region. Lines of communication connecting Pakistan and Russia via Central Asian countries might be another game-changer in the region, since they will boost regional commerce (Mumtaz, Ramzan, and Gul, 2018).

Pakistan's prosperity would impact regional and global stability. Pakistan has developed into a prominent actor with a distinct identity. All of its major interests must now be safeguarded and preserved at all costs. Pakistan should demonstrate and conduct a principled foreign policy in order to promote its national interests. Pakistan, as an ideology state, seeks to improve

connections with Islamic countries while also campaigning for the rights of underdeveloped countries in general and Muslim countries in particular.

Theoretical Framework

To better understand the dynamics of Pak-US ties, the realism method was used to investigate major events that happened after 2000 that affected Pakistan's foreign affairs. The major realism kinds of classical and structural realism have been combined to prove Pakistan's conduct. The most well-known and generally believed theory of international relations is realism. Realism, is an approach to international politics that emphasizes the situation's challenging and conflictual aspects.

Realists argue that states are the dominating force in the global arena because they are concerned about their stability, operate in pursuit of their strategic interests, and compete for domination. The greatest drawback of realists' growing concentration on power and self-interest is their skepticism of the value of moral norms in interstate interactions (Karpowicz, 2017). In an anarchic world, realism holds that global politics is a heated competition among self-interested countries for strength, fame, and social position (Zaidi & Ahmad, 2021). After 9/11 incident, the realism approach would lead to a better understanding of the Emerging World Order, Adjustments, and Consequences for Pakistan. One of the approaches used to govern the international political process is foreign policy. It may be described as the efforts made by governments to maintain international relationships. Realism is a simple notion that every country wants to increase its power for development in international system.

According to the reasoning, any nation's primary purpose is to defend itself while accumulating power. If it is possible to attain national goals by lying and violence, the state will not follow moral

principles. Every state, on the other hand, is self-contained and unaffected by intrinsic society, which might influence interstate relations. They can only start dating if they both agree. A realist thinks that in an anarchic society, state authority is the only way to protect and survive because it is the only way to defend and survive. Because they place such a high value on chaos and power, realists have a negative opinion of international law and institutions.

Global Politics: Post 9/11 World Order

The globe politics ushered in a new age of global securitization and international security politics became the primary source of all-important policies. Pak-US alliance turned Pakistan into a battleground in the war on terror, and faced a high human and material loss (Makinen, 2002). A hallmark of modern international politics is the emergence of an increasingly multifaceted net of interconnectivity. India and China are also cooperating with each other but the simmering tensions between India and China may escalate, which could be disastrous since both states are nuclear powers. China and India commercial partners and the trade of both states rely on the same maritime channels. It's possible that their mutual desire for marine routes may compel them to forge an alliance that may be indirectly hostile to the U.S. (Howell & Lind, 2009).

The war on terror heightened national and international security concerns. Anti-terrorist legislation, policies, and practices were enacted all over the world in response to the perceived danger of terrorism (Stares, Jia, Tocci, Jaishankar and Kortunov, 2020). Many alliances were formed throughout the world in order to improve specific countries' geopolitical and geo-economic positions e.g.

- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Forum for the Latin American Progress and Development (PROSUR)
- Russia-Syria-Iraq Coalition (RSII)
- Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan
- Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)
- Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation (FCT)

The purpose of these partnerships is to secure economic, political, and geographical frontiers. The alliances have a substantial impact on allied nations' foreign policy shifts and realignments. Following the 9/11, China's global exposure has expanded, China, by focusing on its foreign policy frameworks, has improved its international connections. It has created agreements with Russia to protect international links, reached an agreement with North Korea for the mutual defense of the two nations. As a result of developments in global foreign policy reforms, China formed official and informal alliances. Despite some of its real and perceived hard power qualities, the U.S has very little influence on global outcomes if power is defined as the ability to learn and shape political events (Camroux & Okfen, 2004).

Although the interests of China and Pakistan appear to be aligned for the time being, the weight of Pakistan's huge debt has increased Chinese presence in Pakistan. China's BRI poses the strategic threat to US. As a result of the new world order, significant changes in international relations occurred. A shift in conflict lines from the horizontal to the vertical realm, between governments and social actors, underpins the new global order (Kakihara, 2003).

Despite the magnificence of foreign aid, great power interference in smaller states may generate resentment and resistance, limiting great actors' influence can cause more liabilities than benefits, especially when those states' vital national interests differ. Although China may be able to get access to certain regions using the diplomatic and economic instruments, the financial costs may be prohibitive. Debt-stricken countries such as Pakistan, which require interminable financial bailouts, may jeopardize China's ambition.

Impact on Peace and Security of Pakistan

India and Pakistan are on different strategic tracks, the gap between misperceptions and security perspectives, posing a serious threat to the region's strategic dynamics. In recent years, regionalism and regional security have grown increasingly essential. Pakistan and India have been viewed as rivals since their establishment. Now, India has reservations about the CPEC route via Gilgit-Baltistan, which is part of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir state and is classified as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India is apprehensive that Pakistan may legalize Gilgit-Baltistan as a fifth province, allowing Pakistan to expand its control over Kashmir. India has voiced its opposition to this idea (Curtis, 2012, 255). India urged China to cancel the project and called it as unacceptable since it passed through a disputed part of Kashmir. India also had reservations about the Chinese laborers and engineers on the project. Chinese involvement was considered as a threat to India's security interests. China's growing influence in South Asia effectively fill the hole created by the US's unwillingness to invest in Pakistan. The U.S. has aided Pakistan militarily and financially in the past, but it has never been interested in constructing infrastructural development projects (Jaleel, Naureen and Mahesar, 2018). The projected megaprojects would not only provide Pakistan with huge economic and commercial benefits, but will also give Pakistan tremendous

geopolitical leverage over India. Indian territorial ambitions in Pakistan's northern territories would be deterred by China's presence. Pakistan's security and economic prosperity would both benefit from this.

Terrorism became a global issue, extremism reached an all-time high in Pakistan, and the security situation was awful. Many of people died and thousands were wounded as a result of terrorist assaults, the surge in violence had a particularly negative impact in FATA and KPK (Ahmed, 2016). Pakistan's security situation was deteriorating on a daily basis, necessitating immediate action to address the security issues. Pakistan's economy had suffered a lot as a result of its active participation in the war on terror. The government was unable to negotiate any agreement with foreign parties due to the scenario.

The U.S. foreign policy suggested a fundamental shift in U.S. international relations after 9/11. The attack's repercussions resulted in a new world order which adversely struck Europe, Asia, and the Middle East in particular, international links shifted dramatically and foreign relations were badly affected. Anti-terrorism legislation and regulations became a significant part of international relations (Kakihara, 2003). Western world united to combat terrorists across the world. Pakistan's President, General Pervez Musharraf, had no choice but to assess his options in such a predicament. Since 9/11, Pakistan's foreign policy objectives have taken a number of detours. During the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan was an ardent backer of U.S. Pakistan had no option but to pursue its interests in conformity with the U.S. plan, according to the principles of rational choice theory. Pakistan's foreign policy decisions changed as regional and local variables changed (Ahmad & Hashmi, 2021).

The various alterations in the new global order were uncovered, the threat of terrorism escalated

and all the states sought to protect their weapons in order to prevent widespread tragedy. Changes in foreign policy are prioritizing tactics to deal with the potential for severe damage as a result of terrorist activities, which is one of the most important revolutions in international relations. The U.S. has transitioned from being a superpower to just influencing other countries. China and Russia have begun to exert influence on the world through allies and international relations.

The importance of diplomatic and economic instruments was frequently eclipsed by larger geopolitical considerations that compelled the U.S. and Pakistan to align their interests. The U.S. used diplomacy to influence Pakistan when their vital interests were aligned; however, when their interest separated, diplomatic instruments proved mostly ineffective.

As a result of prolonged aggression, deformation, decelerating trade, stagnation in export and a corresponding law and order situation, Pakistan unavoidably became mired in crisis. Pakistan has the most comprehensive threat assessments in the world. China, an emerging economic power, India with huge industrial and human resources, intense conflicts with Pakistan over the Kashmir; Iran and Afghanistan, a source of internal tension and instability; and the Arabian Sea, as a gateway to Central Asia through Gwadar. Pakistan's most populous provinces have substantial ethnic and tribal ties across the Afghan border, while Kashmir's status on the Indian side remains unresolved. Pakistan's domestic politics are still closely linked to the political relations of its neighbors (Akbar, 2011).

Pakistan Strategic & Economic Relations with China

Pak-China relationship has been always friendly and durable in the changing geopolitical situations. India says China's operational control of Gwadar enfolds it, despite the fact that Gwadar

is barely 400 kilometers from the Strait of Hormuz, providing it a shorter way to the world's second largest oil customer, China, the other argument is that neither China nor India is powerful enough to make these claims realistic (Sumit, 2004). In terms of the region's emerging strategic dynamics, the shift from traditional state behavior to an advanced one where states are increasing interdependencies formed by economic requirements, political imperatives for welfare maximization, and democratic politics has a direct impact on India and Pakistan's foreign and security policies. The security has evolved into a structurally conditioned social benefit. At the same time, this transformation in global structural politics has had an impact on India's and Pakistan's strategic orientations, national identities, instrumental and interaction preferences (Andrew, 2015)

The CPEC intends to connect Pakistan's undeveloped province of Baluchistan with China's underdeveloped region of Xinjiang. China has surpassed the U.S. as the world's top oil importer as a burgeoning economic powerhouse. The CPEC is the shortest and safest route for oil imports. Furthermore, CPEC has helped to elevate China's western regions out of poverty. China has implemented initiatives that will boost the Chinese economy's profitability (Jaleel, Talha and Mahesar, 2018). China's substantial investment depends on Pakistan's security and stability. The CPEC may convert Pakistan into an energy transit corridor and regional commercial powerhouse by providing financial assistance for infrastructure development. In addition, this collaboration acts as a check on India's colonial ambitions in South Asia (Maqsood, 2021). The CPEC provides Pakistan with an opportunity to address its difficulties and enhance its population's living conditions. Pakistan's economy is in shambles, compounded by the war on terror and internal security concerns. Furthermore, the country is coping with an energy crisis that is limiting its

economic development. Pakistan is extremely important to the China. Beijing's Belt and Road program would be nearly impossible without Pakistan. China's geopolitical goals require Pakistan's strategic position and access to the sea.

Chinese investments in Pakistan as part of the Belt and Road initiative will boost Pakistan's global trade value. Stronger marine transport linkages with Gulf States and Africa can also assist Pakistan in expanding its commercial ties. Pakistan will benefit from regional integration and a collaborative pursuit of sustainable development in a peaceful and stable environment. If Pakistan can create a functional and efficient train supply route to Turkey via Iran, it will improve its access to the European market (Ozkizilcik, 2022).

Pakistan's Diplomatic Relations with United States

Pakistan was coerced into joining the U.S. war on terror, which it fought tenaciously and produced the best results whilst also suffering the most of Pakistan's security forces' accomplishments infuriated both the U.S. and India. When the heavily fortified grips of Swat and South Waziristan were overrun in 2009, FATA's tribal agencies except North Waziristan, were recaptured in 2010, and the ISAF was forced to abandon and announce a withdrawal due to the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the befuddled Obama and U.S took their rage out on Pakistan (Burki, 2010). Throughout the war, the U.S. and its strategic partners conspired to derail Pakistan's nuclear program. Pakistan was critical to the success of Afghan peace talks that resulted in the historic Doha agreement, the launch of an intra-Afghan dialogue, and the Taliban's failure to attack foreign military targets. It played a historic role in evacuating and housing numerous people of US-NATO forces, US diplomats, IMF and World Bank officials and Afghan nationals from Kabul (Pandey, 2018). Pakistan's sacrifices

and efforts to please the U.S. were scorned and blamed for the war's catastrophic conclusion.

Other crucial challenges included the IMF's pressure on Pakistan to further devalue its currency and raise taxes on energy resources, the FATF's reluctance to clear Pakistan, and Indian threat of a surgical strike. The U.S. encourages India's bellicosity. Under the circumstances, India may be the U.S. preferred South Asian partner (Karim, 2022).

Pakistan received significant military and economic assistance, to compete security threats from Afghanistan and India, over the Durand Line Indian and Kashmir issue. During the 1965 Indo-Pak war, this warmth in its relations with the U.S. began to fade and Pakistan gained diplomatic and material support from China. But for the sake of security from hostile India and sensitive geopolitics, Pakistan joined U.S. military alliances and became a member of the SEATO and CENTO after adhering to the Eisenhower doctrine, which required U.S. military and diplomatic support in the event of communist aggression (Mahesar, April 23, 2022).

The international community's warm attitude toward India's intentions to achieve regional hegemony further justified Pakistan's nuclear weapons development to create nuclear deterrence. During the U.S.-Soviet war in Afghanistan, Pakistan received massive economic and military assistance from U.S. During this time, the U.S. allowed Pakistan to continue its nuclear program.

At the end of the Cold War, the U.S. levied sanctions under the Pressler Amendment and stopped aid to Pakistan. Pakistani continued to insist at international forums, that the Taliban takeover has not damaged Afghanistan rather after the Taliban takeover, there has been no fierceness and the security situation has improved. Given the changing security dimensions of the region, Pakistan's geo-strategic

significance due to economic connectivity are important factors to influence the international diplomacy in its favor.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Changes over the Years

Foreign policy is defined as a state's actions toward the external environment and the conditions under which international acts are generated (Younas, 2003), external elements and national determinants have a significant impact on the design and orientation of a state's foreign policy (Gimba and Ibrahim, 2018). Pakistan has always aligned its foreign policy with Western goals (Kundi and Faiqa, 2005). Pakistan's foreign policy has been characterized by self-denial in the past. External factors, particularly the U.S. are blamed for defining Pakistan's foreign policy, although several local elements also provide challenges. The ideology of Pakistan occupies a special place in its foreign policy and has always been a top priority (Akbar, 2011). Pakistan's foreign policy is hampered not just by its commitments in Kashmir and limits in Afghanistan, but also by its unclear regional position, as seen by the country's shaky relations with Iran. Pakistan's connections with China, were not as strong in the 1990s as they had been in the past. China has made it clear that Pakistan must put the Kashmir issue on hold and peacefully live with India. China has made significant progress in its relations with India. Pakistan's stance of steadfast support for Muslim countries and causes has been badly damaged.

Pakistan's anti-Israel approach appears to have lost credibility, given that Palestinians and Israelis, have been communicating directly to each other since the commencement of the 1993 Oslo peace process. Many Arab countries have reached an agreement with Israel, and Pakistan is trying to justify its policy. In actuality, numerous Middle Eastern countries that Pakistan has aided in the past, such as Iran, Jordan, and Turkey, have recently shown signs of disinterest (Shah, 2010).

After 9/11, Pakistan's foreign policy took a turn, the Talibanization of Afghanistan, which started with Pakistan's active aid, was rapidly rejected under the core-periphery relationship. Pakistan expressed its support for the U.S strong military presence in Afghanistan. Pakistan's foreign policy toward India had also shifted significantly. The reactivation of abandoned motorways, the normalization of cross-border trade, the relaxing of visa restrictions, and the signing of a slew of protocols were all evidence of a reformed Pakistani foreign policy (Khan, 2005).

Pakistan aided US efforts in the area at the expense of its own core interests, but the US has always responded by adopting double standards. From 1947 until U.S. 2001 U-turn on Afghanistan, Pakistan has backed all accords and directions with sincerity and devotion. Pakistan joined the SEATO and CENTO coalitions, which were cobbled together by the US in a fit of Pactomania. Around 1959, Pakistan gave American intelligence and monitoring facilities in the Peshawar area due to that a diplomatic row broke out between two Pakistan and Russia (Sunawar and Coutto, 2015) and Russia warned Pakistan against providing land facilities to U.S. for surveillance and espionage objectives. The US-Pakistan relationship is notable for its backing for huge military regimes and managed democracies in Pakistan, rather than a true representative government (Sattar, 2009) Internal policies regarding tolerance and moderation must be enacted to resist extremism. As a fundamental planning technique to foster societal peace, Pakistan incorporated extremism and terrorist concerns into policies and development programs. Many countries in the region accepted much stiffer combating terrorism stances as a result of wars, while others saw them as a geopolitical opportunity to reshape local security policy and realign themselves with the U.S. (The Diplomat, 13 Sep, 2021).

Pakistan's threat perceptions have grown as India's military strength and conventional weaponry have improved. India's testing of unconventional weapons in 1974 heightened Pakistan's sense of vulnerability and provided the impetus for the development of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the Pakistani government must revitalize its relations with the U.S through digital and non-digital diplomacy, as well as carefully manage the situation created by the foreign conspiracy-related narrative of regime change. Pakistan's security and foreign policymakers first focused on the international strategic environment. Since 9/11, Pakistan has concentrated on regional security because the regional security climate primarily affects Pakistan. The stability of Afghanistan, India's regional hegemony plans, Pakistan-Iran relations, and the CPEC is currently the primary geostrategic problems influencing Pakistan's foreign policy.

A Rule Based Order

Rule based order signifies the supremacy of U.S. in cultural values, political ideology and economic system. After World War-II, U.S. and its allies propagated the idea that the non-western allies should abide by the rule-based liberal order. The declining dominance of U.S. has raised questions over its global hegemony. It has been facing increasing economic challenges as a result of domestic stagnation, whereas the GDP of Asian countries has been steadily increasing. China's upward economic expansion over the last two decades has posed a threat to the economic and political management in international arena, U.S. danger assessments are at all-time high, U.S. has been devising strategies to counter China. The AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and the U.S) security collaboration has sent shockwaves throughout Asia and Europe thus destabilizing both regions. Moreover, Indo-Pacific region is seen as a geopolitical clash between U.S. and China, the AUKUS countries

have praised their efforts to assist peace and stability in the region by sending nuclear-powered submarines to Australia. The agreement might trigger an arms race, putting the region's security in jeopardy. In the South China Sea, it has also conquered islands and developed port facilities (Makwana, 2022). China has developed significantly in technology, acquiring Anti-Access and Area-Denial capabilities, as well as hypersonic capabilities. This has significantly altered the nature of U.S.-China combat. U.S. is a maritime power and its prowess depends on the seas. As international trade expands, the seas have become increasingly important to U.S.

Furthermore, technological advancement and its usage under the ocean bed is creating a space for future problems in territorial seas. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the sole global legal framework that controls the law of the seas, and the U.S. is the only government that has signed, but not yet approved it (WEF, 2022). Similarly, the U.S. believes that relying on UNCLOS arrangements and expecting that other nations follow the same pattern will ensure its ability to traverse unhindered on missions and patrols.

Conservative and liberal presidential administrations have relied on Reagan's precedent to legitimate and direct the Freedom of Navigation Program (FONOP) in sensitive areas such as the South and East China Seas. The U.S. has been projecting strength in the Indo-Pacific through the FONOP while maintaining the protection of its allies (Makwana, 2022). The growing dominance of China and Russia has caused an alarming situation in the West, particularly in the US. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, affecting the world's greatest economies and imposing lockdowns, the U.S. has been working hard to use all of its resources, allies, and even NATO to put pressure on both to ensure its relevance in the ever-changing international order.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy Implications and Realignment

After 9/11, the collaboration between Pakistan and the U.S. was obscured by unequal relationship status, resulting in major ramifications for Pakistan. Pakistan suffered greatly on political and strategic fronts in changing geopolitical circumstances caused by U.S military operations in Afghanistan. The magnitude of the implications, which were primarily driven by U.S. security politics, put a huge dent in the country's overall sustainable development and was forced to face additional military and strategic compulsions. There were numerous policy differences between the U.S. and Pakistan, ranging from the drone operations in Pakistan, to the strategic partnership. This imposed a new layer of consequences on Pakistan's governmental system, encompassing economic, military, political, and social consequences.

Pakistan changed its foreign policy from geopolitics to geo-economics. Geopolitical competition among major powers has threatened international peace and made diplomacy unpredictable. Geo-economics refers to the use of geography as a tool for maximizing economic well-being. Concentration on geo-economics would help minimize the consequences of escalating U.S.-China competition. While Pakistan believes that geo-economics would maximize its self-interest, the international system may hinder it; Pakistan cannot ignore geopolitics.

Pakistan is in a strategic location, surrounded by Afghanistan, Iran, China, and India, which presents both problems and possibilities. Pakistan's policy reversal after 9/11 was purely pragmatic. Pakistan was obliged to assist the U.S. in dislodging the hardline Islamist administration that Pakistan's military establishment saw as crucial to the country's security after spending the previous seven years assisting the Taliban. The

U.S. considered Pakistan's large store of Afghan intelligence vital to launching military action against the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

However, the reversal was not simple. The threat of U.S. annihilation if Pakistan did not comply was a powerful argument in favor of the policy shift. The U.S. has previously been promised logistical help and access to all of India's military facilities. India had approved its airbase in Farkhor, Tajikistan, on the Afghan border, for American soldiers to use (Akram, 2021). Fears of an American-Indian alliance leading to Pakistan's designation as a terrorist state swung the decision. Ironies abound in the US-Pakistan relationship after 9/11. While U.S. and Pakistan's coordination against Al Qaeda was tremendously efficient, that understanding was lacking when it came to taking action against Taliban commanders in Pakistan's border regions.

Since the start of the CPEC, Pakistan's foreign policy has shifted significantly. The CPEC's goals are consistent with Pakistan's foreign policy principles, which include developing friendly global relations; safeguarding national security and geostrategic interests and ensuring the best possible use of national resources for regional and international cooperation. Pakistan's biggest commercial partner is the U.S. Pakistan's largest export market and a key source of foreign remittances is in the U.S. Pakistan would undoubtedly require U.S. assistance to attain economic stability. Trade, security, and human rights have all been vexing issues in China-U.S. ties since the end of the Cold War.

Challenges & Opportunities for Pakistan

The opportunities and challenges of the evolving global order necessitate a flexible and innovative approach as well as well-articulated statesmanship.

Challenges

Pakistan has faced an existential danger from India since its independence. However, Pakistan's strategic situation has gotten more difficult since 9/11. Pakistan has been fighting terrorism for the past sixteen years. Pakistan's strategic environment has improved as a result of successful military operations against terrorists and the signing of the CPEC agreement with China. India will continue to pose a huge national security danger to Pakistan using Afghan land and isolating Pakistan. Pakistan and China will continue to proceed their long-standing strategic connections with strong economic dimensions. Chinese concerns regarding second phase of CPEC must be addressed which include complicated official procedures, the issue of delayed payments and lack of commercial interaction (IPRI, 2022). Pakistan is trying to create a balance between its connections with the Taliban and the U.S. Pakistan is also having trouble balancing its politico-economic connections with China and the US. Pakistan is confronted with internal difficulties regarding economic instability and political uncertainty connected with the external challenges. The first is dealing with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the second is getting rid of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). According to the IMF, Pakistan must reduce its spending to meet its income.

Opportunities

The withdrawal of NATO from Afghanistan, Russia's comeback, China's growing stakes in Pakistan following the launch of CPEC, and Iran's favorably situated actions have all transformed the regional strategic landscape. As a result, Pakistan has more diplomatic opportunities than in the past, which would aid in the restoration of its economy and the strengthening of its international image. Furthermore, the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan has increased Pakistan's regional importance. The U.S., Russia, and China are

currently requesting Pakistan's assistance in facilitating Afghan reconciliation negotiations (IPRI, 2022). In the framework of the Afghan reconciliation effort, the US-Pakistan relationship is one of the most promising. Pakistan, the US feels, may be a useful partner in the reconciliation process, not necessarily in bringing the Taliban to the table to discuss. Pakistan may persuade the Taliban to speak with Afghan officials, something the Taliban has previously refused to do.

Pakistan has benefited from a shifting global order. This unipolar era may be coming to an end as other countries such as China, India, Russia, and Turkey rise. Several mid-level powers are becoming more powerful. Pakistan maintains positive relations with emerging nations such as China, Russia, and Turkey. As the world grows more multipolar, Pakistan will gain from its partnerships with these growing nations. Pakistan is the central lynchpin in this entire scenario as long as the CPEC survives. After undergoing considerable domestic economic changes and rebranding itself as an open international market, Pakistan can realize its aim for an economics-driven foreign policy.

Conclusion

The event of 9/11 has centered the world on a framework of global security, this framework demonstrates the need for extraordinary measures in the fight against terror. Many nations have seen significant changes in their national dynamics as a result of 9/11. However, Pakistan's consequences were far more severe. Pakistan continues to pay the price of security politics in the form of long-term consequences in a variety of areas, from security to social, political, and economic. Geographical compulsions cannot be eliminated, the historical and political integration of Pakistan's national security with events in Afghanistan is too deep to be scraped out of its policy framework.

However, Pakistan's post-Kabul reality is just as unpredictable as the world's. The future of Pakistan's regional prominence after any new setup in Afghanistan is inextricably linked to the severity of the security politics that the U.S may still pursue in Afghanistan. Because of CPEC and Pakistan's strategic position in the area, strategic collaboration and interdependence between China and Pakistan have expanded dramatically in the post-9/11 era, and this cooperation will continue to grow in the coming years. Both China and Pakistan want Afghanistan to be a part of the CPEC. Pakistan's foreign policy is to establish a peaceful and stable neighborhood. Pakistan has brokered a round of peace talks between the U.S. and the Afghan Taliban, breaking with its history of joining blocs or participating in proxy wars. Pakistan's foreign policy has prioritized regional integration, peaceful cohabitation, and economic development. Regional rivalries, particularly between Iran and Saudi Arabia, can limit Pakistan's options, compelling it to select one over the other. Pakistan's geostrategic and political realignment with China and Russia has aided the country in defusing India's hostile diplomatic posture. Similarly, the CPEC has helped to dispel the notion that Pakistan's geo-economics options are restricted to the U.S.

Pakistan's diplomatic goals are based on resolving the China-U.S. conflict, managing relations with India and Afghanistan. In the face of ongoing geopolitical competition between major powers, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts aim to secure its national interests. However, Pakistan needs to work for peace, protection of human rights, economic cooperation, democratic principles, elimination of terrorism and religious extremism otherwise Pakistan will not be able to restore its credibility, magnify its international image and make progress to become a new power center of the world. Pakistan is going through a crucial time and geo-economic regional cooperation, trade elevation, and economic integration require visionary policies and

practical steps to reinforce its position. Peace and regional stability can promote regional collaboration and long-term sustainable growth, which can assist the country's economic investment and growth. Pakistan needs to focus more on this technique in order to gain legitimacy, alliance, and a prestigious position in the international community.

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