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A Comparative Analysis of Pak-US Relations during Donald Trump and Joe Biden Era

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Article Details

ABSTRACT

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This comparative analysis analyzes the PAK-US relations under President Donald Trump and Joe Biden era revealing significant changes in diplomatic, economic, and security dynamics. Donald Trump's administration focused on transactional diplomacy and heightened pressure on Pakistan to combat terrorism while Joe Biden's administration focused on regional stability, climate cooperation, and cautious re-engagement. However, relations remained constrained due to shifting US priorities towards China and India. Both administrations maintained a pragmatic view of Pakistan, but their engagement and tone varied significantly reflecting broader changes in US foreign policy and regional strategy. Donald Trump criticized Pakistan for supporting terrorist groups, leading to a narrative of war. The US suspended aid and restructured aid policies, affecting Pakistan's military and economic sectors. During the President Joe Biden administration, the relationship switched to counterterrorism and Afghanistan along with US forces departing from Afghanistan in 2021. The future Relations of PAK-US are uncertain due to historical transactional patterns and compulsive factors. .

INTRODUCTION

This research work deals with United State Foreign Policy for Pakistan under US Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The greater power plays important role to shape the foreign policy of small states. US considered diplomatic relations and accept Pakistan on 15th August 1947 and If we focus on US policies towards Pakistan there is no such understanding and opinion. The US has been resource of foreign direct investment in Pakistan and largest export market but had been courage to 'do more' from Pakistan for their national interest during and after Afghan war. Therefore, after the withdrawal of USSR the US changed its strategy interest from Pakistan to India as strategic partner. The 9/11 terror attacks have a major effect on the foreign strategy of PAK-US relations.

The US and Pakistan relations in 21st century have been describing by teamwork and conflict, shaped by a myriad of geopolitical, strategic and domestics factors. Donald Trump's administration recognized Pakistan's to its strategic importance, particularly in facilitating the US and Afghan Taliban peace talks. Donald Trump's stance softened somehow as Pakistan played a moral role to motivate Afghan Taliban on negotiating table which led to the signing of the US-Taliban peace agreement in February 2020 under 'The Doha Accord'. Donald Trump acknowledged Pakistan's cooperation in this context, signaling a more pragmatic approach. President Joe Biden admits that without the help of Pakistan cooperation the US victory cannot be achieved. If Al Qaida and Afghan Taliban were used a Pakistani territory to attack US forces how could American taxpayer allows for financial support to Pakistan. Donald Trump's stance toward Pakistan was characterized by a mix of criticism, for accountability, and a transactional approach centered on security and counterterrorism.

Pakistan-US relations under President Joe Biden administration have navigated a complex landscape shaped by shifting geopolitical priorities and regional dynamics. The Biden administration is reportedly reevaluating the US approach to South Asia emphasizing strategic interests such as collective anti-terrorism action, economic development, and regional stability, the relationship has also faced challenges, including focus over Pakistan's role in Afghanistan and its relationship with China. This period marks a nuanced phase in bilateral relations, balancing long-standing strategic partnerships with evolving policy priorities and regional pressures.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

"Pakistan-US relations under Trump Administration: Opportunities and challenges for Pakistan" written by Khurram Abbas & Muhammad Nawaz Khan (2017) explained that drone attack was

an organizational process by US to deal with war on terror. He examined that the Afghan security and geopolitics tensions offer both opportunities and challenges. The future of US-Pakistan relation is depending on Pakistan security policies. Pakistan is still important to US for its reasonable expectations to US where deserving a positive role playback from Pakistan in the Afghanistan region could maintain peace. Donald Trump has a friendly agenda for Pakistan, focusing on securing the South Asia region and promoting bilateral trade. United State engagement with Islamabad may rely on organizational process depended on new regime policy although in the statement of White House which consider a positive point towards bilateral relations said that no visa extension ban to Pakistan (Khan, 2017). The fresh breath of resolving issue of Kashmir cannot be forgotten by Donald Trump, however he offered twice for mediation over this dispute interview to Hindustan Times and express his feeling to seek peace in South Asia. Whereas Pakistan welcomed him for this offer.

“Prospect for PAK-US relationship under President Biden” written by Shafaat Ullah Shah (2021) define that Pakistan is follower of pro-US policies as part of capitalist block. The bilateral relations of PAK-US have been fluctuate where rising competition between US-China could never be ignore. Pakistan is in condition where US and its strategic partner India are likely to plan to destabilize China and its impact in South Asian region. Pakistan participate with a vital playback in the Doha agreement accord 2020 settlement of US and Afghanistan (Ullah, 2021). The PAK-US relations under the Joe Biden administrations are currently limited to economic and military assistance. even the anti-regional impact from Iran, China and Russia keep pushing the USA for better bilateral relations and still reliance on Pakistan which has geopolitics importance. Both previous presidents, Donald Trump and Barack Obama had a negative perception about Pakistan but later relations have been adjusted due to Joe Biden presidential system bring up with new idea to collective action against counterterrorism.

“Biden need a new Pakistan policy ‘This is what is should look like’” written by Shamila N. Chaudhary and Vali Nasr (2021) define that Pakistan has been not considered of United State foreign policies any more after the twenty years. Because US managing its relations with Greater power in South Asia since climate change pandemic Covid-19 and especially economic crises, moreover US-PAK relations are pushback to down. President Joe Biden administrations considering new policies for bilateral relations with Pakistan due to its geopolitical importance to maintain stability and threat issues in Central Asia, south Asia and west (Nasr, 2021). Pakistan is shifting its strategic partnership with new economic giant where US is planning new policies for

Pakistan-US relations to be strong that's what US new approaches having influence on Pakistan political system. Even Pakistan has offered develop economic support and military aid, collaboration with US technology, climate change moreover to boost its economy by load from financial institutes of USA.

"Donald Trump's Policy and Posture Towards Pakistan: The Emerging Dynamics and Drivers of the Bilateral Ties" explain by Fazal Rabbi, Syed Hamid Mehmood Bukhari and Mahar Munawar and (2022) define that PAK-US relations has been targeted by distrust and renewed acrimony. Trump administrations has tightened the screw on Pakistan for reply on 'Do More' than ever before, where today US view for PAK-US relations is example as Indian lens where, US policy towards Pakistan evolving shift with unwarranted perception. By the Security imperatives and interests PAK-US relations are slide to downwards therefore, growing strategic partnership with India US estimated a regional peace and stability another way, US perceived Pakistan as supportive of militant to destabilize regional peace especially in Afghanistan. US policy to is to observe the ongoing footprint of Beijing and Islamabad depending strategic concern and unity on geo-economic alignment put Pakistan-US relations in danger. Indian wanted to distract the US-PAK relations where perform as a natural partner with US to counter China meanwhile, Donald Trump administration blame Pakistan to support the Afghan Taliban and militant groups. The long-term implications of US Tactical Security Measures Towards China for Pakistan are expected to be significant. (Rabbi, 2022). In this article the writer has explain the Donald trump policies and blame towards Pakistan, where he mentions the security and tactics partnership of Pakistan with China and US on counterterrorism. But the Arthur did not explain much on economic ties of PAK-US relations and analysis with Joe Biden administration which will be discuss in this research study.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Q. 1: How did the foreign policy priorities of the Trump and Biden administrations shape the nature and scope of Pakistan-US relations, particularly in the context of regional security and counterterrorism?

Q. 2: In what ways did shifts in diplomatic, economic, and strategic engagement between the United States and Pakistan under Trump and Biden reflect continuity or change in bilateral relations?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research works a qualitative research design use to provide a deep analysis of US policies

towards Pakistan and their impact on security issues and economical system of Pakistan. The research will use a case study approach to examine specific periods and events, focusing on how US policies have influenced Pakistan's counterterrorism strategies and broader bilateral relations. In the data collection by documents analysis the secondary source will use for analysis of academic books, policy briefs, journal article, reports from policy maker and international organizations that discuss PAK-US relations. For the Case Studies data collection examination of specific events and policies such as the US courage Pakistan for strategic action on militant groups, the impact of US military aid, and the strategic shifts post Afghanistan withdrawal. For data analysis a comparative analysis method to Compare the impact of US policies by different governments Donald Trump and President Joe Biden to understand shifts in strategy and their impact on Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts and bilateral relations. For the Data Validity and Reliability, the Triangulation as multiple data sources, document analysis methods, and case studies to cross verify information and enhance the reliability of findings an expert validation feedback from subject matter to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the data analysis and conclusions. There have been limitations in my research work in accessing classified or sensitive information related to US counterterrorism policies and Pakistan's internal strategies.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ERA 2017-2021

DONALD TRUMP SECURITY POLICIES FOR PAKISTAN

Donald Trump won election as president in 2017 the United State government intensified pressure on Pakistan to call back its troops from Afghanistan. This guide to a narrative war bilateral the two state, with Pakistan preaching "no more" in exchange of US for "do more". In the South Asia Strategy Announcement Donald Trump always blame Pakistan for supporting terrorist groups by the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani Network who had been pointed US forces in Afghanistan. He demanded to take strategic plan against these groups from Pakistan or face consequences. The drone attack in Pakistani regions by United State Air Force targeting militants and causing tensions with the Pakistani government. The Donald Trump administration diplomatically isolated Pakistan, urging other countries to pressure Islamabad to crack down on terrorism. In January 2018, the United State officially cancel approximately 2 billion dollars (Hameed, 2021) in defense aid to Pakistan, including funding for military equipment and reimbursements under the Coalition Support Fund. The Trump administration remained resolute, with senior officials like Mike Pompeo and John Bolton publicly criticizing Pakistan. The US consistently to pressurize Pakistan for constructive role in Afghanistan

particularly by its effect on Taliban.

The designation of several Pakistan based militant groups as terrorist organizations further strains bilateral relations. The Afghan Taliban as point of disputation with United State accusing Pakistan of supporting those Afghan Taliban who were against them and Pakistan condemning US for undermining Pakistan's sacrifices. On New Year's Eve 2018, Donald Trump tweeted that US had paid Pakistan 33 billion dollar accusing the country of contributing to issues and misleading the US. In response, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that the US cannot blame Pakistan accountable for its failures in Afghanistan. This exchange marked a significant low in the relations between the two countries, with both leaders engaging in a contentious back-and-forth. Trump specifically charge Pakistan for secure place for terror heads which further strained their relationship. Under these circumstances, the US put Pakistan on the Financial Action Task Force gray list and pressured Pakistan regarding the removal from Afghanistan. Since 2018, Pakistan had remained on the FATF Gray List, with the US using this status as a means to exert influence.

Trump criticized Pakistan for what he called "lies and deceit" in their long-standing partnership, claiming that the country harbored militants that hinder US efforts in Afghanistan. His tweet brought attention to issues within the 2017 Afghanistan and South Asia Strategy and raised long-standing doubts about Pakistan's trusty as a security partner, with the US accusing Islamabad of playing a "double game" by collaborating with the US while allegedly supporting anti-US militants. Pakistan has suffered over sixty thousand lives and billion dollars in damages (Shah, 2018) due to terrorist attacks since nine eleven war on terror. The Pak-US ties have worsened recently as evidenced by several steps taken against Pakistan. These include the ending of Coalition Support Funds, the suspension of International Military Education and Training programs, and increasingly tough remarks from senior US officials.

DONALD TRUMP ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR PAKISTAN

The US has historically provided support to Pakistan, especially during the Barack Obama administration, recognizing the country's critical role in combating terrorism. However, under the Donald Trump administration, this approach changed considerably. There were increasing concerns regarding Pakistan's alleged double-dealing and its support for Afghan insurgents, which led to a reassessment of aid policies. To promote stricter anti-terrorism measures within Pakistan, the Trump administration implemented conditions on aid, resulting in substantial funding cuts over time. For instance, Pakistan received 2.6 billion dollars from the U.S. military

in 2013 for counter-terrorism efforts, but this amount fell to 1.6 billion dollars in 2015 and dropped further to 350 million dollars by 2018 (Ambreen, 2024). In July 2017, the President Donald Trump withheld 300 million dollars in aid, arguing that Pakistan had failed to adequately dismantle the Haqqani Network.

The Pentagon's Adam Stump has indicated that the Secretary of Defense cannot affirm that Pakistan has taken adequate steps against terrorist groups and networks. As a result, funding for the Government of Pakistan cannot be released at this time. The Donald Trump has urged Congress to amend conditions on the Pakistan CSF, explicitly stating that Islamabad must take significant action to the extremist networks. The administration views assistance as a lever for foreign policy, aiming to press Pakistan to align with US strategic objectives in Afghanistan and the region. Discontent with Pakistan's commitment to combating extremist organizations has prompted this stance. In January 2018 US Ambassador UN Nikki Haley announced that the Trump administration would be withholding aid to Pakistan. Pakistan ambassador of the UN Maleeha Lodhi took a stand for the country's counter-terrorism efforts, suggesting that U.S. spokespersons should take responsibility for their own mistakes instead of deflecting blame. In response, the US state that it would discontinue full defense backup to Pakistan. The Trump administration had previously halted funding, accusing Pakistan of insufficient action against the threats posed by extremists and the Haqqani network operating within its borders. Historically, under the Obama regime the US had provided financial support to Pakistan in return for its cooperation for fight against extremist. However, the Trump administration's approach has seen significant changes driven by concerns over Pakistan double-dealing and its support for the Afghan uprising. There have been claims that US support has not effectively influenced Pakistani behavior leading the Trump administration to impose conditions on aid to push for stricter measures against terrorist groups based in Pakistan. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson cautioned that if Pakistan failed to comply with the Donald Trump administration stance on Afghanistan that would face substantial cuts in US funding. Notably in 2016 the US political party had already blocked Pakistan attempt to acquire fighter jet citing Islamabad's support for the Taliban.

DONALD TRUMP REGIONAL PROSPECTIVE ON PAKISTAN

From 2017 to 2021 the Donald Trump's administrations and US policies toward Pakistan underwent significant shifts reflecting a more transactional and hardline approach. A regional perspective of Trump's policies and their implications for Pakistan started by August, 2017 emphasized a tougher stance on Pakistan for its unity for terrorist network handling in

Afghanistan. In January 2018, the US stop approximately two billion dollars of security assistance to Pakistan, citing insufficient action against militants however, Trump's approach was marked by a "do more" demand linking United State aid and support to Pakistan's actions against terrorism. Trump's rhetoric toward Pakistan was often harsh, including tweets accusing Pakistan of "lies and deceit". This public criticism strained diplomatic relation unlike previous administrations, Trump's team engaged less with Pakistan on broader strategic issues, focusing narrowly on counterterrorism and Afghanistan. Trump's administration strengthened ties with India consider it as a key strategic partner in countering Chines invasion in the South Asia. This shift marginalized Pakistan role in US regional diplomacy. The expressed concerns of United State over China Pakistan Economic Corridor a project of China's Belt and Road Initiative citing debt sustainability and transparency issues. This further alienated Pakistan which saw CPEC as vital for its economic development. In February 2020 the Donald Trump administration confirmation a peace deal with Afghan Taliban in Doha, Qatar with the aim of ending the Afghan war. While Pakistan played a behind-the-scenes role in facilitating talks, the US largely sidelined Pakistan in the formal process, reflecting mistrust. Despite tensions, Pakistan's influence over the Taliban was recognized as crucial for the achievement of the stability process.

However, US remained critical of Pakistan's dual act in supporting the Taliban while claiming to fight terrorism. The suspension of security aid and reduced economic assistance impacted Pakistan's military and economic sectors. Pakistan sought alternative partnerships, particularly with China, to offset the loss of US support. During Trump's tenure, Pakistan faced increased pressure from the Financial Action Task Force to curb terror financing partly due to US lobbying. Pakistan continued on the FATF grey list complicating its access to international financial markets. The Trump administration encouraged Pakistan to be open about its involvement with the Afghan Taliban in the restore efforts in Afghanistan. The US intelligence community has noted the existence of terrorist groups operating within Pakistan and the backing they receive from the country's security agencies (Kaura, 2017) . Dan Coats, the US National Intelligence Director mentions the value of addressing the matters of Pakistan's support for these terrorist organizations before formulating a new strategy for Afghanistan. Director of Defense Intelligence Agency Vincent Stewart argued that Pakistan must carry a positive role in security and stability of Afghanistan which is crucial for all parties involved and any militant network participant could potentially harm the regional security. The United State recent approach to South Asia particularly in relation to India has made the region more complex and influenced the

region. The US offensive neighborhood policy under Modi and President Trump's India-centric approach have made the region "India-locked," causing the region to become "India-locked." The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders appreciated the Modi government foreign policy for Donald Trump threats of aid suspension to Pakistan. This policy has been destabilized by serve as an overseas balancer for almost fifty years.

The US is pushing Pakistan to either align more closely with India in regional matters or to use its relationship with India as a bargaining chip to achieve its own goals. Former President Trump even implied that Pakistan could potentially be managed through its ties with India if necessary. The US has long maintained a significant stance on Pakistan, with consistent pressure coming from the Indian diaspora to influence US policy regarding Monetary and defense assistance to Pakistan. The US-India Political Action Committee is now advocating for a reevaluation of military aid to Pakistan (Chandio, 2018). Trump's policies are likely to increase regional tensions and complicate the situation in Afghanistan. US lawmakers should recognize the delicate nature of the bilateral relations of India and Pakistan as they develop new policies for South Asia.

This region has already seen conflicts in 1947-48, 1965, and 1971. During Donald Trump's presidency the US has bolstered India at the expense of Pakistan, with the Indo-US intelligent relations growing stronger. This has led to enhanced interaction in defense, export and foreign policy. This has impacted Pakistan to fight against terrorism and extremism, potentially shifting power distribution in South Asia, and influencing Pakistan's relations with China. Pakistan, traditionally a past partner with India has depend on the US for defense and financial support (Mohsin, 2024). Since 2011 the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and its effect on rational militancy had a topic of debate among academics and policymakers. President Donald Trump initially opposed the withdrawal, but the Joe Biden administration has considered a complete withdrawal by September 11, 2021. The Afghan government have to motivate Afghan Taliban and brought them to the negotiating table forced by United State. The negotiations have been conducted Since 2018, in Doha, Qatar with other countries like Turkey, Russia, and China hosting some summits for negotiations. Pakistan demanded a gradual withdrawal due to its own problem of jihadist militancy. However, the Afghan Taliban are not sincere to full fill their commitments whether it reconciling with the Afghan government or ousting Al-Qaeda after the US complete withdrawal. The Afghan Taliban are firmly pushing for the total withdrawal of US forces, yet their plans for peace after this exit remain unclear. It appears they are gearing up for a

forceful takeover of Afghanistan following the US pullout. However, their limited numbers and conventional military strength suggest that such an endeavor may not succeed. Their current stance, which favors a military approach over a politically negotiated settlement in Kabul, highlights their determination (Zahid, 2021). Pakistan commitment for peace, civilization and order is crucial for its place in America positive correspondence.

The US military's strength should be increased in Afghanistan to end the long-standing war on terrorism. The Afghan people will decide the upcoming of the country themselves, and the Afghanistan and United State will collective action against their common enemy, "the terrorist and the terrorism." The US will not declare when, where, and how to attack militants, but will combine all factors like political, economic, military, and diplomatic to combat threats. The US will provide support to the Afghan government and forces whether in training, economic, or army, as they face the Taliban in the warzone. The US will be a friend to Afghanistan, not a dictator anymore, but the Afghan Government will bear their Equal part of the armed forces, politics, and financial weight.

In terms of strategic relations with India Trump proposed a friendly policy recognizing India as a significant economic and security partner and the largest democracies of world urging India to deepen its involvement in Afghanistan and request its economic assistance for development. In return, Trump has pledged to work with India towards achieving security and peace in Indo-Pacific and South Asian region. Trump's administration has taken a bold step in negotiating with the Taliban and militant Network members aiming to stabilize the Afghan government without external support and protect the nation. This initiative led to a change in the Taliban's stubbornness and a ceasefire bilateral of Taliban and Afghan Government. The United State and the Pakistani Ex- President Ashraf Ghani offered a peace treaty and a ceasefire which was appreciated by the Afghan Taliban. This peaceful and ethical approach has been praised by the Afghan peace marchers and Ulema officials setting an example for the international community. Some analysts debate that Donald Trump's policy for Afghanistan is a tactic to end the 17-year war and gain personal gain until the next elections. They argue that Trump is giving Afghanistan into the hands of the Taliban, acting as a "puppet" for the American government (Owais, 2019). The Taliban could have made a treaty with the President Donald Trump administration promising not to attack the United State and requiring the US to take its troops back. This practice and momentum should be followed by all countries to prevent war and fulfill the needs of the people and international community.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN ERA 2021- 2025

JOE BIDEN SECURITY POLICY FOR PAKISTAN

From 2021 to 2025 the United States focus on Pakistan by defense interests during President Joe Biden administrations the relationship has faced challenges over the past twenty-four months including withdrawal from Afghanistan and Taliban regime. President Joe Biden administration has organized a bureaucratic division of labor with the White House lacking engagement and the State Department engaging robustly. President Joe Biden is the only US President who did not have interaction with a Pakistani prime minister demonstrating a new equilibrium in international relations. The bilateral relationship is now centered on broadening the base of both sides, rather than solely focusing on Afghanistan.

THE AFGHAN FACTOR

During President Joe Biden's administration, Pakistan aimed to reshape its ties with the US by emphasizing Global economics encompasses commerce, spending, and communication as key priorities. The President Joe Biden inaction resulted in a cold start. The US was initially focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan's performance in pressuring the Taliban for Afghan peace and their systematic military takeover of Afghanistan and the United State withdrawal further cooled relations. Pakistan's assistance in evacuations and Afghan refugee intake was met with ignominy due to withdrawal and its deep interaction with the Taliban, leading to a end point.

COUNTERTERRORISM PRIORITIES

President Joe Biden did never consider to coordinate with Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan in his two years' services his lack of contact during the withdrawal from Afghanistan and subsequent engagement with the country was a significant factor in Imran Khan's denied to go to the first meeting for Democracy in December 2021. Despite catastrophic flooding in Pakistan by 2022, Biden did not call. In October 2022, At a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee reception President Joe Biden mentioned negative face of Pakistan describing it as one of the most extremist nations with nuclear weapons without cohesion (Afzal, 2023) . US exit from Afghanistan in August 2021 and the Taliban control the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan has intensified its efforts to establish Islamic law in Pakistan.

The TTP has shown notable network strength and has conducted deadly terrorism activities, posing a considerable threat to the national defense. Pakistan has attempted to counter the TTP through collaboration and military operations, but these struggles have not been effective. Pakistan should cut off terrorism's roots to mitigate challenges as seen with Tehrik-I-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which gained more cohesiveness due to security agency oversight. The group's intensity and of terrorist attacks increased significantly, targeting military personnel, civilians, and politicians in specific places and organizations in Pakistan. In return of retaliation Pakistan operate two major military operations Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad in 2017 and Operation Zarb-e-Azb in 2014 (Ahmad, 2023). Tackle TTP militants. The actions taken led to the "neutralization" of numerous TTP members, compelling opponent to retreat across the border into Afghanistan. Pakistan military operations resulted in reduced of terror activities with TTP decline of terror attack to 47 in 2017 and 20 in 2018. Over a five-year period, there were 37,580 reported deaths, between 2017 and 2021, there was a significant decrease in terrorism-related fatalities due to military operations with the number of deaths decreasing to 3,497. In October 2022 President Joe Biden stance on Pakistan is the untreatable and threaten nations due to concerns over its nuclear program security which could be miss use by wrong handed. This led to diplomatic tensions in South Asia where nuclear concern has effected security of the region. The US has raised doughs on Pakistan nuclear reserve following to regional tensions and sanctions. The US has attempted to influence Pakistan's nuclear policy through diplomatic channels, using nuclear capabilities as bargaining chips.

Pakistan is seeking US armed forces and financial aid while the US uses threats to influence its nuclear policy. The country's nuclear weapons program has raised international concerns about security and stability in the region (Khan, 2024). The purchase and upgrade of nuclear weapons has increased tensions, leading India to expand its stock of nuclear weapons. Concerns remain that Pakistan's nuclear abilities and expertise might slip into the wrong hands through state-sponsored proliferation or terrorist organizations gaining access to nuclear substances. Pakistan's nuclear program offers a unique chance for diplomatic efforts aimed at enhancing atomic security and implementing risk reduce strategies in South Asian region. Engaging in bilateral conversation of India and Pakistan, coupled with the participation of globally partners, could perform a morally role in addressing the potential dangers linked to the region's nuclear capabilities. Given that South Asia is the most thickly crowd area in Asia the ongoing tensions of India and Pakistan remain a pressing concern. The US is advocating for India to take a more active role in the South Asian region safety as India views Pakistan and China as barriers to its aspirations for greater influence in the region.

JOE BIDEN ECONOMIC POLICY FOR PAKISTAN

In 2021, After withdrawal from Afghanistan the US military prompted a reevaluation of its

relationship with Pakistan. President Joe Biden administration emphasized Pakistan vital role in promoting stability and combating extremism, leading to cautious engagement on economic fronts. Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has requested Washington not to treat Pakistan as a "scapegoat" The speaker criticized the US for not achieving negotiated peace in Afghanistan, highlighting the shared interest in the country and the potential danger of a conflict between Washington and the Taliban. The core proposition on which Washington's Afghan exit strategy relied on peace agreement signed in February 2020 by the Trump administration was already lost.

The deal was envisioned as the sole means to encourage discussions between the Taliban and the US backed Kabul regime within Afghanistan, but it ended up legitimizing the former without securing any concessions. The war is now lost, and the Biden administration should hold Pakistan accountable for its failure to deliver on its promises. Islamabad acted a crucial role in negotiation of Afghan stability deal with United State, where US continues reduce the high level of troops deploying over Afghanistan. The US is focusing on shoring up the Afghan safety measure process by negotiations with the Afghan Taliban and resuming military assistance. That Was a primary top of the list for Pakistan's high command. The peace process is at risk of being disrupted if the Taliban continues its aggressive campaign to expand its territory, even if it is just short of seizing power. If Pakistan continues to support the insurgents, including providing safe havens, it risks international opprobrium if it continues to support the Taliban (Shahab, 2023) . The United State has latest counterterrorism strategy in South Asia to counter China increasing influence, requiring a reevaluation of its regional alignments.

Pakistan's geostrategic position has been both a blessing and a burden for the US Pakistan faces significant implications The United States new policy of superior competitiveness as it struggles to secure its vital status. This shift has Political, protection, financial, and social repercussions leading to Rising insecurity and dangers for closest nations, notably Pakistan and India. The political and humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan has resulted in an increased number of migrants seeking refuge. The US post withdrawal from Afghanistan is crucial for its interests in South Asia, with China role influencing this strategy. The US is concerned about China's seize and lead strategy in the Indo-Pacific area and is prioritizing developing partnership with India despite Pakistan close ally ship participating to China in the region, enhancing India regional dominance.

This has guide to a reduce in economic assistance of Pakistan and a directive to seek IMF

support. Pakistan involvement has been discourage by US in CPEC and Chinese approach to Gwadar Port (Gul, 2024) . Pakistan-US relations have evolved through geopolitical shifts, strategic alliances, and mutual dependencies since 2022. Key events like US aid packages and Armed forces collaboration improved Pakistan's budgetary situation. However, variations in the US favor exposed Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities. The fragility of economic ties was highlighted by Industry imbalances, restricted foreign aid, and lower foreign direct investment. US worries over Pakistan's assisting for non-state groups prompted tight assistance conditions and sanctions, further threatening economic stability. Pakistan need an equitable foreign plan that recognizes its tactical relevance while lessening dependency on external forces (Irfan, 2025). Pakistan sought the IMF for the 25th time this year due to the country's economic crisis, which has been worsening since its last program in 2019. The state financial growth has been stagnant with high inflation and rising poverty. Pakistan's growth rate last year was 2.4 percent, which is 2.6 percent lower than the population growth rate. The country budget deficit and debt burden have been a significant issue, with weak tax collection and a weak external account. To address these issues, Pakistan has returned to the IMF for another seven-billion-dollar multiyear program which includes policy changes to improve fiscal policies. These changes include imposing massive tax increases on retail, agriculture, and export sectors, abolishing exemptions, and establishing a new national fiscal pact. The International Monetary Fund is pressing for extra tax increases equal to 3 percent of GDP within the program's terms (Kathuria, 2024) and Pakistan has agreed to this despite political challenges. Pakistan's return to the IMF program is seen as a positive development in Washington, as its economic stability is crucial for U.S. regional policy and counterterrorism goals, especially amid threats from ISIS-K and the TTP. The IMF's stewardship reduces the risk of escalating terrorism and economic meltdown.

JOE BIDEN REGIONAL PROSPECTIVE (INDIA, CHINA)

PAK-US have experienced new dynamics in their relations since Biden took office. The American exit in Afghanistan in 2021 has altered the structural dynamics, raising questions about Pakistan perform as a guarantor for regional peace. Pakistan strategic location and increasing influence in Afghanistan have made it a crucial component in US policies. Security concerns are a key aspect of US ASA strategy with Pakistan playing a crucial role in providing security to Middle Eastern embargoed regimes and containing internal terrorism threats. The US seeks Pakistan's support in counter-terrorism and facilitating peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan's economic importance is vital for driving development in the region and fostering connectivity.

In diplomatic terms, Pakistan orchestrates facets of the South Asian region, including ties with China, Afghanistan and India. Despite differences the US recognizes the need to enlist Pakistan as an ally in its foreign policies, focusing on the Afghan issue (Ahmed, 2024). President Joe Biden's regional prospects in 2021 were strained due to broken promises in the Pakistan-US relationship, misunderstandings, and exaggerated expectations. The relationship has been framed for limited time protection achievement or to address common difficulties particularly US demands and regional interests. The US relevance to Pakistan has been limited to Afghanistan, including the Cold War, Soviet invasion, and after nine eleven war on terror. The future of Pak-US relations is uncertain, and US interest towards Pakistan has changed. Analyzing historical transactional patterns compulsive factors, and post-withdrawal complexities is crucial (Munshi, 2022). Another regional prospect of President Joe Biden was the Indo-US military partnership in the 21st century has significantly impacted regional power dynamics, particularly for Pakistan. The partnership, rooted in democratic values, global terrorism concerns, and mutual apprehension about China's rise, has seen significant advancements security, aid, and geopolitical collaboration.

The United State and Indian Nuclear Deal 2008 the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative and increased military collaboration are key milestones. This partnership helps the US maintain global supremacy, while India reinforces its aspirations to become a dominant force. However, the merging of US and Indian interests, particularly regarding terrorism, poses significant security challenges for Pakistan. Pakistan is implementing a pragmatic foreign policy, enhancing its conventional and nuclear deterrence while increasing its reliance on China to counterbalance its strategic imbalance. Indo-US strategic developments have shifted Indian policy for deterrence and raising concerns for Pakistan protection leading arms race in South Asia threatening stability. The growing insecurity mirrors India's increasing confidence, and historical rivalry over unresolved issues like Kashmir complicates tensions and potential conflicts (Amir, 2024). In 2023 The President Joe Biden administration concern objections on Pakistan Missile Program that extension the long range ballistic missiles capable of reaching the US leading to Restrictions against Pakistani firms connected in the missile development. In December 2024, the United States emerge sanctions on four Pakistani firms engaged in the ballistic missile program, including the National Development Complex, which is in charge of developing Pakistan's missile systems.

The objections are aimed at the proliferation and delivery methods of weapons of mass

destruction. Pakistan opposes sanctions against the US, claiming they undermine non-proliferation regimes' credibility and threaten regional and international peace and security, citing its strategic capabilities for South Asian stability. As the sanctions come into effect, Pakistan's continued missile development despite sanctions on entities supporting the program necessitates US policymakers' attention to potential countermeasures it may adopt to circumvent the sanctions, the situation is intensified by the defense alliance bilateral India and the US alongside China's strengthened ties with Pakistan. This quest for advanced military capabilities is propelling the region into a missile race, highlighted by India's current testing of hypersonic missiles and a ballistic missile submarine equipped with nuclear capabilities (Ashtakala, 2025). The blame on Pakistan's missile program shows the need for the US to pay more attention to South Asia developments including Pakistan's capabilities, China's involvement in missile development, Pakistan's strained relations with India, and its geopolitical implications.

CONCLUSION

The PAK-US relationship under President Donald Trump and Joe Biden administrations has been reshaped by evolving geopolitical priorities and regional dynamics. President Donald Trump's policies administration focused on pressure on Pakistan to support US interests in Afghanistan, while President Joe Biden's administration pursued a more diplomatic and multilateral strategy. Despite differing rhetoric and policy styles, both administrations demonstrated strategic ambivalence, balancing cooperation in security, counterterrorism, and regional alliances. Pakistan's shifting geopolitical alignments, particularly with China, and the US recalibration of its South Asia strategy have contributed to a more cautious and interest-based relationship.

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