

# Indian Threats to Pakistan: Implications for Regional Security of South Asia

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## ABSTRACT:

The paper primarily highlights the current condition of security challenges antagonized by the South Asia, mainly Pakistan. Pakistan is facing different types of internal and the external dynamics of the threats currently. Pakistan survives in an environment in which is facing internal and external challenges such as political, socio economic, energy crises, security, drone attacks, suicide bombing and different other challenges. Query rises that what steps can be taken to improve the regional security situation and how to shape joint trust and confidence between India and Pakistan? The external factor has also been important in infuriating conflicts in the region thereby posturing serious security challenges. The outside intrusion also plays role in aggravating domestic as well as regional conflicts. The South Asian region is facing serious safety intimidations due to the growing extremism and terrorist activities within its states. Buzan's Regional Security Complex theory has applied to define India – Pakistan permanent rivalry created regional security complex. This rivalry has produced a 'fear of each other' that has disturbed their common acuties and wedged their conduct.

## Keywords:

Doctrine, Security, South Asia, geo-politics, Challenges, Hegemony, Annex, Foreign Policy

## INTRODUCTION

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Maldives are in South Asia. India and Pakistan are most bulging and rivalry states of this region. Both states came into being in August 1947. Since then, they have never endured on good relations due to various issues, disputes and mainly security challenges. Since independence, India and Pakistan are facing security issues due to hostile relations.<sup>i</sup> Currently South Asia, despite being independent for the last century, is one of the unfortunate and most regressive regions in the world. It is high time that the leaders of both India and Pakistan grab this opportunity for peace with genuineness and courage, which has come their way after such a long time every nation's main objective is to protect and secure satisfactory defense for its homeland.<sup>ii</sup> Security is about survival. It is happened when a problem is generated to pose existed threat to a chosen referent state. Usually, the type of security threats decides the use of strange actions to handle them. The call of security has been the way to legitimize the use of force, in fact it has opened the way for the state to organize its resources or to take special powers, to handle existing threat.<sup>iii</sup> Heavily armed neighbours with a history of hostility are more easily interpreted as threats than are less armed, pacifist states. Indo-Pak relations have never been good since the partition of Indian - subcontinent. After partition, catastrophic wars led both countries into a climate of common

scruple and mistrust. With the passage of time, suspicion and misunderstandings have increased.<sup>iv</sup> The relations between two important states within the South Asian Regional Security Complex is extremely uneven and unsatisfactory. This factor has locked them into an 'asymmetrical security structure'. South Asia remains to be a diverse Regional Security Complex because of the tenacious and robust conflict between India and Pakistan. Regional security, however, relates to the safety reliance among "a group of states or other elements" that separated them from other existing groups. Securitization is a political procedure, and regional background is dependent upon geographical variables.<sup>v</sup> In fact, India is greater in geographic size,<sup>vi</sup> economic resources and is a big military power as compared to Pakistan. This inequality has escalated security concerns within Pakistan.

Unfortunately, India and Pakistan have a troubled track record due to geo-political and armed conflicts. Mumbai, Uri and then Pulwama terrorist attacks had further intricated the relations between India and Pakistan.<sup>vii</sup> Friction between two competitors arose on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, when a suicide bomber butted a car into a bus of Indian Paramilitary police in Kashmir and forty policemen killed in this deadliest attack. India alleged Pakistan. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi threatened Pakistan of its befitting reply. India also withdrew Pakistan's "most favorite nation". India stopped bus service between Srinagar (the capital of India-controlled Kashmir) and Muzaffarabad (the

capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, without clarification. Furthermore, India claimed that India had killed many militants of Jaish-e-Muhammad at Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Pakistan denied any casualties during air strike by India. Furthermore, Pakistan showed its peace gesture and released the captured Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinanda to India who violated LOC (The line of control is the de-facto border between the Indian and Pakistan parts of Kashmir) and his aircraft was shot down by Pakistan Army.

Both countries have fled from the brink of war but mutual conflict still furries over their tit-for-tat air strikes and an airborne skirmish.<sup>viii</sup>

### **Geo-Political Realities of South Asia**

According to Buzan "insecurities in terms of shared geographical location, massive foreign policy diplomacy and regional politics are usually related with closeness. Most states fear their neighbours more than faraway superpowers."<sup>ix</sup> Since its birth Pakistan has faced many problems. Stressed political atmosphere formed by antagonistic India and unfavorable Afghanistan has compelled Pakistan to give partiality to security over evolving institutions and firming the financial system. Therefore, Security challenges overwhelmed Pakistan's foreign policy.<sup>x</sup> In Pakistan, it is believed that the regional changing power-asymmetry and Indo-centric geographical features in South Asia have made the environment of the region strategically fragile. Many spectators have believed that "India has ability to perform a leading role in South Asia."<sup>xi</sup> But this is not possible yet, because India still has strained relations with its neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. Such negative behavior has damaged India's regional status and elevated many queries about the nation's capability to undertake the control in the region.

Bismal Prasad proclaims that "the basic reason behind weak cooperation in South Asia is not economic, but political."<sup>xii</sup> The political plans are mostly undermined by security concerns. Since the partition, India and Pakistan have permanent issues such as boundary, water, ethnic and religious issues. The regional changing aspects are dominated by India-Pakistan hostility.

This lasting enmity between the two states creates an obstacle not only in the way of bilateral trade and relations but multilateral initiatives as well. Many scholars observed that "this rivalry has also made SAARC useless in following its goals of regional prosperity and harmony as well."<sup>xiii</sup> Since 9/11 attacks, South Asia, Middle East, and Africa have remained the highly targeted regions by international violence. The most beleaguered countries are Afghanistan and Pakistan. In adding up to the perpetual confrontation in Kashmir and Afghanistan and Rohingya calamity in Myanmar's Rakhine state

has made South Asia more prone to militant activities. This region became a home to some deadliest terrorist groups like al-Qaeda, the Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK), the Afghan and Pakistan Taliban and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). There are five reasons of frequent terrorist activities in the region. First, the adjacent borders with Afghanistan provide appropriate conditions and opening to freely operate terrorist activities. Second, the US-Russia geo-political fault trace developed in Afghanistan has kept the militant threat alive. Third, sectarian war between Iran and Saudi Arabia also fueled the situation time to time. Fourth, aiding and funding of militant groups by India and Pakistan against each other has kept the militants active in South Asia. Finally, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is unable to design the regional anti-terrorism frameworks to control terrorism in the region.<sup>xiv</sup>

### **Background of Pakistan's Foreign Policy**

In the beginning, Pakistan remained a non-aligned country till 1954. It attached itself with Muslim countries and wanted to build a Muslim unity. It developed good relations with Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. But due to some serious security concerns like India's aggressive behavior and willingness to engross Kashmir, Afghanistan's hostility, Soviet Union's tilted behavior regarding India, the economic recession in early 1950s and sense of segregation in global forums such as the United Nations and the Commonwealth helplessness to solve Kashmir issue forced Pakistan then decided to join US led Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and Baghdad Pact (CENTO) in 1954/55. Hence, Pakistan got closer to the western block and became a party in the cold war.<sup>xv</sup>

1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars brought dents into Pak-US relations. These relations further got worse during the Former Prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's era. Since he initiated Pakistan's nuclear program, Washington did not support it. Pakistan left SEATO in 1974. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 brought the end of CENTO as well.<sup>xvi</sup> Afghan war of 1980s brought old "partners" America and Pakistan together again. America used Pakistan as a frontline state against the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan. Former President Zia ul Haq opened doors for Afghan Mujahideen. In result, Pakistan got heavy aid from America. Pakistan cooperation continues despite ups and downs till date.

### **Pakistan's South Asia Policy; Challenges**

The study is focused on regional security complex theory (RSCT). Buzan emphasized that numerous threats have shifted more easily over short distances than over long ones, security interconnection is usually designed into regionally based group: security complexes (RSCs). Many states generally have been worried mainly with the competencies and plans of their neighbours.<sup>xvii</sup> In this perspective, Pakistan's

search for security can be understood in the regional security sense, it includes the politics of national survival, regional integrity, military enabling, and apprehensions. Right after independence, secessionist fears in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly Northwest Frontier Province) and Baluchistan, where the princely state of Kalat announced its freedom in August 1947. It increased suspicions and forced Pakistan to adopt armed security stance that notifies its approach to regional security. Later in 2016, arrest of an Indian spy, Kulbushan Jadhav, in Balochistan, and Afghan support for anti-Pakistan Baloch militant factions furthered fuel the situation.<sup>xxviii</sup> Since decades, Pakistan-India relations have been a story of missed opportunities. During 2014 and 2015, amity period started between former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, when the two leaders shown potential, possibilities, and vision for a South Asia linked with trade and services. This early friendliness smashed when the Pathankot air force base was attacked only two weeks after Modi's surprise visit to Lahore.

Since then, relations between both states have not been well again and got deteriorated. Traditional security dynamics are probable to continue in Pakistan's foreign policy, with binding leadership facing obstacles mitigating trade and joint ventures with India unless the last contraries its retraction of Article 370.<sup>xxix</sup> Pakistan is playing role in peace making process in Afghanistan with this hope that it will open endeavors such as the opening of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border for trade, and ships transiting fertilizers to Afghanistan can now mooring at Gwadar Port. But challenges continued, and the risk of Afghanistan plunging into a state of vicious civil war, as in the 1990s are still there.<sup>xxx</sup> A peaceful Afghanistan is the major interest of Pakistan foreign policy.

Regional security demonstrated the number of national securities or relatively a special pattern of security interdependence among a group of states.<sup>xxxi</sup> Securitization is basically an intersubjective procedure. The reasons of threats, susceptibilities and safety are socially developed rather than objectively present or absent.<sup>xxxii</sup> India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have domestically controlled terrorist threats by their own advanced military and intelligence strategies and law enforcement departments so far.<sup>xxxiii</sup> A political analyst says that "Wherever military element is used; a political security problem will exist. Pakistan had good assets in place otherwise it would have been massacred during the war on terrorism."<sup>xxxiv</sup> Today, Pakistan is facing several security threats from India. Hybrid war<sup>xxxv</sup> is most serious plan imposed by India. Pakistan is a country which is fronting three hazardous war doctrines in the world. These war doctrines are Cold Start Doctrine, The US Afghan doctrine, and Fifth Generation war doctrine.

### **(i) Cold Start Doctrine**

History marks military threats greatly influenced of the experience on present insight. The presence of historical enmity and repeated wars have always been inclined to intensify present perceptions of threats.<sup>xxvi</sup> India's 'cold start' is intended to paralyzing Pakistan's reaction as the battle groups are trained to enter the Pakistani territory within 72 to 96 hours as per received order to mobilize. In 2017, Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat, in his interview had accepted the presence of the 'Cold Start' military doctrine which is basically a controlled-war strategy planned to launch a strategic attack on Pakistani territory without intensifying a nuclear growth.<sup>xxvii</sup> In response, Pakistan has developed short-range nuclear weapons, its former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi answered to a question at the council on Foreign Relations, a top American think-tank.<sup>xxviii</sup>

### **(ii) The US -Afghanistan -Pakistan Doctrine**

In U.S. foreign policy Afghan-Pakistan neologism had used to allocate Afghanistan and Pakistan as a single theatre of operations. US and India have an operational collaboration for Afghan-Pakistan war doctrine. India is using indirect strategy to weaken Pakistan through inexorable hybrid war. India is trying to destabilize and isolate Pakistan through propaganda and diplomacy and willing to denuclearize Pakistan and then use its Cold Start doctrine against Pakistan. This strategy is recently used in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria by America.<sup>xxix</sup>

### **(iii) Fifth Generation War Doctrine.**

In this strategy, enemy creates misunderstandings between the army and the nation, weakens the central government of a country by destabilizing the economy, fuels ethnic tensions and sectarianism. Through foreign paid electronic and print media, enemy produces distress and panic in the nation. This war doctrine had been used in Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya by America. Now it is applied on Syria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The US got success in Syria. In this war, America, India, and Israel are allies against Pakistan.<sup>xxx</sup>

In the wake of Soviet Afghan war, India supported the Soviet Union through RAW and provided backing to KGB and Afghan spy agency Khad against Pakistan. Since then, India had started sowing seeds of separation in Baluchistan. In 1988, BLA inactivated after the extraction of Soviet Union from Afghanistan but its covert activities continued.<sup>xxxi</sup> In Baluchistan, Baluchistan Liberation Association (BLA) was sponsored by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and funded by Indian Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Russian exKomitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti, (KGB) in 2002.<sup>xxxii</sup> The purpose of this organization is to put weight on Pakistan Army by connecting it in pawn insurrection and to deteriorate the writ of state in Baluchistan, in result it can be

parted from Pakistan at a suitable time. In Karachi, ambiguity is created through terrorism as well. Target killing, 'Bhatta' mafia, land grabbing mafia, and kidnapping for ransom has started. These elements are now reinforced by terrorists from secretive crime gangs. The object is to destabilize and make Karachi insecure which will have drastic effects on Pakistan's economy. The propaganda war against Pakistan is underway at all fronts. Some of the media persons, journalists and anchor persons have been bribed to propagate anti Pakistan, anti-Army, and anti-Islam concepts.<sup>xxxiii</sup> After the dismemberment of East Pakistan in 1971,<sup>xxxiv</sup> the level of this conspiracy is much larger and hazardous in nature. Their ultimate aims are to subvert, de-Islamize, denuclearized, and divide Pakistan by applying secret means and demonstrative methods such as the recent burst in a Karachi building which was enclosed as a "civil war" in India as an example of reckless reporting.<sup>xxxv</sup> After the ratification of three Indo-US defense deals in 2016 and US explicitly acknowledged India's services to combat terrorism in the regions. Now India has become more aggressive to keep the Line of Control (LoC) on fire and diplomatically forced Pakistan to step down over Kashmir issue. Furthermore, India have controlled Kashmiris with iron hands and is violating international human rights without international fear and pressure.

Pakistan is equipped with fissile power and now receiving economic prosperity due to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that is not digestible for America and India. Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the chief of the military's media wing, has said that India is betrothed in a huge campaign of 'fifth-generation warfare' to hinder Pakistan's economic prosperity mainly through targeting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Pakistan's international image.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Seeming in a wide-ranging interview on Global Village Space printed on Thursday, he called misrepresentation actions against Pakistan on social media as a "major challenge", but he added that the country has countered these through transparency and putting out credible information.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) director general further stated that regrettably, it is a main assault, and a part of the fifth-generation warfare. Pakistan is being exposed to hybrid war in a massive way and they are mindful of that. Pakistan's nuclear features have forced India to start anti-Pakistan propaganda and diplomacy to disgrace and segregate Pakistan on global level.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

#### **Kashmir Issue**

Since 1947, Kashmir is the main reason of tension between India and Pakistan. The security of South Asia is on stake primarily because of this issue. Both countries have firm stance over Kashmir and are not flexible to solve this issue. Kashmir is the jugular vein

of Pakistan. It is an intelligent way to portray the land of Kashmir as inseparably and inextricably linked to the mainland Pakistan. Kashmir is a global documented dispute, but India constantly argues that it is "A toot Ang" (integral part) to justify its uncompromising stance over Kashmir issue. These linguistic instruments are being used by both states to shape the public sentiments in favor of their respective given claim. Three wars have been fought between two states over Kashmir issue. After 1971 war, Kargil crisis occurred on May 8, 1999. This caused a lot of upheaval at the international level.<sup>xxxviii</sup> Both India and Pakistan have linked Kashmir with the national security concerns. Divisibility of Kashmir was then termed as an existential threat to the survival of both the states. India labeled the division or any other compromise on Kashmir Issue as a gateway to the further balkanization of Indian Union.

While Pakistan have associated the phenomenon of division or any other compromise over Kashmir with the Indian bid to annihilate Pakistan.<sup>xxxix</sup> To hold Pakistan on the self-justifying position and force it to overlook Kashmir, India is applying multiple strategies to defame and subvert Pakistan by using terrorism card, Baluchistan and Sindh card and water terrorism to turn Pakistan on its knees.<sup>xl</sup>

#### **Terrorism Card**

After September 2016 militant's attack on a military base in Uri, Indian government has hardened its posture against Pakistan. Indian Government strongly blamed the bout on Pakistan-based militants. But Islamabad denied this charge. Indian prime minister Narendra Modi alleged his country's neighbour for sponsoring radicalism. "Tragically the mothership of terrorism is a country in India's neighbourhood," Narendra Modi stated to the heads of governments of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).<sup>xli</sup> India has always tried to isolate Pakistan by accusing three elements of terrorism, number one the Al-Queda factor, number two is cross-border terrorism in Kashmir, number three is the sectarian (Sunni vs. Shia) extremism and sectarian terrorism in Pakistan.<sup>xlii</sup> BRICS condemned Uri terror attacks in "Goa declaration" but they did not mention the name of Pakistan.<sup>xliii</sup>

#### **Baluchistan and Sind card**

India will not get involved militarily in Baluchistan unless there is a full-fledged Indo-Pak war. However, India under the Modi Government is supporting the Baloch cause diplomatically on international forums. In March 2016, Kalbhushan Yadev the Indian spy caught in Baluchistan is a proof of India's obvious interference in Pakistan and a solid evidence of India's involvement in secessionist Baluchistan movement. All these activities are carried out not only to inflict maximum loss of human lives and material, but also to sabotage CPEC and weaken government writ in the



province. India is also involved in Sindh to damage Pakistan's economy as Karachi with a seaport is the commercial hub of Pakistan. It also provided soft belly because of terrain configuration. GM Sayed and other Sindhi nationalist parties were cultivated and instigated to raise the slogan of Sindhu Dash. India wants to inflict maximum damage on economy, sports, and tourism etc. We cannot ignore the role of large number of Indian advisors sent to work with the government of Pakistan.<sup>xliv</sup> Terrorism in Karachi and the insurgencies of Baluchistan are a clear proof of the Indian evil intentions for this purpose Indians are using the resources and assets of Afghanistan.

### Water Terrorism

WH Audenonce said, "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."<sup>xlv</sup> This statement is relevant to the context of South Asia. One fifth of world's population lives in this region. Its economy is largely dependent on agriculture. In South Asia, India and Pakistan are facing challenges of water management. Indus basin water generates from Chinese Tibet and the Himalayan Mountain in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Partition of Indo-Pak subcontinent sowed the seed of multiple problems between two states which also created a constant confrontation over the water of the Indus basin. Since the head works of six rivers are in control of India. Pakistan also feels threat over the main source of water: a lifeline of her cultivable land. India is causing gradual water shortages for Pakistan to harm the later.<sup>xlvi</sup> India is undertaking water terrorism against Pakistan. It has stopped the direction of the Chenab River towards Pakistan. From Head Punjnad, the water flow has reached zero. It is alarming for Pakistan. In River Chenab, 30,000 cusec water has been reduced to storage of water in Bagliar Dam by India. The flow of water is only 20,000 cusec at Head Marala in Chenab. Over 50,000 cusec flow of water was recorded in May 2017.<sup>xlvii</sup> If this condition continues then there will be a risk of depletion of water for Punjab and Sindh.

Pakistan depends on India for its water security. In fact, Pakistan is among the countries having an average rainfall of under 240 mm a year.<sup>xlviii</sup> Gradually, due to rapid population growth Pakistan may face complete scarcity of water. Pakistan is worried about Indian policies of making hydro power projects in Indian held Kashmir. Government of Pakistan claimed that "India is violating the terms and conditions of Indus Water Treaty (IWT) by building dams and hydro power projects on western rivers. In 1984 India started making of Wullar Barrage on River Jhelum in Indian occupied Kashmir. In mid 90s, India again violated IWT by construction of Baghliar Dam on River Chenab. In 2005, Pakistan requested the World Bank's help to stop the creation of the Baghliar dam."<sup>xlix</sup> Since then, WB has held two rounds of talks between the two sides, but the Indians kept on building

the project. Pakistan also recommended some changes to address its concerns over the Kishanganga project's design for water storage without influencing its power generation capacity, but in vain.<sup>i</sup> Furthermore, government of India has planned to cancel Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan and is finding ways to increase its use of waters that flows from India to control Pakistan.<sup>ii</sup> Indian diplomacy can also be observed from some other developments. According to Online reports, India has tacitly suggested procedural support to the Afghan government to build a dam over Kabul River which is one of the key tributaries to Indus River. Furthermore, half of Pakistan's energy generates from hydroelectricity.<sup>iii</sup> Islamabad has been under censure at home for depriving its rights through legal battles instead of structuring political pressure in world resources to stop India from carrying out "water aggression". Pakistan felt its water rights were being dishonored by India on two rivers, the Chenab and Jhelum, through defective designs of Ratle and Kishanganga projects, individually. Presently, it is facing a severe load shedding due to power-short fall in the country.

### America's Diplomatic Strains

Methods of securitization, and the intensity of security is more powerful between the actors inside such clusters than it is between actors inside a complex and those outside it. Security complexes might be extremely infiltrated by the worldwide powers, but their regional undercurrents however have a considerable level of sovereignty from the designs set by the international powers.<sup>iiii</sup> Currently, America has effectively managed its position as a sole superpower using modern technology and military dominance in the world. Since 2004, India - US relationship has transformed from isolation to extensive engagement. They developed strategic partnership through the civil nuclear deal.<sup>lv</sup> It influenced Pak- US connections and disturbed equilibrium of power in South Asia. Pakistani officials believe that this partnership will empower India to project its status in Asia.<sup>lv</sup> In reply to US- India Nuclear deal, Pakistan has initiated collaboration with China and Russia in fissile prowess.<sup>lvi</sup> Offensive neighborhood policy of India under Modi tied with President Trump's India-centric approach has made this region more critical. Trumps approach to South Asia made the region 'India-locked' at the cost of regional balance of power.<sup>lvii</sup> The civil nuclear deal with the US has enhanced India's respect while Pakistan's status is at critical point because Washington needs to make India a major power in the world whereas Pakistan is preserved as a secondary channel. This nuclear deal may damage the Pak- India peace course and may create obstacles for America to win the war in Afghanistan. America needs Pakistan's support for the diplomatic outcomes of Afghanistan to contain violence, restraint China and Iran's monetary

and armed development and for upholding its existence in the region.<sup>lviii</sup> In the beginning, Trump offered the vision of a controlled relationship between America and Pakistan. Trump's administration had offered a role of mediator to resolve the crisis between India and Pakistan. It was a positive sign for Pakistan but America's stance on nuclear weapons and proliferation was totally against Pakistan.<sup>lix</sup> A tense relationship still exists between the US and Pakistan. The gloomy area of difference falls around that how both countries have viewed the issue of bringing stability to Afghanistan by securing their major national interests. U.S. also raised its pressure on Pakistan to suspend or reduce its production of fissile material. America is suspicious about CPEC project that might increase China's impact in the region that would undermine former's tactical interest in the region.

As America has also worried about Beijing's increasing influence in Pakistan, their intense military links and now CPEC has manifested and upgrading China's economic position in Pakistan. Washington is also concerned about the strategic intentions of China in the region. First China Pakistan relationship over decades has progressed as a means of refuting India which is also a strong partner in Trump administrations in leading Indo-Pacific region. Secondly, America thinks that China is not focusing on the undermining jeopardies constituted by Pakistan's use of terrorist proxies against India and Afghanistan.<sup>lx</sup> The U.S. also stopped \$300 million of military aid to Pakistan in 2016 for not acting against the Haqqani network fueling violence in Afghanistan. The Indian government has constantly influenced the US policy towards Pakistan.<sup>lxi</sup> Pakistan foreign policy makers are facing multiple problems because of antagonistic India, unfriendly Afghanistan, and the uncertain attitude of America. Pakistan is fighting against terrorism on its land.

Trump's administration alleged that Pakistan is getting aid to combat terrorism but in fact this aid is used to fetch terrorism. Pakistan has accepted more than US\$ 33 billion in US aid since 2002, including additional US\$ 14 billion in so-called Coalition Support Funds, a Pentagon program that refunds associates for pawn insurgency maneuvers that support US military aims.<sup>lxii</sup> The US\$ 300 million interruption by Washington notably accords with rising economic troubles in Pakistan.<sup>lxiii</sup> On 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Islamabad. Positive response was given by the two sides after five hours conference. This meeting overshadowed the dubious behavior of America. Pakistan and the United States have obvious to revisit their policies and reset their ties. This meeting concluded in compassionate feelings between the Trump administration and the Pakistan's government. The official visit came in the

background of the recent telephonic talk between PM Khan and Secretary of state after the US announcement regarding cancelation of \$300 of the repayment under Coalition Support Fund. Pompeo showed positive response on his meeting. He expressed "I am hopeful that the foundation that we laid today will set the conditions for continued success as we start to move forward."<sup>lxiv</sup>

Secretary of State Mick Pompeo restated that Pakistan do more efforts to remove militants and promote a new U.S. peace negotiation with Taliban in Afghanistan. Trump administration attempts for the first time to open direct talks with the Taliban to end the warfare in Afghanistan.<sup>lxv</sup> International media has projected India and Afghanistan as sufferers of militancy and Pakistan as a heaven of militants. After the 9/11 attacks, War on terror started in Afghanistan in 2002. America pushed Pakistan into this war. As a result, it has experienced the loss of 60,000 human lives and destruction of property. Pakistan has endured approximately \$ 118 billion financial loss and huge social upset.<sup>lxvi</sup> This War on terror has increased cultural discrimination, sectarianism, radicalism, parochialism, political ambiguity, economic brittleness, and moral deterioration of society. Even after such fragility Pakistan has overcame external pressure, manipulation, and hostility.<sup>lxvii</sup> In May 2017, the Arab-Islamic- American Summit was held in Riyadh. The agenda of summit was to confront extremism, terrorism, nurture regional and international peace, stability, and development. Pakistan did not get any appreciation for its efforts to combat terrorism. US President Donald Trump alleged Pakistan is a part of a problem and not a part of solution. In 2011, Osama bin Ladin compound raided by American forces, also spoiled Pakistan's image on international level. Today, Pakistan is alone to fight the phantom of terrorism. Pakistan has been accused of spreading terrorism in the region. The Mumbai attacks in November 2008 brought US and India close to each other against militancy. Afghanistan also blamed Pakistan for most of the terrorist activity in Kabul. In June 2017, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani wanted to sign a global agreement with Pakistan to end "cross-border terrorism." The present crisis is vicious in account of its nature and its expected outcomes. Pakistan is in whirlpool of severe threats and the country is positioned at the point of existence and calamity.

#### **Pakistan's Current Challenges**

India wants to dismantle Pakistan through India-US-Afghanistan annex, enclose Pakistan by ensuring its existence in Afghanistan. To counter the effects of CPEC, India is building North-South Corridor linking Mumbai with Bandar Abbas and linking Chabahar with Afghanistan-CARs. India is struggling to segregate Pakistan by ruining its credibility and indulging its relations with Afghanistan, Iran, Gulf

States, and the US.<sup>lxxviii</sup> In his first address to the nation, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan promised to bring comprehensive improvements in the entire system of Pakistan. Regarding foreign policy he said that “Our preference is to talk to our neighbours and reinstate peace in the region.”<sup>lxxix</sup> He offered dialogue to resolve Kashmir issue. Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said “but it takes two to tango. We cannot clap with one hand. We have shown our stance and will hope the same response.”<sup>lxxx</sup> Deadlock in peace talks is not hidden from the world. Militant attack on Indian military bases in January 2016, has closed the doors of dialogue between two states. India’s Interior Minister Raj Nath Singh called Pakistan a “terrorist state.”<sup>lxxxi</sup> Pakistan strongly rejected this allegation. Nafees Zakaria, spokesperson from Pakistan says that “India directly puts the responsibility on Pakistan without doing any enquiry.”<sup>lxxxii</sup> Uri militant attack further fueled the situation, India Pakistan relations reached to its lowest ebb. Another episode increased the mistrust between two states. The case of Kulbhushan Jadhav who was sentenced to death by a Pakistan’s military court on spying charges in April 2017. India filed petition in the International Court Justice (ICJ) in May 2017. The ICJ had put a stay on Jadhav’s execution. The case is pending for the final decision by the world court.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> Pakistan followed the submissions in ICJ in December 2017. In response India also filed fresh petitions in ICJ on April 19, 2018.<sup>lxxxiv</sup> It was a major victory for India, when the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on July 17 ruled that Pakistan must evaluate the death sentence given to Kulbhushan Jadhav. Pakistan has ruled out any deal with India in Kulbhushan Jadhav's case and said any step taken to implement the International Court of Justice's decision will be according to its Constitution.<sup>lxxxv</sup> Nevertheless, Pakistan still tries to bridge the gap with India. Prime minister Imran Khan tweeted twice to offer India for dialogue and follow amity. He called it the “best way to reduce poverty and improve the standard of life of our people.”<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

### Challenges in Afghanistan

Irfan Qaisrani says that “Pakistan has unsettled borders with India and Afghanistan. The Indo-US nexus especially in Afghanistan would jeopardize the stability of the region and it poses a grave security challenge for Pakistan.”<sup>lxxxvii</sup> Under the pro-American government of Ashraf Ghani, Pak Afghan Relations are once again persisting to the blame-game phase. After failed attempt to siege Ghazni city by Taliban, President Ashraf Ghani accused that the attackers came from Pakistan. Pakistan rejected the charge. Pakistan is still ready to play its role in establishing peace in Afghanistan.<sup>lxxxviii</sup> Recently, President Donald Trump nominated John R Bass as an American ambassador to Afghanistan. He said that “Pakistan is

caused of some ‘substantial challenges’ in Afghanistan. It has supported Taliban to plan attacks in the war-torn country.”<sup>lxxxix</sup> Apart from increasing radical pressures, Pakistan remained biggest business partner of Afghanistan until 2015. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi encountered in April 2018, both approved several important points to settle the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS). They focused on the revival of economic ties between two countries as well.<sup>lxxx</sup> During former President Pervaiz Musharraf regime, Pakistan believed that American strategy in Afghanistan is strongly relied on military operations, which further isolated the native people. Islamabad believed that it is better to negotiate with Taliban and bring them into the political process.<sup>lxxxii</sup> Political stability in Afghanistan is the fulcrum of Afghan security. Political stability will support ongoing efforts to address other related challenges.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> Security is the most important challenge of CPEC success.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> The Afghan administration should initiate its foreign policy skills to persuade regional players such as Russia, India, Pakistan, and Iran. because harmony in the region is linked to peace in Afghanistan.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

### Conclusion

Since 1947, Pakistan has faced many problems. Stressed political atmosphere formed by antagonistic India and unfriendly Afghanistan has compelled Pakistani government to give partiality to security over evolving organizations and improving the financial system. The security complex of Pakistan-India directed to their nuclearization and has produced new contests about dissuasion, especially for Pakistan after nuclear test in May 1998, the Kashmir dispute has always been labelled as a latent nuclear flash point. Any mistake could lead to the use of nuclear power by either side. These risks can only be lessened within the context of accommodating security.

Since the unsettled issue of Kashmir is the chief cause of Pakistan-India hostility, the course of conflict to be resolved between the two countries needed a road map or policy for handling the Kashmir issue. Only diplomatic, feasible, impartial, self-governing, and decent arrangements can bring a robust solution of Kashmir issue, and this will confirm a nonviolent and wealthy future of the whole world in general and for South Asia in particular. Both countries needed a tension-free setting to attract domestic and foreign venture and a stream of valuable tourists. People in both countries wanted peace. But on the other side governments of both countries do not move forward to dismiss these doubts, it will only decline the moderates and support the extremists and the hard-liners working in both India and Pakistan. It is therefore, in the interest of both to move out of the typecast mind set, pledge an expressive and settle their quarrel, by



showing self-assurance and suppleness. Now South Asia, despite being independent for the last century, is one of the deprived and most retrograde regions in the world. It is high time that the leaders of both India and Pakistan grab this chance for peace with genuineness and nerve. Pakistan must change the way and the road map of its internal and external policies to overwhelm the contests facing it internally and externally.

## NOTES

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<sup>iii</sup> Barry Buzan et al., "Security: A New Framework for Analysis," (United States of America, Lynne Rienner, 1998), 21.

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<sup>xi</sup> Puran Ghale, "Asymmetric Power Balance and its Implications for Regionalism in South Asia," (Master's Thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, 2015): 4, <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a620712>.

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<sup>xiii</sup> Puran Ghale, "Asymmetric Power Balance," 7

<sup>xiv</sup> Abdul Basit et al., "South Asia Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India," 31

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<sup>xviii</sup> Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, "Exploring the Impulses in Pakistan's Foreign Policy." *South Asian Voices*, September 17, 2020.

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<sup>xix</sup> Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, "Exploring the Impulses in Pakistan's Foreign Policy."

<sup>xx</sup> Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, "Exploring the Impulses in Pakistan's Foreign Policy."

<sup>xxi</sup> Barry Buzan et al., "Security: A New Framework for Analysis," 45

<sup>xxii</sup> Barry Buzan et al., "Security: A New Framework for Analysis," 57

<sup>xxiii</sup> Abdul Basit et al., "South Asia Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India," 32.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Interview with Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Khan (HOD Strategic Studies (SS) Faculty of Contemporary Studies (FCS) National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad) September 12, 2018.

<sup>xxv</sup> Hybrid warfare is armed strategy that recruits political warfare and combines conventional warfare, asymmetrical warfare and cyberwarfare with other effective methods, such as fake news, diplomacy and foreign electoral intervention. By amalgamating propulsive operations with disruptive efforts, the attacker plans to avoid attribution or punishment. It may be used to demonstrate the supple and complex changing aspects of the battlespace requiring a highly adjustable and hardy response. For more details see: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/306350/hybrid-warfare-2/>.

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<sup>xxxii</sup> Akhtar Malik, "Pakistan faces 4th Generation War on its soil," Current Affairs Pakistan, last modified August 14, 2013,

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