

## PROBING EXTERNAL SECURITY ISSUES OF PAKISTAN: ROLE OF US AND AL-QAEDA

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### ABSTRACT

*Pakistan's external dangers primarily stem from its longstanding enemy, India. However, it is also geographically situated between India and Afghanistan, which further adds to its security concerns. There have been a number of historical and geographical occurrences that have contributed to the complexity of the relationship between India and Pakistan. The Indian government denies that Kashmir's right to self-determination is crucial for settling the conflict. Bilateral ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan are crucial in the modern world due to their proximity and shared history and culture. The peace of one country is contingent upon the peace of another country. In order to safeguard the peace and stability of Pakistan and Afghanistan, it is crucial to promptly confront the actions of external forces. This will help maintain the long-term peace and stability of both nations.*

### Introduction

External threats of Pakistan are generally connected with customary adversary India yet additional thought about Pakistan is sandwiched between India and Afghanistan. Pakistan's security discernments have been to a great extent impacted by its condition of associations with India and Afghanistan. In any case, episode of 9/11 has additionally confused the circumstance, ramble assaults, developing outside reserve militancy further improve security dangers to Pakistan national honesty. These difficulties radiating out of military stock and doctrinal purpose of potential foes contain outer military risk and interior security issues (Khalid, 2013). Amid this time of science and innovative headway, threats does not really radiate from quick neighbors. Because of mainland scopes of weapons and conveyance framework, additional local powers can present similarly considerable national security challenges without physically moving to nearness. In addition, internal and external threats might not be divisible in many aspects such as causes, arrangements, execution, outcomes, effects etc. China, Afghanistan, India and Iran are the immediate neighbors of Pakistan. The South has a coastline along with the Arabian Sea. The country has no danger from China and Iran; moreover there is no potential threat or risk to the country from the Southern or oceanic side. Militarily, Afghanistan turns into a nation of worry as and when it houses additional local powers on one side or the other; and risk subsides regarding military esteem when outside powers withdraw, however, Pakistan is, perpetually left to manage the flotsam and jetsam of the contention as aftermath of warfare-cum medicate wealth in the state of little arms and medication multiplication and confined occurrences of militancy. One of the main destinations of Pakistan's distant approach is to improve its relations with India and Afghanistan (Baloch & Niazi, 2008).

In the event that Pakistan can develop a tranquil neighborhood, an extremely considerable piece of its conventional security quandary gets dealt with. After emerging from British colonial rule

in 1947, the Hindu majority state known as “India” and Muslim majority state called “Pakistan”, become rivals of each other. Since then, a series of historical and geopolitical events have complicated the interaction between both the countries because of which they have fought four wars. Ever since, not only both the countries are in a state of continuous enmity, but also they engage in a nuclear arms race from the last two decades. Both the countries share same cultural, linguistic, geographical and economic ties, but on the contrary the relationship between both the countries is worse. Calm and smooth relations between both the countries are very necessary in order to achieve peace in the region of South Asia (Ahmad, 2010). The global community has laid emphasis on the need to establish trustworthy and pleasant relations between the two neighboring states (Paris, 2001). Looking into the history one realizes that ever since the partition both the countries are struck in resolving their disputes that have arisen with the passage of time, whether it is Kashmir Dispute, water sharing dispute or military conflict (Bose, 2009).

Kashmir Conflict Pakistan and India that emerged in 1947 from British Colonial rule have been having grudges with each other from the very beginning. Kashmir is the main source of conflict and a disputed border territory between the two countries. Pakistan considers Kashmir as its part due to the Muslim majority population, whereas India considers Kashmir as its fundamental part of identity. This dispute has resulted in three wars over the last seven decades. Whereas, tensions between both the countries persist all the time, which can be seen in the regularly occurring exchange of fire across the Line of Control situated between the both countries. These border skirmishes have taken the lives of dozens of people and displaced thousands of civilians. This dispute has spoiled the bilateral relations of both the countries. Regional and global stakeholders have strategically recognized the geographic importance of Kashmir (Fayaz, 2016). India and Pakistan, as nuclear powers, have spent a significant portion of their annual budget on the arms race with nuclear weapons to ensure their nuclear superiority. Therefore, the Kashmir conflict has not only affected the interrelationship between the two countries, but also constituted a continuing risk to the strategic stability and peace in South Asia (Kazi, 2011).

### **Cross Border Terrorism**

Cross-border terrorism stems from the time of partition and is not a present day issue .According to Pakistan's narrative, India is constantly striving to undermine Pakistan’s stability during the split and will do its utmost to use international strategies to isolate Pakistan, interfering in internal affairs, abscencing and supporting Pakistan's terrorist activities (Jha, 2017). The elements of Indian intelligence are also deployed in different areas of Pakistan such as FATA, Waziristan, and Balochistan with the purpose to sabotage peace by undertaking different activities that are against the interests of a peaceful Pakistan. In contrast to this, the Indian administration holds a different view on the cross-border terrorism. It also opines that Pakistan regularly interferes in the affairs of India both internally and externally, while Kashmir still remains the primary bone of contention and reason behind the deteriorated state of affairs between the two countries (Sial, 2014). They believe that the Kashmir free movement has received support from forces present on the soil of Pakistan. There is a very common concept in India, which says that Pakistan is behind the support and training of militant groups that attack and fight the Indian Army in order to create chaos and may hem (Singh, 2013).

The old record of India refers to the notorious facts that prove that India interfered with Pakistan's internal affairs to undermine peace at the soil of the latter. Moreover, the insurgency

of the army of India in the tribal area flashed. According to the ideology, history and humanity, the Pakistanis considered Kashmir as part of Pakistan. The current intervention by India in Baluchistan's internal affairs has led to a more worsened state of affairs related to security between India and Pakistan. The situation further aggravated when a representative of Indian Army was apprehended in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. He was found dealing with and harming the security aspects in the economic corridor Gawadar and China-Pak. Pakistan has taken the necessary precautions to prevent India from interfering in Pakistan. This has become a major security problem. At present, Kalabasan Yadav has been punished for involvement in these and supporting the activities of terrorism (Tariq, 2016).

Pakistan has a past filled with confronting customary risk from India as utilization of or danger to utilize military power. This past includes three major wars and several standoffs. India played a major role in breaking Pakistan from East Pakistan in 1971. Sadly, this relationship of both countries is unendingly lacks trust as both are prepared to touch off on slightest appearance. On the flare-up of any emergency, results can be disastrous that might be trailed by fast jump on escalatory stepping stool, by India, to a dimension only a rung or two underneath real shooting dimension. An agile drop remains a suitable alternative, henceforth winding up in a drawn out stalemates as extended sending of militaries. A supportable balance is needed by Pakistan in the continent. Higher traditional military unevenness among both neighboring countries is a standout amongst the most genuine dangers to the region (Moorthy et al., 2015).

### **Doctrine of India**

Nearby an arm race, India has likewise set out upon hostile sounding doctrinal contrivances. Hazardous ideas like constrained war under atomic shade, and a contemporary concept of cold start doctrine which was later known as proactive operation have emerged in this century that are not in the good interests of both nuclear states. India is also of the view that it can undertake atomic strikes against Pakistan if there should arise an occurrence of fear based oppressor assault on India beginning from Pakistan; or in the event that Pakistan utilizes strategic atomic weapons (TNWs) against India are consistently skimmed to engage Pakistan speculating about Indian purpose. In addition, Indian protection spending plan has dramatically increased since Operation Parakram (Dhanda, 2010). A momentous perplexity with respect to India's atomic principle is very obvious in an ongoing article composed by a notable Indian protection investigator, P.R Chari. As both the foundations that Chari has relationship with are government financed, the findings of Chari reflect perplexity inside the positions of atomic foundation of India (Chari, 2000). It is very apparent that there are not jesting issues in vital reasoning of India. In any case, Indians pronounce a pledge to aggregate and widespread demobilization, yet they seek after approaches completely in opposition to this rule. Forceful atomic precept of a set of three ability including ocean based rockets of 2002, land based notion of cold start that emerged in 2004, Cold start regulation of 2004, and mutually assured destruction idea commonly known as MAD was skimmed a year ago.

Pakistan has followed nuclear restraint regime in all these years in her response to India. Its improvement of a complete range tenable least discouragement is a characteristic response to a forceful Indian stance that gets increasingly compromising. Chari presumes that 'the fundamental issue that remaining parts and will charge the legislature of Narendra Modi is the means by which India plans to believably connect with Pakistan in light of a legitimate concern for atomic

soundness in the region. It is simply to be believed that India will finally ponder the feebleness that its bewildered doctrinal hiccups have discharged, and restore prudence to its nuclear reasoning. In the article entitled 'India's nuclear guideline: stirrings of advancement', passed on in a Carnegie Endowment posting, Chari has keenly observed the nuclear rule of his country. He starts his article by mentioning a statement of former Indian Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan in which he required the development of an overall meeting in which he vowed not to use nuclear weapons. The pioneers of BJP demanded an examination of 'no-first' use notion and its reexamination if and when required relying upon the conditions. Regardless, in light of the stress escalated in various parts that India's venerated situation and a vital component of India's nuclear statute' as far back as it drove its nuclear tests would be balanced exclusive of talk, confident. Owing to the typically compelling position taken by the BJP, these enlightenments are necessarily been seen with several uncertainty. In August 1999, it was decided by the then Vajpayee government that it will not use the nuclear weapons firstly. Later on the Cabinet Committee on Security also upheld the decision and makes it the official Indian decision. Chari says. He keeps up that on the connected front, the containments of nuclear aversion have ended up being evident. Unmistakably there are not quipping issues in India's key thinking as its obtainment of nuclear weapons has not extended beyond the margins of security (Sundaram & Ramana, 2018).

### **Military Power of India**

India is extending its military cooperation with other super powers and is signing new deals of military equipment purchases which can become the base of an important weapon race in the region. This equipment ranges from Russian military equipment to high technology American and European weapons. Regardless, Indians articulate a vow to total and across the board neutralization, yet they look for after techniques totally instead of this standard. Intense nuclear guideline of a gathering of three capacities that include rockets operable above seas that emerged in 2002, trailed by the Cold Start doctrine that emerged in 2004, and ultimately the possibility of MAD way of tremendous striking back thought was floated a year prior. During all these years, a Nuclear Restraint Regime has been proposed by Pakistan to India (Abbas, 2017).

Its improvement of a full range sound least aversion is a trademark response to an intense Indian position that gets progressively undermining. Chari presumes that 'the fundamental issue that outstanding parts and will force the organization of Narendra Modi is the way by which India plans to soundly attract Pakistan in light of a genuine worry for nuclear strength'. It can be easily assumed that Indian administration has the potential to manage the wobbliness that its dumbfounded doctrinal hiccups have discharged, and restore wisdom to its nuclear reasoning. In that piece of writing, entitled 'India's nuclear show: Passionate advancement's Chari has keenly observed the nuclear system of his country. He begins the article by mentioning the remarks made by former prime minister of India, Mr. Manmohanin which he required the creation of an overall custom to promise not to use nuclear weapons. The writer is of the view that such a genuine methodology statement made by prime minister Manmohan at the end of his official tenure creates an ambiguity that shows that he was perplexed at his position. The pioneers of BJP largely opine that there is a need to do research on the India's no-first use approach. Regardless, on account of the stress elevated in various lodgings that Indi's venerated situation and 'a central component of India's nuclear guideline' as far back as it drove the atomic tests could be balanced without the need of any kind of dialogue, contender Narendra Modi opined that the no first use



policy will not be compromised under any circumstances and the security of nation would be the first priority under all conditions. Owing to the typically intense position taken by the BJP, these enlightenments can be observed with some doubtfulness and their outcomes need to be analyzed properly so that the effects of any military adventure can be forecasted. In August 1999, the Vajpayee government launched the idea of no first use which was also favored by the cabinet committee for security and has since remained as the prime motto of Indian administration in its relations and attitude towards Pakistan. The writer further articulates that there are many points that support the Indian doctrine especially on the use of nuclear power and there were many occasions in the history where the two atomic powers were at the verge of using nuclear power against each other. The writer keeps up that 'On the sensible front, the restrictions of nuclear avoidance have ended up being clear. It can be said that acquirement of atomic power by India has not contributed as desired towards the safety of its land and people. Plainly there are dead serious issues in India's fundamental thinking. The mix of various warheads, expanded precision, and definitely decreased dispatch time demonstrates that India is continuously moving from least prevention tenet towards a progressively skilled atomic stance. The capacity to dispatch rapidly is much important for the cases of first strike undertaken by Indian military against its enemies. The no first use idea has well past boisterous reasoning and the decision BJP has as of late passed a goals with this impact, be that as it may, applicant Narendra Modi separated from it. By the by, ability and limit with respect to denying NFU is, all around set up. This could fundamentally diminish strength of Pakistan by animating its organizers to additionally expand openness of atomic rockets possessed by them and the limitation of basic leadership can enlarge the threat of miscount, eruption and heightening in the time of emergency. A large portion of the autonomous investigators will in general concur that India seems, by all accounts, to be crawling structure atomic war shirking ability to procuring atomic battling capacity.

### **Threats Arising from Afghanistan**

Afghanistan is situated in the north-western part of Pakistan and is a Muslim country. It is located in the vicinity of Central Asia, and is strategically very important for Pakistan. Due to its place on the Central Asian Republic (CARs) economic corridor, several international interests continue to focus on the area. Another element in making Afghanistan the basis of future operations is the ambitious containment of China. As a result of the multidisciplinary regional interests, the soil of Afghanistan became the arena of regional and trans-regional players. Pakistan has faced repeated negative consequences from the mess, being close to the torn / disruptive Afghanistan. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai once truly said that the peace and prosperity of Afghanistan is linked with establishing friendly relations with Pakistan (Braithwaite & Wardak, 2013).

The political and economic development along with security maintenance among Afghanistan and Pakistan depend to a large extent on the friendship and common cooperation between the two neighboring countries owing to the fact that the geostrategic location and complexity of regional as well as global politics in the region. There exists shortage of trust in the relations of Afghanistan and Pakistan as both states are fighting terrorism and blame each other for their security and economy related issues. It is Afghanistan who has always urged Pakistan to do more and overcome suspected rebel involvement in Afghanistan. On the other hand Pakistan has again and again denied such type of allegations and said that Afghan regime itself is responsible for the

cross border infiltrations. The Afghan political system is powerless, and the lack of competence of Afghan leaders and the involvement of foreign forces in Afghanistan's internal affairs have seriously exaggerated their relations with Pakistan. The relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have deteriorated largely after the events of 9/11 and American invasion due to which the long term national interests of both neighbors are endangered. The fight against extremism and its eradication has become a serious issue for both countries and the administration of both countries regularly exchange information related to the activities of extremists so that the ways to curb these activities can be sorted out. India's role and support for Afghanistan is also worth mentioning as it is doing this by putting the relations of Afghanistan with Pakistan at stake (Hameed, 2012).

The government of Karzai is also in the favor of building strong ties with the Indian government as it knows that India can support it in its anti-Pakistan activities. Some analysts are of the view that India also aims to alienate Pakistan from Afghanistan through intense and active diplomatic activities in Afghanistan for which it is continuously providing financial as well as diplomatic aid to the Afghan government. In the recent years, there have been many incidents of extremism on the soil of Pakistan in which the involvement of Indian sources was uncovered. This part basically aims to analyze the main security threats that Pakistan is facing from its immediate neighbor Afghanistan and the main problems that plague and delay the stability and improvement of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. History speaks that the land of Afghanistan remained a victim of domestic turmoil and foreign interventions. With the current involvement of the international community in addressing the threat of terrorism, the relationship between the two countries is becoming increasingly important, and the role of Pakistan and Afghanistan in this regard is critical. If the current situation of Pak-Afghan relation prolongs, the terrorism related unrest and turmoil can endanger the peace in the region, which is not good for the interests of both nations. In order to achieve long lasting peace and stability, the both neighbors need to sort out their differences and make sure that there is no involvement of any other international player so that the bilateral relations can be made safe and advantageous for both countries.

### **Historical Background**

Afghanistan shares a common boundary line of 2,240 km, officially known as the Durand Line with Pakistan, which is porous in nature. Through an agreement between Afghanistan and British Empire, the Durand Line was created in November 1893. Afghanistan never accepted Durand Line as international border and kept claiming her right over Pakistan's territory of FATA (Durani & Khan, 2002). Despite the common geography, race and beliefs, the bilateral ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan are deteriorated. Both the countries are having problematic relations from the very beginning. India on the East and Afghanistan on the West is regularly challenging the existence of Pakistan by posing security threats. A notable name in the study of International affairs Mr. Ian Stephen has termed such a security situation as a 'pincer movement' a situation which is intended to crush the still born Pakistan from the East and the West. Owing to the security situation, Pakistan has always desired for a secure and friendly North-Western border, but this dream of Pakistan could never be fulfilled due to India's and Afghanistan's hostile behavior. Despite of the influential government of Taliban and other political parties, there have been varying degree of disappointment of Kabul with Islamabad (Hussain, 2002).

Durand Line and Pakhtun Issue are main reasons behind the Afghanistan's hostile attitude and unfriendly relations with Pakistan because the adjoining areas of Durand line that are present in Pakistan's territory were claimed by Afghanistan. Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan from the very beginning remained complex despite of the fact that both countries have many thing that are in common such as religion, culture, social values, ethnicity, and a common border. The situation was further exacerbated when Pakistan allowed the US to use its soil and bases for invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 which gave birth to mistrust in Afghani people against Pakistan. Moreover the government of Afghanistan has always given priority to building ties with India as compared to Pakistan which is another reason of fatigued relations with Pakistan. In this way India is using the Afghan platform for carrying out its nefarious activities in order to undermine peace in Pakistan. India is also promoting its anti-Pakistan agenda in Afghanistan with the help of its intelligence agencies. After the mid-1990s an extremely conservative Taliban organization came to power. In 2001, US led international alliance expelled the Taliban regime, and these groups have rearranged themselves in neighboring border areas of the country over the past few years. The Taliban and their factions have been mostly involved in the mission of expelling American troops from Afghan soil for which they regularly undertake attacks on these troops as well as the Afghan army (Rafique & Anwar, 2014).

The NATO forces are also under attack by these Taliban due to which the circumstances are worsening more and more. The Afghanistan's military forces are also under attack by these extremist factions as the latter consider the former to be equally responsible for shattering peace on the soil of Afghanistan. In this situation, the ability of insurgents to use Pakistani soil as a "safe haven" has made combat missions more complicated. Afghanistan and Pakistan are accusing each other of continuing the uprising. However the probability of smooth relations and constructive cooperation between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan are doubt flowing to the reason that both the governments are challenged by the eradication of terrorism and cannot be tackled on their own. The Pakistani administration is also dealing with the issues of Afghan refugee replacement and is making collaborations with its counter Afghan administration so that the issue can be addressed timely in an appropriate manner. The Pakistani administration is also dealing with the border issue and has taken steps recently to fence the border areas that are most prone to illegal crossings by extremist factions that are undertaking various nefarious activities on the soil of Pakistan.

### **Extremism**

Pakistan has been supporting the Taliban during the 1990s, but after the 9/11 incident, Pakistan was forced by US to go against the Taliban and pursue an anti-Taliban policy. Pakistan took the side of US in the war against terrorism and rebuilding the severely damaged Afghanistan. It vigorously participated and maintained the rejuvenation of Afghanistan so that the war torn country could be put back on the track of social, economic, and political development. The soldiers of Pakistani military have been deployed by Pakistan on the border with Afghanistan to prevent alleged infiltrators from entering into Afghanistan. But, this anti-terrorism war has led Pakistan to a difficult stage in the long run. From the last few years, some of the main representatives of Afghan government are of the view that Pakistan is responsible for cross-border extremism and promotion of anti-state activities on Afghan soil. They also opine that Pakistani forces are involved in the attacks on NATO forces and military bases of the Afghan government. There are some observers that are of the view that the leadership of the former

Taliban regime alongside Al-Qaeda are functioning mainly in the areas adjoining the Pak-Afghan border by having support from Pakistan's side (Hussain & Latif, 2020).

The Pakistani intelligence agency ISI has been accused by Afghan officials of involving, assisting and encouraging extremists and terrorists. Karzai accused ISI of supporting the terrorist attack without wasting time when there was an attack on embassy of India back in the year 2008 that resulted in severe casualties and destruction. Karzai continued to keep the same tone of voice, claiming that Pakistan's intelligence agencies caused Afghanistan's killing, destruction and insecurity. Earlier on July 13, 2008, the militants carried out attacks on NATO forces killing dozens of soldiers for which the Afghan government again blamed Pakistan. The Pakistani government responded to these allegations by saying that a developed and flourishing Afghanistan would serve the best interests of Pakistan and the latter had no intentions of undermining peace and stability of the former in any sense (Hussain & Latif, 2020).

The Pakistani government rejected the stance taken by the Afghan government and believed it was in Pakistan's interest to have a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, and Karzai's remarks could help hinder the region's development. Pakistan believes that this quandary is caused by the Afghan government with a proper support from global forces operating on the soil of Afghanistan. The embattled government of Afghanistan believes that Pakistan is the only reason behind the unrest at their soil in order to alleviate their prodigious failure and incompetence. The government and officials in Afghan are excessively weak to deal with domestic issues. They merely blame Pakistan for the failure when they fail to solve these problems and are regularly posing to the world that Pakistan is the main reason of instability and hindered progress in Afghanistan (Khan, 2018). After the event of NATO strikes in the territory of Pakistan, the bilateral relations of both countries became more uneven. The ongoing state of relations, desires that both countries should resume the original goal of war on terror. The objectives of the war are aimed at mutual cooperation and respect for the sovereignty of both countries which can be achieved by eliminating the foreign forces from their soil as these forces are operating only to serve their own interests. So far, people have noticed that, despite the stimulating claims made by the government of Afghanistan, Pakistan hopes to maintain friendly relations so that the peace of the whole region can be preserved along with social, economic, and political development. Pak-Afghan Relations in the context of India's role. The pattern of India-Pakistan-Afghanistan relations is usually analyzed through by zero-sum game, in which the gains of one are considered as losses for the other and vice versa (Usman & Khan, 2017).

Under the current circumstances, India has taken full advantage of the conditions after the 9/11 situation and has left no stone unturned to exploit the situation. The ongoing state of affairs has provided India with an opportunity to build ties with Afghan government, which has put the Pak-Afghan relations on stake. The Afghan government is living in a fool's paradise by believing that India is serving in its best interests which is not true in actual as the Indian government is only focused on serving its own interests and has nothing to do with the peace and stability in Afghanistan. A dynamic diplomacy in adopted by India in Afghanistan which has paved the way for pro-Indian entrances. Afghanistan is supposedly pursuing Indian interests that harm interests of Pakistan. The Pakistani government formally voiced grave concern about the activities and efforts of India along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. His claims about India include allegations of the printing of counterfeit Pakistani currency and terrorism related actions and acts that undermine Pakistan. India has formed many terrorist training camps in many parts



of Afghanistan where it is providing training to Afghan people along with the funding required to undergo such training programmes. The purpose of setting up these training camps is again the undermining of peace in Pakistan. It has also been discovered that around forty terrorist camps in Balochistan had been maintained by Indian intelligence agencies. India has been accused by Pakistan, allegedly inciting riots in its territory of Waziristan, and the Taliban factions are facing major resistance by the Pakistani military. The Pakistani officials are of the view that there is Indian hand involved in the damaging of peace in Waziristan where such situation is prevailing since the onset of this century. India has also affected the troubles and fighting in the clannish areas of Afghanistan by aiding Afghan militants with funds, weapons and ammunition. Consequently, foreign fundamentals in Afghanistan are also believed to be using Afghan territory to counter the autonomy of Pakistan. The intelligence agency of India, RAW, has trained more than 600 Baloch people for the purpose of carrying out nefarious activities in Balochistan in order to undermine the province's peace and stability (Grare, 2006).

The establishment in Pakistan believes that all of this has resulted in trust deficit between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan's objections have the potential to allow policymakers to reconsider their Afghan policies by giving special attention to the Indian role. It is a need of the time that administration of Afghanistan must realize the importance of good relations with the administration of Pakistan which is only possible if the Indian involvement in Afghanistan's affairs is minimized. The possible situation of the United States retreating and leaving Afghanistan must be seriously considered, because the worsening of relations with Pakistan may not be able to better serve the interests of Afghanistan. This is particularly important as it is a landlocked country and has no border associated with India, which demands that the Indian role has nothing to do with the achievement of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Issue of Refugees. The asylum taken by Afghan nationals in Pakistan has been a serious concern since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s. Not only did Pakistan welcome Afghans to its territory, it also accommodated nearly three million refugees. It is important to note that Afghanistan had closed the borders for the aspiring Muslims in the subcontinent during the Khilafat campaign of the early 1920s, when these Afghans hunted refuge in Afghanistan. In any case, not only do Afghan refugees impose an additional burden on the Pakistani economy, they also create many social and political issues. There was a huge inflow of refugees from Afghanistan to Pakistan after the US invasion of 2001 that resulted in migration of many people in the search of peace and safety (Borthakur, 2017).

However, Pakistan has refused to provide refugee to new asylum seekers owing to the fact that most of the Afghani people have been found involved in anti-Pakistan activities. The need of the hour is that Pakistan should repatriate the 2.6 million refugees already residing in Pakistan. This large number also includes some militants crossing the Afghan border, causing issues for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan recognizes its negligence in the management of displaced people and is now undertaking measures to accommodate these people by giving them places to live along with other daily life amenities (Puri, 2017)

Durand line is the name of border joining Pakistan and Afghanistan and this border has been subject to many issues since long. The border is a main bone of contention in the relations between the two Muslim countries. It was precisely because of this border that the Afghan government opposed the accession of Pakistan to the United Nations and became the only Muslim government to do so at that time when Pakistan was in dire need of support from the

Muslim world. Durand Line was seen as the main issue that damaged the bilateral relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan before the Soviet war as the war diverted the attention of people towards other issues such as refugee crisis and rise of extremism. However the relations between the two countries did not improve in the post-Soviet withdrawal evacuation phase. Though, regime changes after the 9/11 incident have resulted in revision of Afghanistan's policy towards the border dispute and the US-led Afghan government opines that the two countries cannot set a border line. When the Afghan authorities frequently reported illegal access into the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan government took the initiative of sealing the border with Afghanistan by fencing it all along so that the illegal crossings could be prevented which was the main reason of movement of extremists (Omrani, 2009).

The Pakistani government earlier wanted to fence the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan and wanted to install landmines along the border in order to prevent foreigners from infiltrating. Nevertheless, Afghanistan remains reluctant to accept any such Pakistan proposals. In 1894, Durand line was made with the consent of governments of both Afghanistan and British India. Islamabad considers the Durand line to be an effective and recognized international border and declares that this has been recognized many times by the Afghan authorities. It dismissed the Afghan demand as it was a valid document signed by two sovereign unit representatives. The argument that the contract was only valid for one hundred years was even contradicted. This treaty is generally argued to have been signed in a friendly and free environment. The then existing King of Afghanistan, Abdur Rahman, in his address clearly presented the agreement that was reached between the parties and advised the officials to adhere towards the British alliance. He also stated that Afghanistan for the first time has demarcated its proper boundary and in the future this would prevent the country from further misunderstanding and would make the nation stronger. Durand Line has remained a bone of contention in the bilateral relations of Afghanistan and Pakistan which is also hindering the progress and development of both nations. Both the countries should resolve this issue as soon as possible as it is a big security threat to the sovereignty of Pakistan. It is the duty of Afghan government to fulfill its historical commitments and abide by the global rules and regulations. It is binding on both countries to avoid all kinds of confrontation and must resolve all the mutual issues with utilizing proper diplomatic channels so that the progress of sub region can be ensured (Poya, 2021).

### **Role of 'Al-Qaeda'**

The militant organization 'Al-Qaeda' is providing continuous support to the Taliban present in both Afghanistan and Pakistan that are carrying out various incidents of terrorism in both countries. There are many leaders of Taliban who were generally endorsed and severely influenced by Al Qaeda. Many Analysts believe that Al-Qaeda is behind the support of armed elements that are harming the peace and stability of sub-region. Although Al Qaeda's command structure was shattered by military operations and drone attacks, several of its leaders are still active in various parts of Afghanistan. The militant organization is also training and exploiting suicide bombers that have been mainly involved in the attacks on US and Afghan forces since long. Moreover the organization is inducting people from many areas other than Afghanistan through internet where people are reached online and then convinced to join the organization with the primary objective as jihad. The organization has also close links with Haqqani network of Pakistan due to which it carries out its nefarious activities in Pakistan more easily and conveniently. Many representatives of Pakistani government have confirmed the connection and

collaboration between Haqqani network and Taliban. Haqqani network came into being after the Soviet war in late 1970s, when the Afghan militants took refuge in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan. These militants started running training camps and inducted a large number of local people, most of which were unemployed. In this way the network started expanding and its operations were extended to Afghanistan with the mutual support from Al-Qaida and Taliban. These all extremist groups started operating with mutual support and collaboration with each other due to which their collective power increased thus increasing their influence in the region. Both the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan have regularly taken measures to eliminate all these extremist organizations operating under different names in both countries (Gunaratna & Nielsen, 2008).

Afghanistan has for the most part remained the point of convergence of Indian regional system. One of the goals of this is to counter balance Pakistan through politico-military pinpricks. Indian undertakings in Afghanistan to reestablish its effect have been widely concentrated on three points: an important activity in the generation methodology and fiscal progression; building connection with the Central Asian countries; and trying to limit the effect of Pakistan in the region of Afghanistan. If the Indian administration succeeds in reaching its objectives in Afghanistan, this can be very harmful for the interests of Pakistan which is already struggling to achieve peace and stability since long (Mushtaq, 2018).

Afghanistan furthermore agreed to a broad particular Arrangement on Strategic Partnership with India, in October, 2011. India is giving military aid to forces of Afghanistan's government along with undertaking many other initiatives such as building of roads infrastructure, getting ready and prosperity, as a result of which India in a secretive and illicit way has been increasing its armed impression by carrying out these actions. Anyway the Indian affiliations operating basically by its surrendered armed/normal military work compel like Border Road Organization, and so on. Indian is directly involved in Afghanistan and is spending more above US\$ 10 billion. In its fervor, India has for the most part drifted the record that India is a fast neighbor and a well-wisher for Afghanistan. The Pakistani administration has its own reservations regarding the Indian role in Afghanistan and its consequences for the peace and stability of whole region. The Indian consulates in Afghanistan have the sole purpose to counter and keep an eye on Pakistan. Moreover the links of these consulates have also been unearthed in Baluchistan province of Pakistan where the associated elements have been found involved in different nefarious activities that undermine the peace and progress of the province (Akhter & Malik, 2009).

After 2014, Afghanistan's condition won't simply choose the condition of the area yet also the widely inclusive neighborhood. Concordance and soundness in the region of Afghanistan is critical for the economy related ability of the sub-continent along with the achievement of long term peace and stability. Crucial stresses that impede this improvement toward this way are: allowing an Afghan area for driving strikes on Pakistani region; unlawful little arms and meds managing into Pakistan; key help of India to look for after its interventionist advantages in locale of FATA and Baluchistan; union of monetary and political pioneers; broad impact of the war in Afghanistan and medicine financial system; and plan of secure refuges to TTP for cross edge ambushes in Pakistan. No doubt, the money related issues in Afghanistan are beyond the reach. Likewise, there is no anticipated technique for lively change from warfare into a commonplace economy. Upkeep and operational economic burden on the military activities undertaken by Afghan administration is soaring with the each passing day. Worldwide social order must not let

ANSF fall into pieces; as this would successfully influence the region. Edge the board is seven days locale and fundamental driver of various issues (Khayyam et al., 2018). Dismal undertakings within Afghan trade off and compromise could simply incite scrappy outcome. Consequences of stamping of US-Afghanistan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) which does not include Taliban would be totally serious. The deterioration of peace on Afghan soil after 2014 can result in a war like situation that can also give rise to extensive customary safety issues for Pakistan.

### **Role of United States**

The economic interests of United States in South Asia and Central Asia, is to continue to secure the naval trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. In this region, the United States has a wide range of vested interests, including the containment of China, Iran, communism and the prospective Islamic bloc of neighboring Muslim countries. The basic reason behind this is that it wants to take control of the natural resources present in the region and to eradicate the alleged menace of terrorism that is likely to rise from country like Afghanistan. It also fear that any incident like the 9/11 do not happen again on its homeland. All this has indirectly severely affected the internal security situation of Pakistan (Javaid & Mushtaq, 2014).

These effects are evident following Soviet withdrawal from Russia and the war on terror in Afghanistan. The wave of terrorism in the country can be contributed to the US war in Afghanistan. The drone attacks by the US inside the territory of Pakistan has resulted in the enmity of the masses against America. It is reported that the government of Afghanistan with the help of US, Indian and Russian intelligence organizations have created a new RAMA (Research and Analysis Milli Afghan) intelligence agency to undermine Pakistan (Mazhar & Goraya, 2010). The newly established intelligence agency RAMA is providing training to its officials. Its main designs in Pakistan appear to increase control over the port of Gwadar, destabilize Balochistan and to increase the activities of terrorism in order to destabilize the nuclear program of Pakistan. The strange events include the arrest of Raymond Davis over clandestine actions in Lahore, Osama Bin Laden's shooting in Abbottabad operation, or the issuance of more than 500 visas in one week by the Pakistani embassy. All these mysterious events show the hidden activities of CIA inside the territory of Pakistan. It is obvious that in order to dominate Iran and to further strengthened its grip on the Indian Ocean, the US is interested in converting Gawadar as its military base. Moreover, US and India have reservations on the emerging China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and they do not want that China should access the Arabian Sea through this project and dominate the world through its trade (Bansal, 2005).

### **Conclusion**

The external security threats/challenges being faced by Pakistan are gigantic. Being a creating nation, Pakistan needs to pursue an arduous course of diligent effort to shield its kin in opposition to the prompted difficulties, contribute vigorously to measure-up to UN Development Goals, build up comprehensive hearty standardized savings arrange and keep up perfect military status to hinder potential aggressors. For that Pakistan has plainly explained needs. Focal accentuation is on making a serene neighborhood, a vigorous economy and all out devastation of fanatic and fear based oppressor systems. As he continued looking for a quiet neighborhood, Prime Minister Imran Khan has finished his initial visits to quick neighboring states. As the economy pickup, at the appropriate time, Pakistan will most likely dedicate more assets towards



alleviation of non-customary difficulties and improve the personal satisfaction of its kin. With regards to conventional difficulties, the route forward is serene goals of debate. Pakistan's proposition to its neighbor India in the context of strategic restraint regime is still under consideration as it proposes a supportable guide to moderate conventional difficulties. Due to some historical and geographical events, relations between India and Pakistan have become complicated. The issue of Kashmir is the main material for discussion because it solves water disputes and other conflict as cross-border terrorism. The Indian government denied that Kashmir's right to self-determination is the most important problem to resolving the Kashmir clash. The continuous violation of the Indus Water Treaty by India is also contributing to the deterioration of Indo-Pak relations that are already facing trust deficit. The Pak-Afghan bilateral ties are also of key importance in the contemporary world order as both are immediate neighbors and share a common history and culture. Peace of one country determines the peace of other country. Geopolitical, strategic, and social factors compel Pakistan and Afghanistan to establish friendly associations with each other. Friendly relations will contribute in making the countries prosperous. Moreover, it will also help in defeating terrorism and the various security threats that are being faced by the two countries. However, in case the administration of both countries fails to eliminate all sorts of problems that are hindering the peaceful bilateral ties, there are large chances that foreign forces will take benefit of the situation which can be observed currently in the actions of India that is leaving no stone unturned to exploit the situation in its own interests in the region. To avoid risking the peace and stability of both Pakistan and Afghanistan, the activities of such external forces should be addressed in time so that the long term peace and stability of both countries can be ensured. The prosperity fortune of Afghanistan is linked to Pakistan. Structure of the Gwadar port would benefit not only Pakistan but also Afghanistan. Pakistan needs help in combating the common enemy of both the countries. Both the countries need to give immediate attention to this issue.

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