

Pakistan's Role in Afghan Peace Process: An Analysis

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Abstract:

The strong social, cultural, religious, and political ties that exist between Pakistan and Afghanistan contribute to their increased interdependence. With the advent of the Taliban administration, this report thoroughly examines the security implications for Pakistan. Due to the deep-rooted relationships between the Afghan Taliban and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), there is a direct impact on bilateral relations. Constructivism and the theory of the regional security complex have been used to describe the entire scenario. Afghanistan's internal political and security conditions have a significant impact on Pakistan's security and stability. Pakistan has a number of difficulties as a result of the Taliban's control of Afghanistan. Following August 2021, there has been an increase in militancy in Pakistan. Since the US withdrew from Afghanistan, the dynamics of relations between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US have changed, creating a number of difficulties and complicating matters further. It will take mutual trust, caution, resolve, and a strong political will to have an ongoing and fruitful conversation. The necessity of trust-building, cooperation around shared challenges, and a geo-economic approach to the partnership are emphasized in the paper's conclusion.

Keywords: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Politics, Taliban, Security, TTP, Terrorism, Regional Stability, Regional Stability.

Introduction

The United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan following the September 11 attacks of 2001, also known as 9/11, marked the end of a two-decade war phase. Although Pakistan and the US were critical partners in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan, their security cooperation was notable for its complicated and variable nature. The United States accuses Islamabad of acting against its interests in the region and providing support to terrorist organizations. However, Pakistan refuted all of the accusations and charges and stated that he had personally suffered hardships during the American-led war in Afghanistan. However, during the past few decades, Washington has been wary of Islamabad's bilateral ties, and Islamabad has expressed alarm about the growing US-Indian relationship in the region. The relationship between Washington and Islamabad has become even more complex since the US withdrew its soldiers from Afghanistan (Shahbaz, 2023). The relationship between Islamabad and Washington has been the focus of intense discussion and close examination over the last few decades and this relationship between Pakistan and the United States is now tense and fraught with difficulties, including differing approaches to policy, security worries, political disagreements, varied degrees of mutual mistrust, and disparate strategic interests. In the past, the US has utilized its position in Afghanistan as leverage in its discussions with Pakistan. Pakistan has made an effort to use its strategic location while maintaining a balance in its bilateral relations with the US.

The US military pullout from Kabul has brought forth both fresh chances and difficulties for the bilateral ties between the US and Pakistan. Taking into account these multifaceted and multiplex elements, it is evident that the future of the US-Pakistan relationship will be unpredictable. However, in order to get past the challenges and roadblocks that Washington and Islamabad face together, they must collaborate closely. In reality, the Pakistan-Afghan relations have never made sense. There have been complicated bilateral relations ever since Pakistan gained its independence. When Pakistan, a recently formed nation, was denied UN membership, trust was betrayed by the Afghan government. Similar to this, Pakistan's historic role in thwarting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the subsequent War on Terror caused Afghans to question Pakistan's needless meddling in their nation. Pakistan faces both possibilities and problems as a result of its key geographic location (Bolsinger et al., 2024). One of the main challenges, in addition to other significant factors, is the Durand Line, which separates Pakistan and Afghanistan. This border has caused a huge gap in several security-related areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan deteriorated as a result of these issues combined. The Taliban took over Kabul on August 15, 2021, and removed President Ashraf Ghani from office. The Taliban proclaimed their dominance over the entire region, which had a significant effect on Pakistan, a neighbor. Pakistan anticipated an improvement in the bilateral ties and sought to garner major attention from the development. Contrary to predictions, however, the Taliban's actions exacerbated the security situation and instability on the Western Borders, further complicating relations between the two nations. The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan's northwest, where the country borders Afghanistan, is currently experiencing extremely complicated security conditions (Jamal, 2021). The bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are significantly impacted by such dire security situations, raising a number of questions. Because of the actions and limitations of the Taliban, they declined to drive the TTP out of Afghanistan (Ullah et al., 2023). The fact that the TTP has grown more active and dangerous in Afghanistan since the Taliban took power and established a firm grasp on running the terrorist network from Afghanistan is one of the major ramifications for Pakistan in the current situation (Abdul, 2023). TTP Pakistan and other terrorist organizations have a long history of activity in Pakistan. Since previous military operations cleared more than 96% of the region of terrorism and placed it under state administration, nearly the whole terrorist network has been destroyed, apprehended, or fled to Afghanistan (Warraich et al., 2023). There is a lengthy history of TTP backing from the Afghan Taliban. There are concerns that the TTP is consistently using Afghanistan as a base from which to launch strikes in Pakistan and that the Taliban give the TTP safe heavens in Afghanistan (Hussain 2023). The Taliban additionally failed to halt the supply of weaponry from Afghanistan to Pakistan (Haidari, 2024). As was previously indicated, Pakistan and Afghanistan have a large border, which has led to a significant increase in regional unease. Both neighboring nations are also dealing with unavoidable situations, which have a significant impact on security. Concerns concerning security have been voiced by Pakistan's political and security sectors following the Taliban takeover of Kabul. It has been requesting that the Afghan Taliban leadership respond to Pakistan's worries about these kinds of security matters. Similarly, Pakistan has frequently charged that the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan is giving sanctuary to the TTP group, posing a serious threat to Pakistan's security (Khalid et al., 2023). Conversely, the Afghan government has consistently refuted Pakistan's allegations against the Taliban and emphasized that no nation or organization is permitted to utilize Afghan territory in opposition to Pakistan (Khan et al., 2023). Afghanistan's security problems have a major influence on Pakistan's internal security difficulties, particularly in Balochistan and KPK. The purpose of this study is to investigate these issues. Because of their shared interests, cultural and ethnic coherence, and ideological alignment, the TTP and the Afghan Taliban have a tight alliance (Khan, 2023). This essay aims to investigate a number of significant issues, including the effects of the TTP and Afghan Taliban's tight relationship on Pakistan's security. In a similar vein, it provides a thorough roadmap for future

advancements in the relations while highlighting the ambiguous security aspects of the two neighbors' relationship. It covered prospects and difficulties for the US-Pakistan relationship following the departure from Afghanistan, with an emphasis on the two countries' capacity for collaboration and resiliency. The dynamics of Pakistan-US ties appear to have changed as a result of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, and this change has significant ramifications for regional security and stability (Tahir, 2023). Pakistan-US relations can be transformed by reorienting the focus from security to prosperity through various efforts like geo-economic alliances, mitigating climate change, and fostering people-to-people linkages through cultural and educational exchange programs.

Literature Review

The dynamics of the region are significantly affected by the US pullout from Afghanistan, especially the relationship between the US and Pakistan. The US-Pakistan relationship during the Cold War and War on Terror must be highlighted in order to comprehend the post-withdrawal dynamics. The development of the US-Pakistan relationship from the Cold War era to a strategic alliance and non-NATO ally in the fight against terrorism has been highlighted by researchers and scholars. The subcontinent's geopolitics changed with the rise of Pakistan, and this cannot be disregarded in national foreign policy. Pakistan's foreign policy has been shaped by its geopolitical considerations since its inception. Pakistan was forced to become a partner with the US, a significant power, in order to defeat its arch-rivals and secure its existence in the area. Pakistan-US ties were formed during the Cold War by US military and economic assistance to Pakistan as well as Pakistan's support of the US against the spread of Communism. Pakistan joined CENTO Defense and SEATO Defense pacts as a result of Washington and Islamabad's cooperation (Elahi et al., 2023). The US gave Pakistan financial and military support as part of these agreements. Washington expressed mistrust about the development of nuclear weapons in the middle of the 1970s, which put an end to the age of collaboration and fostered mistrust and conflict. But the USSR invasion of Afghanistan restored a relationship between the US and Pakistan. The US needed Pakistan's help to restrain the USSR in Afghanistan, while Pakistan needed the US back to secure its northern border. Both states entered a new phase of bilateral cooperation due to their shared interests. However, the Pressler Amendment, which halted all military and economic assistance, destroyed Pakistan-US relations once more when the USSR fell apart. The US lost interest in Islamabad after achieving its objectives of conquering the USSR and controlling communism. The US applied severe sanctions under the Glenn Amendment following the nuclear test in retaliation for the Indian nuclear test in order to preserve the balance of power, further deteriorating relations between the two states. The US military leaving Afghanistan would leave a vacuum that would allow the Taliban to flourish and bring about conditions akin to a civil war. The relationship with the Taliban poses a problem along the border since the rise of extremist organizations poses a serious risk to Islamabad's national security. It will make the situation on Pakistan's northern border even worse. The US actively engaged the parties involved in Kabul to promote stability and peace since they are related to Islamabad's peaceful and prosperous future (Youhana, 2023). The US appears committed to achieving a peace accord that is palatable to all parties. The lack of trust, though, appears to be a significant obstacle. The lack of trust, though, appears to be a significant obstacle. The claims and mistrust about the militancy frequently influence the conversations. In an effort to promote regional peace, Pakistan made an effort to get the Taliban back to the negotiating table. Because of their lack of collaboration following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, ties between Pakistan and the US during Biden's presidency got more difficult following the Doha deal (Hussain et al., 2023). In order to improve relations between the two countries and ensure regional peace, a new set of challenges in Pakistan-US relations have been brought about by the US departure from Afghanistan and shifting regional dynamics. The most significant player with significant effects on Pakistani security as well as regional security is probably the Taliban's provisional

administration in Afghanistan. Both Pakistan and the Taliban are conscious of and knowledgeable about their own internal dynamics. A number of issues that both nations are dealing with must be resolved in order to strengthen their neighborly ties (Umami et al., 2023). These difficulties include the mistrust that exists between the two countries, the idea that Pakistan meddles in internal matters in Afghanistan, the existence of terrorist organizations on both sides of the border, and the refugee issue. Following Kabul's seizure by the neo-Afghan Taliban, tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have grown. Unexpectedly, there has been a rise in terrorist insurgencies and cross-border military conflicts in some parts of Pakistan. TTP and other militant groups, like the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), have stepped up their anti-Pakistan actions and policies in Pakistan's tribal regions. Hopes for stability and peace in Afghanistan were heightened by the US pullout from the country. Pakistan was certain that the Taliban in Afghanistan would restrain the TTP, its ideological rival. Former Pakistani prime minister Shahbaz Sharif stated during his speech to the UN General Assembly that Pakistan shared global concerns regarding the threat posed by the main terrorist organizations operating out of Afghanistan, particularly the Islamic State, ISIL-K, TTP, and al-Qaeda. Pakistan requested that the Afghan government take decisive action to stop these terrorist groups from attacking Pakistan (Chawla, 2023). Although there have been many disputes and tense moments in the bilateral relationship since the US withdrew from Afghanistan, there have also historically been occasional moments of goodwill and cooperation. The period of British administration over this region largely influenced the current dynamics between the two nations. Between the British- and Soviet-controlled subcontinents, Afghanistan functioned as a buffer state. Agreement from history that presently influences relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. One important source of friction in bilateral relations, for example, is the Durand line, which marks the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Furthermore, there was a great deal of volatility in the region as a result of the US war on terror and its involvement in Afghanistan, which harmed ties with Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan is held accountable for its dual involvement in the fight against terrorism, including its support of the Taliban, which complicated relations between the US and Pakistan. Cooperation and mutual understanding in a number of areas of agreement, including trade, security, culture, and counterterrorism, were the main drivers of improved relations between the two nations (Akhtar et al., 2023).

Theoretical Framework

The theory of Regional Security Complex (RSCT) has been utilized in this paper. With the use of regional prospects, this theory explains security dynamics. The notion of security is predominantly localized; regional security has a big impact on actors' policies and actions within the framework of the international security system. In RSCT, a lot of emphasis has been placed on the significance of regional actors and their interactions. Likewise, the principal national security challenges of certain states are so intricately linked to one another that they are unable to be handled separately. The Non-State's function, together with common historical, cultural, and geographic elements, make these interests extremely intertwined. The variables that shape regional security are equally crucial to RSCT (Akhtar, 2024). This theoretical framework addresses the relationships between states and non-state actors as well as the unique characteristics of a given location to provide a comprehensive understanding of security. The best framework for understanding the intricate interaction between Pakistan and Afghanistan is the Regional Security Complex Theory. The two South Asian countries with more than 2600 kilometers of border known as the Durand line are Afghanistan and Pakistan. Aside from this, there are a number of social, religious, and cultural similarities between the two nations. More significantly, Pakistan believes that stability and peace in Afghanistan are strongly related to its own national security, stability, and economy. Pakistan's and Afghanistan's security concerns are interconnected and interdependent in a number of ways. For example, because of their lengthy shared border, Pakistan faces significant security risks on its western border that

require bilateral participation and action rather than being handled alone. Likewise, it is impossible to overlook the role of the TTP, a significant insurgent organization, as a non-state player that is negatively impacting Pakistan-Afghan relations, particularly with regard to security. Due to their shared geography, cultures, and histories, Pakistan and Afghanistan have quite different interactions. The emergence of the TTP has also severely harmed ties between Pakistan and the Taliban. It is also possible to analyze the current state of affairs between Pakistan and the Taliban in Afghanistan using the framework of constructivism theory. Constructivism, for example, contends that common identities, conventions, and concepts influence international interactions rather than just material interests. Using this theory to analyze the relationship between the Afghan Taliban and the Tahrik Taliban Pakistan (TTP), one may contend that a common understanding of Islamic philosophy, tribal affiliations, and historical grievances have an impact on their cooperation. As defenders of a specific version of Islam, the Afghan Taliban and TTP may collaborate on the basis of shared ideals rather than just geopolitical concerns. Collaboration between the populations on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border may also be facilitated by shared tribal affiliations and historical links. In light of the recent turbulence in the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a constructivist viewpoint would highlight the significance of common norms and beliefs (Imran et al., 2024). The tense relationship between the two nations may be influenced by elements including past hostility, conflicting national narratives, and different perspectives on regional stability. Constructivism would contend that establishing shared standards and encouraging an awareness of security issues could help to strengthen bilateral relations. By emphasizing common beliefs, values, and identities influencing international relations, constructivism offers a perspective through which to examine the relationship between the Afghan Taliban and the TTP as well as the shaky bilateral relationships between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Research Methodology

The purpose of the qualitative investigation is to obtain comprehensive understanding of the strategy of Pakistan in Afghanistan's peace process after US withdrawal; it only contains secondary data, much of which came from recent sources. Secondary data is gathered methodically and pertinent information is extracted from a variety of sources, including news stories, journal articles, policy papers, and reports on the subject at hand. The researcher used content analysis in this study, which comprises examining the body of literature as well as material from other sources, such as government statements and documents, media reports, Think Tank publications, and research publications. To improve the validity and trustworthiness of the study, the researchers have made sure that data from various sources are cross-referenced. To bolster its arguments, the researcher has additionally provided evidence to support the statements from several sources.

Strategy of Pakistan in Afghanistan's peace process after US withdrawal: Analysis and Discussion

People sometimes refer to Afghanistan as the "graveyard of empires." Despite fighting for two decades and having the most powerful and advanced weapons in the world, the USSR and the US eventually lost. A peace agreement between the Afghan Taliban and the White House was achieved in February 2020. It set a deadline of May 1, 2021, for the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and freed 5,000 Taliban prisoners. The initial May 1, 2021, date set by his predecessor for the departure from Afghanistan was delayed by President Biden. However, the Biden administration moved forward with a plan to depart by August 31, 2021, despite obvious signs that the Taliban was not abiding by the provisions of the agreement. The national government of Afghanistan fell before the August 31, 2021, deadline for withdrawal. When the Afghan Taliban reached Kabul's gates on August 15, 2021, the city collapsed. The US holds Pakistan partially responsible for the mishaps in Afghanistan. They present a strong

argument that Pakistan backs the Afghan Taliban, who have overthrown the US. Regarding the financing of the Taliban, the West continues to highlight the \$33 billion that the US has given Pakistan over the last 20 years while ignoring the \$1 trillion that the US has spent in Afghanistan at the same period. This fabrication was extensively spread by Western media to hide the true causes, which included Taliban strength, miscalculation, a corrupt government, the National Afghan Army, and the US's local allies in Afghanistan (Abbas, 2023). However, the idea that the US's strategic interests now lie in the Indo-Pacific area rather than South Asia has served as justification for the withdrawal. One important finding from the analysis is that Washington did not have a clear and well-coordinated plan for Afghanistan.

TTP's and the Afghan Taliban's fundamental alliance

When President Ashraf Ghani was overthrown by the Afghan Taliban in August 2021, Pakistani authorities saw it as a beneficial development between the two governments, which had been embroiled in a security crisis. Many in Islamabad supported reconstructing bilateral ties using the innovative re-engagement and cooperation model; previously, bilateral connections lacked such an approach. Pakistan anticipated a severe crackdown on the TTP by the Taliban's new government. Pakistan anticipated working with the Taliban government on counterterrorism matters since it had strong connections to several Afghan Taliban factions, including the Haqqani Network. In the past, Pakistan has consistently given the Ghani and Karzai regimes proof that it did not permit the use of Afghan territory against Pakistan. There were significant limits put in place during the post-Ghani political shift in Afghanistan, and the TTP organization was to be driven out of the country. But when things started to become heated, the Taliban leadership freed thousands of TTP fighters, including Molvi Faqir Muhammad, their deputy. Their previous Afghan administrations had imprisoned them, comparably, the TTP outlet seized control of the US left's advanced weaponry and was granted enormous freedom of movement within Afghanistan. This has led to a marked upsurge in insurgent activity over the past year in several parts of Pakistan. Numerous factors indicate that the TTP and the Afghanistan Taliban have developed a strong bond based on mutual respect and deep trust (Abbas, 2023). TTP announced the establishment of its first-ever organized military training. Simultaneously, TTP Chief Noor Wali Mehsud declared that imitating the Afghan Taliban is the only feasible path to TTP triumph in Pakistan (Ahmad, 2023). More significantly, the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) has consolidated its foundation in Pakistan and Afghanistan. More significantly, the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) has consolidated its foundation in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The majority of the ISKP's fighters are not affiliated with the Afghan Taliban or the TTP. In contrast to the TTP, the ISKP has refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Taliban caliphate and has instead begun its fight for the establishment of its own caliphate. According to Ali (2020), the Taliban in Afghanistan have taken significant measures against the ISKP and view it as an existential danger to their Islamic Emirate. As previously mentioned, the TTP and the Afghan Taliban have deep ideological, cultural, and ethnic ties that only serve to strengthen their relationship (Akhtar, 2024).

Afghan Taliban and TTP: Consequences for Pakistan-Afghan Relations

Pakistan's security is at risk due to the TTP's affiliation with the Afghan Taliban. The longstanding ties between the Taliban and Pakistan have deteriorated due to the TTP and the Afghan Taliban nexus. The TTP now uses Afghanistan's post-Taliban state as a powerful and secure base of operations against Pakistan. Over the previous two years, TTP has expanded its cross-border strikes. A study from 2023 states that there was a 79% rise in these attacks, and they persisted into early 2024 (Manisha, 2023). The Taliban and Pakistan have had excellent connections for the last couple decades in a number of ways. Remembering their successful prior experience, Pakistan was very hopeful when the Taliban seized power in Kabul. Pakistan sought to establish entirely new ties with the recently established regime (Ullah, 2023).

Nevertheless, it was unable to accomplish its objectives, and as a result, miscommunication and uncertainty now greatly dominate the two neighbors' relationship. Nonetheless, there exist multiple approaches by which both nations might formulate a joint strategy to enhance their bilateral relations and optimize the reciprocal prospects. For example, improving bilateral ties could be achieved through sharing ethical principles and the same Pashtun culture. Millions of Pashtun people live on both sides of the Durand line and share a number of important commonalities. They are strikingly similar in terms of their diet, attire, communication style, and religious beliefs. Thus, rather than erecting high-security fences and shelling out billions of dollars for border protection, both states ought to focus on measures that foster confidence since they may come with lower costs. Pakistan should take the lead in this area since it is more powerful and stable in many areas than Afghanistan. In a similar vein, the Taliban's current administration in Afghanistan is severely isolated internationally. In light of its diplomatic predicament, the Taliban government ought to give up being obstinate and take Pakistan's concerns about a number of issues seriously. It ought to acknowledge Pakistan's position on security and counterterrorism. Mutual agreement is therefore urgently needed, and the Afghan Taliban should maintain a more responsible stance while keeping their isolation and diplomatic challenges in mind (Akhtar, 2023).

US policy following withdrawal and Pakistan's stance

The swift departure of US soldiers and the Taliban's takeover have complicated efforts by both nations to rebuild their bilateral relations, which ought to be their primary concern. After the pullout, Pakistan made a great effort to demonstrate to the US how crucial it was to the peace process in Afghanistan. Pakistan has the ability to persuade the Afghan Taliban to participate in peace negotiations because of its historical, ethnic, and geographic ties to Afghanistan, as well as its relationships with the Taliban (Aslam, 2023). Following the Peace Deal, Pakistan made sure the US forces left Afghanistan safely and eased their departure. Pakistan assisted in the evacuation of US civilians and Afghan friends from Afghanistan and supplied NATO soldiers with a vital supply route across its land and airspace (Bibi et al., 2024). But for the first time in more over 20 years, the Biden administration has not prioritized Pakistan in its foreign policy (Bibi et al., 2024). Pakistan has been a crucial non-NATO ally in the fight against terrorism since 2001, but the necessity for regional security is no longer the foundation of US foreign strategy. The US is now more concerned with domestic economic concerns, climate change, and competitiveness with other major countries, particularly China and Russia, than it is with combating terrorism (Bano et al., 2024). The relationship between the US and Pakistan has been turbulent since the disengagement. China's increasing aggressiveness is causing the US concern as it presents new strategic risks in the region. The US is attempting to forge new alliances and fortify existing ones, like as its ties with India, in response to these threats. As a result, the Biden administration views India as crucial to preserving a sound strategic balance with China in the Indo-Pacific. In terms of their strategic interests and national security, the United States currently gives Pakistan and Afghanistan less weight. Former Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa addressed the stage at the Islamabad Security Dialogue in March 2022 to provide a fresh strategy for a bright future. He underlined the significance of moving past the past and concentrating on the present (Ahmad et al., 2024). Pakistan's security strategy prioritizes economic security over national security and aims to collaborate with the US on non-national security-related topics like technology advancement and climate change. Nevertheless, implementing this plan will need a significant amount of work due to Pakistan's current shortcomings in managing its own economic affairs (Ahmad et al., 2024). The nature of Washington's relationship with Islamabad seems to be narrow in focus, tactical in nature, and devoid of a strategic outlook. The relationship seems to be mostly focused on transactional discussions about Pakistan's possible contributions to US counterterrorism efforts, etc. The international world, particularly the US, is concerned about the possibility of an increase in terrorist activity in light of the Taliban's rebirth in Afghanistan. After the Taliban regained

power, numerous grievances against extremist groups like Al-Qaida and ISIS-K were made. According to a recent UN Security Council assessment, terrorist organizations now enjoy greater leeway in Afghanistan than they did previously (United Nations official, 2022). Since US soldiers left Afghanistan in August 2021, there have been more al-Qaeda agents there overall, according to US intelligence reports. Extremist organizations like the Taliban and ISIS-K, as well as non-state players, have stepped in to fill the power vacuum left by the US withdrawal. There is a chance that Pakistan would be affected by the rise of non-state actors, which might have detrimental effects on regional and international security. All things considered, the US and Pakistan are becoming increasingly concerned about the security of the area due to the state of affairs in Afghanistan, and joint measures will be required to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Conclusion

Two important South Asian states are Pakistan and Afghanistan. As neighboring states, both are important to one another and are highly dependent on one another in a number of areas, including social peace, economic affairs, and security. In actuality, maintaining cordial bilateral relations depends heavily on both states working together in these areas. However, security concerns have cast a large shadow over the two states' current relationship, which has harmed bilateral relations. The entire discussion in this paper indicates that the primary cause of the strained bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan is the strong bondage between the Taliban in Afghanistan and the TTP, which is supported by historical, strategic, ethnic, cultural, and religious factors. In order to foster cooperation and stability in the region, Pakistan and Afghanistan ought to put out significant effort in this regard. The international community should also take the initiative to foster positive ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan, two stable nations that the world community needs to bring about peace and harmony. Because of competing national interests and varying objectives, relations between the US and Pakistan have reached a critical point in connection to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Numerous commentators credit the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Trump administration's sharp cutbacks in security support in 2018 for the partnership's downturn. The United States has redirected its strategic focus from South Asia to the Indo-Pacific region. Pakistan, on the other hand, had more regional and indigenous interests, with India playing a big role. Despite its repeated efforts, Pakistan has been accused of supporting terrorism, which has damaged trust between the US and Pakistan. There haven't been any significant agreements or results from the two nations' recent high-level contacts and discussions, which have mostly been symbolic and exploratory in nature. Pakistan places a high priority on connectivity and trade throughout the region, but the US has not shown much interest in adopting this strategy. Although the post-withdrawal era has presented many obstacles, there are a number of opportunities that could improve relations between Pakistan and the US (Jadoon, 2024). By cooperating during difficult times, Pakistan and the US might strengthen their capacity to respond to other crises as well as natural disasters like floods. This could foster mutual respect and trust between the two nations, which might have a beneficial knock-on effect on other areas of collaboration. With a focus on geoeconomics, Pakistan and the US should work together on infrastructure development, energy cooperation, and trade relations while changing their relationship from one that is security-centric to one that is broad-based.

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