

Q=What are the challenges which strain Pakistan US relations?

United states, a great world power and Pakistan, a nuclear power of Muslim world have observed multiple fluctuations in their relations. Both have witnessed convival as well as strain relations. In 1970's, Pakistan supported US as anti-soviet union ally. While after 9/11 incident, Pakistan extended its support and cooperation to US in anti-terrorism move. After Doha agreement 2021, US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan and US relations turned cold. In **2023**, both countries have signed a nuclear deal. According to this deal, US will provide military equipments and hardware to Pakistan.

This 2023 deal will spark a new ray of enthusiasm between their relations.

Although relations are improving but still numerous challenges are prevalent which are deteriorating and weakening Pakistan US relations.

Pakistan and China

Pakistan and china relations are although higher than himalayas and sweeter than honey yet a serious threat for Pakistan and US relations. As US and china are archrival countries and both intends to lead the world. Rapidly expanding relations between Pakistan and china in the form of **CPEC**, a major part of China's Belt

and Road initiative, Gwadar port development, investments etc are developing rifts in Pakistan US relations. As Pakistan is geo-strategically important country, US considers that if China establishes its deep roots in Pakistan, than China will find a way to spread its roots in Middle east, Afghanistan, and central Asian states through trade and economic ties. It will enhance China's hegemony over world. So, US wants to curtail China either by hook or crook.

US and India ties

US and India strong ties are also making Pakistan US relations fragile. India is the worst enemy of Pakistan and their rivalry is bolstering year by year instead of mitigating. So, India's strong ties with US will instigate US against Pakistan. That's why Pakistan considers India a serious threat for Pakistan US ties.

Terrorism

Terrorism is a menace which hinders Pakistan US ^{strengthening} relations.

US accuse Pakistan for providing military and logistic support to

to terrorists. After 9/11 incident, Pakistan provided logistic support to US for launching attacks and operations against terrorist groups in Afghanistan. Pakistan faced or beared a huge cost in the form of terrorism, civilian death, economic losses in exchange of or as an aftermath of its support to US in 2001. Pakistan is still combating terrorism. Despite, its utmost efforts, US claims that Pakistan is allowing terrorist factions to grow and develop in its soil. In 2023, Indian Prime minister visited US and Joe Biden and Modi gave a joint statement that "Pakistan should do efforts for curtailing the usage of its territories for terrorist activities". Pakistan demarshed this joint statement and it has put a strain between US and Pakistan relations.

4) Closeness Between Pakistan and Russia

Closeness between Pakistan and Russia is also straining Pakistan and US relations. Russia has remained a rival of US since 1945 when cold war began. US does not want the ^{revival of} the hold and supremacy of Russia over the world either by political influence or by economic ties.

In 2023, Pakistan has done/signed an agreement with Russia for the import of crude oil at concessional rates.

In case of Russia-Ukraine war, Pakistan has adopted a neutral stance. Pakistan has neither equivocally condemned Russia attack nor supported Ukraine. This neutralism has also become a challenge for Pakistan-US relations. US considers Pakistan and Russia strengthening economic ties, a threat for its hegemony.

5) Afghanistan issue

Afghanistan issue has always remained a terrific threat for Pakistan US relations. 9/11 incident had worsened Afghanistan issue. After this incident, US used Pakistan ~~on~~ against Afghanistan in the wake of counterterrorism. US-Afghanistan war came to end in 2021, in which Pakistan has played a vital role. Incumbently, Afghanistan's ruling by Taliban government. World, especially US has not recognised ~~war~~ Afghanistan. Being a neighbour country, Pakistan has to recognize Taliban government sooner or later. Pakistan knows that if it accepts Taliban government without consent of world, especially US, it will

have to bear US aggression.

6) Human rights violation

Human rights violation in Pakistan is also weakening Pakistan-US relations. As US claims that in Pakistan, people are devoid of their basic rights of freedom, expression etc.

7) Weak Democracy

Weak democracy in Pakistan is also a major threat for Pakistan US relations. It is a bitter reality that Pakistan is facing political turmoil since day of inception. Every new government condemns the policies of previous government. It not only condemns but also alter policies as well as agreements with other countries. As a result, Pakistan can sustain harmonic relation with US. US is also hesitant to extent military and economic ties with Pakistan because of Pakistan's culture of toppling down each other governments. Different parties have different leaders with their own ideas. As in Bhutto's era, Pakistan and US relations were strained because of that Bhutto was a socialist and not bear any instructions

Similarly, in Imran Khan's era, Imran Khan, ex-prime minister of Pakistan blamed US for doing controversies against him, so that he could be discarded from prime ministership. US strongly rejected these statements, and Pakistan-US relations suffered. So, the rapid changing of governments & political turbulence in Pakistan can be regarded as a threat for Pakistan-US relations.

8) Nuclear Proliferation

US is also concerned that Pakistan may share its nuclear technology with other countries. It will lead to nuclear proliferation. Pakistan's nuclear advancement is also a threat for the US allies like India and Israel. So, nuclear strengthening of Pakistan also poses a threat for Pakistan-US relations.

9) Pakistan Iran Relations

Pakistan shares brotherly and convivial relations with Saudi Arabia. ^{Although} Iran is Pakistan's neighbour country, but Pakistan has not such strong diplomatic relations with Iran. Iran is anti-west. US and Iran

enemies. After Iran-Saudia negotiations, conducted by Beijing in 2023, both countries have agreed for the revival of their relations. It is expected that, Pakistan will also ease its relations with Iran. In 2023, Pakistan has signed an agreement for import of gas from Iran. They are also intended in conducting barter trade. So, closeness between Pakistan and Iran is also a threat for Pakistan and US relations.

Conclusion

Pakistan and US have seen numerous ups and downs in their relations. Russian invasion of 1979, 9/11 incident, are evident precedents of it. Numerous challenges are threatening Pakistan and US relations but it is expected/hoped that, in future, both countries will combat these challenges and keep on bolstering their ties.