

Q 3 :

1- INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan and USA are longstanding partners. They made strategic ties in 1950 and remained partners till recent years. However, there have been phases of mistrust and Pakistan had also been used as a pawn in times such as USSR - Afghan war and War of terror. In recent years the relations are tense due to unstable political situation of the country. However, there are some factors that depict that USA and Pakistan cannot be oblivious of each other. They have mutual interest and they have geo-strategic relations.

2- HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF US - PAKISTAN RELATIONS:

Starting in 1947, Pakistan and USA have been engaged with each other. The timeline of the events is drawn further.

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1950

Visit by Liaquat Ali Khan starting the relation

1954

Mutual Defence Agreement and joined the SEATO

1958

The Peshawar military base was given

1962

6-2 Incident

1965

Pakistan was abandoned by America

1966

Arm Embargo and no aid to Pakistan

1971

Relation between US and China mediated by Pakistan

1979

Russian invasion of Afghan

1980

US approached Pak for war in Afghanistan

1990

Pakistan abandoned once again after Russian disintegration

2001

Attack of 9/11

2001

War on Terror started

2005

Defence Pact of US with India

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2011 | - | Raymond Davis event |
| 2011 | - | Assassination of Osama Bin Laden and Salala incident |
| 2018 | - | Suspension of aid by Trump |
| 2018 | - | Pakistan was approached to talk with Afghan Taliban |
| 2021 | - | Taliban takeover of Afghanistan |
| 2022 | - | Relations are tensed after ouster of Imran Khan |

Timeline of US Pakistan historical relations

The above timeline shows that US and Pakistan have a long history of relations.

3 - PAKISTAN AND US STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

For some scholars, Pakistan and US are strategically bounded to develop some strategic partnership. Both the countries cannot be oblivious of each other. There are some factors behind the constant link between US and Pakistan.

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i- GED-STRATEGIC LOCATION OF PAKISTAN:

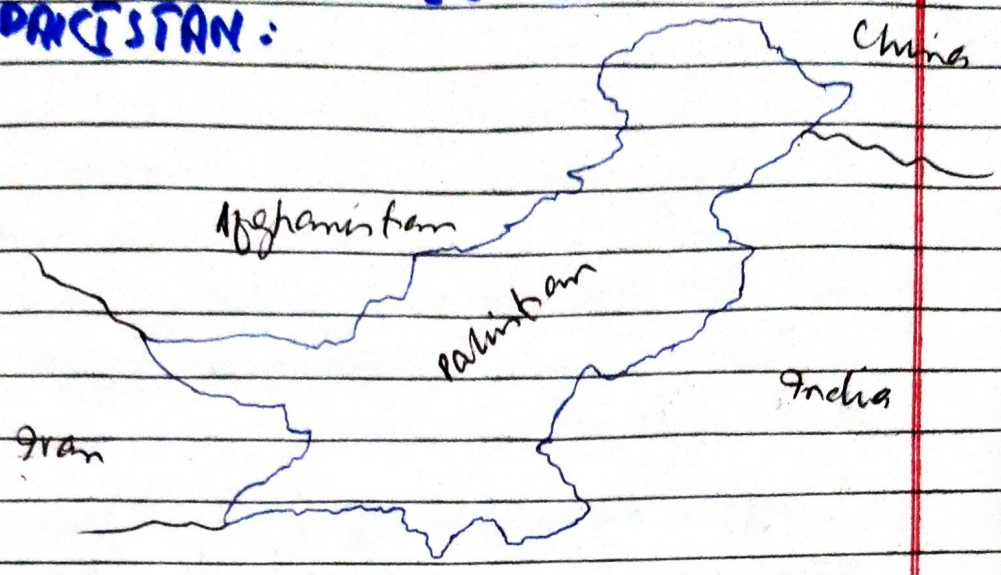


Figure # 1: map of Pakistan with neighbours.

As shows in the above map, Pakistan's location is of huge geo strategic importance in Asia to USA. In its west lies Afghanistan where US fought a 20 year long war on terrorism. In its East lies China which is a revisionary power and is of importance to USA. In South-East lies India which is strategic partner of USA.

ii- AFGHAN TALIBAN:

Curbing Terrorism has always been on the agenda of USA and Afghanistan had been the habinger of terrorism. Reports show that

after the withdrawal of US troops, terrorist organizations like ISIS and ISIS-K are becoming more interested in the country. Pakistan provided US bases in its northern region to spy on USR. Therefore, the country is still of huge importance to US with respect to Afghanistan.

iii - US CHINA RIVALRY AND PAKISTAN CHINA FRIENDSHIP:

China started to rise in 1990 and since then pivot to Asia has been the policy of US leaders. Pakistan shares its north-eastern border with China and both the countries have cordial relations. It is also truth that foreign policy can never be stringent and is very likely to change. Therefore, to keep an eye on China and its economic projects such as BRI, Pakistan is of great importance to US and US can get strategic benefit from it.

iv - US - INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

The Eastern neighbour of Pakistan i.e., India made relations

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with USA in 2005. The relationship between the two countries is a threat to Pakistan since India and Pakistan have conflicts between them. On the other hand, US may, in order to increase its allies in Asia, to approach Pakistan for Partnership to balance China.

V. PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM:

Since US is a superpower and bears the responsibility of non-proliferation of nuclear arms and protection of arms, it is concerned with the nuclear program of Pakistan. US has been insisting Pakistan to neutralize itself of nuclear arms and be a signer of non-proliferation Treaty. However, the country due to threats from eastern border is not likely to accede to the demand. This is another factor of US interest in Pakistan.

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4 - CONCLUSION:

US being a super power and Pakistan being an important geo-strategically located country, both are important to each other and have mutual and competing interest.