

7. Trust deficit has been a major irritant in the US-Pakistan relations. Critically evaluate the Pak-US relationship amidst fast-changing regional and global dynamics.
8. How can Pakistan reactively change its foreign policy strategies to navigate the evolving

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Introduction

The period of history dominated by the Cold War from 1945 to 1991 was a struggle between two super powers for power, influence and territory around globe. For United States, it was also a struggle to breakout of isolation and forge new alliances beyond Atlantic. South Asia as a region played a critical role in enabling US global supremacy. The design to align foreign policy by joining one bloc or other remained a challenge for the third world countries.

Pakistan choosing allies in cold war

Pakistan did not have much to offer to Americans in its early days. Unlike India, Pakistan had neither ~~in~~ inherited infrastructure nor a strong military.

As per American's calculations, Pakistan's location could only have provided them with a possible "bomber base on the Soviet Union's southern flank" and nothing more.

Pakistan-US trust deficit:

The relationship between Pakistan and United States has been complex and varied. Throughout Pakistan's brief history, the two countries have oscillated from an uneasy alignment, to a nearly ~~etc~~ complete detachment, to re-alignment then to renewed sanctions and ~~re~~ then back to new ^{being} allies.

During the periods of cooperation, both countries had compelling coincident interests and generally overlooked past.

differences.

Causes of Trust Deficit

1) Cynicism surrounding the provision of F-16s

Pakistan was designated as a major Non-NATO US ally in 2004 and most of aid which was cut in 1990s was also restored. The resumption of aid helped Pakistan to upgrade its military equipment and receive weapons system previously purchased from US but subsequently because of the reinstatement of the nuclear non proliferation related sanctions. US also instituted a number of military ^{training} programmes and civil education for Pakistan and provided Pakistan some modern equipments including F-16 combat aircraft, Cobra gunship helicopters as well as gears and equipments useful for GWOT.

2) Drug Trafficking's impact on Border

Pakistan demonstrated its commitment by lending strong support to US State Department in its narcotics control efforts. However, a spike in opium production in Afghanistan has undermined much of its progress. Most of these drugs find their way in western countries, where it becomes a source of discord.

According to United Nations office on Drugs and Crimes World Drug Report 2014, Afghanistan accounts for 80% of global opium production and 74% of global illicit opium production and over 90% of opiates produced in country are trafficked out.

3) Drone Attacks

US drone strategy designed to execute Al-Qaeda, Taliban and other extremist targets in western part of Pakistan is a controversial and unpopular strategy. It has jeopardized

Sovereignty. The Pakistani government officials strongly condemned and regarded them as illegal.

4) US covert military Actions inside Pakistan:

US covert military actions has resulted in trust deficit, created anti-American sentiments.

The Raymond Davis affair has reinforced perception that US has ~~is~~ ^{is} involved in ^{covert} military actions inside Pakistan. The killing of Osama Bin Laden in May 2, 2011, in Abbottabad has created sense of insecurity against US. NATO forces conduct military operations on borders of Pakistan. NATO force attack on Salala air base in 2011 killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, and injured thirteen. These incidents were great violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and received strong protests from public.

5) US-India Strategic Partnership

After 9/11 > even brought a drastic changes in Indian foreign policy towards US and offered full support to US on war on terror. SOS and RDP, aiming to promote long term supply chains stability and enhance security and defense cooperation. Both have shared interests in promoting global security and economic prosperity. These agreement would invigorate India in technological advancement putting the Pakistan's security interests in jeopardy. For example, General Electric and India's state owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will make India advanced fighter jet engines for country's indigenous light combat aircraft.

Pak-US relationships amidst
fast changing regional and global
dynamics

A Thaw in US - Pak defense ties

Pakistan and US earlier entered into a contractual engagement in 2005 when US sought close military support and land based lines of communication to support its operations in Afghanistan. That agreement expired in 2020. due to Donald Trump who blamed Pakistan for offering nothing but lies and deceit. Many analysts believe now that Pakistan has little strategic value now in eyes of White House and Pentagon. High US officials are more ambitious in wooing India to act as counterweight to check the global ambitions of China. but the situation at military level is better.

For instance, COAS, Asim Munir hosted US central Command chief General Michael Erik Kurilla at GHQ, where both sides exchanged views on regional stability and defense cooperation.

"Every time I visit Pakistan military their professionalism, commitment & competence impress me."

(General Michael Erik Kurilla)

Impacts of US-Pak Strategic ties on China and India:

Though China has not commented on this development, but China understands fully that Pakistan is time tested friend and it would remain no matter what pressure or arm twisting it has to face.

Furthermore, the strengthening of military capabilities would be targeted against India which also shares rivalry with China.

In addition, improved Pak US ties can help achieve many objectives like including the stabilization of Afghanistan, elimination of terrorist infrastructure

in FATA region and more.

Conclusion:

PAK US defense ties would help Pakistan strengthen its defense capabilities and provide a legal cover to US authorities to sell military hardware and equipment to Pakistan. This pact shows that US is interested in building strong relationship with Pakistan that would not limit to military to military ties only. Pakistan must seize this opportunity. The months long economic uncertainty caused by IMF's refusal to resume loan agreement supposedly under pressure from Washington does indicate that we can't afford strained ties with US. But we must convey that US must stop interfering in our political matters. We must diversify our ties.