

Date 12/10/2024

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# Pakistan Affairs

## (CSS - 2016)

Q6. Write note on the post 9/11 foreign policy of Pakistan. What role do you foresee for Pakistan in regional and global politics in the near future?

### Introduction:

After the event of September 11, 2001, Pakistan's foreign policy can significant shifts due to its strategic role in the U.S.-led war on Terror. Under immense pressure from the international community, Pakistan chose to align itself with the United States and NATO forces, especially regarding operations in Afghanistan. This decision had both short and long-term consequences on Pakistan's foreign relations and its internal dynamics.

"We had to make a strategic decision to join the coalition against terrorism. I made the decision in the national interest, as it was the only option that suited Pakistan's future."

(President Pervez Musharraf)



# I. Key Aspects of Pakistan's Post-9/11 Foreign Policy:

## 1. Alliance with the U.S.:

Pakistan became a key ally of the United States, offering logistical and military support for operations in Afghanistan. In return, Pakistan received substantial economic and military aid.

"We join the coalition because it was in Pakistan's strategic interest, not under U.S. pressure"  
(Pervez Musharraf)

## 2. Anti-Terror Operations:

Pakistan launched counter-terrorism operations against militant groups especially in its tribal areas, though it faced accusations of selecting-targeting.

"Pakistan has suffered 83,000 casualties (including civilians, military personnel, and law enforcement) since 2001 as a result of terrorist attack and military operations against terrorism"



### 3. Strained Relations with Afghanistan:

The post-Taliban regime in Afghanistan frequently accused Pakistan of harboring Taliban militants, leading to strained bilateral relations.

"Peace in Afghanistan is linked to peace in Pakistan. However, Pakistan must stop supporting the Taliban"  
**(Ashraf Ghani)**

### 4. Tension with India:

The post-9/11 environment heightened India-Pakistan tensions, particularly due to India's claims that Pakistan-based groups were involved in terrorist activities in Kashmir and other regions.

### 5. Shifting Relations with China:

While Pakistan remained aligned with the US, its relations with China strengthened further, especially in terms of economic cooperation through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"CPEC is a game-changer for Pakistan and a symbol of the ever-growing friendship with China"  
**(Nawaz Sharif)**



## II. Pakistan's Role in Regional and Global Politics in the Near Future:

Pakistan's geopolitical location and its evolving foreign policy dynamics suggest a multifaceted role in both regional and global politics:

### A. Regional Stability in Afghanistan:

Pakistan is expected to play a significant role in Afghanistan's stability post-U.S. withdrawal. Its influence over various Afghan factions including the Taliban positions it as a key stakeholder in future peace processes.

Pakistan has a crucial role in facilitating the Afghan peace process and bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table.  
(U.S. Special Representative 2020)

### B. Counter-Terrorism Efforts:

Pakistan will likely continue to focus on counter-terrorism, especially to mitigate domestic threats from groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), while also balancing external pressure from the international community to take stronger action against all militant groups.



### C. China - Pakistan Relations :

The strengthening of ties with China, particularly through CPEC, suggests Pakistan will remain a vital player in China's Belt and Road Initiatives. This partnership may also enhance Pakistan's economic and diplomatic standing in global forums.

"CPEC expected to boost Pakistan's GDP by 2-2.5% annually and create 700,000 jobs by 2030"

### D. U.S and Western Relations :

While relations with the U.S have cooled since the peak of the War on Terror, Pakistan may maintain a pragmatic approach, balancing its strategic partnerships with the U.S and China. Western nations will also continue to look to Pakistan for cooperation on global security and anti-terrorism efforts.

"Pakistan has always had to balance its relations with the West and its own internal complexities. We are committed to both modernization and our sovereignty"

(Benazir Bhutto)



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### E. Role in Muslim world:

Pakistan's leadership in the Muslim world, particularly through its close relations with countries like Saudi Arabia, and Turkey will continue to be a significant aspect of its foreign policy. Pakistan is likely to engage in mediating regional conflicts and representing Muslim interests on global platforms.

<sup>co</sup> Turkey and Pakistan are united in their vision for the Muslim world, working together for the welfare of our brothers and sisters.

(Tayyip Erdoğan)  
(2021)

### F. India - Pakistan Relations:

While tensions with India remain a persistent issue, especially Kashmir, Pakistan may adopt a dual approach of engaging in diplomatic initiatives while maintaining a strong defense posture.



Conclusion:

In Conclusion, Pakistan Post - 9/11 Foreign Policy has been characterized by a complex interplay of alliance, challenges and strategic recalibrations. Initially aligning with the U.S in the war on Terror, Pakistan faced both international pressures and domestic upheaval, leading to significant military operations against terrorism. With the passage of time, the U.S have become strained due to perceived inconsistencies in policy and accusations of harboring militant. Simultaneously, Pakistan has strengthened ties with China emphasizing economic cooperation and Strategic Partnership through initiatives like the CPEC.

In the coming years, Pakistan will likely continue to balance its relationships with global powers and play an essential role in regional peace and economic development, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East.

