

Pakistan's Strategic Culture

The sum total of ideals, conditional emotional responses, and patterns of behavior that members of national strategic community have acquired through instruction or imitation and share with each other

~ Jack Snyder

1. Insecurity and Hostile India

The fact that Pakistan was a new state, carved out of India on the basis of Muslim separation, has contributed to its insecurity. Policy makers disposition towards Pak and hope that the new state might collapse, making it possible to return territories acess to India. Pakistani leaders reacted sharply. Their greatest fear was the collapse of the state due to internal disorder.

3 issues caused serious security problems

Communal riots
& Refugees.

dispute over
distribution
of assets

dispute on acess
of princely state

2. Afghanistan's Irredentist Claims

On Pakistan's territory

This intensified Pakistan's insecurity when the Afghan govt came to know in 1947 that British had finally decided to wind up their rule and that state of Pakistan would come into existence, it laid claims on NWFP & parts of Balochistan. On the pretext of this claim, Afghanistan opposed Pak's admission to UN in Sept, 1947.

• Intermittent border clashes 1950s & 1960s caused much concern & their diplomatic relations severed twice. A large section of public opinion & govt in Pak feared two front war. Pak-India
Pak-Afghan.

3. Lack of Strategic Depth

Pakistan's territory lacks depth. The main railroad link from South to North (Karachi to Peshawar) runs parallel to India-Pakistan borders at several points. It is within the 60 miles of Indian border of LOC in Kashmir.

The three Pakistani cities Lahore, Sialkot, Kasur are situated very close to India and there are hardly any natural barriers like rivers mountains. Such a situation creates serious handicaps for the security managers because an adequate defense of these populations center & communication lines call for confronting troops of adversary right on border or in adversary's territory. This requires a well equipped army, highly mobile & hard hitting army that Pakistan lacked.

4. Opposition to India's Regional Ambitions

Pakistani civilian and military leaders have often expressed strong reservations about India's efforts to assume leadership role in S.A due to its size, population, industrial and technological advancement and military power. India leadership model asserts that strong India capable of projecting its power is a guarantee of security and stability of whole S.A. It isn't threat to any state.

leadership strategy of India

✓ 2 perceptions

neighbouring states
must coordinate
F op with imperatives
of India's centrality

India doesn't favour any
outside states to establish
multilateral relations
with outside power supplying
weaponry or military
presence.

Bilateral
problems be
dealt without
outside intervention

Regional states should establish
relations within parameters
acceptable to India.

Pakistan → advocates Pluralistic model

which advocates Principle of Sovereignty
& equality for all
respect of national sensitivities

5. Defence Requirements

Enjoyed top priority in Pakistan no matter the govt was run by civilians or generals defence was allocated major share.

- 1949 - 1950 73% of total expenditure
- 200 - 2001 24-25%
- 2024 - 2025 1.7%

6. Procurement of Weapons

Pakistan began procurement of weapons from abroad soon after independence because of acute sense of insecurity. Weapons and equipment from Great Britain

- 1954-1955 Pakistan joined US sponsored alliance
- May 1954 Mutual Defence Assistance Treaty b/w Pak & US - this facilitated arms transfer to Pakistan

Point As early as 1951, Pakistan's military realised that Pakistan lacked the resources to upgrade its defence and obtain modern weapons. Therefore they were convinced that Pakistan must have a strong and reliable friend who was willing to contribute to Pak's efforts. By getting defence weapons they were able to get

- military
- training
- weapons