

Analyzing Pakistan's Foreign Policy

On August 14, 1947, a country emerged on the world map on the claim of having moral Islamic values, full religious and political autonomy, maintaining peace in the region and world, and ensuring balanced and unbiased foreign policy. However, the country—Pakistan—has not yet any goal despite passing 77 years. As far as the foreign policy is concerned, the country has been oldfashioned in aligning foreign policy goals since its inception. In the initial period, civil and military establishment tilted towards the US-led capitalist block in order to gain economic and territorial security. Pakistan became an active member of SEATO and CENTO, while its arch rival India successfully kept itself neutral and became a part of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). India Prime Minister Nehru replied in ~~answer~~ ^{question} of an international journalist, "we are neither capitalist nor communists; we are only Indians". Contrary to that, Pakistan became a part of bloc politics.

After the breakout of the Cold War, Pakistan once again aligned itself with the US against burgeoning USSR. However, after the culmination of the Cold War and disintegration of Soviet Union, Pakistan received plenty of acquisitions and title of untrustable ally from the USA. Furthermore, the event of 9/11 and growing sanctions on Pakistan, the ground realities pushed the country towards the USA. It is said that the country has blessed geography, but historical events and growing political, social, economic, and strategic instability negates the fact of being blessed.

Pakistan is engulfed with rivals around all borders and has never attempted to maintain balance of power in the region. India is historically arch rival of it; Afghanistan is seasonal partner which is being used as a breeding ground of terrorism against the country; and Iran is also concerned about growing mistrust about multiple issues. China also showed reservations during Shaukat Sharif's visit after elections about the security and safety of its citizens.