

Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is a multifaceted one. It can be said that both the countries follow a single religion; Islam. The majority population of both the neighbours are indeed Muslim. Similarly, the culture of at least the Western provinces of Pakistan and Afghanistan are very much alike; tribalism and nomadism is followed. Despite these similarities, both Pakistan and Afghanistan cannot maintain a secure shared border. Pakistan, in particular, has security concerns emanating from Afghanistan. The proscribed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan shares a common ideology with the Afghan Taliban - the de facto and de jure rulers of Afghanistan. The Afghan Taliban, it is alleged by Pakistan, provides sanctuary to the TTP. This results in a thaw in the relation. Harboring enemies of the state does not make a neighbor a very friendly one. Moreover, Pakistan has given refuge to more than three million Afghans. They have been in Pakistan for over three decades now. More recently, though, Pakistan is sending these refugees back to Afghanistan. Hence, it can be said with certainty that there are multiple contours to the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan.