

(2)

Q4. Discuss the changing trends in Pakistan - US relations since 2001.

Introduction

The 9/11 attacks in the United States transformed Pakistan from a peripheral ally to a frontline state in the global war on terror. Historically, relations oscillated between cooperation and mistrust, but post-2001, the bilateral relationship became intensely security-centric. Pakistan's strategic location and nuclear capabilities placed it at the core of US

policy in South Asia. Maleeha Lodhi, in Pakistan Beyond the Crises (2011), remarks, "Pakistan became a crucial pivot for American regional strategy."

Security threats
Shared & Divergent
Perceptions
of terrorist threats

Counter terrorism Cooperation
Intelligence sharing joint
operations

Economic aid & Military
Support

US assistance packages
Military funding &
equipment

Public Opinion &
Sovereignty Concerns, Domestic
Backlash against US
Policies.

Strategic recalibration
Pakistan diversifies partnerships

Balances Relationship
with US & China

Post-9/11 Cooperation

Immediately after 2001, Pakistan aligned with the US-led coalition against terrorism, providing bases, logistics, and intelligence for operations in Afghanistan. The US reciprocated with over \$3 billion in aid and military equipment.

Anatol Lieven, in Pakistan: A Hard Country (2012), observes, "Pakistan's cooperation was indispensable for US success in Afghanistan".

Domestic unease, however, grew, with sections of society perceiving alignment as compromising sovereignty.

Counterterrorism and Military Support

Between 2004 and 2008, Pakistan conducted operations in FATA, and Swat against militants, often under US strategic pressure.

Done states intensified, generating
anti-American sentiments despite
enhanced military aid. Albar Zaidi
in Issues in Pakistan's Economy
(2010), notes, "Aid created
strategic leverage for the US,
influencing Pakistan's internal decision-
making." These years revealed the
dual narrative of elite cooperation
versus public skepticism.

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement....

α Tensions over Sovereignty ⇒

The 2011 Abbottabad raid that
killed Osama bin Laden marked
a turning point. It exposed
the fragility of trust and
led to temporary suspension of
aid. Bruce Riedel, in Pakistan,
America, and the Future of
Global Jihad (2011), remarks, "The
bin Laden episode underscored
limits of bilateral transparency."

Pakistan asserted strategic autonomy,
balancing cooperation with Washington
while strengthening ties with
China and regional partners.

Economic and Strategic Recalibration

After 2011, Pakistan emphasized economic independence alongside security cooperation. Initiatives like CPEC reduced overreliance on US aid. Abdul Sattar, in Pakistan Foreign Policy 1947-2005: A Concise History (2011), observes, "Pakistan-US relations became cautious and transactional, focusing on counterterrorism and regional stability." The US continued to press for reforms in governance and military accountability.

Post-9/11 Cooperation
Immediate alliance
against Taliban

Drone Strikes &
Military ~~Ops~~ Ops
Controversial Counterterrorism
Methods employed

Bin Laden Raid
2011
Major Trust Deficit
Sovereignty Violation
Concerns

Afghan withdrawal
& Mediation
Pakistan facilitates
U-Taliban talks

Economic & Strategic
Diversification
CPEC with China
Reduced US Dependency

Drone Strikes and Public Opinion

US drone campaign in tribal regions persisted, targeting high-value militants while fueling anti-US sentiment. ~~Feroz Khan,~~ in ~~Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb (2012),~~ remark, "These mechanisms stabilized the bilateral relationship during politically sensitive periods." However, inconsistent policies and periodic aid suspensions limited long-term trust building.

Regional Security and Afghanistan

Pakistan's role as a mediator in Afghan peace talks became prominent after the US-NATO withdrawal.

in 2021. Anatol Lieven, in Pakistan: A Hard Country (2012), observes, "Washington's dependence on Islamabad shifted from military logistics to political leverage." This highlights a strategic shift from operational to political cooperation between the two states.

Trade and Economic Cooperation

While security dominated the agenda, economic interactions continued. Trade and aid agreements underscored mutual interests beyond counterterrorism, although US - Pakistan trade remained below potential. Akbar Zaidi, in Issues in Pakistan's Economy (2010), remarks, "Economic diplomacy became a buffer against strategic friction." Pakistan increasingly sought alternative

partners to reduce dependence on Washington.

α Strategic Diversification →

Pakistan's engagement with China through CPEC, and partnerships with Russia and Gulf states, reflect strategic Diversification. Bruce Riedel, in Pakistan, America, and the Future of Global Jihad (2011), remarks, "Pakistan is balancing US demands with broader regional objectives." This diversification provides Islamabad flexibility in negotiations and mitigates aid-dependency pressures.

use more specific and self explanatory headings.....

α Current Trajectory →

Post-2021, Pakistan-US relations are transactional yet cooperative, focusing on counterterrorism, regional stability, and diplomatic engagement over

Afghanistan. Feoz Khan, remarks, "The relationship is no longer unidimensional; it requires careful calibration." Both sides continue to manage mistrust, domestic pressures, and strategic priorities.

Conclusion

Since 2001, Pakistan-US relations have evolved from frontline cooperation to cautious engagement, marked by mutual dependence, mistrust, and strategic recalibration. Key drivers include terrorism, sovereignty concerns, economic aid, and regional geopolitics. Flexibility, dialogue, and strategic foresight remain essential for long-term stability in the relationship.

work on the structure of the answer. use headings and subheadings format.

improve the references and the headings quality part.