

Pakistan Afghanistan relations continue to remain tense even after mediation by China. What do you think are major factors and how it could be improved?

Introduction: "Once allies now rivals." During USSR invasion in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989 Pakistan remained close ally of Afghanistan and trained Mujahideens as well. Similarly after that in nineties Pakistan was among the 3 countries who recognise Afghanistan. But After withdrawal of United States from Afghanistan in 19 August 2021, Bilateral relations between neighbours have been facing ups and downs due to return of

taliban in power. But this year in 2025 bilateral relations faced drift due to various factors which are given below. "Pakistan did air strikes on 11 October"

* Factors which are responsible for tensed relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan

① Durand line border is the leading cause of tensed relations

History: It is 2611 km border between Pakistan and Afghanistan and established in 1893. And it was somehow accepted by Afghanistan as an international border under article number 5 of Anglo Afghanistan agreement

→ Current stance of Afghanistan on durand line which further tensed situation: According

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to a news published in Down
'Mullah Yaqoob' gave an
statement about ~~recent~~ 'Doha'
agreement that durand line
is not included in it during
recently talks between neighbours
And this border line is
used by terrorist to attack
Pakistan.

② Rising TTP attacks in Pakistan
is a contributing factor for
Tensed relations.

~~Accord~~ Pakistan has been
facing militancy since many
years. But 2025 was darkest
year regarding terrorist attacks

Arab News

Pakistan has
401 deaths due to
attacks from July-Sep 2025

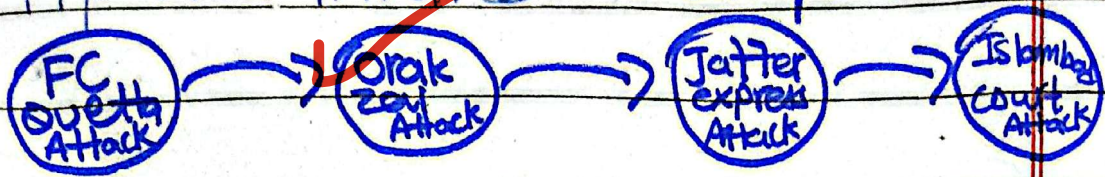
Institute of
Security Research

First quarter 2025
Death → 602
and quarter death → 900

→ 123
militant attacks Pakistan
faced in 2025

There are some attacks in which
TTP was involved

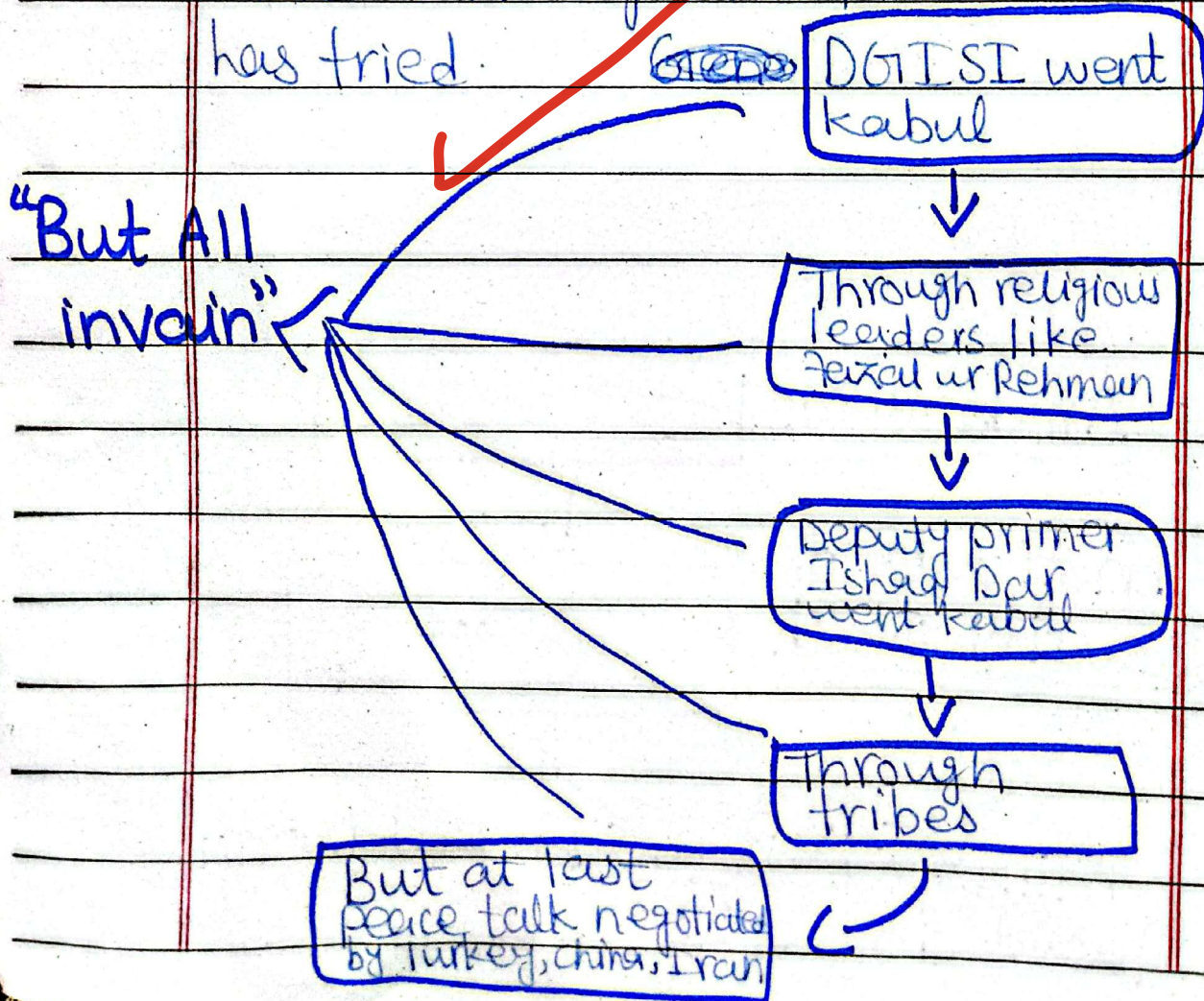
Examples



③ Afghanistan is not giving any response to Pakistan's concerns which further tensed Bilateral relations

Pakistan has tried many times for peaceful talks for curbing terrorists groups.

Here is history what Pakistan has tried.



④ Afghanistan is continuously allowing TTP to use its soil to attack innocent citizens in Pakistan

Afghanistan's taliban government has no resilience policy towards ~~talib~~ TTP and not punishing terrorists. PM Shehbaz said "Choose between US and TTP." Pakistan representative at UN said

Iftikhar Ahmed "There are 60 sites in Afghanistan using for training terrorists."

⑤ Pakistan wants to secure its western border

Pakistan did air strikes on Afghanistan on 11 October 2025 and killed 280 terrorists according some reports. Nor wali Mehsud was also attacked. This was only to secure its western border because already facing escalation at Eastern border.

DG ISPR statement

"There will be no compromise over sovereignty and security."

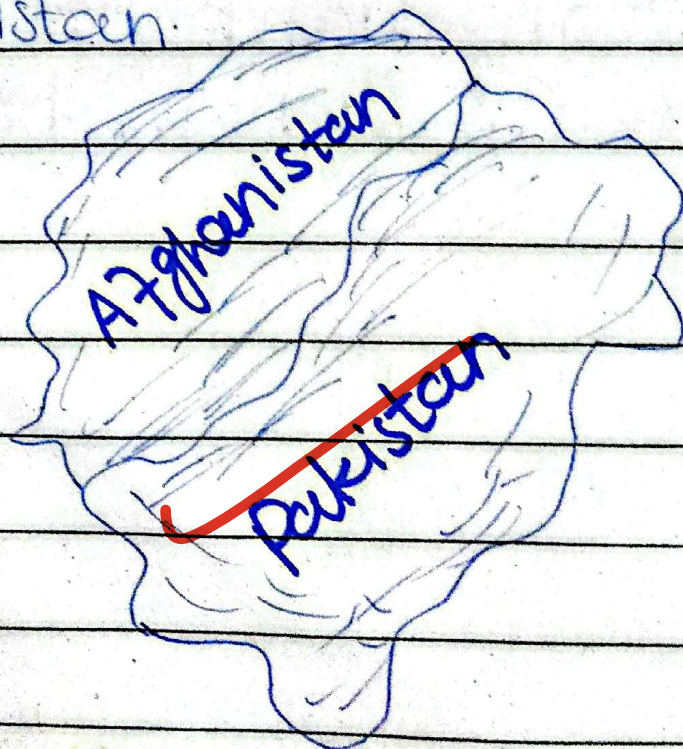
⑥ Pakistan do not want Indian hegemony in region.

India invested 3 bn\$ dollars during Ashraf ghani government but now it is also getting closer to taliban because

Afghanistan's Foreign minister Amr Mutaqi visited India.

India has opened it's embassy in Kabul.

So Pakistan can't afford this Indian rise which will isolate Pakistan.



Now there are recommendations to Improve Bilateral relations

① Pakistan should approach soft power policy.

Pakistan should help Afghanistan in uplifting its conditions. Country faces food crisis due to international sanctions. Pakistan should talk with international powers like USA to lift sanctions. Pakistan only talk to those Taliban factions who are not in favour of Pakistan. So Pakistan should engage factions in peace talks.

② Pakistan should engage regional countries to build pressures

Pakistan should engage China, Russia and other Central Asian countries to build pressure through economic sanctions and to pressurize to pay attention to women's right and education.

③ Pakistan should invest in Afghanistan

Afghanistan needs man power

or skilled youth. So Pakistan can give scholarships to Afghani students in universities. Similarly Pakistan can build infrastructure in Afghanistan to build good relations.

④ Both countries should formulate Joint ~~militancy~~ Policy to curb militancy

Presence of TTP in region not only affects Pakistan but also badly impacts of Afghanistan image in world so both countries use intelligence or special forces to protect borders.

⑤ Pakistan should make Afghanistan a stake holder in ~~Afghanistan~~ CPEC

leave a line space between headings for neatness....

Afghanistan needs only legitimacy and economic stability. So by making key stakeholder in CPEC with China and itself Pakistan. It will help to curb militancy through finances and somehow policies would be influenced by China and Pakistan.

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⑥ Both countries should involve media for balancing relations

Media is a key shaper of foreign policy of any country in this digital era. So both countries order or directs media houses to present soft image of both sides.

Conclusion: In a nutshell Pakistan and Afghan are facing difficulties in building peaceful relations. During 2025 Pakistan has been militant attacks across all over the country specially in Balochistan and Khyberpakhtunkhwa mostly by TTP operating from ~~Pak~~ Afghanistan. There are some other factors as well, which include durand line conflict, using afghan soil by TTP, poor security policies of Taliban and Indian

interference in Afghanistan. But By adopting soft policy by Pakistan regional pressure, investment in Afghanistan, joint security policy partnership in CPEC and by promoting positive image of both sides. But role of regional countries will remain important because

'Anatol Leiven' in his book Pakistan A Hard Country Says

Rephrased Pakistan affects

- foreign policy of every state with respect to south Asia specially USA and China
- So peace in Pakistan is important for others also.