

Discuss Pak-Afghan relationship

① Introduction:

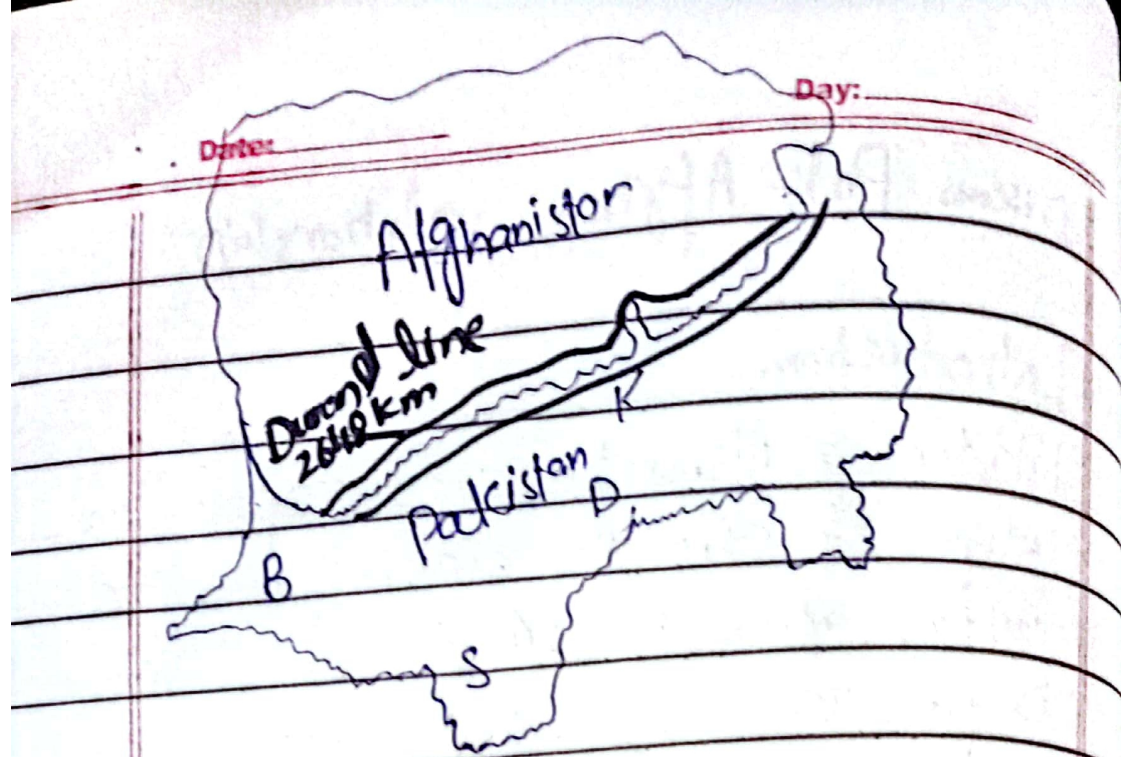
Pakistan & Afghanistan share deep cultural, religious & ethnic ties especially among Pashtuns across the 2400km Durand line.

Despite this closeness, their relation remains troubled due to border disputes, terrorism, Taliban politics & external interference.

Key issues include Durand line, cross border militancy, refugee crisis and economic interdependence.

② The Durand Line Issue: The Core Irritant.

Pak-Afghan relations began with mistrust in 1947 when Afghanistan opposed Pak's UN membership, claiming Pashtun areas in Pak's north west. This stemmed from the Durand line, a border drawn in 1893 between British India & Afghanistan. This line divides the Pashtun's tribes and Afghanistan wanted these areas to be part of a "Greater Pashtunistan" which created tensions from the beginning.



Pak consider it as an International border & view it as a legal process of partition & recognized it but Afghanistan has not been officially recognized it as afghan said it divide pakhtun as they started Pakhtunistan movement but failed to remove this durand line.

(3) The Soviet Afghan war: A strategic shift:

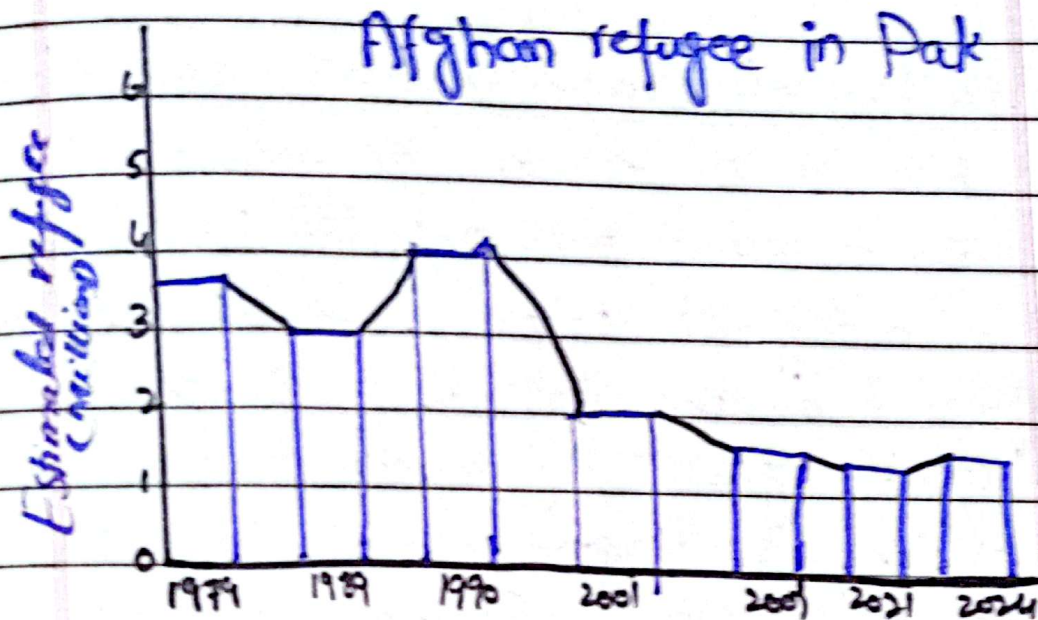
When USSR invaded Afghanistan, Pak's role changed completely. It became the main front line country supporting the Afghan resistance (Mujahideen). Pak gave shelter to over 3.5 million Afghan refugees.

Pak ISI distributed money, weapons

Date: _____

Day: _____

Training to the mujahadeens on behalf of US & KSA.



④ The 1990s: Civil war & The Rise of Taliban:

After the USSR withdrawal, Afghanistan fell into a civil war. Pak got more deeply involved in Afghan affairs.

In the mid 1990s Pak along with KSA & UAE supported Taliban as they emerged as a powerful force. Pak hoped that Taliban would bring stability & accept the Durand Line & keep India out of Afghanistan.

But the Taliban's strict policies & their support for Al Qaeda brought global

Day: _____
Date: _____
Sanctions, which also left Pak diplomatically isolated.

5) The Post 9/11 Era: Relationship under strain

After the US invasion, Pak became a US ally in war on terror, but put Pakistan in a difficult position. The US & Afghan government accused Pak of a "global double game" by secretly aiding the Taliban & Haqqani network. Due to this, Afghanistan moved closer to India through heavy investment which increased Pak's mistrust. Their relation got worse due to cross border attacks, shelling & mutual blame over terrorism.

6) The Taliban's return to power:

After the US withdrawal, Pak welcomed the Taliban's takeover as strategic move against India's influence. But soon, TTP gained safe haven in Afghanistan, causing a rise in terrorist attacks in Pak. Taliban still rejected the Durand Line leading to frequent clashes.

Date: _____

Day: _____

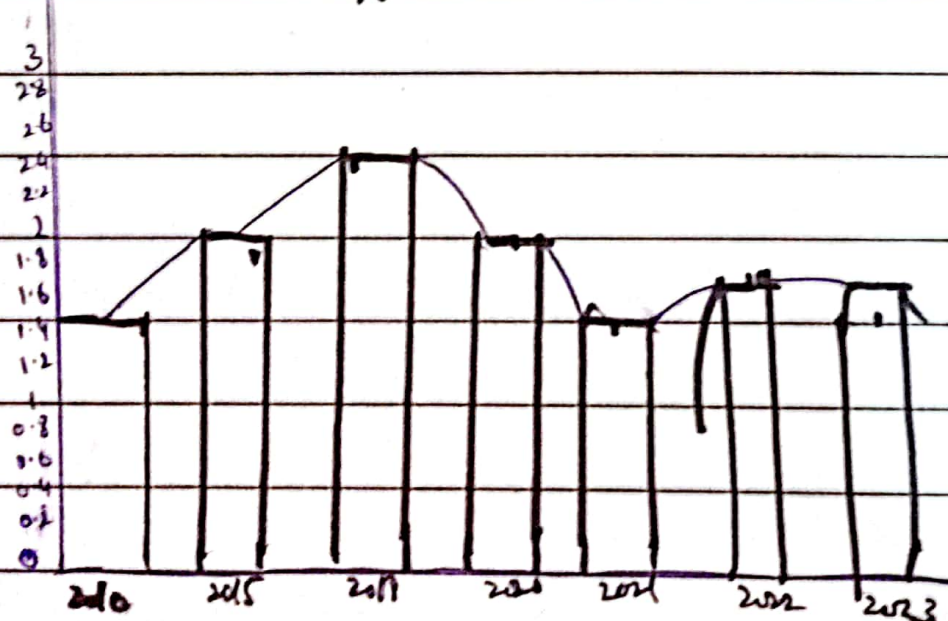
(3) Economic & Trade Relations:

Despite -ve tensions trade remains an important factor but it faces many challenges.

The Afghanistan - Pak Transit trade agreement was meant to boost trade to Central Asia but Pak blames Afghanistan for using it for smuggling, hurting local markets.

Alongwith this, Pak sees Afghanistan as a route to Central Asia, but faces competition from India's Chabahar port in Iran & other regional projects.

Pak-Afgh Bilateral Trade.



Conclusion:

Hence, Pak-Afghanistan relation remains stuck in mistrust, with the Durand line dispute, terrorism & Indian influence fueling tensions also in presence of TTP & ISIs in Afghanistan is a direct threat to Pakistan's internal security, while the refugee burden deepens socio economic strains.