

Date: _____

Day: _____

Discuss Pakistan-China Relations?

(1) Introduction:

"Pakistan is China's most reliable friend.... Our friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, stronger than steel, & sweeter than honey"

(Mao Zedong)

Pak-China relations are often described as an **'all weather strategic cooperative partnership'**, symbolizing a deep, multifaceted alliance that transcends geopolitical shifts. This bond is rooted in mutual trust, shared interests & strategic alignment. For Pakistan, China provides economic aid, military support & diplomatic backing against India, while for China, Pakistan offers Gawadar port access & a counterbalance in South Asia. Their partnership fosters regional stability through counter-terrorism & BRI cooperation.

(2) From Foes to Friends: Historical Background:

The strong bond between China & Pakistan was not instant. It evolved from a hesitant beginning into a deep friendship.

1947-62 → Cold start

→ Pak was in the western camp & initially recognized Pakistan not China → relations cold.

1962 → The tipping point

→ The Sino-Indian war was a game changer. With a common rival India, both became friends.

1963 → The foundation

→ They signed the boundary agreement peacefully settling the borders a huge sign of growing trust.

1965 & 1971 → Proving loyalty

Wars

→ China supported Pak in both wars with India.

1971 → The diplomatic Bridge

(3) The Foundations of an all weather Partnership.

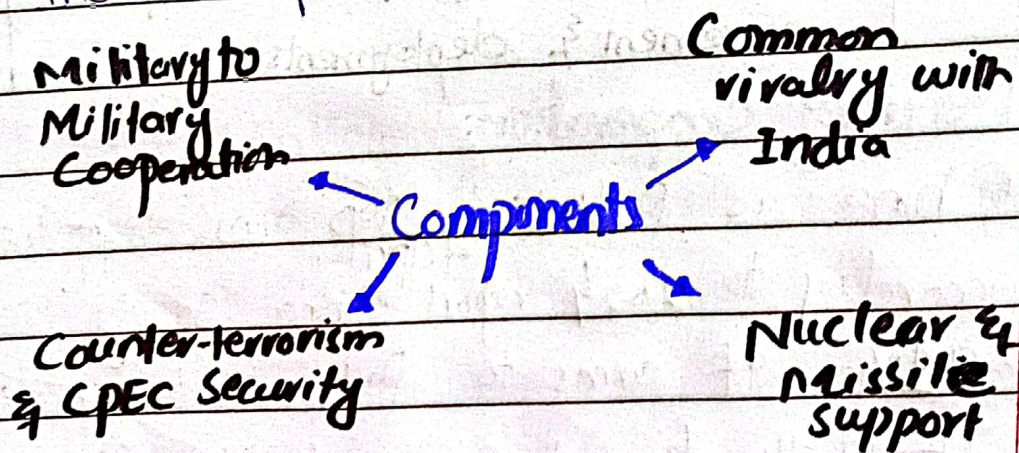
The partnership stands on several interdependent pillars. These are not merely areas of cooperation but the very foundation that sustains the relationship through changing regional & global dynamics.

Core Pillars of Relationship

- Geostrategic and Security Cooperation
- Economic cooperation
- Diplomatic & political support
- Cultural & educational diplomacy

(3.1) Geostrategic & Security Cooperation:

This is the most crucial & enduring pillar, often termed the 'bedrock' of the relationship. It is primarily driven by a shared strategic calculus regarding India. This pillar consists of four components.



(a) **Common Rival:** India is common rival of both Pak & China.

India is stronger in terms of army economy & international influence. So,

if Pakistan makes ties with China, So China gives strength against US. China gives strength to Pak & Pak stays strong, then India will remain busy & won't be able to dominate South Asia or the Indian ocean which is beneficial for China. So both countries help each other mainly because of India.

Casepoint → During May 2015 India-Pak conflict of Pahalgam China provided live inputs on key Indian military positions helping Pak reorganize its radar systems & adjust satellite coverage for better tracking of Indian troops movement & deployments.

(b) Military cooperation:

China is Pakistan's top arm supplier according to 2024 report ^{of SIPRI} China supply

(81) 81% of arms to Pak. This include

JF-17 Thunder → A Co produced multi role fighter jet symbolizing deep defense collaboration

Naval vessels → Supply of frigates (Type 054A/P) & Submarines (Hangor Class).

Tanks → Al Khalid Tanks made with

China's help.

Along with Ti, both countries regularly joint military exercises like,

Shaheen → Air force

Sea Guardians → Navy

Warrior → Army.

These enhances interoperability, train Pakistani forces on advanced platforms & send a strong strategic message to the region

Casepoint → During May 2015 conflict Pak employed Chinese supplied J-10C fighter jets equipped with PL-15 air to air missiles, which proved effective against Indian aircraft.

(c) **Nuclear Collaboration:**

China helped Pak build nuclear power plants for peaceful energy under IAEA safeguard like Chashma & Kanupp nuclear powerplants.

It is also widely believed that China helped Pak develop missiles like Shaheen & Ghauri which Pak uses to defend itself from India.

(d) Counter terrorism & Security of CPEC:

Both countries face terrorism in border regions.

China fears group like ETIM/ITP

that sometime hide in Pak's tribal areas.

Similarly Pak faces militants in Balochistan

who attack CPEC projects & Chinese

workers. To fight this, both countries

share intelligence & take joint measures

to protect CPEC & Chinese staff.

(3.2) ECONOMIC COOPERATION & CPEC

Economic ties are the partnership's

backbone with China as Pak's largest

trading partner.

~~China~~ is ~~Pak~~.

There are a few big ways we
cooperate economically.

CPEC

Trade

Key areas
of economic
cooperation

Other cool
areas

investment
& Loans

(a) **Trade:** China is Pak's biggest
trading partner.

The total trade between them hit about \$23.1 billion in 2024.

Caspaint → In the fiscal year 2024-25 Pak sold worth \$2.38 billion to China like rice & textiles & Pine nuts.

China sells Pak things like machines electronics & chemicals worth around \$20-21 billion a year.

(b) **Investment & Loans:** China invests billions in Pakistan. It has given about \$28 billion in investment through CPEC so far, creating around 236,000 jobs.

Case study → In Sep 2025, PM of Pak visited to Beijing & signed agreement for \$8.5 billion in new investment. This includes stuff like electric vehicles, Solar panels agriculture tech & financial services.

(c) **CPEC:** CPEC is a huge highway of money & projects connecting China to Pak's sea ports. It started in 2013 with a \$46 billion promised

grew to \$62 billion by 2020 & \$65 billion by 2022.

The main components of CPEC is energy projects, infrastructure development & Gwadar port.

Pak faced serious energy crisis like load shedding, electricity shortage. So, CPEC invested heavily in energy by making Sahiwal Coal plant, Port Qasim Coal plant & Karot hydropower project. These projects helped reduce Pak's electricity shortfall.

Along with energy China helps in building modern roads & railways to connect Pak from North to South.

Karakoram highway upgraded to improve connectivity with China.

Motorway (M-5 M-6) built to connect major cities.

Gwadar port which is a sea port in Balochistan central to CPEC and provides China to direct access to the Arabian sea, avoiding the strait of Malacca, which is a vulnerable

route for Chinese trade. Gwadar port is a major trade hub for Pakistan.

(3.3) Diplomatic & political Support:

Both countries support on national interests at all international forums, creating a unique level of trust.

Pak is one of the most steadfast supporter of the one China policy.

It recognizes Taiwan as a part of China; Tibet belongs to China.

Pak never challenges China's sovereignty in the international forum like UN, WHO. Pak always stands with China.

Similarly, ~~when~~ on Kashmir dispute, China always support Pak. China has blocked the UN resolution especially on Kashmir.

Case point → after India scrapped article 370 in 2019 (changing Kashmir status)

China raised the issue at UNSC

to support Pak's stance that it's a disputed area.

Again in 2019 after Pahalagam

attack China used its UN veto power to stop resolutions labeling Pak-based groups as terrorists, shielding Pak from global pressure.

(3.4) Cultural & Educational Diplomacy:

Both countries share their cultures, media & centers to make their people feel connected.

Casepoint → In 2024 In Beijing, a "Pakistan Cultural Week" programme held where qawwali performances & biryani stalls held & more than 10,000 visitors visit it.

Along with this, China-Pak collaboratively made TV shows like CGTN & PTV. Similarly there is also educational exchange between both countries.

Casepoint → In 2025 China offered 3000 new Scholarship for 2025-29 under CPEC, covering fields like AI, engineering and medicine.

Conclusion:

In essence, the Pak-China bond is a unique blend of strategic

pragmatism & diplomatic steadfastness.
it grew mainly because both countries
face common threats & China invested
heavily in Pak's economy. Even Though
Challenges exist, their strong foundations
mean this friendship will remain
important in global politics throughout
the 21st century.

