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Introduction: Dialogue without Trust

The Alaska meeting between Trump and Putin created headlines but not hope. Symbolism alone cannot overcome deep-rooted mistrust, territorial disputes, and clashing national objectives between Washington, Moscow, and Kyiv.

US Objectives: Preserving credibility and order.

For Washington, Ukraine is a credibility test. America wants to deter aggression, preserve NATO's unity and prevent Russia from rewriting borders, though internal divisions complicate consistent diplomatic commitments.

Russia's Maximalist Demands: The core obstacle.

Putin's insistence on Ukrainian concessions, territory, ~~and~~ NATO neutrality and recognition of Russian dominance - shows his revisionist aims. Such demands clash with international law and leave little room for constructive

Ukraine Position: Refusal to Cede Sovereignty.

Kyiv's stance is clear: no concessions on land or independence for Ukraine, accepting Russian terms would destroy sovereignty and embolden future aggression, making exclusion from negotiations strategically dangerous.

Europe's Skepticism: Burned by Broken Promises.

European leaders support talk but distrust Moscow's pledges. Past violations of agreements like Minsk II highlight the risks of premature deals, so sanctions remain tied to meaningful Russian concessions.

NATO's Dilemma: Security Guarantees Without Membership.

Ukraine seeks reliable protection, but NATO membership is divisive. Creative arrangement security pacts or guarantees - may substitute

for membership, though past failures like the Budapest Memorandum haunt trust.

Battlefield Momentum: Shaping the talks.

Diplomatic outcomes mirror the battlefield. Russia's advances strengthen its bargaining position, while Ukraine's fragile counterattacks make U.S. military aid essential to prevent negotiations from tilting in Moscow's favor.

U.S. Domestic Politics: Partisan Pressures on Diplomacy.

Polarization in Washington makes negotiation credibility uncertain. Quick-fix diplomacy appeals to some, while others resist compromising with Moscow. Shifting administrations raise doubts about America's ability to sustain promises.

9. Russia's Distrust of the West: A Psychological Barrier.

The Kremlin Views Western outreach as containment. It ~~has~~ narrative of defensive war fuels resistance to compromise, meaning security assurances will need credibility beyond symbolic agreements to ease paranoia.

10. Ceasefire Versus Peace: Realistic Pathways.

Permanent peace is unlikely; a ~~last~~ ceasefire is more practical. Ceasefires stop bloodshed while leaving final borders ~~un~~ unresolved, creating breathing breathing space for diplomacy without legitimizing territorial conquest.

11. Humanitarian Imperatives: Trust Undermined by Atrocities.

Mass civilian suffering fuels urgency for negotiations. Yet ongoing Russian ~~strike~~ strikes and war crimes diminish confidence in Moscow's intentions, making it harder for Western publics to support concessions.

Sanctions as Negotiating leverage.

Sanctions weaken Russia but have not forced compliance. Linking phased relief to Verifiable steps offers leverage, ensuring that Concessions are tied to measurable Russian behavior rather than empty promise.

China and Global South: Absent but Crucial Voices.

Excluding China and neutral states reduces legitimacy. Broader participation could balance Western dominance, increase pressure on Moscow, and give the negotiations global weight beyond transatlantic circles.

Practical Recommendations for Negotiators

A realistic framework should start with a ceasefire, tie sanctions relief to compliance and provide Ukraine NATO-style security

guarantees without membership, while engaging Europe and China for broader legitimacy.

15. Conclusion: Ceasefire is the only Achievable Step.

Given irreconcilable demands, mistrust, and battlefield asymmetry full peace remains unrealistic.

A carefully monitored ceasefire reinforced by sanctions pressure and security guarantees, is the only attainable outcome for now.

Introduction

Water is the lifeline of South Asia, shaping agriculture, energy, and security. With India suspending the Indus Water Treaty and China building massive dams on the Brahmaputra, the region faces a new era of hydropolitical instability and conflict.

The Legacy of the Indus Water Treaty (1960)

The Indus Water Treaty, brokered by the World Bank, divided eastern rivers for India and western rivers for Pakistan, ensuring cooperation for over six decades. Despite wars and disputes, it provided predictability, stability, and survival for Pakistan's agriculture and economy.

India's Suspension of the Treaty in 2025.

India's April 2025 announcement suspended

the treaty, citing terrorism concerns. This unprecedented move froze mechanisms like water data-sharing and inspections, dismantling long-standing safeguards and leaving Pakistan vulnerable to uncertainty in its most critical national resource - water.

• Short-Term Water Flow Realities.

In practical terms, India cannot immediately cut Pakistan water supply, as most projects are run-of-the-river with minimal storage capacity. However, the ability to manipulate flow timing, especially during the dry season, raises profound risks for Pakistan's agriculture.

Agricultural Vulnerability in Pakistan.

Pakistan's wheat, rice, and cotton sectors depend on predictable river flows. Any delay in planting cycles due to India's control could devastate yields, trigger food shortages, and worsen rural poverty, thereby

destabilizing Pakistan's already fragile agriculture economy.

5. Humanitarian and Public Health Risks.

~~Nearly~~ Nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's population already lacks access to safe drinking water.

Any disruption in freshwater ~~and~~ availability could intensify health crises, increase waterborne disease and threaten millions of lives, making India's suspension a humanitarian challenge beyond mere politics.

6. Energy Security Challenges

About one-third of Pakistan power comes from hydropower. If India alters or delays river flows, hydropower generation at dams like Tarbela and Mangla could collapse, deepening the energy crisis and paralyzing industries, hospitals, and daily life across the nation.

7. Weaponization of Water in South Asia

India's suspension is ~~no~~ widely as water weaponization - leveraging rivers for political gain. While famed as counter-terrorism, such actions risk escalation, as Pakistan considers interference in river flows an existential threat that could justify military retaliation.

8. Diplomatic and Credibility Cost for India

India's unilateral move erodes its credibility as a responsible power. By ignoring treaty obligations, New Delhi weakens its moral position in future negotiation with China where it is itself a downstream riparian seeking security from upstream dams.

9. China's Brahmaputra Megadam and Regional Implications.

China's construction of the world's largest dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) heightens India's vulnerability. Generating 300 billion kilowatt hours annually, this

Project Could allow Beijing to control flows into India's northeast and Bangladesh
Creating major ecological and security risks

10. Dry Season Dependence and Bangladesh Risks.

Bangladesh, already highly dependent on the Brahmaputra, could face an 85 percent reduction in dry season flows if China manipulates water. Such disruption would undermine agriculture, ~~for~~ fisheries and food security. Leaving the delta nation dangerously exposed to ecological collapse.

11. Seismic and Ecological Dangers of Mega-Dams

The Brahmaputra dam lies in seismic zone prone to earthquake and landslides. Any structural failure could devastate downstream populations. Furthermore, sediment blockage threatens ~~soil~~ soil fertility, worsening erosion.

and agricultural decline in both India and Bangladesh.

2. The Strategic Geography of Arunachal Pradesh

Located near Arunachal Pradesh, a disputed and militarized zone, China's dam heightens tensions with India. This intertwines environmental and sovereignty disputes, potentially making water disputes inseparable from border conflict in one of the world's most volatile frontiers.

India's Countermeasure: The Upper Siang Project.

In response, India is accelerating its upper Siang hydropower project. While meant as a counterbalance, this signals the rise of a hydropower arm race where rival states build massive dams not just for energy but for strategic leverage.

Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier
Glacial melt, erratic monsoons, and increasing floods compound these disputes. Climate change multiplies risks by reducing predictability in water supply, ensuring that without cooperation every natural disaster could escalate into a political or even military confrontation.

The Emerging Regional Water Crisis.
The collapse of the Indus framework and China's unilateral dam-building together mark the dawn of a new hydropolitical era without dialogue and regional mechanisms. South Asia risks entering a cycle where rivers become coercive tools of power politics.

Conclusion

South Asia stands at a dangerous crossroads. India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and China's Brahmaputra megadam expose Pakistan, India and Bangladesh to water insecurity, food crises and instability. Without renewed cooperation

The regions greatest life source risks becoming its greatest threat.

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Introduction

Pakistan is repeatedly struck by devastating floods, causing human loss, economic disruption, and environmental degradation. These disasters are not merely natural but exacerbated by governance failure, climate vulnerability, and flawed development practices.

Climate Change Intensifying Monsoon Patterns.

Rising global temperatures have altered monsoon cycles, bringing heavier and unpredictable rainfall to Pakistan. Poor adaption measure worsen the country's vulnerability to climate-driven flood disasters.

2. Glacier Melting in Northern Areas

Pakistan's 7000+ glaciers are melting rapidly due to global warming, feeding rivers with excess water. Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) increasingly threaten Gilgit-Baltistan and KP.

3. Deforestation and loss of ~~Nation~~ Natural Buffers.

Massive deforestation, especially in river Catchment areas, has removed natural barriers without tree roots to ~~have~~ hold soil, rainwater flows unchecked, intensifying floods and landslides.

4. Poor Urban Planning and Encroachments

Unregulated construction on riverbeds and floodplains, especially in cities like Karachi and Lahore, block natural drainage. This negligence converts heavy rainfall into urban flooding disasters.

5. Weak River Embankments and infrastructure

Embankments, barrages, and canals are poorly maintained. Cracks and weak structure collapse under pressure, allowing rivers to overflow into nearby villages, causing massive destruction.

6. Inadequate Drainage Systems in Cities.

Cities lack modern drainage networks. Blocked nullahs and open sewers overflow during heavy rains, submerging streets. Poor municipal management worsens flood damage in urban areas.

7. Governance failure poor Coordination

Disaster management institutions often act reactively rather than proactively. Lack of coordination among federal, provincial and district authorities delays rescue and relief operations.

Population Pressure on Risk-Prone Areas.

With rising population, poor families are forced to settle on riverbanks floodplains and low-lying areas. These vulnerable settlements are washed away with every flood.

Agricultural Mismanagement and Flooding

Improper irrigation systems, unchecked water diversion, and cultivation on flood-prone lands expose crops and farmers to recurring flood losses, deepening food insecurity.

Lack of Early Warning and Preparedness

Although Pakistan's Meteorological Department issues forecasts, the communication gap prevents timely evacuation. Communities remain ~~unaware~~ unaware until floods hit, resulting in avoidable casualties.

11. Corruption in Rehabilitation and Relief Efforts.

Misuse of disaster relief funds and poor accountability weaken recovery. Victims remain homeless for years, while funds vanish into corruption and mismanagement.

12. International Factors and Climate Injustice

Pakistan contributes less than 1% to global carbon emissions but remains one of the worst-hit countries. Climate injustice demands stronger global financial and technological support.

13. Limited Role of Education and Public Awareness.

Flood safety education is missing in schools and communities. Without awareness, people resist evacuation orders, worsening loss of life and property during disasters.

Policy Recommendation: Way Forward.

1. Strengthen flood forecasting and early warning systems.
2. Ban encroachments on riverbeds and floodplains.
3. Invest in resilient dams, drainage, and embankments.
4. Promote afforestation and eco-friendly development.
5. Empower local government with disaster.
6. Improve accountability in relief fund utilization.
7. Enhance regional cooperation with India, China, and Afghanistan on water management.
8. Seek climate justice and financial aid from global forums.

Conclusion

Floods in Pakistan are not just natural but aggravated by human negligence, poor planning and climate vulnerability. Only through sustainable policies, resilient ~~infrastructure~~ infrastructure and coordinated governance can Pakistan minimize devastation and secure its future.