

Part II

(Q2)

- The recent military conflict between Pakistan & Afghanistan has clarified one thing, that no amount of third party mediations by countries like China or offering of economic incentives is going to solve the deep rooted issues between the two countries. Though Qatar has successfully mediated a ceasefire, but the festering problems remain underneath the thin veil of this armistice. Following are the reasons which contribute and have historically contributed to the tense relations between Pakistan & ~~India~~ Afghanistan.
- TTP & cross border terrorism:
Since the resurgence of Taliban in 2021, there have been increasing numbers of terrorist attacks on Pakistani military ~~personnel~~ & law enforcement personnel on the western border by ~~non~~ anti-state terrorist organization, the most prominent of which is TTP. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's stated aim is to overthrow Pakistan's government & enforce their version of Shariah on the nation state. The Afghan Taliban actively provide shelter & hideouts to these anti-Pakistan terrorist elements which have caused cumulatively ~~thoug~~ thousands of deaths since 2021.

- Afghan Taliban are not logical actors.
The Afghan Taliban are primarily ideologues. They cannot be wooed by promises of investment & infrastructural developments. In the International order, nation states behave logically, every action is taken for the benefit of the nation state, whilst every step which may harm or adversely impact it, is avoided. Taliban don't behave this way, their primary concern is to safeguard their ideology, even if it is at the expense of their nation.

- Refusal to accept Durand line
In 1893, the Durand line was drawn with the consent of the Emir of Afghanistan & the ^{an} agreement between Afghanistan & the British empire was signed. Afghanistan has refused to accept this agreement and has staked its claims on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Western Gilgit-Baltistan and almost the entire territory of Baluchistan. Though Afghanistan is militarily weak to act on its dream of creating greater Pakistan, it has supported militancy & terrorism to further its aims in the region. Afghanistan's refusal to accept the Durand line is a constant national security threat to the nation-state of Pakistan.

- A delicate balance

There is a delicate balance in Afghanistan, and an very real risk of fracture & civil war if the ruling Taliban don't placate the various groups in Afghanistan. TTP may become a nuisance and an actual potent threat to the power of a Afghan Taliban if they choose to use force against them upon the insistence of Pakistan. There are various other groups like ISIS who are actively trying to undermine the Taliban regime in order to gain power themselves.

- Geopolitical affinity with India

Though India was very close with the Karzai government and severed all ties with Afghanistan, when the Taliban came to power, but recently, due to Pakistan's rigid and stern response, Afghanistan has warmed up to India and India finds the notion of relations with the Taliban more palatable now. Though China would have been a better financier, a better friend, but India is an important tool for geopolitical leveraging against Pakistan. Instead of engaging with Pakistan on the issue of terrorism, Afghanistan instead plays the India card to maintain some semblance of parity.

(Q3)

- The 18th amendment dissolved the concurrent list and devolved a lot of budgetary & financial subjects to the provinces. Democracy works when power is devolved and relegated to the grass root levels but unfortunately, it seems as if the powers given to the provinces haven't trickled down to the grass root levels, but have rather calcified. The formation of ~~new~~ new provinces is an interesting solution to further democratizing Pakistan but there are several chains which bind this solution and don't allow it to become a reality.

- Provincial fiefdoms: The 18th amendment has further empowered political parties to consolidate their powers in their respective provinces. The party leaders are essentially lords who rule over their fiefs with the strength of their political party, which will be inherited by their children. The legislation which prevents floor crossing makes the will of the party leader absolute. It is not in the interest of these party leaders to allow their spheres of ~~interests~~ influence be cut in half.

- Financial Constraints: Pakistan is a country, which is deeply indebted. The financial burden of creating new capitals for newly formed provinces

and the administrative setup of each nascent province, not to mention the legal setup & the new high courts might actually break the economic back of the country.

- Parochial Centrifuge acting against the Unity of Nation

The one Glue which binds the nation together is the idea of Pakistan, ~~the~~ based on the two nation theory, which makes us a singular element based on Islamic ideology. However there are various centrifugal forces which push the organs of the nation to the periphery, including ethnic division, linguistic division, resentment for Punjab, Punjab's indifference to the issues of the rest of the provinces would create a new Hazara province out of Kpk, a new siraiki or bhawalpur province out of Punjab, a new muhajir province out of sindh or ~~new~~ a new brahvi or north balochitani province for pashtuns not exacerbate the situation and add to the centrifugal forces already dividing the country.

- No provisions in the constitution

There aren't any provisions in the constitution for the creation of new provinces. It cannot be done with any constitutional amendment because

in order to achieve this, new legislation would have to be introduced.

- Division of resources

There ~~are~~ exist today, many inter-provincial contentions due to the ~~the~~ lack of consensus on the division of water resources, revenue sharing & NFC award. Over disagreement have hampered the nation from developing vital infrastructure like Kalabagh dam and various other projects. Adding new dissenting voices in the chorus of shocking disagreements might create serious deadlocks in resource allocation.

- Recommendations:

- 1: ~~It~~ It might be more prudent to devolve the ~~author~~ subjects further to local governments than to create new provinces.
- 2: A New constitutional commission may be established to tackle this issue. It may be allowed to gather data covering demographic, economic & administrative realities.
- 3: If financially viable, new provinces may be formed emancipating the underdeveloped areas & minorities and creating unity through diversity by allowing the ~~minorities~~ creation of these provinces.

(Q7)

- Pakistan has historically been in the American camp. In the beginning it was prudent to do so. Pakistan was a nascent reality with no military assets and a behemoth for an enemy in the shape of India. Pakistan needed finance and military assistance to maintain its sovereignty and that could have only been accomplished by aligning itself with a superpower. The United States was the only superpower which had not been devastated by the Nazis in WW2 unlike the USSR, whilst Britain had relinquished its throne to the world in the aftermath of the World War 2. Initially everything was hunky dory but ~~friendship~~ American friendship became more and more venomous to the interests of Pakistan as time progressed. The US & the West coerced Pakistan into not acting during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, which was perhaps the only opportunity to achieve Pakistan's ambitions in Kashmir. There was no substantive help offered to Pakistan during 1971 war, whilst USSR vetoed security resolution after security resolution, providing arms to and standing shoulder to shoulder with India.

- During the Cold war, President Reagan enabled Pakistan to effectively help Afghan mujahideens to wage a guerrilla war against the Soviets but after the signing of the Geneva accords, the ~~US~~ United States left Pakistan to deal the consequence of the toxic ideological weapons which ought to have been properly disposed off. Similarly, Pakistan was used as a vessel to fight the global war against terror, the repercussions of which have crippled Pakistan in every way.

- Pakistan has rekindled its relationship with its old ally USA recently after proving its mettle by performing outstandingly in the may conflict against India. However the longevity of this relationship is a dubious notion at best. India is, and always will be a central piece for US's interests in countering China. The Republican government under President Trump is a wildcard, making decisions which are constantly in flux. Pakistan's diplomacy has borne fruit by giving President Trump credit for stopping the war but this friendship cannot outlast President Trump's presidency. The American deep state & the American establishment

has little to no use for Pakistan. Though Pakistan has skillfully enabled cooperation by reeling in investments for real-estate project and in cryptocurrency, but in order to keep this up, the simple formula seems to be flattery, for the president of the United States.

- Contrarily, China is an all weather friend for Pakistan. A friend which has proven its commitment time & again by being there. In 1971, China was in a much weaker state, besides moral support, China couldn't offer much. The China of 2025 is in full bloom, invested deeply in Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development.
- Pakistan ultimately cannot get much concessions out of United States because historically, whenever the super power has bestowed us with something, it has been with the intention of using the state of Pakistan as a tool, and every time we have been used, the consequences have been overwhelming.
- The United States plays a zero sum game. It is not possible for developing countries like Pakistan to thrive in such a game, on the other hand, China, a nation which has attempted to never control or micromanage our foreign policy, plays a non zero sum game. ~~The time for the United States to~~

(Q8)

- Pakistan & Saudi Arabia have always had strategic military collaborations spanning several decades. Saudi Arabia is an oil rich state, the greatest producer of oil among the OPEC countries, yet, it has never had a strong military whilst Pakistan has always had a battle hardened army, but whilst being powerful, it has always lacked in the economic department. Each country is missing one piece of the puzzle, which the other one has. ~~The~~ The recent defence agreement, which hasn't been fully disclosed to maintain strategic ambiguity, is simply a formalization of the decade spanning relation between the ~~country~~ countries.
- Now, one primary cause is the belligerence of the settler colonial state of Israel. The genocide spanning two years, the open aggression against Lebanon, Syria & Houthis might have been palatable to the Saudis, but the bombard in Doha, Qatar, sends the message of domination by a state which doesn't ~~discriminate~~ discriminate. Now, it hasn't been mentioned nor has it been refuted whether ~~that~~ Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is or isn't apart of the pact, but through strategic ambiguity, it has definitely been implied that the nuclear umbrella now

- extends over Saudi Arabia, thus creating some kind of deterrence to the ~~issue~~ ~~ag~~ against any aggression.
- Pakistan's performance in the May Conflict sings tales of competence and power. The response to Indian aggression has indeed surprised the world & changed the geopolitical reality for Pakistan, making it a very suitable candidate for a partner in mutual defense.
 - Saudi Arabia has been Unimpressed by its primary ally, the United States, which failed to contain Israeli aggression, protect Qatar & has turned deaf ears to Saudi demands for a civilian nuclear program and possible procurement of F-35 fighter jets. Saudi Arabia wishes to indirectly approach Chinese arms via Pakistan, to counterbalance the United States. Now, they wouldn't wield those arms themselves but rather use them while they're in Pakistani hands, through the mutual defense pact which states, any aggression against one state will be considered as an aggression against both. This keeps them non-belligerent in American eyes, which wouldn't have been possible, had they approached the Chinese directly.

- Due to the geopolitical realities which govern the world today, Iran has quite interestingly welcomed the pact. Iran and Saudi Arabia have been brought closer together through Chinese mediation and seemingly, balancing between Iran & Saudi Arabia is not an issue for Pakistan any more.
- Now, what this pact means, essentially, is that Pakistan will not need to worry about the economics of war, it can respond to any aggression effectively without worrying about the crippling impact of any sustained conflict on its economy. ~~In 1965,~~
In 1965, had the war continued any longer, Pakistan would have run out of arms & supplies, which require a strong economy. The Military support of Saudi Arabia ~~was~~ ~~is~~ in any future armed conflict is neither required, nor will it be given. What Saudi ~~Arab~~ Arabia brings to the table, is the financing. The joint training, deployments of Pakistani personnel in KSA, joint exercises will greatly impact the regional dynamics.