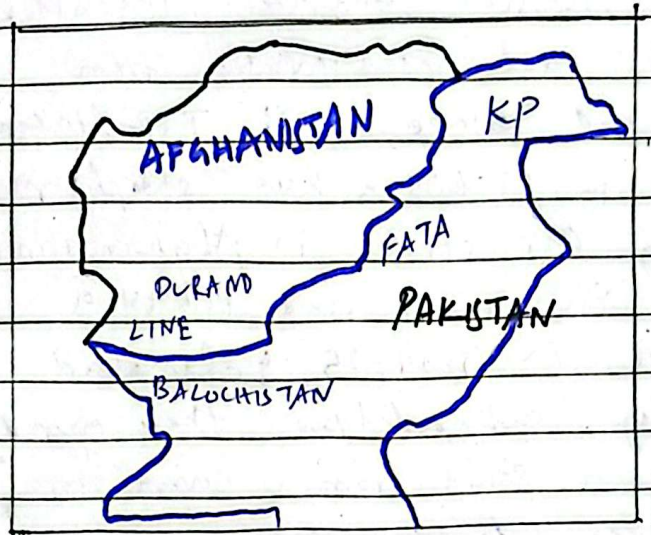


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PAK. AFFAIRS

Q. 4

Pak Afghan Relations in the Post-2021 Period



Introduction

The Taliban's return to power in August 2021 fundamentally reshaped Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. Islamabad initially welcomed the development, expecting improved border security and cooperation against militancy. Four years later, the relationship has reached a new low, marked by distrust, frequent border clashes, and security issues. Despite Pakistan's diplomatic outreach, Kabul's inaction against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and rising cross-border attacks have strained

bilateral trust and stability.

1- Border Security

Prime Minister Shohbaz Sharif have repeatedly warned Kabul to "choose between Pakistan and the TTP" after repeated militant invasions from Afghanistan. Since 2021, TTP-linked attacks in Pakistan have sharply risen, prompting air strikes in Afghanistan's Khost, Nangrahar, and Paktika provinces. In 2024-25, Islamabad publicly acknowledged these operations, marking a shift from covert to declared defense responses.

Kabul has called such strikes "provocative", accusing Pakistan of scapegoating it for internal security failures. The failure to curb TTP sanctuaries despite multiple assurances from the Taliban has eroded Pakistan's patience. A border commission and intelligence-sharing framework are now urgently required to prevent further escalation and rebuild minimal security trust.

2- Refugee Issues

Pakistan hosts one of the world's largest Afghan populations. As per UNHCR (2024), there are 1.34 million

registered Afghan refugees and another 600,000 newly arrived since 2021, with over 520,000 returnees recorded between Sep 2023 and Feb 2024. Islamabad's decision to repatriate ~~an~~ documented Afghans in 2024-25 has already sent around 1.2 million back.

While Pakistan cites economic and security concerns, the UN has urged Islamabad to ensure "voluntary, safe, and dignified returns." The refugee crisis has thus transformed from humanitarian relief to diplomatic pressure tool, with Kabul accusing Islamabad of coercion. Future policy must balance domestic security with international obligations and burden-sharing through UN-supervised framework.

3- Regional Realignments

Afghanistan has expanded its alliances in the years since 2021, Pakistan's once dominant influence has diminished as a result of the Taliban's increasing interaction with China, Iran, Russia, and ~~East~~ Central Asian republics nations. China, in particular,

wants to expand CPEC connectivity through Afghanistan, but it was clearly frustrated, like Pakistan, when the Taliban declined to mention TIP and IZTIM in the joint statement of the 2025 trilateral summit, despite doing so in 2023.

This signals a retreat from counter-terrorism obligations and increased strategic autonomy for Kabul. Pakistan must thus shift from unilateral dependence to multilateral engagement with trusted partners such as China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others, coordinating efforts to promote regional stability and connectivity.

The Way Forward

Pakistan is following a carrot-and-stick policy, using both pressure and dialogue to deal with the Taliban government. It has restricted trade, carried out limited military actions, and at the same time tried to improve diplomacy through official visits and talks. Although frustration is growing due to Kabul's inaction against militants, Islamabad

Continues engagement because completely cutting ties could increase instability and strengthen terrorist groups along the border.

Policy Recommendations

1- Strategic Mindset:-

Replace zero-sum thinking with pragmatic, future-oriented engagement.

2- Track I & II Diplomacy:-

Continue formal dialogue while promoting religious, academic and cultural exchanges.

3- Political Recognition:-

Link recognition of Taliban regime to tangible counter-terrorism steps and human rights assurances.

4- Refugee and Border Policy:-

.. Create Pak-Afghan UN mechanisms for humane, phased repatriation and regulated border crossings.

5- Security Cooperation:-

Real-time coordination against TTP, ETIM and al ISIS - joint monitoring of border zones.

6- Economic Integration:-

Post-trade liberalisation

railway and energy projects (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan) to build interdependence.

7- Multilateral Approach:-

Work with China, USA, Turkey and Qatar as guarantors for stability and regional development.

Conclusion

Four years after the Taliban takeover, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations stand at a critical crossroads. Border insecurity, refugee crises, and competing regional realignments have eroded earlier optimism. Yet, complete disengagement serves neither side.

A stable future depends on structured engagement, shared economic interests, and multilateral diplomacy. Pakistan must act not from nostalgia but from necessity, engaging Kabul constructively while safeguarding its national security and regional vision.



Q.5

Changing Dynamics of

Pak. - U.S. Relations

Introduction

With Donald Trump's return to the White House and Shehbaz Sharif leading Pakistan, bilateral relations have entered a new phase. At the same time, global power is shifting - with China's rise, regional instability and new trade blocs emerging. In this changing environment, Pakistan-U.S. ties are being redefined. The question is whether they represent a strategic partnership or remain transnational cooperation.

Strategic Context and Recent Developments

Historically close during the Cold War and War on Terror, Pakistan-U.S. relations cooled after the 2021 Afghan withdrawal as both sides reassessed priorities. The U.S. now focused on power competition, views Pakistan through an economic and regional stability lens, while Pakistan pursues a balanced policy between China, the Gulf, and the West.

Following the May India-Pakistan

border skirmishes, Washington urged restraint and softened its stance toward Islamabad. This led to a modest reversal: U.S. tariffs on Pakistan were reduced to 19% from 24%, while tariffs on India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam were raised, giving Pakistan a trade advantage.

In FY 2024-25, Pakistan's exports to the US increased by 100%, and a new Trade and Energy Deal (July 2025) was signed to develop Pakistan's oil reserves and boost exports. Both sides also opened dialogue on digital trade and crypto regulation, reflecting adaptation to changing global financial trends. High-level visits of Pakistan's Army Chief with President Trump signalled renewed engagement.

Nature of The Relationship

• Economic

Strong export growth and tariff relief show progress but remain short-term and issue-based.

• Security

No new defence pact; cooperation limited to intelligence sharing and

counter terror dialogue.

• Diplomacy

Active engagement and visits indicate goodwill, but long-term trust still fragile.

• Technology

Talks on digital finance and crypto regulation hint at new areas of partnership.

=>

Pakistan-US relations are mainly transactional cooperation with strategic potential - improving in trade and diplomacy, but not yet based on long-term shared strategic goals.

Reasons for Transactional Relationship

• Different priorities.

The U.S. focuses on global competition; Pakistan priorities economic recovery and internal stability.

• Reduced dependence:

Pakistan now has diverse partners - China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey - reducing U.S. leverage.

Leverage:

• Issue-based cooperation.

Trade and tariffs dominate discussions; broader strategic frameworks remain missing.

Way Forward

• Institutionalize dialogues in defence

Economy and technology

- Leverage trade growth and tariff relief to attract U.S. investment in textiles, minerals, and renewable energy.
- Expand cooperation in digital economy and crypto regulation to modernize trade ties.
- Rebuild mutual trust through consistent security coordination and transparency.
- Maintain balanced diplomacy, engaging both the U.S. and China for stability and development.

Conclusion

Under new governments, Pakistan-U.S.

relations have improved through trade relief and renewed talks after.

The May 2025 border tensions with India. Yet, ties stay mostly transactional, centered on short-term goals. With sustained diplomacy and economic cooperation, they could evolve into a true strategic partnership in the future.

Q.8

The Role of key Political and

Social Ideologies in the Pakistan Movement (1930-47)

1-

Introduction

The period from 1930 to 1947 marked the decisive phase of the Pakistan Movement. During these years, Muslim political consciousness evolved under the influence of Islamic and nationalist ideologies. The Allahabad Address (1930), Congress Ministries (1931-34), and Lahore Resolution (1940) clarified Muslim identity and the need for PAKISTAN.

2-

Political and Social Ideologies Shaping the Movement

a-

The Two-Nation Theory

Initially developed by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and revived by Iqbal and Jinnah.

- Argued that Muslims and Hindus were distinct nations with separate religions, cultures, and civilizations.

b-

Islamic Political Thought

- Iqbal's philosophy merged spiritual and political identity.
- Iqbal envisioned a state where Islamic principles would guide democracy and justice.

c- Muslim Nationalism

- The sense of unity based on religion and heritage gave Muslims political consciousness against Hindu dominance.

d- Self-Determination

- The demand for constitutional safeguards, separate electorates, and later autonomy formed the legal foundation of the Pakistan idea.

3- Major Events Influencing the Demand for Pakistana- Allahabad Address (1930)

Delivered by
Allama Jinnah,
at the Muslim
League Session.

Proposed a
Muslim-
majority
region in the
northwest India.

First formal
articulation of
the idea of
a separate
homeland.

- Jinnah's vision gave intellectual direction to Muslim nationalism and reshaped League politics.

~~League~~

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b- Congress Ministries (1937-39)

7/11 provinces under Congress rule	Muslim marginalization and job bias	Sparked Muslim political awakening.
pro-Hindu policies: Vande Matram, Hindu official language, Wardha Scheme	Jinnah declared, "Hindu Raj would be the worst form of slavery."	

- These experiences convinced Muslims that coexistence under Hindu rule was impossible, intensifying the call for separation.

c- Lahore Resolution (1940)

Passed: March 23, 1940- Lahore	Led by Jinnah, All-India Muslim League	Demand "Independent states" in Muslim-majority areas	Shift: from autonomy to sovereignty
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The resolution converted Iqbal's vision into a clear political roadmap and uniting Muslims under one goal.

4. Impact

These developments turned Muslim identity into a nationhood movement.

British constitutional efforts like the Crutchfield Mission (1942) and Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) failed to meet Muslim demands.

In the 1946 elections, the Muslim League won 87% of Muslim seats, showing overwhelming support for Pakistan.

By 1947, the idea of Pakistan became politically ~~in~~ inevitable and socially accepted among Muslims of the subcontinent.

5. Conclusion

Between 1930 and 1947, the Pakistan Movement was shaped by the vision of Iqbal, the experience of Congress rule, and the leadership of Jinnah.

The Allahabad Address gave direction,

The Congress Ministries gave reason, and the Lahore Resolution gave momentum, transforming Muslim identity into a unified demand for Pakistan — a homeland founded on faith, justice, and freedom.



Q.7

Drivers of Pakistan's Vulnerability:

Assessing Climate Risks and Hazardous Development

1- Introduction

Pakistan is a member of the Vulnerable (V20) — a group of economies most vulnerable to climate change. The question arises whether Pakistan's high vulnerability is primarily caused by external climate change factors or whether hazardous development practices amplify that vulnerability. Both factors are significant, but the development model often determines the severity of impacts.

2- Climate Change as the Primary Driver

- Pakistan contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions but suffers disproportionately from climate-induced disasters.
- ~~As~~ A study found the monsoon floods June-July 2025 were worsened by human

induced global warming (10-15% more rainfall) in Pakistan. These events resulted in over 1,000 fatalities, displaced over 1.2 million people and caused significant infrastructure damage.

- a. Glacial retreat and declining per capita water availability make Pakistan inherently climate-sensitive.
- o Emissions from neighboring countries, particularly India and China, contribute to regional climate changes that affect Pakistan's weather patterns and water resources.

⇒ Geographic and climate factors make Pakistan highly vulnerable.

3- Hazardous Development Model as Key Amplifier

- Rapid unplanned urbanisation, weak drainage, deterioration, industrial pollution amplify effects of climate events.
- The (NDMA) National Disaster Management Authority and provincial disaster management authorities face challenges in early warning, coordination, and relief efforts.
- Environmental initiatives, such as the Billion Tree Tsunami, have faced challenges in full implementation and maintenance.

- The Indus Water Treaty (1960) governs water distribution between Pakistan and India. However, the treaty's effectiveness has been questioned, especially following India's unilateral suspension of the in April 2025, citing security concerns. This river basin remains underutilized or poorly managed, exacerbating flood risks and water scarcity.

⇒ While climate change triggers hazards, the development model amplifies vulnerability, making Pakistan's exposure to risks more severe.

4- Strategy to Mitigate Risks and Enhance Resilience

a- Strengthen Disaster Management

- Enhance coordination between federal and provincial disaster management authorities.
- Improve early warning and public awareness campaigns.

b- Develop Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

- Rebuild roads, bridges, and housing to be flood and heat resistant.
- Ensure proper urban drainage, river embankments, and ecosystem restoration (forests, wetlands).

c- Implement Climate-Sustainable Policies

- En force ~~climate~~ environmental

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~~environmental~~ regulations and land-use planning.

- Promote sustainable agricultural practices (such as climate-resilient crops) and reforestation efforts.
- Modernize irrigation systems to reduce water wastage.

d- Climate Finance and Risk Financing

- Strengthen early warning data-bank (V20 climate data bank) to anticipate hazards.

e- Low-Carbon and Green Transition

- Promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transport to reduce long-term vulnerability.

Conclusion

Pakistan's position in the V20 is influenced by both climate change and hazardous development practices. While climate change is unavoidable, the development model is controllable. By reforming development practices, strengthening resilience systems and building for shocks, Pakistan can turn its high risk into better preparedness. In the face of climate change, the priority must shift from reacting to disasters to building resilience through sustainable development.

← THE END →