

AFGHAN- PAKISTAN RELATIONS: MOUNTING CHALLENGES AMONG TWO MUSLIM COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan and Afghanistan are brotherly states witnessing the mounting challenges that are halt the development in the region. Pakistan wanted to establish friendly relations with Afghanistan as well as Muslim countries. Long-standing tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been characterized by five recurrent factors: concerns over sovereignty, security concerns, geopolitical dynamics, cross-border links, connectivity, and trade. The greatest possibility for Afghanistan and Pakistan to strengthen their cross-border connections for the sake of regional peace and the welfare of their inhabitants is to acknowledge and patiently seek to address one another's security and sovereignty concerns through conversation. The possibility of Afghanistan being a hub for commerce and resource sharing in the post-Taliban future is still far off but full of promise. The aim of this study is to describe the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and challenges which they are facing. Progress towards the formation of the region's essential new economic unit is impeded by pervasive economic and physical restrictions, as well as backward-moving political processes. The study is based on qualitative approach.

Keywords: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Durant Line, Terrorism, Drug Trafficking

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan made possible in realizing the friendly relations with every Muslim country as well as of Afghanistan excluding the four years of Taliban era having bitter relations with Islamabad as every rule in Kabul showed. Among the bitterness of Afghanistan relations, the era of Sardar Daud is on the top having two times the rule in Kabul, firstly from 1947-1963 and the 1973-78. He became hero of the issues regarding Durand Line and Pashtunistan separation from Pakistan. There were many irregularities with respect to country as the border issues of closer and opening, exposure of rebels, then embassies were affected as the national flags were burned and then the trade

was also banned and all that was happened in the era of Sardar Daud. All these activities during his era and the issue of Pashtunistan, were the key points for the involvement of Indo-Afghan strategies to stop coming peace and stability to Pakistan which was hunting. It was happened many times that Soviet Union and India were come as an alternative before Pakistan during the border opening and closing for trade bans. On the other hand, it was too late for Sardar Daud when he came to know that peace was needed to resolve the bitter situations produced as the other power intervene. There are two main issue which are responsible for the tough bilateral relationships

between Pakistan and Afghanistan and they are Pashtunistan and the Durand Line. The other issues emerged in the result of these uncomfortable issues (Price, 2012).

Material and Methods

The study is primarily analyzing the Afghan-Pakistan Relations and Challenges among two Muslim Countries. The data for article is collected from secondary sources like books, newspapers, and journals. The nature of data collected for this study is qualitative.

Durand Line as bone of contention

This boundary line lies between Pakistan and Afghanistan and is a bone of contention between these two countries for almost last 62 years or more than that. The length of border is 2670-kilometer international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan in South Asia. This British legacy is misleading the relations between these both countries.

This boundary was confirmed between British India and Afghanistan in 12th November 1893 and signed between British Foreign Secretary (Mortimer Durand) and the Amir Abdul Rehman Khan of Afghanistan with full negotiable agreement. This agreement was later on repeated by the different leaders in Afghanistan utilizing different treaties and contracts. Life history of Amir Abdul Rehman indicates the agreement signed from Chitral to Peshawar and then to Koh-I-Malik Siyah which is the Tri Junction of three countries having Afghanistan, Pakistan and Persia including Baroghil pass as well (Omran, 2009). He said that I conquered Wakhan Kafiristan, Mohmand of Lalpura Asmar, and Birmal, a portion of Waziristan and there are regions where there was not my hold] were railway station of New Chaman, Chaghi, and the rest of Waziri, Kurram, Afridi, Bajaur, Swat, Biland Buner, Dir, Chilas, Khel, and Chitral. In this way it was turned out that what part of the world he acquired and what he had left behind regarding the boundary line between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Ahmed & Bhatnagar, 2015).

The main reason of the documents was that the agreement documents were recognized by every government in Afghanistan because these depicted the disapprove of the claim that the boundary line was forcefully drawn by the

British India in the form of signed documents. The treaty signed documents also show that the claim of the expired of agreement after hundred years till 1993 is false. Researchers have also found out that the boundary condition either physically or in any direction is not uncertain. This boundary also passes through the tribal areas of the country and having some recognized aspects also. The areas of Mohmand and Waziri were the only divided by the line. Pakistan's standing against the post British era also shows the coercive results w. r. t international law. International law tells that the rights will be transferred to the new nation emerged after partition and in this way, Pakistan has rights to defend his area. Pakistan has come into being in the north western side of the Indian sub-continent. British governments at many times after the division of the Indian Sub-continent remained stuck to Durand Line as willing negotiable and the boundary accepted as internationally.

The durability and legality of the Durand Line was violated in the British Parliament by Lord Home who was British Foreign Secretary at that time on November 3rd, 1953. Then the Prime Ministers of British government gave statements for the confirmation of this position; firstly, by Mr. Anthony Eden in 1956 on 1st march and secondly by Mr. Macmillan on 20th May 1960. If we put our eyes on the history, then many states would be found which had drawn boundary lines and then redrew them on different basis. With a view to the settings in the past if the borders were rearranged then the risk of socially and economically relations would increase a lot and there would be confusion and disorder everywhere. These conditions are drastic for Afghanistan itself and its life would be of hundred years but due to sub-continent countries its life span has increased to one thousand years. If the recognition of boundary through illegal means would be adopted, then the international concerns over boundaries would collapse. Durand Line is the only boundary which Afghanistan is not ready to accept and was demarked on the other hand through bilateral relations. Regarding the international laws and legal governments of the world the objections taken by the Afghanistan are not strong enough to stand by.

Illegitimate Border Trafficking and The Refugee Dilemma

Pakistan has served very efficiently as the wars and violent results had happened in Afghanistan one of which is the refugee issue which is still a problem for Afghanistan to settle. After the Soviet-Afghan war broke out in 1979, the Pakistani government started accepting Afghan refugees. By the end of 2001, there were over four million Afghans on the Pakistani side. A total of 3.5 million refugee were sustained in Pakistan along the border having almost 340 camps. This limit exceeded when US attacked Afghanistan to destroy Taliban regime and reached to almost 5 million in count. There was not an issue to the UN as it had insufficient economy related to them and UN is unable to give refugees to these people as it was beyond imagination regarding the protocol related to 1951 and 1967 incidents and caused the transmission (Long, Singh, Samad, & Talbot, 2015).

This huge quantity of people is living in Pakistan for last 20 years and it has been given thought that the illegal work is operated by the people among the refugees. The illegal work may be of smuggling, the transfer of narcotics, or the approaches to the black markets as they move freely around the country. About 90% of the opium is produced by the Afghanistan land and from which heroin is made and spread mostly through both Islamic countries i.e., Iran and Pakistan. In Pakistan drug addiction is increasing and the responsible for that is the Afghan refugees who are trafficking this (Grare & Maley, 2011).

Reports have demonstrated that in 1982 one lac peoples were addicted but as the time passed the number of addicts was increased as well. In 1986, 450,000 and imagine in 2015 the figure has been reached to 7 million and this is still increasing and on the other hand poppy farming increased in Afghanistan and it was assisting by the refugees as the Americans started war on terror. Criminalities, illegal activities and anti-government activities are governing, and some officials has also said that these activities are being not only due to the refugee camps but also owing to their arrival in Pakistani areas.

Cross Border Terrorism

The main cause of the initiation of issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan include the separation line which is called Durand Line and acting as the seed point in tearing the Islamic countries. Relations between them are not majorly on geographical location of the boundary but to more of the cultural and ethnic values to Pashtun identity which are affecting to a lot.

US claims that the terrorist's groups are present in Pakistani side and this is reinforced by the Afghanistan portion also pointing towards Pakistan. Air strikes through drones were in favor of US but against on Pakistan as it raised complications over the status of having no NATO power. Pakistan offered fence construction on many occasions, but all the times

The western side of Pakistan as many benefits like ideological strategical and through religious giving a security example for Pakistan. It gave support to the mujahedeen who were doing operations against Russia in the 1980s era. After the fight with Russia in 1988 al-Qaeda was came into being and later on in 1994 Taliban empire was risen and currently there is another class which is called Neo-Taliban is emerging on the map of the world. Neo-Taliban have been aroused recently along the Durand Line are turning into complex form i.e. religion-political movement and it is comprised of three objectives (Rashid, 2000).

The last objective is very serious issue to the Pakistan security as it would affect the regional as well as bilateral relations between the Islamic ideology and the state in the government comprising in KPK. Both countries are at a great risk and for the solution both should have to enhance the communication with high cooperation regarding border management. Pakistan's government in this regard should strengthen the counter-terrorists and against insurgencies agencies and lastly the cooperation between the government and the law implementation agencies to make a very stable and healthy Pakistan (Qazi, 2010).

Indian Factor in Pak-Afghan matter

Since the independence in 1947, India continues to have a significant role in Pakistan's Afghan strategy. Bilateral ties

between Pakistan and Afghanistan have always been rather tense, which many people ascribe to Indian involvement in Afghanistan from an early age. India is nowadays spreading its influence in Afghanistan and developing something bigger which Pakistan feels very doubtful about it and major concerns about that are being felt by Pakistan. With the exception of a few brief setbacks, India maintained its diplomatic ties with Afghanistan relatively successfully over the past few decades since the signing of the Friendship Treaty on January 4, 1950 (The emerging role of India in Afghanistan: Pakistan's concerns and policy response, 2023).

India always tries that Afghanistan should not be used as a support against India is the groups of anti-Indian bases are present in Pakistan. India has only goal of Counterattack to Pakistan in Afghanistan. The dangerous affair by India was the realized in the speech of India's permanent representative of the United Nations in 2008 as discussed, the security in Afghanistan as to control Pakistan participation by increasing its role. Indian influence in Afghanistan was affected by Gujral doctrine as he stated that having India dominancy in the region responsibility to have mutual relations with the neighboring countries. Indian influence in Afghanistan consists of three major points first one is the humanitarian assistance the second one is the construction projects and the third one is the capacity buildings. About 799 million dollars have been invested in Afghanistan in the education food roads rehabilitation and the construction of Parliament as well. On the other hand, there are some other projects including establishment of universities hospitals schools training of Forces and some civil servants' improvements are also in the process of construction. India is first among the countries which donated to Afghanistan and India expected live have invested 2 billion dollars in the country (Javaid, 2016).

Indian Embassy in Kabul has a very detailed information about the projects in Afghanistan leading by the Indian government so played a very significant role in uplifting of Afghanistan. The projects formulated in Afghanistan or as: construction wall made father roads having a length of 200 and 18 kilometer it started from

zaranj to delaram for access to Iranian border, 220 kilovolt DC transmission line was built by India from full Khumri to Kabul with that another project is having substations of 220 or 110 or 20 e kilovolt at Chintala, in the 11 provinces of Afghanistan the improvements in the telephone exchange was occurred National TV Networks also uplifted and given up link from the city of Kabul and down links in all of its 3420 chill capitals for the greater prosperity of the country (Abdul Sattar, 2017)

All the projects which built in Afghanistan for all along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan showing Pakistan that the blame you put on the consulates of India for spying Pakistani policies. India is not only assisting of money Stan financially but also culturally as Indian Deobandi are propagating their culture in Afghanistan. There is another project on which India is working which is the road of Jalalabad to Chahbahar and in this way Afghanistan will get rid of Pakistan's transit road which will be against the rules and Pakistan will get into trouble also. In this way mistrust will be increased and relations will be in difficult conditions. Indian factors are not only the factors which are responsible for the tough situations between Afghanistan and Pakistan bilateral relations, there are many other factors which are included after post withdrawal of Soviets. In this way to avoid the disturbance produced from the other factors Pakistan and Afghanistan should discuss the matters on the table (Joshi, 2017).

Security Concerns to eliminate Terrorism

In Peshawar, Army Public School was made target for terrorism on 16th December 2014 in which 145 deaths were reported which was very cruel act as among them were mostly children who were gone to school for study. This incident made shocked the Pakistani nation and the international community was also painful about that incident as it was one of the deadliest incidents on the Islamic republic of Pakistan. Attack responsibility was acknowledged by TTP and threaten Pakistan that it was the result of Zarb-e-Azb operation in North Waziristan which happened in Army Public School by our men with heavy ammunition. The narrator of TTP, Muhammad Khurasani, described on the

evening of incident took place in Army Public School that we just wanted Pakistan to feel pain, sadness, loneliness so in this way Pakistanis were gripped severely as we killed young children in Army Public School. This incident left the nation in full terror and fear as nobody could ever imagine the attack could happen in that way and all the intention was transferred from militants and Al-Qaeda to TTP as they have taken the responsibility and warned Pakistan also.

Pakistan has lost much on the terrorism as well as other activities related to the terrorism. You can imagine how far Pakistan has gone to have all this on its own land. There are more than 55000 dead bodies with the loss of 103 billion dollars as well. So, in this way the loss Pakistan of Pakistan can be declared as the right of Pakistan to say that (Kuehn & Linschoten, 2012). The foreign sportsman of Pakistan as narrated that Pakistan remained stood with the international community to fight against the terrorists. He further said that Pakistan has very strict actions against these evils and want other international communities to do the same as Pakistan is doing its best against the terrorists.

Foreign fighters in Pakistan

Pakistan's security is on the risk due to the influence of the foreign fighters especially coming from Middle East, India, Central Asian Republics Western Europe and Russia and they are given the name of militants. Uzbekistan is also in the list and all these are governing the strength of militants using the Durand Line. The era of 2001 was a milestone for both the countries because they saw Taliban government to fall while on the other side foreign extremist groups got opportunity to make reservation along the Durand Line in Pakistan.

According to many analysts the entry of the factions such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), Al-Qaeda, the German-Turkish Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), the Chinese (Uighur) East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Chechen militants, Turkistan Islamic Party, Jundullah faction was the main reason for the creation of TTP (Tehrike-Taliban Pakistan). A report was made in July 2007, and presented before the PM Yousuf Raza Gilani, which had not corrected numbers of foreign forces members, but it was estimated to be

8,000. The government of Pakistan hasn't approved this report, but it acknowledged the news report which had 1,000 fighters. This report has also the viewpoint that the foreign units are increasing since 2007, in which TTP was came up, and are following US army members as they increase then obviously the fighters are also increasing and are coming from the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia (Hausler, 2015). The south side of Afghanistan is considered to be the refuge place for the militants which came from Yemen, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Libya, Qatar, Iraq, Syria and some from Indian state and Bangladesh land also. And the fighters from the places like Chechnya, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan Algeria join themselves in the tribal areas of Pakistan as well as in the east side of Afghanistan including the provinces such as Paktia, Kunar, Paktika, Khost and Nuristan (Weinbaum, 2017).

As there are increase in number of the militants as well as the rebellion in the FATA region of Pakistan is largely due to the Syria's impact of War and the calamity of the Middle East states. When the US attacked Afghanistan to demolish Afghanistan in the same year as the militants increase in number then due to the partly fencing of the border or the sealing of the border could not limit the terrorists and became the reason of enhanced terrorists' activities in Pakistan. In order to save themselves from the attacks of US, Taliban with their partner Al-Qaeda and the afghan refugees run away to Pakistan to get shelter in its tribal areas like FATA. The foreign militants got sympathies from the local inhabitants by emotionally blackmailing as they show slogans of Islam and restrictions against the US interruption in the Afghanistan. Some of them even married to someone within the tribes to make the bond strong enough that it could not be broken in FATA area. According to some analysts there are two aspects which enabled the foreigners to come and these are the rough nature of the land and the generosity of the peoples living in FATA. Pashtuns' integrity encryption of Pukhtunwali is another factor than the hospitality of the people as they welcome, they honor the guests and whether

the guest is friend or criminal or enemy (Javaid & Haq, 2016).

Drug Trafficking

During the era of Taliban, the business of poppy and opium came to an end successfully but when the Taliban empire was demolished then a huge progress in that field was seen to proliferate in the Afghanistan. Maximum production of the opium was seen after the Taliban reign and it makes sure the availability to the 90% throughout the world. About 7,700 metric tons of opium well produced on the 157 thousand hectares of the land in 2008. While on the other hand about 70,000 hectares of land was used for the cultivation of cannabis. It has been estimated that the production of opium will lead to the trade in Afghanistan 33% which is of GDP of the country and the price would be 3.4 billion dollars Mujahedeen earned most of the fund from the trade of opium. The drug industry in Afghanistan is growing immensely and is producing threat for the security of Pakistan. It has been observed that 35% of the total trade occurred through the areas like Dalbadin and Chaghi the areas under Baluchistan province and shared by golf countries and Yemen. As the militants are on their way to trade like this using drug smuggling the threat to the region is also increasing.

On May 20th, 2017 a report was published by UNODC and it was stated in this report that the area of poppy production has been increased from 182,000 hectares to 201,000 hectares. In 2016 the production of opium increased in a way that 43% was observed in size as 4800 tons were reported in the report. The enormous increase in the drug like opium has provided people with the jobs of almost 235000 figure and the farmers get 57% of their household items (World Drug Report: Executive Summary - Conclusions and Policy Implications. Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018).

From 1979 to own words bought the Islamic nations are accusing each other for the trade of narcotics using the Durand Line. The main recipe and of this illegal smuggling are Taliban directly and the commanders of Pakistan and Afghanistan are carrying out this mission because from this trade about \$80,000,000 of

profit is obtained. 65,000 cultivators of this drug are the inhabitants of the Helmand province of Afghanistan. The revenue obtained from this trade of narcotics its almost half of the GDP of Afghanistan and even now 25 lacs people are dependent on this business directly. With this trade the black market has the economy growing and is for the militants who are the reason of illegal activities in the region (Eaton, 2018).

An increase in the land of cultivation of opium and poppy farming has been observed to be 10% as the total land is counted to be 201000 hectares from 2015 to 2016. North side of the Afghanistan and the province Badghis have been seen to increase the production of narcotics because of the situation which deteriorated in these regions since 2015. But it is a fact that 93 percent cultivation of opium and poppy is being done in southern part as well as the eastern and western also, in a report in 2016, of Afghanistan. Among these regions maximum cultivation is through southern part having 59% and in western region includes 25% while in the east only 9% cultivation has been detected. The remaining regions make up the 7% of the total production in Afghanistan in which 3.9% comes from Northern side (Fatima, 2014).

Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Issue

Afghanistan is a landlocked country good morning and it totally depends upon the transit trades between its neighboring countries and among this kind of trade the informal trade is being carried on through the boundary line between Pakistan and Afghanistan since its creation. In 1965 an agreement was signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan which is called transit trade agreement (ATTA) and instead of this agreement Pakistan offered also the one-sided concessions on trade also. Peshawar-Torkham and Chaman-Spin Boldak were the porous sides of the border from which the trade was made possible (Owais, Ahmed, & Ahmad, 2018).

According to the trade between them the imports from Afghanistan were free of port charges custom duties, service cares and handling dues as a result of ATTA. Pakistan at that time didn't put pressure on the industries in Afghanistan. And when the trade was

increased then the markets in Peshawar giving the title of BARA BAZAR, Chaman, Rawalpindi and Quetta ranked up due to foreigners as they smuggled. As the trade became hilarious since 1965 to till 1996 then the Pakistan had to ban the seventeen items and putting then in the negative list. Then in 2001 the trade items of figure seven were excluded from the trade and in 2004 on the request of the afghan government the trade exclusion was limited to six items. The items were reduced further in 2005 and limited to only three items, tobacco, auto parts and cooking oil. The cooking oil was removed from the trading negative list in the next year. Afghanistan had been facilitated through this agreement and now it is in the demand of the agreement of access to the Karachi port and the Wagah border through an Indo-Pakistani transit route. Afghanistan had demanded the withdrawal of the remaining items which was against the ATTA rules (Shah, 2018).

Conclusion

This research paper is very detail analysis of Pakistan and Afghanistan relations and issues that were bone of contention between them. There is a solution to this problem is so easy and simple and very comfortably interpret but the issue lies in the misgiving of the information to the people of these regions. If the proper documentation is given to the people, then the misunderstanding can be removed very easily. Trust is only responsible factor for interpersonal relations, but it is not for making the multipart societies having worked properly and prolifically. In these types of cases these reforms bring about the mutual efforts to increase interdependency, trading efficiencies and the cooperation increases.

There is no doubt that these routes are very important economically, but they have also served as the center point for illegal activities like terrorism, smuggling of drugs, illegal trade with neighboring countries and provided large area to the terrorists in the country and for those who came from another country. To eliminate and minimize these activities by using proper strategies and development plans by both Pakistan and Afghan government officials. As a result, the mutual trust develops as the time passes and through mutuality as well. As

the trending trust goes on the stability develops in the relations and the little cooperation changes into full cooperation. We can say that trust is an essential part in making the cooperation but on the other hand mutual cooperation does not need trust for its continuity and includes political management, institutional reforms, check and balance continuously and repeated contacts as an assistance to maintain cooperation. There are assorted strategies by which the both states can overcome their differences by coming to their common points of interests.

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