



Pak-Afghan Relations: Historical Challenges from Conflict to Cooperation

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the historical and contemporary relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, highlighting the political, social, economic, and security challenges that have shaped their interactions. It examines key issues such as border disputes, the Afghan refugee crisis, separatist movements, external interference and trade and military cooperation. Using a qualitative methodology, the research analyzes historical records, official documents, and scholarly literature, using realism as a theoretical framework to explain patterns of conflict and cooperation. The findings show that leadership biases, security concerns, and foreign interference have consistently strained relations, while moments of cooperation in trade, refugee management, and diplomatic engagements have been temporary and contingent. The study emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding, dialogue, and strategic cooperation to promote sustainable peace and development in the region.

Keywords: Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, border disputes, Afghan refugee crisis, foreign interference, regional security, diplomacy.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan and Afghanistan are neighbouring Muslim countries whose bilateral relationship has experienced significant fluctuations since 1947. Unequivocally, both states share strong religious, cultural and historical ties but still their diplomatic engagement has witnessed periods of cooperation as well as tension. Leadership transitions in both countries have often reshaped policy priorities, as successive regimes pursue objectives aligned with their strategic and domestic needs (Mukherjee, 2014). Consequently, the trajectory of Pak-Afghan relations has

depended on political perceptions, security calculations and regional alignments at different points in time.

In order to cater issues regarding border management, trade connectivity and regional security, both countries put special attention to foreign policy formulation. Over the years, both governments have expressed commitment to strengthen people-to-people contacts and expanded transit trade and cooperation on energy and infrastructure initiatives to promote economic growth and regional stability (Huda & McDonald, 2016). Joint efforts to combat terrorism and address cross-border militancy have also been central to official diplomatic discourse that reflected shared concerns about internal security challenges (Javaid, 2010).

However, prolonged instability and involvement from outside sources have had a significant impact on the relationship. Regional insecurity has increased as a result of decades of Afghan conflict, the Soviet invasion, and the post-9/11 intervention, which has further complicated bilateral trust (Huasheng, 2016). Pakistan's strategic perspective on India's growing involvement in Afghanistan has brought mutual intuition and a pertinacious security dilemma in the region that made it difficult for both countries to prevent interference in their internal and external affairs (Wright, 1991).

Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees over the past several decades that made it one of the largest and longest refugee-hosting countries in the world (Akber, 2015). While at one side, this humanitarian support reflects religious and cultural affinity, but on the other side, it has also generated economic, administrative and security challenges. Despite these constraints, both governments, with varying degrees of international assistance, continue to engage in dialogue that are aimed to resolve refugee concerns, manage border disputes and promote cooperative mechanisms for long-term peace and development. This study therefore examines the historical and structural challenges that have shaped Pak–Afghan relations and explores the prospects that transform persistent conflicts into sustainable cooperation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pakistan and Afghanistan's relationships are very important for both States. Both are Muslim countries and they have similar border called Durand line. Both countries have declared that they are Islamic republic's and have become the member of SAARC (Huasheng, 2016). Relations between two countries have been cut off, suspended and prey for delay, stressed and demolished since the creation of Pakistan even when Pakistan gained independence and Afghanistan was the single country of the world that voted against Pakistan recognition in United Nation Organization (UNO) session. There were many groups who launched attacks and aided armed separatists movement groups inside Pakistan and made many excuses for the support of areas of war and separatist groups (Dhaka, 2014).

Pakistan tried hard to normalize the situation of Afghan government misconduct and Biased behaviour during UNO session. There are many issues and

blamed that were imposed on Pakistan by Afghanistan government during the war in Afghanistan from 1978 till present situation. Before 1978 War, Pakistan had no involvement in one's internal issues but after the war Afghans were supported and propagated by Indian lobbies that were very active in Afghanistan. Millions Afghan Refugee who had got shelter in Pakistan. They all supported India on different issues regarding the misleading of Afghan government (Pamela, Khan, & Nawaz, 2017).

Diplomatic relationships between Pakistan and Afghanistan were very poor in this tense situation and that had happened just after the creation of Pakistan and her admission of UNO in 1947. Afghanistan voted against Pakistan due to the discontent with the permanency of Durand Line. The both countries had to cut off the meeting sessions and diplomatic relations (Hilali, 2017). Afghans wanted to take revenge to Pakistan so they immediately supported Pashtun dominated terrorists. Pakistan demanded negotiations sessions to resolve border issues after the creation of Pakistan. Afghanistan materially supported the secessionists groups led by Mirza Ali Khan against.

Pakistan tried her level best to normalize the relation with Afghanistan.

Pakistan negotiated with the secessionists groups who were very active to defame Pakistan. They were trying to create disturbance inside Pakistan even and 1852, Afghanistan government published a tract in which they claimed that not only the Pakistani territory were used against Afghanistan. They tried to launch attacks not only on the main territories of Pakistan but also launched the confiscations of Pakistani provinces like Baluchistan. Every type of relations and bilateral negotiations were suspended and delayed between Pakistan and Afghanistan during 1960's. In this result, Pakistan closed the Karachi and Gawader and Karachi ports which were very destructive for the transit trade and economy of Afghanistan (Nath & Samir, 2002).

There was a big issue faced Pakistan that was the illegal activities of Afghan terrorist groups in Pakistan. They launched attacks and suicidal activities to kill the common as well military troops. Pakistani military blamed these groups in this response but Afghan government blamed Pakistani Intelligence Agencies especially ISI for funding warlords and for the construction of terrorist camps within Pakistani territory. There are anti-Pakistani sentiments in Afghanistan same as Pakistani have negative feelings and emotions for the refugees who are widespread in Pakistan even in dominated regions of Pashtun speaking areas (Smith & Cynthia, 2004).

It is the matter of hope that many Afghan leaders have positive thinking about the establishment of brotherly relationship with Pakistan. Afghan President Hamid Karzi said Pakistan and Afghanistan are inseparable brothers. Due to consensus, bilateral and diplomatic relations were renewed multiple times. Both countries share history, culture, religion, social norms, and linguistic similarities, which have an everlasting impact on their relationship (Brecher, 2017).

The foreign ministries of both countries tried to reconcile deadlocked issues through mutual understanding, trade, and economic activities. They are trade partners, and Pakistan provides transit trade facilities to Afghanistan. Many

prominent tribes in Afghanistan, especially Pashtuns, have cultural and traditional similarities with Pakistanis due to shared ancestry. The Durand Line, established in 1893 between Mortimer Durand of British India and Abdul Rehman Khan of Afghanistan, defined limits and spheres of influence. However, Afghanistan has never formally accepted the Durand Line as an international border, considering it a violation of sovereignty. This sensitive issue continues to influence bilateral relations (Craggs, 2012).

Afghanistan hosted Pashtun-Baloch militants in 1970, launching attacks against Pakistan with external support. During the Soviet-Afghan War, USSR invaded Afghanistan, India supported USSR, and the USA allied with Pakistan. Afghan and Indian-backed groups such as Al-Zulfikar targeted Pakistan. Zia ul Haq, the Pakistani military dictator, played a role in cooperative relations with Afghan tribes (Ahrari, 2000). During the 1980s, the Durand Line was heavily used by Afghan refugees and Mujahidin fighters resisting Soviet occupation. Pakistan hosted 250,000 fighters crossing daily, including Arabs and Middle Eastern fighters. Relations remained hostile throughout the Soviet-Afghan War (Hussain et al., 2021).

Many Mujahidin married local women and settled in Pakistan, affecting bilateral relations. Afghan President Babrak Khan refused to establish good relations with Pakistan and did not recognize the POPA government. (Mustafa & Bhatti, 2020). After Zia ul Haq's death, terrorist attacks continued inside Pakistan, funded by international communities. Refugee camps trained youth in religious institutions, promoting Taliban membership. Over time, the Taliban fragmented, receiving support from different neighboring countries and superpowers (Baloch, Memon, & Hakro, 2014).

Relations worsened when Afghanistan blamed Pakistani ISI and networks for Taliban and militant activities. Rumors spread by India and international media further exploited bilateral relations. The 9/11 incident severely impacted relations; the USA and allies attacked Afghanistan, blaming Pakistan for supporting Taliban and Al-Qaeda (Mustafa & Bhatti, 2020). In 2011, Osama Bin Laden's death in Pakistan further strained relations. Prominent figures were assassinated in both countries, leading to suicide bombings and attacks. The Haqqani Network aimed to destabilize Pakistan with Afghan and Indian support. Pakistan countered extremism through military operations while seeking strategic partnerships (Dodge & Redman, 2011).

It is necessary for both states to create mutual and honourable relations for the betterment of the both countries and their common people. What had happened in the past, both countries should forget the previous mistakes done by their leaders for their own objectives and purposes. They should try to create better status and relations to come forward and should work together for peace keeping in the region which is very essential for the development of Pakistan and Afghanistan (Asghar, et. al., 2026). In present situation, both countries are agreed to talk Taliban for mutual relationship co-operation and a positive atmosphere which is very much necessary for their progress. Both States should work hard with positive negotiations, bilateral

and diplomatic dialogues to enhance relationship on every level. Leadership of Pakistan and Afghanistan work sincerely for peace keeping so that the people of the both States, suffering from many decades can take a sigh of relief (Bhatti, 1998). Although there is a vast literature on border conflicts, refugee challenges, proxy intervention and external interference, but most studies examine these factors in isolation rather than through an integrated analytical lens. Therefore, a comprehensive qualitative analysis is necessary to synthesize political, economic, security and social factors, which this study attempts to provide.

Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in the theory of realism that claims that states operate in a competitive international system where no higher authority guarantees their security. According to realism survival is the primary concern for the sovereign states therefore they prioritize national interest and territorial integrity over ideal cooperation. Unequivocally, in an environment of historical grievances and security threats, it becomes very difficult to build trust between the states. This argument of realism is applied to this study as it assists to identify the cause behind the tense relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan despite their cultural and religious similarities.

From a realist perspective, many of the tensions in Pak-Afghan relations are seen as defensive responses rather than inclusively hostile intentions due to number of issues such as border disputes, cross-border militancy and external interference that are interpreted by each state as potential threats to sovereignty and internal stability. As a result, both countries adopt cautious as well as harsh policies in order to protect their national interests. Therefore, by using realism as a lens, this study seeks to explore whether a transition from conflict to cooperation is structurally possible within current regional dynamics.

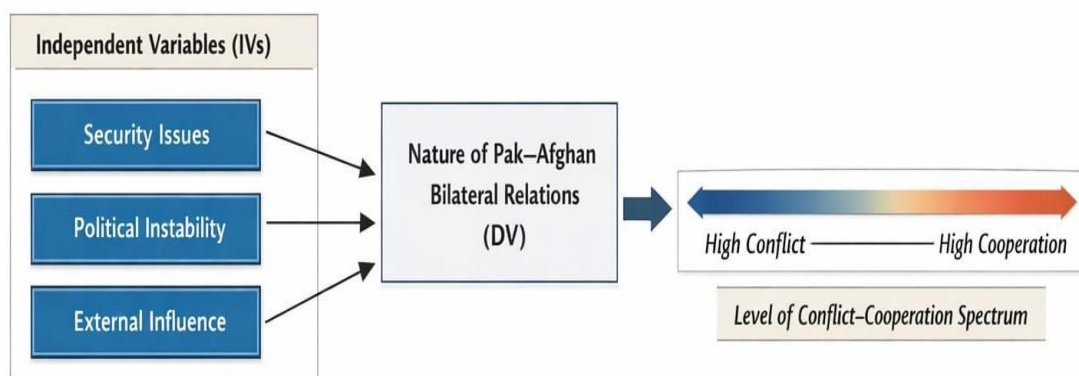


Fig 1: Conceptual Framework

HYPOTHESIS

H1: Persistent security challenges, including border disputes and cross-border militancy have a very negative impact on the stability of Pak-Afghan bilateral relations.

H2: The involvement of external powers in Afghanistan exacerbates mistrust and limits the development of sustainable cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study utilizes qualitative research approach to examine the historical and political dynamics of Pak-Afghan relations. Data is constructed from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include official government documents and policy reports from both countries. Secondary sources include academic newspaper articles, journal articles and books. Content analysis is used to identify key themes such as security challenges, external engagement and cooperation efforts. Elements of discourse analysis are also applied to understand how the two states define and interpret their relations. The findings are analyzed through the lens of realism to explain patterns of conflict and cooperation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study show that security concerns remain at the heart of Pak-Afghan relations. Issues such as border tensions, cross-border militancy, and mutual accusations have repeatedly shaped the behavior of both states. Each country sees instability on the other side of the border as a direct threat to its security. As a result, trust is difficult to build. The analysis suggests that perceptions of security, more than cultural or religious similarities, determine the tone of bilateral engagement. This supports the first hypothesis (H1) that persistent security challenges negatively affect the stability of relations. The study also shows that external interference has played a strong role in influencing the direction of relations. From the Soviet-Afghan War to the post-9/11 period, regional and global actors have influenced the strategic choices of both countries. Alliances and partnerships often exacerbate suspicions and create additional strain on diplomatic relations. Rather than resolving tensions, external competition has often deepened mistrust. These findings support the second hypothesis (H2) that external interference limits the development of sustainable cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. At the same time, the relationship is not entirely defined by conflict. There have been moments of cooperation, particularly in trade, refugee management, and diplomatic engagement. However, cooperation remains tentative and conditional. Progress slows whenever security concerns intensify.

Social Issues

Their social structure are characterized their institutionalization of extremely restrictive code of behavior for women. They stand in marked contrast to the both societies. Afghanis were influenced by south Indian societies and much of South Asia whose institutions and practices permits a more free and secular system of Gender relations but Islamic values is enforced by Taliban and their allies. People of Pakistan and all over the world criticized their acts of cruelty and brutality towards the women of Afghanistan. In both Muslims and non-Muslims countries, it is not permitted but Afghans are very much rigid in this regard. There is a huge and vast difference between the culture and life style of the people of both countries. Afghanistan is an Islamic country but it is not the same version of the true spirits of

Islam in West Asia or even in Pakistan. As a social force Islam is tempered or reinforced by the cultural contest that is introduced by them.

Political Issues

Both countries have become members of the different Association for the promotion of regional cooperation and establishment of peace and prosperity for the people of both states (Ali, 2020). Afghanistan's immediate support of secessionist movements within Pakistan prevented normalized ties from emerging between the two states. When Pakistan came into being, the Pakistan was the only that country that voted against the Pakistan in UNO general Assembly session (Butt, & Butt, 2015).

After the creation of Pakistan, Afghanistan immediately armed separatist movements in the nascent Pakistan and made irredentist claims to large swathes of Pakistani territory that played a vital role in the creation of mutual political relations between the both neighbouring countries (Wolf, 2018). The further tension was created when in 1978 the War in Afghanistan was broken down. Different countries involvement in Afghanistan played a vital role in the establishment of relations of all kinds with the neighbouring countries (Norling, & Swanström, 2007). Bilateral relations between the both countries have been poor in the beginning even after the creation of Pakistan in August 1947 (Mukherjee, 2014).

Afghan Refugees

From the previous many years, Pakistan has been facing a lot of problems owing to the presence of Afghan Refugees. Pakistan has received a huge number of displace Afghans, creating one of the most protracted refugee crises in the world; it hosts 1.4 million officially registered refugees and as many as 3.5 million displaced Afghans in total, according to government estimates but the total number is greater than the registered refugees. (Akber, 2015). This number is continuously increasing within the passage of time. This is the horrible burden for the economy and a terrible danger for the peace of the sovereignty of Pakistan. Many of Afghans have crossed the border line illegally (Xinbo, 2016).

The Taliban takeover, Pakistan has pushed back against new arrivals from Afghanistan, tightening its border restrictions and deporting some people who have crossed over without visas. Many Afghans are being turned back from borders they previously crossed with ease (Kronstadt, 2009).

Secessionists Movements

Afghan freedom Fighter Haji Mirza Ali Khan always supported the failed secessionists' movement against Pakistan. He worked against Pakistan at every step just to demolish the peace efforts of Pakistan. This movement always played negative role which is very harmful for the creation of peace between two countries (Hussain, Z, 2017). This movement was dominated by many Pashtuns who were always against Pakistan creation and even after the creation of Pakistan they are working against Pakistan cause with the help of different states of neighbourhood and by involvement of many super powers (Dash, 2008).

Afghan Pak Trade Transit

In 1952 the government of Afghanistan published a tract in which they claimed that Pakistan territory within Pakistan about but also they claimed about Baluchistan. They said that the diplomatic relations remained cut off between 1960's and 1963's because Afghanistan government supported the separatists in Pakistan. This act played a very negative role in mutual understanding and harmonious relationships between both states. Owing to this, Pakistan closed the ports of Karachi and Gwader (Chauhan, 2008).

This act affected the Afghan Transit Trade. In 1973, Muhammad Dawood Khan became the president of Afghanistan with the support of Soviet Unions and they started supporting the separatists' supporters in Pakistan which caused a horrible problem for the establishment of mutual understanding and harmonious relationships between two states (Ahmed & Bhatnagar, 2007). In 2017, Pakistan's military and political parties have accused Afghan Government for sheltering terrorists in its territory and these terrorists groups launched attacks against Pakistan but the response of Afghanistan government was very pathetic and irresponsible (Rakhimov, 2010).

Afghanistan's two folding strategies

After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, Afghan crafted two folded strategy to destabilize Pakistan in Frontier regions. It took many steps to create disturbance for Pakistan. Afghanistan always has aligned relations with those countries who have their bad intentions for Pakistan and its security especially India and USSR. Secondary disputed the politicians and leaders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1960's by financially and politically (Ahmadzai & McKinna, 2018). In 1950, King Muhammad Zahir Shah described Anti-Pakistan speech which was strongly condemned by Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan. The leader of Afghanistan's role in peacemaking has always been tilted because of their negative mentality and intentions. This quoted hate speeches against Pakistan just for the sake of their benefits fulfillment (Paul, 2020).

Afghanistan government has always been involved in terrorist attacks in Pakistan but they never admitted their role to play in it because they are wolves in sheep's clothing. India and her allies always supported Afghanistan to destabilize Pakistan by funding Afghan government and their allies groups in Pakistan. United State of America and USSR had always their own benefits so they have exploited Afghanistan and Pakistan relationships for the fulfillment of their mischievous goals (Huasheng, 2016).

The relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan had been deteriorating in 1970 when Afghanistan hosted Pashto militant operation against Pakistan under the leader of National Awami party (NAP) Abdul Wali Khan. They supported Islamist movements both in Pakistan and Afghanistan. There are many other groups in Afghanistan who have been working for many decades for the achievement of power and rule they were supported by many countries and this is the main cause of exploitation of relationship of both countries (Ahmed, & Bhatnagar, 2020).

Economic Issues

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the neighbouring countries but their political, social and economic relations are not praiseworthy even they are the living in neighbour. Their relations have always been in horrible conditions just because of the mismanagement of both countries leadership (Afzal, Iqbal, & Inayat, 2012). In 2010, Pakistan and Afghanistan signed Memorandum of Understanding (M O U) and Afghan Pak transit trade agreements (APTTA) which was observed by USA secretary of state Hilary Clinton. There are many other agreements which were signed by both states to promote economic development in both countries.

(Huda & McDonald, 2016).

According to these agreements, both Pakistan and Afghanistan go along with the promotion of economy in their lands. Afghanistan's and Pakistan's trucks go inside the states to expand their trades. Pakistan had opened the port cities of Gawader and Karachi as well (Alam, 2004)

In November 2010, the two countries Chambers of Congress tried to expand trade relationship and even also tried to solve the issues and problems of the traders faced in both countries even on the borders and inside the states (Small, 2010)

The APTTA agreements have been proved very fruitful when Afghan trucks delivered fruits from Afghanistan to Wagah border to Indian. In 2011, APTTA and NATO States are planning to receive the benefit of the Silk Road (Dubey, 2007). This is helpful to expand the trade even for other countries of South Asia and Middle East but Pakistan has to ban the Afghan traders and their trucks owing to many local and international issues created by Afghan government (Sahir, & Qureshi, 2007).

Military and Geographic Issues

History of Pakistan and Afghanistan shows that the border line of Afghanistan and Pakistan is always the issue for the both States. In order to resolve the disputes of the border Duradline is playing a vital role but within the passage of time people of the both States are entering illegally but the both states are not able to stop them completely. Both states are even still trying to resolve the border issues but completely solution is still far away. It is necessary to draw a boundary line and strictly followed the immigration rule and regulations to fulfill the purpose. It is the need of the hour to take serious steps and make utmost efforts by the government Pakistan in Afghanistan's Confederation. There are many other issues and reasons which are very serious and playing a very negative role and impact to demolish the peace and prosperity of the both countries people as well as exploiting the border rules and regulation. The both countries should try to maintain their internal and external autonomy. There are defense foreign policies foreign trade companies that are very much conscious to develop good relationships.

Racial conflict

Racial Conflict is a major and crucial issue almost in the whole region of subcontinent. It is still a center of many political parties and movements in some countries like India Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is obvious in post Pakistan political scenario of these countries (Hassan, 2009).

That people have remained too much worried about their ethnic and racial identity than religion one. It is a tool that was used by different political parties and movement to attract the attention of laymen for their political and other abhorrence purposes (Riedel, 2008).

It has also been playing a vital role in order to connect people of the countries without any differences of religion. Politics of the both countries has so common fact in south Asia. It shows a clear picture of both wings states.

Political Deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan

The major problem seems to be the Political deficit between these two states i.e. Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan has many serious concerns with Pakistan and south Asian countries. Owing to this it is very difficult to resolve the minor issues like border issue, refugees' issues. (Basit, 2017). The political leaders are not in favour of resolving the problems of Afghanistan. Pakistan is democratic country but the mentality of the leadership is not democratic. So it is always harmful for the goodwill gestures and mutual understanding of the both states (Borthakur, 2017).

Role of India and Allies

There are many ties, bonding and objectives of India in Afghanistan that can be traced out back to over 2000 years ago during the rule of different leaders. After the creation of Pakistan, India always tries to maintain her influence in Afghanistan (Wright, 1991). During the time of Najiullah's government, India's support and provision of aid and funding to promote her relations with Afghanistan showed the clear pictures of Indian involvement in abolishing the peace of Afghanistan (Akbar, 2015).

India underwent many threats during his period. After 9/11 incident, USA with the help of her allies attack Afghanistan and situation got worst due to the war imposed all these countries. The government of Afghanistan had to face a lot of killing of her civilians and military forces owing to the imposed war by the USA and remaining world (Bader & Schuster, 2015). India has close relation with Afghanistan. The rule of every government in India and Afghanistan, they were supported by the civilian and military forces just to fulfill their objectives and to defame the image of Pakistan in the whole world. Indian conspiracies always play a negative role in the abolishment of Pakistan and Afghanistan relationship.

Internal Conflicts

Internal Conflicts are now the primary security threats in national and international relations for the both states. Pakistan has been facing a lot of terrorism's issue for many years. Owing to instability of government, the international relationship is always affected. Pakistan's neighbouring countries are always the source of problems for the instability of Pakistan's internal peace. Afghanistan is the same Scandinavian country. Where under educated and corrupt leadership govern for a long period of time. Same as it has happened in Pakistan, owing to this it was very difficult to handle the severe and long-term problems of the both countries (Ahmad, 2011).

United States of America's strategies in Afghanistan

USA has two main objectives in Afghanistan that are to eradicate terrorism to save the world in general and western country particularly. Secondly they wanted to establish democratic process in Afghanistan. They want to bring stability in Afghanistan so that Afghanistan became a civilized state and they can leave it with honour and respect with the help of other countries (Javaid, 2010). But it is the matter of concern that many other countries have also their own interest and benefits. They have many mischievous objectives to gain power in South and Central Asia. They don't bother about the destruction or construction of Afghanistan. They are playing their negative or positive role in Afghanistan because they wanted to achieve their objective of global power on this region and countries (Shuja, 2007).

USA and NATO countries played their role negatively because they do not like the closer relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan. They will never promote and establish harmonious relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Hussain & Siraj, 2019). Pakistan and Afghanistan always blame each other just because of the involvement of external powers in the region. The Blame game of Afghan Government and her allies has been proving a great hurdle in demolishing the relationship of both states. USA and her allies always work negatively to defame Pakistan and they try to use their mysterious objectives to prolong their stay in the region (Grundy & Biggs, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Pakistan-Afghanistan relations have been shaped by a combination of political, security, social, and economic factors over time. The two countries share deep cultural, religious and historical ties, but persistent border disputes, cross-border militancy and external interference have created distrust and tension. The presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, coupled with separatist movements and differences in leadership policies, has added further complications to their interactions. These challenges have often prevented the development of sustained and stable cooperation.

Despite these difficulties, there have been periods of positive engagement. Trade agreements, diplomatic dialogue, and coordinated efforts on refugee management show that collaboration is possible when both sides recognize shared interests. The study uses a realist perspective to explain these dynamics, emphasizing that national security and state interests have consistently guided decisions and shaped behavior. This perspective helps explain why tensions reappear and cooperation remains limited.

Moving forward, it is clear that long-term improvement in relations will require consistent dialogue, trust-building, and coordinated strategies to address shared challenges. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, focusing on mutual benefits, and maintaining open channels for negotiation can help Pakistan and Afghanistan achieve greater stability, peace, and development in the region.

Recommendations and Policy Implications

- Establish formal and regular bilateral dialogue mechanisms to resolve border and security disputes.
- Strengthen trade and economic partnerships to create interdependence and stability.
- Coordinate on refugee management and humanitarian assistance for long-term solutions.
- Develop joint strategies to limit foreign interference and address security threats collaboratively.
- Promote cultural and educational exchanges to foster understanding and trust between populations.
- Encourage institutionalized cooperation through agreements and policy frameworks to ensure continuity across governments.

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