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Pakistan-Afghanistan Relationship Since 9/11: Emerging Trends and Future Prospects

By

¹Muhammad Nadeem Aslam, ²Mirwais Kasi, ³Qadir Mengal, ⁴Mir Sadaat

Abstract:

Afghanistan and Pakistan are connected via borders for long, but still, it will take a lot of time and painstaking effort to connect them via hearts. The widened gaps incremented at times and decreased too for some short periods. Both the neighbors are indeed focused on one another. But the involvement of the third party most of the times, developed the gap between the two. They dealt with several issues having a direct bearing on their security and sovereignty since day one. The matters were of different nature and did not allow them to consider the concerns of one another. Things weren't painful but the situations made them controversial. The two countries still cannot deny their elongated involvement in the collateral issues and planning for the zone. Current analysis and discussion will highly focus on the relationship ties of Pakistan and Afghanistan at most. It will also add the role of US, India and other neighbors in the locality but still, the main track and focus will be the primary players called Afghanistan and Pakistan. A wide range of issues will be discussed in the present context to judge the matters and realize the level of concerns. In the historical prospect, they accounted for the gap due to the enormous issues like Durand line and Pakhtoonistan. In the later time, they bothered one another on the matter of Soviet invasion. The latest one was the American invasion and the long perusing battle of Taliban against foreign occupants. In all

¹M.Phil. Scholar, Department of International Relations, University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

²Dr. Mirwais Kasi, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of International Relations, University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

³Dr. Qadir Mengal, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

⁴Dr. Mir Sadaat, Assistant Professor, Department of Institute of Management Sciences, University of Balochistan quetta Pakistan

regards, Pakistan justifies being a helpful neighbor in so many ways. Both the countries need to realize the importance of their geographical location to maintain positive relations. It is essential to be safe from factors like terrorism in the locality. In general, and over all, this article will throw light upon relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan from each and every single angle to have a full insight of the relations between the two nations and its impact on the global community.

Keywords: Emerging, Relationship, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Etc.

Introduction:

Afghanistan and Pakistan are those neighboring countries who are interlinked not only geographically but also connects with strategic, psychological, cultural and political aspects and therefore are important to each other. Pakistan and Afghanistan are not only joined geographically but they also share various grounds of culture, ethnic lineage, history, religion and dialects which makes their bilateral relationship inseparable and conjoined. Another interlinked destiny that facilitates a cordial bilateral relation between the two countries is 2,500 kilometers long border shared by both the countries. (Hussain & Siraj, 2019). This border has always proved to be useful in facilitating personal, economic and trade contacts between the people of both countries. Therefore, it is easy to sustain the connectivity of the countries, particularly when their interdependence and cordiality is supported by reciprocal strategic factors that are important for the two countries. For instance, internal peace stability of one country directly make an impact on that of the other. But the pattern of such cordial relationship was witnessed in the days prior to the partition of subcontinent because this cordial bilateral relationship could not withstand the continuous run of the mill aggravations, psychological and social misgivings and clash of political interests on various levels at the level of government between both the countries. All in all, it can be conveniently observed that resentment between Afghanistan and Pakistan started soon after the independence of Pakistan in 1947 when Afghanistan assumed new positions on the issues that were already settled and agreed upon such as the issue of Durand line. Afghanistan also took fresh instances on some of its unresolved issues with Great Britain which in turn impacted the newly independent state of Pakistan. Moreover, Afghanistan was the only country who casted a negative vote against Pakistan's bid in reference to UN membership on 30th September, 1947. However, Afghanistan soon after withdrew its negative vote but by then the seed of mistrust and bitterness was already sown and this how the earlier days that could have evolved the bilateral relationship between the two countries, instead ended up in a bed taste which in later days proved to be long lasting between the two

neighboring countries and the issues and challenges over time has kept the countries from making a friendlier bilateral relation as each other's neighbors. (Crawford, 2018).

Historical Perspective:

Afghanistan is a truly land-locked country that is in the heart of South Asia. It was a controversial country and still-controversial for holding a potential position on the map. It is a genuinely ancient country. It has a history with the blurred vision in the past. Historical account is not letting most of the things clear about the country. People may talk about it as a controversial and critical country under the pressure of various ethnic groups in history. It remained a matter of discussion in the last 2-3 decades for dramatically changing world scenarios. (Durrani & Muhammad, 2002)

Discussing about Pakistan, it is a country that is very new to the history of the world. Comparatively, Afghanistan is an extremely mature and ancient country at the time when Pakistan emerged as an independent nation in 1947 on the map of the world. The border is bifurcated into two countries via the "Durand Line."

Durand line; before 1947, was defined as a border between Hindustan and Afghanistan, but in 1947, it became the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The newly emerging country had a potential neighbor who was less willing to manage the affairs in positive prospects. In 1947, the newly born nation was the potential to develop positive relations with Afghanistan. Still, Afghanistan was critically showing a lack of interest in maintaining the bilateral ties with the neighbor.

The very reason for the disappointment of Afghanistan was the tribal area people of Pakistan's province, NWFP. They were allowed for the referendum to justify their future country. They voted for Pakistan in high percentage instead of going to be a part of the Pashtunistan in Afghanistan. It led to a furious attitude towards Pakistan in the starting days of the nation. (Ollapally, 2008).

Surprisingly, the neighbor disappointed Pakistan while entering the United Nations. In the conference of the United Nations, Afghanistan was the first country to oppose the entry of Pakistan as a new nation. The attitude was above the bearable limit, but still, Pakistan didn't react to the situation in the United Nations. It seems like Afghanistan was critically insecure about its position due to the emergence of a democratic government in Pakistan. The reason might

be the severe insecurities of the rulers of Afghanistan. They wanted the condition of unrest in the neighborhood to maintain their ruling quality functions at ease. (Ollapally, 2008)

Pakistan, however, proved to be a decent neighbor. For the purpose, Pakistan sent the ambassador Chandigarh in the independence celebrations of Afghanistan. Another ambassador followed him in the latter year. Besides, Pakistan facilitated the Pakhtoon culture and Jirga by retrieving the British troops' policy for the specific zones to maintain law and order. They gave reverence to the tribal zones in proper elaborate mentioning in the law and order legislation as well. The issue got more fuel when the ruler of Afghanistan delivered an anti-Pakistan speech at the Jashn-e-Azadi celebrations of Afghanistan. Besides, they threw the anti-Pakistan pamphlets in the air at the moment. This led to the retrieval of the ambassadors from the neighboring countries for a couple of months. (Saikal, 2012).

The prime ministers of both the countries visited one another one by one during the era of 1956-59 but things went wrong again in 1961 when the USSR intended to improve the road and other infrastructure of the country. The support was vital, but Pakistan supported the US in the meanwhile for the provision of Peshawar airport. The airport availed the individual troopers, U-2 flights. They were accountable for insecurities on the Afghan border. It led to another cross border issue between the two countries. Seeing the current scenario, Kabul intentionally dropped the relations between the two countries.

Pakistan in turn blocked the transit trade route of Kabul. This hurts the economy of Afghanistan; this is why the Soviets exerted pressure on Afghanistan to handle the issue. However, Pakistan reopened the trade routes under US pressure via Quetta. As the US was unwilling, so, in the closing, Pakistan agreed to manage the course. In this time of insecurity, Iran also supported Pakistan as a friendly neighbor to be useful to the fellow Muslim nation. (Khattak, 2014).

Following the route of the past, Pakistan was intentionally improving the relations with Afghanistan for keeping the Tehran Accord of 1963 in mind. It was a natural thing for Pakistan, but surprisingly Afghanistan was also following the Accord in the right tone. This added to the potential relationship between the countries. The Shah of Iran justified his role and proved to be a good one in supporting the neighbors. The ruler of Afghanistan, Daud, resigned. This was a kind gesture for Pakistan as it gave the full stop to the issue of Pakhtoonistan after two decades approximately. ((Durani & Muhammad, 2002))

Afghanistan supported Pakistan during the India-Pakistan war of 1965. She became a friendly neighbor and ensured the security on the western border. The support was the right help in all regards; this is why Pakistan found Afghanistan quite compassionate in the decade. They exchanged most of the accords and delegations during this time. In the war of 1971, Afghanistan remained at the neutral edge to prove its justified position. It was not to be opposing Pakistan in any regard in the time of depression.

The invasion of the Soviet Union in 1979 was a milestone in changing the faith of countries like Afghanistan and neighboring. It was an alarm for Pakistan, too, to be more vigilant for security. President Zia was disappointed with the situation as he was the flag holder of pure Islamization plus Muslim Ummah. The disappointment was not letting him decide how to manage with a superpower standing in the neighborhood across the Durand line. He was not sure about either shaking hands with them or being against them. He was also considering the global humanitarian departments to siege support to Pakistan's security.

Being an insecure country, Pakistan decided not to oppose the USSR openly but to compromise with the situation for the sake of survival. But in the meanwhile, the low voice was raised against the USSR hold in South Asia. This voice let America consider the condition of Pakistan. In the context of trouble, President Carter of the US announced the financial aid for Pakistan to maintain the refugees plus security system. The situation further involved the role of Pakistan in Afghanistan issues with the support of the US in 1981. (Omrani, 2009)

The ammunition and arms supply was enough to add to the support package in all regards. It helped generate a force to run the affairs of the Mujahideen. ISI fuelled them in Pakistan. President Gorbachev met the Indian prime minister in 1986 to sort out a solution for the current situation of the issue. They wanted peace in the region, which was only possible by some resolution of the problem—the fire burn more, leading to the Ojri camp incident in Pakistan. In 1988, the ammunition camp bombed off. The bombing was continued in some of the cities of Pakistan to threaten the country.

The closing of the issue reached a point by the support of the Geneva Accord signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan in 1988. The main points were:

- a. All Soviets troops to abscond Afghanistan within nine months, furthermore half of them to remove in the initial three months.

- b. The Accord called for an outlaw on cross border activities.
- c. Both of the superpowers were to guarantee a one-year freeze on arms deliveries.
- d. However, both of the superpowers have the fundamental right to arm their 'allies' should there be a contravention of the one-year moratorium on arms deliveries.

The political situation of Afghanistan was unstable. The pressure of various ethnical groups was enough to lead them to waste and disaster. The president Rabbani betrayed the Accord in 1994. This resulted in the men and material loss in Pakistan. The ethnic group issues were persisting in Afghanistan. They were genuinely accountable for the political instability; this had a dramatic and direct impact on Pakistan as well. So, in the closing of 1994, Pakistan raised a voice to replace Rabbani as he is not capable of following the Peshawar Accord. (Durani & Muhammad, 2002).

Another issue that has shown a strange impact upon Pakistan was the rise of Tehrik-e-Taliban in 1995. The new government of the Taliban was extreme plus narrow-minded, and they were not interested in sharing the relationship with a country like Pakistan. Most of the ethnic groups were happy with the Tehrik-Taliban as the narrow mindset was as per their desires. The Taliban also existed as a peril for Pakistan.

Taliban got the hold of a city of Herat in 1994 near the Iran border. After securing a base city, they started to spread all over Afghanistan. It resulted in the full control of Afghanistan. In 1998, they held almost 90% of Afghanistan's country, which was genuinely alarming for Pakistan. It's admitted that Pakistan has a potential role in generating them, but they become a threat to Pakistan in the future time. They were the learners of Pashtun culture. These ill-minded people were not aware of the right and wrong in the country prospect.

The Taliban announced the rule and policy for generating the plan for the government in the country of Afghanistan. They presented the points as under:

- a. To neutralize all warlords/ militias either by wiles or through coercion.
- b. Restoration of harmony and social order by enforcing Islamic laws in the areas under their control
- c. Retain plus be in command of all areas liberated by the Taliban
- d. Defend the integrity and Islamic disposition of Afghanistan

The announcement of rules and policy points led to the initiation of proper planning for the government in the locality. They had the control of Kandahar in the 1994 closing of the year. This was a milestone in achieving the target to run the affairs of the country. It was a genuine threat to Pakistan. The civil war of Afghanistan might be flowing to the zones in Pakistan. The warning sounds strange, but it was a blatant truth at that time. The movement kept on moving in all directions in Afghanistan with the financial support from India as well.

The proper support of arms and ammunition, in addition to moral assistance from India, boosted up their confidence level. The potential support leads to the control of almost nine provinces of Afghanistan in 1995. The further struggle continued, and they had the hold of the whole country until the closing of 1995. Some leftover provinces were also potentially controlled in the first year of 1996. Jalal Abad went under their control in late days, but in the end, the whole country went in the condition for a critical and damaging civil war. (Rashid, 2010)

In 1998, Pakistan facilitated the government of the Taliban to run the affairs of the country quickly. Pakistan was a developing country, but it still offered them proper and timely financial support to improve the trade. The transit route also added to the support system of Afghanistan via Pakistan. In the meanwhile, the Taliban continued their strange style of Islamization and brutal punishments. Pakistan intentionally supported them to learn about diplomacy and to rule the country, but they were not interested in these fields. This is why they had an interest in Saudi Arabia. (Rashid, 2010).

In 1998, the relations of the Taliban went secure with Saudi Arabia, which was threatening Pakistan's position in Asia. They developed coordination with the prince Usama Bin Laden. Afghanistan supported him for visiting Afghanistan and staying there. He was supporting the Taliban with a high level of finances. This was exact support at the moment as it led to the high level of backup plus ammunition maintenance at that time. This was enough to give firm ground and foothold to the government of the Taliban. They were furious and violent, ammunition added to their support factors. (*Who Are the Taliban?* - BBC News, n.d.).

In 1999, President Bush of the US passed a bill to justify the position of women in the world. He opposed the Taliban and was not willing to accept any sort of government that is brutal for the women. It was a silent message for the Taliban to retrieve their activities. Also, the presence of Osama Bin Laden in South Asia, along with the militant groups, is an alarming situation for the people around the globe. It was a threat to the world's security. The predictable threat became real in the

incident of 9/11. This justified the insecurities of President Bush in the real sense.

Although things were going fine in 2000 closing time, it still went well till August 2001. But the potential issue rises for another time in 2001 due to the incident of 9/11. It was a specific landmark in deciding the condition of Afghanistan's ruling parties. Now, Pakistan was also incapable of managing the affairs. Things went to a dangerous situation by the severe incident of 9/11. The future of Afghanistan changed the scenario as this time, the new ideas and innovations led to the new vistas in the relationship between the two neighbors. (Omrani, 2009).

Impact of 9/11 Attack and the Changed Global Prospects:

The incident of 9/11 changed the global prospect. Actually, it changed the global opportunities in many ways. The issue was accountable for reconsidering the situation of many countries in the world. It is safe from the possibility of an attack. It was an era where the world has a cold war within some of the areas. America has a potential and keen eye upon Pakistan. It is because Pakistan was the next-door neighbor of Afghanistan, and Pakistan had a possible sea harbor. The sea harbor could support them to have military transport easy and quick. This is why the response of Pakistan to the US demand for the provision of the fighting ground was a matter of sincere concern. (Omrani, 2009).

The aftermath of 9/11 was a critical time for Pakistan. It was a strange situation when the USA intended to attack the country of Afghanistan to clear away the Taliban from the zone. The Defense Secretary of USA, Collen Powel, made a telephonic call to Musharaf, the president of Pakistan, just to ask a question; "You are with us or against us?" It was not a threat to Musharaf, as he had a background of armed forces. It was just a query to decide about the fate of Pakistan as it was on the way while the USA will be attacking Afghanistan. (Mamdani, 2002).

At that time, the president of Pakistan General Pervaiz Musharaf famously responded to them. He agreed to stand with the UN, US, and the whole world in the WAR AGAINST TERRORISM. He thought that Islam is an enlightened religion. He was the one who introduced the concept of "Enlightened Moderation" in Pakistan. This is why it expected that under his rule, Pakistan would be against secularism in Islam. It resulted in a positive response to the US demands for the supply of military stops in Pakistan. (Crawford, 2018).

The worst thing that happened as a result of 9/11 was the tag name of "terrorists" for the Muslims. This was genuinely unacceptable,

but the point in consideration was exact on behalf of US citizens. They found the Taliban as terrorists. Taliban were showing that they are holding the flag of Islamization; this is why the world felt that they are the real picture of Muslims. The situation was terrible for the Muslim countries, especially for overseas Muslims. They were feeling insecure in the vicinity of other countries in the current scenario. (Livingston & O'Hanlon, 2017).

The drastic effect came upon Pakistan on account of the US-Afghan tussle. Pakistan tried level best to play the role of mediator for another time. Pakistan was with positive intentions towards Afghanistan and the Taliban being a neighbor. But the Taliban were not willing to realize the delicacy of the situation. Pakistan coordinated with the Taliban leader Mullah Omer on September 17, 2001, for the last time. Senior ISI DG Mahmood Ahmad visited Mullah Omer for the coordination purpose. It was truly risky, but Pakistan did it for the sake of peace in the zone. (Omrani, 2009).

The coordination continued for a while, but it was found fruitless. Taliban were stubborn, and they were unwilling to agree to the terms and conditions of ISI DG. This incremented the critical situation further. DG ISI demanded nothing but only handing over of Osama Bin Laden to the US military. This was a forthright and straightforward way out of the problem at that time, but it didn't work well. As a result, Pakistan retrieved to its position and reconsidered the matter of maintenance of bilateral relations with Afghanistan at the moment. (Akhtar, 2008).

On October 7, 2001, US military forces attacked Afghanistan to clear away the Taliban and access Osama Bin Ladin alive. The attack was of high level with a tough time for Afghanistan that the Taliban were surprised to see enemies all around. Pakistan was their faithful supporter as a neighbor since day one, but now the country was also supporting the war against terrorism. This gave a set back to the Taliban. The land was cleared away from them in a couple of weeks. It happened at a fast pace. They left concentrated in the city of Kandahar in December 2001. It was a short time, indeed. (Omrani, 2009).

Musharaf faced a significant loss of property and lives in Pakistan due to the war against terrorism. Al-Qaeda was a potential one in this regard. They targeted Pakistan from various grounds to take revenge of willingness for the fight against terrorism. Pakistan was in hard waters but had to be part of the game at the moment. Because now, Pakistan couldn't step back from its decision in the present context. (Omrani, 2009).

Pakistan did a lot for the US, maybe Pakistan did more than it could manage to bear, but still, the US was voicing high to say "*Do More!*", it was terrible in the current context, but the military and financial support of the US was not letting Pakistan get rid of the plan; it kept doing more and more. More disturbance raised when Pakistan agreed for the drone attacks in addition to the military intervention of the US in Pakistan. It observed that the army invasions of drones were attacking civilians more than the Taliban. This was another alarming threat for the government to lose the confidence of the Pakistani people. (Mamdani, 2002).

Change of Pakistan's Policy towards Taliban:

Pakistan was taking bold and potential decisions in the era of 2001 after 9/11. It may be dangerous for its security and safety, but Pakistan was with no other option at the moment. The Pakistani government was on a severe note to consider the problems of domestic people in addition to overseas Pakistanis. They had new challenges as the Muslims tagged a new name in the world; the terrorists. Pakistan further announced that the following steps would consider for planning the future of the Taliban in Pakistan. They are:

- a. Cooperation with the worldwide coalition to curb terrorism
- b. Immigration is in the power of measures to keep on the movement of budding extremists.
- c. Action against fervent and activist organizations and groups.
- d. Detention of Jihadi leaders.
- e. Prescription Jihadi organizations.
- f. Reformation and ruling of madrassahs encompassing:
 - (1) NOC (No Objection Certificate) for the opening of madrassahs.
 - (2) The congregate of madrassahs.
 - (3) An assessment of their syllabi.
 - (4) A curb on the number of international students attending them.
- g. Regulation of Mosques:
 - (1) NOC required for opening a mosque.
 - (2) Political activities in mosques made unlawful.
 - (3) The loudspeakers restricted to the Azaan (the entitle to prayer). (Wynbrandt, 2009).

The points are elaborating that the non-support factor to the Taliban will not be acceptable to them. This might infuriate the relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the prospect, but Pakistan was firm at its point this time. Taliban were disappointed by the sad and disappointing attitude of Pakistan in all regards. This led to the gap between Pakistan and the Taliban. Pakistan bears the result in the form of suicide bombing

around the country, which delicately spoiled the image of a government in many ways. (Omrani, 2009)

Taliban promoted the culture of terrorism in the country of Pakistan; this is why the crucial steps were essential in the time context. The plan was the potential to reconsider the issues of Taliban control. They tagged them as TTP (Tehrik Taliban Pakistan), which was a menace for the country. It was essential to get rid of the tag; this is why president Musharaf took the crucial steps to prove that the nation is also against the terrorist groups, and we are not the part of terrorism, but we are against it.

Terrorism in Pakistan – Impact of Destabilization in Afghanistan:

2007 proved to be the worst year in the history of Pakistan for the highest number for terrorist attacks plus bomb blasts in addition to sectarian violence and killings. The political instability in the country further destabilized the situation of security in the country. In 2007, the murder of the political figure Benazir Bhutto was the worst event of the year. The closing of the year was mourned correctly with the three off days after her assassination. It was the outcome of the plan of Pakistan not to accept terrorism and stand against it. (Collins, 2011).

The attack of Lal masjid, other prayer places, Imam Bargah, churches, schools, offices, and many bazaars led the country in a drastic situation. The victim was no other person but the ordinary people. It was a delicate time for the people of Pakistan; they were on the verge of deployment. Things lost their beauty; it was dangerous to go for Eid prayers even in an independent country. So, the military operation against the Taliban and Al Qaeda were the only outcome. Pakistan took armed action, and the Pakistan army earned a name in the context of clearing away Taliban operations. (Aziz, 2016).

The attacks of Lahore on the Sri Lankan team in 2009 were also in the sequence. It spoiled the image of Pakistan in the international market. Further, the attack on IIUI I 2010 was an open threat to the educational departments. Also, it continued with the suicide attack and firing on the school APS in 2014. The situation was worst, but in the same context, Pakistan was struggling hard not only for survival but to maintain the positive and functional relations with the neighbors, especially Afghanistan. Afghanistan was also on the verge of suicide bombings. Karzai governments bear a couple of suicide attacks upon vulnerable locations. (Naqvi, Kazim & Huma. 2011).

The Pak army promised support to the nation in a practical and working manner. It not only offered support on the national level but also on the border across the location of Afghanistan. The critical

situation was a point in consideration for the purpose. The education set up of tribal areas and Swat was disturbed due to the Taliban issue. They blasted most of the schools and killed people. They were against the education of girls; this is why the case of Malala Yousafzai portrayed the worst picture of Taliban autonomy in Pakistan. The Taliban shot her for opposing their rules; she didn't stop going to school even after the age of ten. (Afzal, 2020).

Pakistan's Role in Afghan Peace Process:

Pakistan acted as a facilitator to Afghanistan for countless times. It never left the neighbor alone in the time of trouble, the promising support of facilitating and compensating worked very well. Pakistan promised Afghanistan the support in all ways to manage the progressing steps towards peace in the countries. The role can be seen differently in different timings. Pakistan played an excellent position in the facilitation in multiple zones. (Bukhari, 2005)

Pakistan promised economic support for the country. Even Pakistan announced the support for the infrastructure development of Afghanistan on media. Pakistan's role was correct as a facilitator in coordinating for the peace process. These gestures calculated as true ones in communicating for the peace talks. The talks went very well, and they accepted the offer of Pakistan for receiving the high percentage of compensation and support for the economy of a war-devastated country. Pakistan helped to manage the plans like CPEC and Gas Pipeline to improve the economic conditions of both the countries. The ideal situation can witness that Pakistan did it by heart. (Aziz, 2016).

Pakistan indeed facilitated the improvement of infrastructure of schools and colleges in the country of Afghanistan. It was to improve the current conditions of education for the people. In the same context, Pakistan offered a high percentage of scholarship programs for the youth of Afghanistan. This continued with the student's exchange programs between the two countries after a decade of 9/11. (Johnson & Mason, 2007). The process went successful as it gave exposure to the citizens of both countries to see one another in the closer clicks. This welcomed the students of higher level in the universities of both countries openly. (Afzal, Iqbal & Inayat, 2012).

Pakistan supported Afghanistan for so many times as a negotiator. The role of negotiator is exactly tricky as it is not the job of that party, but it manages to do it for the betterment of the others. Same was the case of Pakistan when negotiating with the entities like Mujahideen and Taliban in the country of Afghanistan to maintain peace in the zone. Negotiation isn't an easy process, and it is most difficult

when the opponent doesn't hear you. It is a challenge in the context of the Taliban of Afghanistan, but Pakistan did it tactically. (Afzal, Iqbal & Inayat, 2012).

Pakistan mediated between US and Afghanistan in multiple times. Even when the government of Afghanistan saw that the US is now planning to leave the country of Afghanistan. The government of Pakistan requested the US not to leave the locality unless the total peace is visible here. It was essential to making sure that the location is holding a high level of contentment. This could help manage the affairs of the peace effort with Taliban for both the neighboring countries across the Durand Line. Recently concluded peace accord between US and Taliban was possible only through sheer efforts of Pakistan. Pakistan government is also playing a crucial part in follow up of the accord because we believe that peace and stability in Afghanistan means peace and stability in Pakistan. (Ahmad, 2010)

Conclusion:

Afghanistan and Pakistan Both are indeed focused on one another but often the involvement of the third party complicates relations and creates differences. They dealt with several issues since day one however, ever changing geo-political situation keeps them awry of each other. Things weren't painful but the situations made them controversial. The two countries still cannot deny their elongated involvement in the collateral issues and planning for the region. Pakistan as good will neighbor has always been supportive and will keep using its international clout for stability and peace in Afghanistan. However, there is dire need to replicate the same at Afghan end.

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