

## **Pakistan-India Relations: Hydro Politics and Implications for Pakistan:**

By

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### **Abstract:**

*The study is an attempt to explore hydro politics in Pak-India relations and its implications for Pakistan. The study examines the Indian Water Treaty and its impacts. The study explores the Indian Indus Water System policies against Pakistan. India has been using water as a diplomatic tool against Pakistan effecting diplomatic ties between these two immediate neighbors. Despite the historical Indus water Treaty signed between Pakistan and India water remains the most talked-about issues in Pakistan and India. The continuous Indian violation of the Indus Water Treaty and the growing water scarcity in Pakistan exacerbates the tense situation. Water is being used against Pakistan as a diplomatic weapon. The hydro-politics is considered disastrous for the peace and stability of the region. Pakistan wants peaceful solution to the long-standing water disputes. But due to the Indian aggressive intensions and reluctance the dispute remains unresolved. Currently, the growing water scarcity and energy crises compel Pakistan making efforts to nudge India on the table of talks. Presently, the water dispute is main factor in diplomatic deadlock in Pakistan-India relations. The constant Indian violation of the Indus Water Treaty and the increasing water shortage in Pakistan exacerbates the tense situation. This paper will highlight the Indian aggressive intensions and its implications for Pakistan. The paper suggests some angles regarding the solution of water dispute. Data for this study has been collected adopting secondary source of data collection.*

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### **Introduction:**

Since Pakistan's inception in 1947 its relations with India have been tense. There are some factors effecting diplomatic ties between Pakistan and India. But the bone of conflict is the issue of Kashmir which has remained a disputed territory for the last seven decades. All water related issues remained unresolved due to Kashmir dispute. Despite seven decades passed Pakistan and India have failed to resolve disputes including the Kashmir issue. The water resource issues between Pakistan and India date backs to the time of partition in 1947. The boundary commission in 1947 failed to draw a line leaving behind it anon-pleasant atmosphere. Soon after the independence of Pakistan in 1947, both neighbors engaged in the negotiations to resolve the water controversy and in the year 1948 an interim agreement was signed between Pakistan and India (Siddiqui, 2010). The agreement failed to provide a permanent solution to the water resource issue. Eventually, the historical Indus Water Treaty was concluded in 1960 with mediation of World Bank. Unfortunately, despite, the Indus Water Treaty agreement, water remains the most talked-about issue in Pakistan. The study examines the Indian Water strategy and its impacts. The study explores the Indian Indus Water System policies against Pakistan. India has been using water as a diplomatic tool against Pakistan effecting diplomatic ties between these two immediate neighbors. Despite the historical Indus water Treaty signed between Pakistan and India water remains the most talked-about issues in Pakistan and India (Saxena, 2017). The continuous Indian violation of the Indus Water Treaty and the growing water scarcity in Pakistan exacerbates the tense situation. This paper will unfold the Indian aggressive intensions and its implications for Pakistan. Data for this study has been collected adopting secondary source of data collection.

### **Water Dispute: An Historical Overview:**

The sub-continent was partitioned in 1947. The demarcation line was drawn between these two countries without considering the significance of natural irrigation boundaries. The demarcation line gave India the advantage of control over the Indus Water System. Soon after partition, India cut the supply of water to Pakistan. Pakistan as an agricultural country deemed the Indian aggression disastrous. India wanted Pakistan to admit the Indian control over water as her right. The Indian aggression triggered unpleasant atmosphere in the newly established Pakistan. Pakistan's irrigation System

largely depends on the Indus Water System and the blockage of water supply by India compelled Pakistan requesting India to release water. (Sinha, 2016).

The situation got worsens for Pakistan's irrigation system. But India was reluctant to resolve the dispute. India forwarded a formula that was indeed in its own favor and Pakistan could only get water after merely after concluding an agreement with India. Eventually, water was restored in 1948 after an agreement was concluded. The agreement favored India but soon Pakistan apprehended and demanded full release of water because it was the matter of Pakistan's survival (Salman, 2002).

The demarcation line between Pakistan and India left both head works in India. Consequently, made Pakistan dependent on Indian. In May 1948, an interim agreement was signed, popular known as the Delhi agreement, released water for a short period. The agreement enables India to decrease the flow of water entering into Pakistan and signaled Pakistan to find alternatives for its irrigation system. Indian also demanded Pakistan to pay her costs which the latter agreed; however, the issues of estimated costs also become controversial. Eventually, Pakistan sought to take the matter to the International court of justice (Salman S. M., 2009).

The government of Pakistan was of the view that the agreement was an interim and subject to more options. The Indian government shown reluctance to submit the matter in ICJ. The then Pakistan minister of finance appealed to Lord Mountbatten (The then governor general of India) who after consultation with Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, placed a statement before Pakistan finance minister. The finance minister was asked to sign the statement without demanding for any change. It was agreed that further bilateral negotiations would be held for resolution of the issues. The Indian government viewed it as an international agreement and denied Pakistan's claim of temporary agreement (Gupta, 2006). Haplessly, it deprived Pakistan of its international waters and favored India to control these waters(Hossen, 2017).The Delhi agreement created long-lasting impacts on the water resources.

### **The Indus Water Treaty:**

Ultimately, negotiations started in 1952 and lasted for almost eight years. Eventually with the mediation of the World Bank a treaty was signed between Pakistan and Indian in 1960, popularly known as the Indus Water treaty. Initially, the Treaty reduced the tensions between these two immediate neighbors and provided Pakistan some sort of relaxation. After

almost eight years of negotiations, eventually, the historical Indus Water Treaty was signed. On September 19, 1960, with the mediation of World Bank, the Indus Water Treaty was signed between Pakistan and India. The Indus Water Treaty based on the allocation of Indus water system. According to this treaty, three Eastern Rivers; Ravi, Bias and Sutlej came into the India's share of water and their Western Rivers; Indus, Jhelum and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan. In the light of Treaty, India unrestricted the use of Eastern Rivers and Pakistan got a right for the inclusive use of the Western Rivers. According to the treaty, India can utilize water of Western Rivers for purpose of its hydropower generations, to meet the Industrial, domestic and irrigation needs of Jammu-Kashmir and also develop for flood protection (Gilmartin, 2015). It is apparent from the Indus Water Treaty that Pakistan has to build infrastructure to satisfy the Eastern Rivers needs from the Western rivers and India will pay fixed amount to Pakistan to for the building of infrastructure. Both countries have to repeatedly exchange flow data.

### **The Indian Disputed Projects On Indus Water System:**

Despite the mediation of the World Bank and the Indus Water Treaty signed between Pakistan water remains an issue affecting bilateral affairs between Pakistan and India. The Indian aggressions and its controversial projects on Indus Water System have been central to Pakistan-India bilateral affairs. These disputed projects are: Wullar Barrage, Baglihar and Kishenganga dams which led to diplomatic deadlock in Pakistan-India diplomatic relations.

The Indian controversial project created long-lasting impacts on relations between Pakistan and India. India has been using water as diplomatic tool against Pakistan. The violation of Indus Water Treaty by constructing dams by India has created serious challenges for Pakistan (Hussain, 2017). This situation compels Pakistan requesting for negotiations with India. But the Indian reluctance and negative intensions make the matter more serious in nature. Pakistan has made serious efforts to resolve the issue but due to Indian unwillingness aggression the issue remains unresolved. Permanent solution to the Kashmir Issue could solve the water-related issues between Pakistan and India. The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 with aim to permanent solution to the water resource issue (Adee, 2016). But the violation of the Treaty by India by constructing dams over Pakistan's share of River water led to controversies between these two immediate neighbors. Presently, the water resource issue is due to four Indian projects: The Wullar, Baglihar and Kishenganga issues. These projects are responsible for the diplomatic cut off between Pakistan

and Indian and May led to even more unpleasant situation in future if not resolved.

### **Pakistan's Apprehensions:**

Pakistan responded promptly and strongly rejected the Indian disputed project. Pakistan rejected it on the basis that Indus Water Treaty provisions cannot be interpreting isolation and that the document must be understood in the light of its object and purpose. As an upper riparian as per Indus Water Treaty, India is under explicit obligation to permit the water to run downstream unconstrained. India has been using water as an economic and military weapon against Pakistan in order to get control over river resources. The territorial boundary between Pakistan and India helps India in dominating the area of Indus Water System. This controversial partition, demarcated by Radcliffe favors India. Additionally, the Indian occupation of Kashmir complicated the issue furthermore. With this, India got the control over the Chenab and Jhelum rivers (Abbasi, 2012).

Pakistan has expressed its reservations internationally. Pakistan called upon the International organizations to play their role to stop India constructing controversial dams. Pakistan also demanded India to allow its experts team to visit the Indian projects on Indus water system. The Indian reluctance enhances Pakistan's reservations and compels it requesting Indian for negotiations. Pakistan regards the Indian projects perilous for its agricultural system. Although, the Indus Water treaty ensures Pakistan supply of all three Western rivers, but the root cause of the conflict remain unresolved effecting bilateral relations between Pakistan and India. The water issue has been looming. It is indeed a question of survival for Pakistan and the issue soon gets the attention of international community. India has been using water as a diplomatic tool against Pakistan in order to gain maximum control over river resources. The occupation of Kashmir territory by India is firmly associated to its hydro-strategic nature (Malik, 2005). The Indian control over Indus Water System is regarded by Pakistan as threat to its agricultural, industrial and energy needs. Pakistan is demanding respect to the Indus Water Treat which is a legal and moral demand.

### **The Water Dispute and Diplomatic Deadlock:**

Despite the mediation of the World Bank and the Indus Water Treaty signed between Pakistan water remains an issue affecting bilateral affairs between Pakistan and India. Pakistan's dependency on Indus Water System and the India intensions to use water as a diplomatic tool against Pakistan is worsening the situation furthermore. India has been engaged in hydro-

politics using water as diplomatic tool against Pakistan. Presently, tensions are running high between Pakistan and Indian due to water resource issue. Several times India has agreed to take the matter on the negotiations table, but due to its unwillingness the controversy remains standstill. The Indian aggressions and its controversial projects on Indus Water System have been central to Pakistan-India bilateral affairs. These disputed projects are: Wullar Barrage, Baglihar and Kishenganga dams which led to diplomatic deadlock in Pakistan-India diplomatic relations (Mustafa, 2013).

The Indian controversial project created long-lasting impacts on relations between Pakistan and India. India has been using water as diplomatic tool against Pakistan. The violation of Indus Water Treaty by constructing dams, India has created serious challenges for Pakistan. This situation compels Pakistan requesting for negotiations with India. But the Indian reluctance and negative intensions make the matter more serious in nature (Naqvi, 2012). Pakistan has made serious efforts to resolve the issue but due to Indian unwillingness and aggression, the issue remains unresolved. Permanent solution to the Kashmir Issue could solve the water-related issues between Pakistan and India.

The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 with aim to permanent solution to the water resource issue. But the violation of the Treaty by India constructing dams over Pakistan's share of River water led to controversies between these two immediate neighbors. Presently, the water resource issue is due to four Indian projects: The Wullar, Baglihar and Kishenganga issues. These projects are responsible for the diplomatic cut off between Pakistan and Indian and May led to even more unpleasant situation in future if not resolved. The water resource issue remained unresolved and thus causing diplomatic deadlock in Pakistan-India relations. The growing water scarcity in Pakistan the Indian disputed projects on Indus water system is blocking these two countries from establishing friendly ties.

### **Conclusion:**

To conclude, the hydro-politics in South Asia is dangerous for the peace and stability of the region. Despite, historical Indus Water Treaty the water issues remains unresolved and it has created challenges for Pakistan. The Indus Water System is vital for the irrigation system in Pakistan. Since its establishment Pakistan relations with India have been tense. Despite seven decades passed Pakistan and India have failed to resolve disputes. Several times India has agreed to take the matter on the table of negotiations, but every time goes back on her commitments. Unfortunately, despite, the Indus Water Treaty agreement, water remains the most talked-about issue in

Pakistan. The study examined the Indian Water strategy and its impacts. The study explored the Indian Indus Water System policies against Pakistan. India has been using water as a diplomatic tool against Pakistan effecting diplomatic ties between these two immediate neighbors. Despite the historical Indus water Treaty signed between Pakistan and India water remains the most talked-about issues in Pakistan and India. The continuous Indian violation of the Indus Water Treaty and the increasing water inadequacy in Pakistan exacerbates the tense situation. Lastly, water controversy still persists and tensions between Pakistan and India are running high due to unresolved water controversy. The water controversy might prove catastrophic if not resolved. Solution of water controversy is need of time in order to ensure durable peace and stability in the region. Overall, the study concludes that water is a cause of conflict, but it would also be a catalyst for peace.

**Suggestions:**

- It is high time for Pakistan and India to resolve their disputes in the larger interest of peace and stability in the region.
- Pakistan has a clear stance over the issues with India. Pakistan always wished peaceful solution to all disputes. India should respond positively to Pakistan's invitations for the negotiations.
- It is high time for the World Bank to again play its role to nudge Indian to table of talks.
- Indian should respect the Indus Water Treaty and stop its violation.
- The International organizations should play their role to nudge India to the table of talks and give the matter a permanent solution.

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