

Pak-US Relations: Dynamics and Prospects in 21st Century

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Abstract:

The solitary confinement and survival in international system is nothing but day dreaming. There-of, a state is supposed to build eminent relations with neighboring and regional states for the economic, social and political motivations. Since its inception on the map of earth, Pakistan, in one way or the other has been trying to build strong relations with the neighboring states, regional powers and Super power. The Pakistan & United States of America's relations have been termed out to be 'Roller-Coaster ride' as after emergence on the map of earth, the first Pakistani Prime Minister, Liaqat Ali Khan visited United States instead of Russia. Because, the United States secretary of state Henry Kissinger once said; 'We don't have permanent enemies or friends, rather our interests are permanent'. This paper will pinpoint Pakistan's relations with the United States of America after the incident of 9/11, 2001 and the dynamics and prospects of 21st century.

Keywords: 9/11, Challenges, Strategic importance, war on terror

Introduction:

Peaceful Pakistan is very important for peace in South Asia. As well as peace of Pakistan is very valueable to United States affairs. 9/11 brought two nations very closer to each other because of their common interests. Both Pakistan and U.S joined hands together against war on terrorism.

As we know that from 1950s many ups and downs came in Pak-US relations but after 9/11 the time came that once again both the nations Pakistan and United States joined one another against terrorism. United States joined Pakistan in war on terrorism because of Pakistan's strategic importance.

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When Pakistan came into existence, at that time the newly born country really needed good and co-operative friends for her progress.

To create good and peaceful relations with neighbors or the other nations is the main part of Pakistan's Ideology. Very soon after the independence Pakistan received several proposals from two superpower i.e. U.S.A and USSR, but Pakistan accepted the proposal of USA instead of USSR, and started its diplomatic relations with United States.

Pakistan started its ambassadorial relations with USA by the visit of first prime Minister of Pakistan Khan Liaqat Ali Khan in 1950 on 3rd May.

The relationship between these two nations started of diplomatic ties in a proper manner. Many ups and downs came in between the relations of Pakistan and United States, and the geopolitical position of Pakistan always played a vital role in those circumstances.

As it is known that Pakistan has a great Geo-Political position in the world, according to Shahnaz Akhtar "because of a great geopolitical position of Pakistan, Pak-US relations have great history".

The most important time period in Pak-US relations started after the incident of 9/11, because it brought number of challenges in the world. Though at that time overall world order was disturbed but most of the challenges were being faced by South Asia especially by Pakistan.

9/11:

When the U.S plains were hijacked in September 11 in 2001 and those planes were hit to the WTC (World Trade Center) of America and number of people becomes the target of those attacks. And those attacks brought a great change in world politics.

2001:

Soon after the occurrence of 9/11 U.S started Military campaigns all around the world and especially in Muslim countries. In that situation Pakistan played its role to deal with Taliban, on the point that they would handover Usama Bin Ladin to America. So in that case Afghanistan would be avoided of American strikes. But all deals failed and Pakistan gave permission to American Military to use Pakistan's territory for Military use to attack on Afghanistan.

But after all that Pervez Musharraf gave his statement that Pakistan was not in such position to oppose America's demand. And he also clarified that America had threatened if Pakistan would not cooperate then first Pak would have been attacked before Afghanistan. Soon in 2001 US take up all sanctions imposed on Pakistan as a result to Pressler's Amendments.

2003:

In 2003 US let free \$1 Billion loan previously taken by Pakistan and it was a sort of reward of Pakistan's cooperation in Afghanistan battle.

2004:

In 2004 US President George Bush announced that though Pakistan is not a NATO Ally, but gave permission to keep latest military equipments.

In 2004 US started Drone attacks in territory of Pakistan to cleanup Pakistan Taliban. But in those attacks not only Taliban were killed but number of Pakistan I citizens lost their lives, which brought opposition and hate in hearts of Pakistan against drone strikes.

2007:

In 2007 a report was issued that Pakistan is using US aid to strengthen its own military powers.

2008:

There has been always lack of trust between these two allies and on several occasions U.S blamed Pakistan of aiding terrorist activities in South Asia, which could not create favorable situation for friendship. In 2008 a US strike hit 11 Pakistani soldiers and few Talibans. Which brought strong opposition and Pakistan army called it a strike on trust and cooperation between these countries.

2009:

Pakistani President (Pervez Musharraf) gave his confession that US Aid which was given as a good ally in Afghanistan was used for its military purposes.

In 2009 US passed bill by the name of "Kerry-Lugar Bill" in that bill a non-military aid of 7.5 Billion dollars were offered and number of demands was put forwarded by US to Pakistan Military commands. Which openly displayed lack of trust on Pakistan Military

and that bill also announced that Pakistani Taliban are more dangerous than Afghani Taliban to peace of world. In 2009 Pakistan became at the position No 10 in the ranking of failed states in the world.

2010:

In the starting period of 2010 a combined operation of US and Pakistan military was held in which the captured "Mullah Abdul Ghani" was taken in custody and then US appreciated Pakistani Military cooperation in that operation.

2011:

In 2011 on agent of CIA named as "Raymond Davis" shot two Pakistanis to death and insisted that they were abducting him. So in right to his private defense he killed them. US demanded of his released said that he was not unlawful because of his provide defense, so he should be released as soon as possible and then soon he was set free by Pakistan government.

In May 2011 an operation was held in Abottabad Pakistan, in which Osama Bin Ladin was assassinated by US Navy. US president announced that operation was conducted with sharing information to Pakistani forces. But on other side Pakistani government announced that it was conducted by both US and Pakistani president openly denied US claim.

Relations between these two allies were disturbed once again when US strike 24 Pakistani soldiers and told that it was by the reason of resistance showed by Pakistani soldiers in shape of firing. But Pakistan forces refused their claims.

Because of those strikes Pakistan ordered US to leave Salala Air Base and as well Pakistan Stopped NATO supplies on the routes of Pakistan.

2012:

With the start of 2012 number of attempts was started from internal and internal sides to reinstate NATO Supplies, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani told to media that NATO Supplies were halted without any internal pressure and this matter will be dealt with general agreements. NATO secretary requested to reopen NATO supplies for the purpose to eliminate Taliban form the region, furthermore John Kerry a US Senator clarified that now these states are not in positions to quarrels because it is the time to operate with one another to remove Taliban from territory.

In May, 2012 Pakistani President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari visited Chicago to attend a meeting of on the issue of this blockage at NATO supplies through Pakistan territory but at the end of that meeting no any clear decision.

Soon after that meeting on 23rd May us senate reduced Pakistan Aid more than 50% Not only this but also warned Pakistan, that if Pakistan fails to reopen NATO Supplies route, so this Aid will be deduced more and more.

Drone Attacks in Pakistan:

In the counter terrorism policy of US against Al-Qaeda and other militant groups started in FATA after 9/11. The first drone attack in FATA (Pakistan) took place in 2004. And before that the very first attack took place in Afghanistan in 2002. 324 incidents of drone attacks are recorded till 2017 in Pakistan. And 2010 in Pakistan 90 drone attacks took place. These drone attacks started from FATA but with the passage of time these attacks extended in the other parts of Pakistan and even in 2016 drone took place in Noshki (Balochistan) as well.

These drone attacks created high level problems in economic and social fields of Pakistan. And the government and people of Pakistan facing allot of problems and challenges because of that attacks and because of terrorism till now.

Drone attack in Pakistan: 2005-2017

Year	Incidents	Killed	Injured
2005	1	1	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	1	20	15
2008	19	156	17
2009	46	536	75
2010	90	831	85+
2011	59	548	52
2012	46	344	37
2013	24	158	29
2014	19	122	26
2015	14	85	17
2016	3	7	1
2017	2	9	0
Total*	324	2817	354+

Conclusion:

Keeping in view all the above discussion we come to an end that in bilateral relations between United States and Pakistan were not in dynamic position, number of ups and downs occurred in these relations but most of them occurred after the incident of 9/11. And the main things in these relations were that, that Pakistan sacrifices more and more to create good bonds between these countries, and Pakistan also tried to establish peace in the world, in war on terrorism Pakistan has suffered more and more than any other country in the region.

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