

The Imperative of Foreign Policy in Pakistan's Strategic Landscape: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Foreign policy of Pakistan guides as the foundation of its fiscal existence and state safety, local control in a tough universal command. This paper argues that foreign policy of Pakistan has amendment from global relations to planned pragmatism, underscoring monetary peacekeeping while maintaining refuge alliances. This review shows the importance of foreign policy of Pakistan, studying how deliberate trade development and unlimited power and strength profile Islamabad's international relation path. The review consisting strategic maintaining between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America, local dreamland concerns and the mixture of geo-economics significance's throw project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Keywords: Pakistan foreign policy, strategic assessment, China Pakistan economic corridor, geo-economics, great power race, regional security

INTRODUCTION

Foreign policy creates the primary border between Pakistan and the international system, determining the nation's capacity to secure planned interests, attract deal, and navigate a gradually multipolar world [1-3]. Pakistan's geographical place bordering Afghanistan, Iran, and China, with closeness to the Persian Gulf reduces its foreign policy choice major not only for domestic stability but for regional and global feelings [4, 5]. The current status of Pakistan's foreign policy branches from three interconnected imperatives [6]: economic maintenance next recurring balance of payments disasters, security controlling along unstable western and eastern borders, and the steering of growing great power race between the United States and China.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: FROM GEOPOLITICS TO GEO-ECONOMICS

Pakistan's foreign policy has openly been dominated by realist geopolitical thoughts, mainly security war with India and union constructions during the Cold War and War on Terror [7, 8]. But recent studentship shows a definitive shift toward geo-economics significances, driven by China's rise, weakening U.S. County inspiration, and the growing importance of connectivity and trade.

Researchers Sargana [9] used a combined notional method mixing complex interdependence and neorealism to discuss Islamic republic of Pakistan foreign policy modification. According to Researchers, Islamic Republic of Pakistan is maintaining two objects:

1. Financial Interests Including (Local Cooperation and Economic Trade Development)
2. Strategic Interest Including (Unity and Alliances, Defense Cooperation) Islamic Republic of Pakistan is shifting from a security defense plan to a geo-economics strategy building relation with foreign countries and more attention on trade development and monetary growth.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ABUNDANT POWER MATCHING

The China-Pakistan Axis

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, below China's Belt and Road Initiative, builds Islamic Republic of Pakistan Strategic and Fiscal collaboration with People's Republic of China State [10, 11]. The CPEC ensures Economic Trade, Local connectivity and Infrastructure Development such as roads, railways, and buildings) for Pakistan. The China and the Pakistan are strong ties to each other and CPEC ensures employment and connectivity to Pakistan.

Researchers Ahmad, Noor, and Asim [12] discuss that People's Republic of China brings changes in worldwide organization quite than easy adjustment. The study of United States of America and Islamic republic of Pakistan, China and Pakistan relations shows that alliances in worldwide dealings are foundation on shifting strategic advantages, with CPEC and collective defense activities active the recent reorientation.

Handling U.S. Relations

Regardless of the China spindle, Pakistan keeps fundamental, if dense, ties with Washington. Counterterrorism aid rests the joint link's useful core, with the U.S. trusting on Pakistan for regional militant group control and border balance post-Afghanistan removal [13]. The August 2025 US-Pakistan Counterterrorism Conversation in Islamabad repeated promises to material talk and official aid, showing that Pakistan examines for implicit political patronage and exercise care from Washington even as it develops China ties. This dual meeting signifies what experts characterize as "designed evading" increase sources of support and financial care while protective relationship with multiple powers to boost power and investment options.

Modification beyond Binary Range

Islamic Republic of Pakistan is struggling to enhance its foreign policy beyond two main veto power countries specially United States of America and People's Republic of China. It is enhancing support with veto power country specially Russia in economic trade development and energy development, and viewing attention in linking BRICS [14, 15]. Pakistan needs more and more diplomatic relations and strong ties with super power countries such as America, Russia and China.

REGIONAL SAFETY AND DIPLOMATIC PLACING

Afghanistan and Western Border Controlling

Pakistan's western security border becomes not stable, after the return of Taliban government or power in Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is focusing on balancing refuge conflicts and smuggling and cross border tension, violence and political instability, governance issues through diplomacy and cooperation with Afghanistan government and worldwide performers. The main aim of foreign policy is at preventing cross border violence.

Gulf Diplomacy and Islamic Unity

Islamic Republic of Pakistan builds practical relationships with Gulf nations, focusing on trade development, economic cooperation, infrastructure development and alert political positions. A 2024 treaty upgraded ancient armed stalemates with Gulf States such as Saudi Arabia. This pact improving Pakistan's worldwide standing and employment opportunities as well as economic. Islamic harmony and Islamic unity or alliance is one of the most important elements of foreign policy of Pakistan state and others Islamic countries. The no of Islamic countries is about 57 in the world.

EMERGING DIMENSIONS: CYBER DIPLOMACY AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENT

Digital Foreign Policy

According to Researchers Rahman and Wadood [16], exploring digital foreign policy for Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Key challenges including: Limited cyber capacity and insufficient infrastructure development. Old-fashioned diplomatic plans need to be well-run with cyber plans to safeguard full nationwide security. Study cyber diplomacy as one of the most important tools for Pakistan, discovering how digital supremacy, fiscal growth and local cooperation.

Multilateral Platform Utilization

Pakistan's great roles in the United Security Council and Counter Terrorism Groups 2025-2026 suggest growing worldwide credit [17, 18]. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan active contribution in platforms such as OIC and SCO allows on agendas on climate, refugees, crimes, allegations and Kashmir without trusting on a single chief control.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT RULES

Foreign policy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has consisted to incorporate economic diplomacy as an important focus due to International Monetary Fund and external debt. The one of the most important primaries aims of the economic diplomacy including: Market Access including (Trade agreement with Iran, Turkey and other states) [19-21]. Investment Flows (Saudi Arabia assistance or aids Package and CPEC Phase II). Debt Reform (Using bilateral matching for debt management). Payment security (Protecting attention of the Pakistani workers in Gulf States).

CHALLENGES AND CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

Foreign policy of Pakistan faces four persistent limitations on a foreign policy including:

- **Structural Dependencies:** Economic weaknesses bound diplomatic autonomy and establish heavy reliance on outside investors.
- **Application Gaps:** According to researchers Sargana [9], Direction lacks delaying policy unity.
- **Alliances Risk:** They depend on Chinese economic support and Saudi Arabia security establish difficult scenario.
- **Domestic Nexus:** It including: Political Instability, Governance issues and defense threats of foreign policy and decrease investment attraction.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PATH

Foreign policy is one of the most important elements for Pakistan's existence and prosperity in the 21st century. The recent route characterized by pragmatism and geo-economics position mirrors to a multipolar world command. Foreign policy of Pakistan deliberate trade development and economic cooperation. Foreign policy establishes the bridge between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and other international nations. Foreign policy is specially securing war with other nations. Foreign policy has given much attention trade development and economic growth and infrastructure development. CPEC has provided employment opportunities for Pakistan. The two main veto power countries support Pakistan's and provide financial assistance in difficult time. Pakistan's diplomatic relations and strong ties with Russia, China and United States of America. Pakistan's western security border is always

tension with Afghan government. Pakistan builds strong relations with Gulf States and ensures trade development and economic connectivity.

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