

## Historical Perspective of Pak-Afghan Relations



Muhammad Tariq Aziz	M.Phil Scholar of Political Science, Qurtuba University Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. <a href="mailto:tariqazizfbr622@gmail.com">tariqazizfbr622@gmail.com</a>
Wajid Ali	M.Phil Scholar of International Relations, Qurtuba University Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. <a href="mailto:wajidaki@yahoo.com">wajidaki@yahoo.com</a>

**Abstract:** *Pakistan and Afghanistan are called as Brother Countries. Both the countries have same Cultural, language and Religion. Despite all these similarities bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan had remained unstable. In past, two major issues hampered Pak- Afghan relation. First Pukhtunistan and second Durand line issue. Further, in the history of Pak- Afghan relations only the Taliban government had good relations, but after 9/11, 2001, US and its allied forces had overthrown Taliban government. Additionally, In the war against terrorism Pakistan provided logistic support to United States of America, which further, damaged Pak- Afghan relations.*

**Keywords:** Afghan relations. Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Pakistan support to US in war against terrorism.

### Introduction

Pakistan- Afghanistan are neighboring countries, having same cultural, language and religion but the relations of both had remained unfriendly since 1947. After Pakistan independence, Afghanistan was the only country which opposed Pakistan in United Nations. Afghanistan claims of Pukhtonistan further damaged relationship with Pakistan. Pak-Afghan border (Durand Line) is still an issue as Afghanistan is not ready to accept it as border between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Ball, 2011).

### History of Relations

Pakistan came into being with the clear aim to create Muslim Ummah. The Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaqat Ali Khan said that Pakistan had mad by the Muslims to promote brotherhood among the Muslims of the world. Pakistan from the conception tried to bring the Muslims States on one page. Pakistan and Afghanistan both share similar cultural, language and religion but despite all these similaritie, relations between both had remained unfriendly. It is the fact that

since the inception of Pakistan, government of Afghanistan had adapted the hostile position with Pakistan and as neighbors can not be changed that's why Pakistan had to cope with it. Afghanistan unfriendly relations with Pakistan were due to two issues, the first issue was the Durand line and the second issue was Paktoonistan (Weinbaum, 1991). Further, after British withdrawl Afghanistan wanted the authority of the Paktoon populated area (Bezhan, 2014). In September 1947 Afghanistan was the only country which opposed Pakistan in the United Nations. During Prime Minister Daud regime, he wanted good relations with Moscow and he believed that the USSR would win the cold war, which led to the communist aid to Afghanistan and finally Moscow had taken the control of Afghanistan. The communist regime started reconstruction of roads which they thought to be useful in future. Pakistan had requested the U.S to attack Afghnaitstan to stop the expansion of USSR, that time US rejected Pakistan stance to use strong action against Afghanistan. The US was interested to tackle

USSR indirectly rather directly, For this purpose, U.S had used Peshawar Pakistan air port for U-2 flights. When the U-2 incident took place, USSR started to support every single effort of Afghanistan to harm Pakistan. The Afghan government had got further support of India, because of Indian support the government of Afghanistan started showing aggression on Pak- Afghan border. This incident led to the suspension of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Moreover, it led the closure of Pak- Afghan border. Afghanistan is a land -locked country and they are far away from USSR. They have little access by using the soil of Iran and even India by Air. The unfriendly relations with Pakistan had effected not only the economy of Afghanistan even it effected the political system of Afghanistan as well (Riaz, 2012). further, Iran had started efforts to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Kunihara, 2003). Due to Iran mediation an agreement took place in 1963 called as Tehran agreement. Pakistan and Afghanistan both agreed to normalize their relations with the opening of borders and restarting of diplomatic ties. Furthermore, both States started to resolve the outstanding issues through International law. These agreements had provided relief to the government of Afghanistan. After Dauds resign from his position as Prime Minister of Afghanistan. He was the key personality to raise the issue of Pakhtoonistan. After his resignation the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan moved towards normalization. After Daud, King Zahir Shah took charge, he was given a warm welcome in his State visit to Pakistan. In the war of 1971 between Pakistan and India the government Afghanistan followed neutrality (Parker, 2009). This also provided a good relief to Pakistan as Pakistan had no worry about the security of its western border. The start of new era of friendship between Pakistan and Afghanistan was getting momentum with passage of time. When Daud took the charge again, Pakistan was worried that Daud would start supporting the separatists group in Balochistan. In 70s He started supporting Baloch separatists. shelters were provided by Afghan government to the separatists groups in Pakistan (Mukerjee, 1975). This action of Daud

was to win the heart and minds of the “Maree and Bugti separatist”. In 1974-75 the government of Daud brought his forces on Durand line. Similar action was taken by Pakistan. The separatist movements were not new for Pakistan but the government of Daud in his past regime raised it in 1948,1953, 1956,1958. This was resulted in the break down of relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The support provided to the separatist groups in Pakistan by the Daud government created worries in the mind of Pakistan policy makers regarding disintegration in Pakistan. These serious threats to Islamabad compelled Pakistan to support anti-Daud group in Afghanistan to destabilize Daud government. Pakistan welcomed the Afghan Islamic group and anti-Daud groups. These groups were provided trainings and financial support to create instability inside Afghanistan. These Islamic groups defeated Communist within few years. Pakistan provided training and weapons to these groups in hidden camps. The government of Iran was also unhappy with Daud policy of supporting Baloch separatist. Iran thought that it could give rise to Iran Baluch as well (Amir, 2004).

The government of Daud realized that his anti-Pakistan policy is giving more harm than benefits that's why he started the policy of talks. In this connection, he invited Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1976. Daud government gave him a warm welcome while Daud was given red carpet welcome in Pakistan. After these visits Pakistan agreed to free the NAP members who were involved in Pakhtoonistan process (Bezhan, 2014). Furthermore, Daud agreed to recognize Durand line as border. Both States were seeing an open window of progress in different field. In July,1977 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto government had overthrown by General Zia ul Haq and Daud government was replaced by Noor Muhammad Taraki. Who gave a new name to Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (Musa,2003)

### **Communist Regime and Pak-Afghan Relations**

The Communist regime in Afghanistan was the

real threat for Pakistan national security. Pakistan at that time had two options first to hands up and second to support those groups which have been fighting against the Communist regime. Pakistan decided to support resistance groups in Afghanistan. Despite all these, Pakistan had to support almost fifteen lack Afghan refugees inside Pakistan, due to Saur revolution in April, 1978. The government of Taraki signed an agreement with the USSR in Sep, 16, 1979. This resulted an other rebellion against Taraki government. In this coup, Taraki was killed and Hafiz ullah took the charge of Afghan presidency. Later, USSR invaded and restored the government of Karmal. After this, the situation had become dangerous for Pakistan as the red Army of USSR reached nearer to Khyber Pass. This gate way is the main area to invade. Pakistan was the only hurdle in the way of USSR forces to reach warm water. The U.S had already been annoyed by the government of Shah in Iran. USSR invasion had considered by the U.S as real threat to its interest in the region. Pakistan was an Islamic country but in this war Pakistan had decided to support capitalism and to stop the expansion of communism. Pakistan was also under the threat of USSR invasion as they wanted to reach warm water (Sumit, 2012). This led to Pak- US friendship. Finally, USSR defeated by the small group of Jihadists. The Gorbachev in 1986 called for the political solution of Afghan problem. Geneva agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan was signed on April, 1988 (Hilali, 2017).

### **1992 Till 1994 Fighting among Different Jihadist Groups in Afghanistan**

In 1992 the government of Najeeb Ullah had replaced by the government of Sibghat Ullah in April, 1992. The Peshawar accord was not followed. When conspiracy was started to overcome the powers of Gul Badin Hikmat yar. This situation in Afghanistan led to an other civil war, because they had not followed the Peshawar accord. Burhanuddin Rabbani re-elected himself as president of Afghanistan in 1994. This internal fighting among the different groups in Afghanistan led to the 45000 people killed. This inner fighting created social

anarchy, chaos in Afghanistan. People were considering Afghanistan as a failed State just like the failed States of Somalia and Rwanda. Pakistan put all the blame on Rabbani's government. Pakistan blamed him for having links with India. These differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan once again derailed ties. Pak- Afghan relations and the diplomatic process had been called off. Pak- Afghan border had been closed for any kind of trade and even the refugees were not allowed to cross Pak- Afghan border. During the civil war a new force suddenly appeared in Afghanistan. This force was known as Taliban. This new force of Taliban had provided Pakistan an opportunity to get rid of Rabbani government in Afghanistan. The government of Rabbani was blaming Pakistan for supporting Taliban. This attitude of Afghan government had further damaged Pak- Afghan relations (Siddique, 2011).

### **In The History of Afghanistan a New Force Emerged Called Taliban**

When Taliban emerged on the soil of Afghanistan. This emergence of Taliban had provided an opportunity to Islamabad to replace Rabbani. The government of Taliban announced the following points to bring peace in Afghanistan.

- All the war lords have to disarm peacefully or They would be disarmed by force.
- To restore peace in Afghanistan the Islamic laws would be enforced under the Taliban control.
- Retain all areas control which were liberated by the Taliban.

Taliban took control of Afghanistan. They came to Pakistan during USSR invasion as refugees. In Pakistan they were provided free education, shelter and they were free for their jobs. That's why they had soft corner for Pakistan. Taliban were pro- Pakistan. They had not given any anti-Pakistan statement. Taliban government allowed Osama to Afghanistan. For this Osama had offered a huge amount of money and he provided Arab fighters to Taliban. Taliban were the only force in Afghanistan, who had ended internal instability. They fought against those

groups of Taliban who were involved in anti-State activities. They also fought against those Taliban who were involved in crimes. The people of Afghanistan gradually started trusting Taliban and they became a big power in Afghanistan. Taliban belonged to Pushtoon Tribe of Afghanistan. Taliban did not like Indian involvement in Afghanistan. Additionally, after 9/11 incident the government of India supported the US in war against terrorism. The Indians knew the fact that after Taliban government, India would have a chance to establish its influence in Afghanistan (Rubin, 1999)

### **9/11 Incident and Pak- Afghan Relations**

The incident of 9/11 had changed the world politics. Pakistan had also stucked between the US and Taliban. This once again brought changes in the foreign policy of Pakistan. Pakistan had to decide to stand with Taliban and Alqaida or to support the US war against terrorism. Pakistan supported the US war against terrorism to avoid US rivalry. Pakistan provided logistic support and Pakistan also allowed the US troops into Pakistan (Jabeen, 2010). Taliban government had been over thrown by the US and NATO forces. Pakistan supported the US in the war against terrorism, resulted in the breakdown of Pakistan and Afghanistan relations and till now the relations are hostile. The government of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan did not like Pakistan support to the US. The Afghan government believed that Pakistan soil had used against Afghanistan (Hussain, 2002)

### **Pak- Afghan Border Management**

Pakistan and Afghanistan had no hard and fast rules for crossing the entry gate between them. Many of the Afghan refugees have been living undocumented in Pakistan since long time. The relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan had affected by the terrorism took place in both the states. This compelled Pakistan to take strong action against the terror group's operating from Afghanistan. A series of bomb blasts in Pakistan (2016) Islamabad decided to go for surgical strike in Afghanistan. In these strikes the camps of terrorist were targeted. Pakistan deployed more army and artillery on Pak- Afghan border. Similarly, Afghanistan also increased the

number of army personals on Pak- Afghan border (Khan, 2017)

### **Conclusion:**

Pak- Afghan relation had never been smooth. Both the countries have hatred for each other. Poverty is prevailed on both sides. The only way out of domestic issues is bilateral trade and all the issues need to be resolved through diplomatic channels. Further, blame game from both the sides need to be stopped. Peace and stability in region are in greater interest of Pakistan and Afghanistan. People of both sides want peace and trade to overcome their hardships. Otherwise, war is not in favor of any country.

### **References:**

- Amir, M. (2004). The True face of Jihadists. Lahore: Carvan book house.
- Ball. H, (2011)[Genocide: A Reference Handbook](#). Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO. [ISBN 978-1-59884-488-7](#).
- Bezhan, F. (2014). The Pashtunistan issue and politics in Afghanistan, 1947–1952. The Middle East Journal, 68(2), 197-209.
- Hilali, A. Z. (2017). US-Pakistan relationship: Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Taylor & Francis.
- Hussain, R. (2002). Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan: Continuity and change: Strategic Studies, 22(4).
- Hussain, Z. (2011). Sources of Tension in Afghanistan and Pakistan: A Regional Perspective. CIDOB Policy Research Project.
- Jabeen, M., Mazhar, M. S., & Goraya, N. S. (2010). US Afghan Relations: A Historical Perspective of Events of 9/11. South Asian Studies, 25(1), 143.
- Khan, A. (2017). Pak-Afghan border: A case study of border management. Strategic Studies, 37(3).
- Kunihara, k. (2003). Post 9/11 Paradigm Shift and its effect on East Asia: Institute for International Policy Studies, 5,1-7.

- Mukerjee, D. (1975). Afghanistan under Daud: Relations with neighboring states. *Asian Survey*, 15(4), 301-312.
- Musa, K. (2003). *The US war on Terrorism in Afghanistan*. Lahore: sange meel,
- Parker, J. W. (2009). *Persian dreams: Moscow and Tehran since the fall of the Shah*. Potomac Books, Inc..
- Riaz,M, (2012). *Pakistan and Afghanistan*. Karachi: oxford University press.
- Rubin, B. R. (1999). Afghanistan under the Taliban. *Current History*, 98(625), 79.
- Siddique, Q. (2011). Pakistan's future policy towards Afghanistan: A look at strategic depth, militant movements and the role of India and the US (No. 2011:08): DIIS Reports/Danish Institute for International Studies.
- Sumit,G.(2012). *Sources of Tension in Afghanistan and Pakistan*. Norwegian: Ministry of foreign affairs India.
- Weinbaum, M. G. (1991). Pakistan and Afghanistan: The strategic relationship. *Asian Survey*, 31(6), 496-511.
- .