

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF PAKISTAN

& ITS UTILIZATION

Economy refers to the production, consumption, & distribution of goods & services in a country or region.

The economy of Pakistan has undergone various changes & challenges since the country's independence in 1947. Experts like Rashid Anjald, Shahid Javed Burki, & Jan Pallet have studied the country's economy, its potential, & its utilization over the years, analyzing the factors that contribute to its growth & development.

"I think there is tremendous economic potential in Pakistan. It is a country with a young population, a growing middle class, & a strategic location.

But unlocking that potential requires significant investment in education, infrastructure, & governance.

The challenges are great, but so are the opportunities."

— Rashid Anjald ("Pakistan's struggle with economic reform")

Let us take a look at the history & the future of Pakistan's economic potential & utilization through the works of these three authors & their works.

INITIAL ERA = (1947 = 1958)

Rashid Anjad, in his book, Pakistan's Economic & Social Development: "The Domestic, Regional, & Global Context," argues that Pakistan had significant potential at the time of its creation. However, the country faced a number of challenges, including a lack of infrastructure, an underdeveloped industrial sector, & a shortage of skilled labour.

Anjad notes that in the years immediately following independence, Pakistan's government focused on building up the country's agricultural sector, which was seen as the backbone of the economy. However, this strategy was hampered by a lack of investment in irrigation & other infrastructure, as well as a shortage of credit for farmers.

Shahid Javed, in his book "Pakistan: 50 years of Nationhood," & Ian Talbot, in his book "Pakistan: a Modern History," also discuss challenges similar to Anjad's. They mentioned how Pakistan's government in the early years was dominated by a small elite, which primarily focused on its own interest rather than the broader needs of the country. This led to a lack of investment in education, health care, & other social services, which limited Pakistan's overall economic potential. Furthermore, Pakistan's reliance on foreign aid often came with strings attached, which limited the country's ability to develop its own economic policies & priorities.

In conclusion, Pakistan had significant economic potential during its initial era of growth, a lack of investment in infrastructure, education, & social services, as well as a reliance on foreign aid, limited the country's ability to fully exploit its potential in the early years.

ERA OF DETERMINANT PLANNING: (1958-1969)

According to the same three books, Pakistan's economic potential improved during this period due to several factors. The government of Ayub Khan, which came to power through a military coup in 1958, implemented a series of economic reforms aimed at modernizing & industrializing the country. These reforms included investment in infrastructure, such as roads, railways, & ports, as well as in education & health care.

The government also pursued a policy of import substitution industrialization, which aimed to reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported goods by developing its own domestic industries. This led to the growth of industries as textiles, steel, & cement, which helped to diversify Pakistan's economy & create jobs.

Additionally, the govt. implemented land reforms aimed at redistributing land to small farmers, which increased agricultural productivity & reducing inequality. These reforms also helped to create a middle class of small farmers & land owners, which contributed to Pakistan's economic & social development.

However, there were also challenges during this period, including a growing dependence on foreign aid & a lack of investment in human capital. Furthermore, the benefits of the economic reforms were not evenly distributed, & many rural areas & poorer sections of the population did not see significant improvements to their standard of living.

Overall, while this period saw improvements in Pakistan's economic potential & its utilization, there were also challenges & limitations.

ORIENTATION OF GROWTH STRATEGY : (1971 - 1977)

Our writers claim that the era from 1971 - 1977 was marked with great challenges. It was characterized by political instability, including the loss of East Pakistan & the subsequent civil war, which had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy.

The new government under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1972) implemented a policy of nationalization, which aimed to increase state control over key industries & services. This led to the nationalization of major industries such as steel, banking, & insurance. However, the policy of nationalization had a negative impact on Pakistan's economy, as it led to inefficiency, corruption, & a lack of investment in these industries.

Furthermore, the oil crisis of 1973, had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy as it resulted in a significant increase in the cost of all imports. This, combined with a

decline in exports, led to a balance of payment crisis & a significant devaluation of the Pakistani rupee.

Despite these challenges, the government implemented several policies aimed at Pakistan's economic potential. These included investments in infrastructure such as the building of the Mangla Dam, & the expansion of the agricultural sector through the introduction of high-yield varieties of wheat & rice. However, these policies were not enough to offset the negative impact of political instability, nationalization, & the oil crisis.

DISTANCING ECONOMY FROM STATE CAPITALISM: (1977-1988)

The period from 77 to 88 marked a significant shift in Pakistan's economic policies & their utilization. The military government of Zia-ul-Haq, which came to power in a coup in 1977, implemented a series of economic reforms aimed at liberalizing the economy & reducing the role of state.

One of the key measures introduced was the adoption of a new industrial policy, which aimed to reduce the role of the state in the economy & promote private sector investment.

The policy led to an increase in foreign investment, particularly, in the manufacturing sector. Additionally, the government implemented policies aimed at increasing exports, such as the establishment of export processing zones.

Policies aimed to improve the efficiency of state-owned enterprises were also introduced, such as privatization of PIA & KESC.

This period was also characterized by a significant increase in remittances from overseas Pakistanis. This helped to alleviate the pressure on the balance of payments & provided a significant source of foreign exchange.

However, there were also challenges like the govt's policies led to an increase in income inequality, with the benefits of economic growth being unevenly distributed. Additionally, there were concerns about corruption & a lack of transparency in the privatization process.

AFFIRMING STRUCTURAL REFORMACY : (1988 - PRESENT)

As of previous year, Rashid Anjali, Shalil Javed Burki, & Jon Talbot have noted several areas of potential for Pakistan's economy, as well as challenges that must be addressed in order to fully utilize this potential.

One area of potential is the agriculture sector, which accounts for a significant portion of Pakistan's GDP & employs a large portion of our population. There is potential for growth through investment in modern farming techniques, as well as the development of agribusinesses & food processing industries.

Another area of potential is the technology sector with the potential to grow with investment & research.

However, issues such as high level of public debt, low tax-to-GDP ratio, and a weak regulatory environment are challenging

our current economy. There is also a need of investment in infrastructure, including power & transportation. Additionally, factors like political instability, a deteriorating security situation, & a tense relationship with India are chasing away the confidence & potential of our investors.

Conclusion: VISION 2030

The best way to conclude Pakistan's economic development, potential, utilization & issues would be via referring to the future.

The 2030 vision of Pakistan's economic potential & utilization was put forth by the Planning Commission of Pakistan in 2007, & then by the government of Pakistan in 2015 under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The vision aimed to transform Pakistan into a middle-income country by the year 2030 by focusing on various sectors including agriculture, industry, infrastructure, energy, & social development. The govt also aimed to increase the country's exports & create job opportunities for its growing population.

While progress has been made in some areas, there are still challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve the goal of the 2030 vision, including political instability, & security concerns.

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EDUCATION SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN (Challenges & Opportunities)

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."
- John Dewey.

EDUCATION AND PAKISTAN:

The education system in Pakistan is structured into different levels and caters to both formal and informal education. The system includes primary, secondary, and higher secondary education, as well as tertiary education.

Primary education, typically starting at the age of five, spans five years and focuses on basic literacy, numeracy, and general knowledge. Secondary education follows primary education and consists of two stages: middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-10). At the end of high school students usually take board exams to earn their secondary school certificate (SSC).

Higher Secondary School education (grades 11-12) is optional and leads to higher secondary school certificate (HSSC). Students can choose between different study streams, such as pre-engineering, pre-medical, home economics, humanities and commerce, based on their career interests.

Tertiary education includes universities, colleges, and vocational institutions. Universities offer undergraduate and graduation programs, and admission is based on entrance tests. The higher education sector in Pakistan comprises both public and private institutions.

However, it is important to note that in 2002, Pakistan introduced a system of madrasah education, which provided religious education in addition to the mainstream education system. Madrasahs offer education from primary to higher secondary levels, emphasizing Islamic studies alongside general education.

• UNDERSTANDING THE OBSTACLES IN PAKISTANI EDUCATION:

The education system in Pakistan faces several challenges that hinder its effectiveness and inclusiveness. Here are some key challenges:

1) LIMITED ACCESS:

A significant portion of the population lacks access to quality education due to inadequate infrastructure & limited facilities.

2) QUALITY DISPARITIES:

There is a stark contrast in the quality of education between urban and rural areas. Urban schools tend to have better resources, qualified teachers as compared to rural schools leading to an education quality gap.

3) GENDER INEQUALITY:

Girls face barriers to accessing education. Factors such as societal norms, early marriages, poverty and safety concerns restrict girls' enrollment & retention in schools.

4) TEACHER QUALITY:

The education system faces a shortage of well-trained & qualified teachers resulting to unavailability of teachers.

Dated:

5) Outdated Curriculum:

The curriculum in many schools is outdated & not aligned with the evolving needs of society. It often focuses on rote learning rather than critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills development.

6) Insufficient Funding:

The education sector often struggles with limited funding, resulting in insufficient resources for schools.

7) Security Concerns:

Security issues, particularly in certain regions affected by militancy & conflicts, pose significant challenges to education.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PAK:

Despite the challenges, there are several opportunities within the education system of Pakistan that can be harnessed to bring positive change & improvement. Here are some key points:

-) Pakistan has a large & growing youth population, which presents an opportunity for the education system to provide quality education & skill development.
-) The rapid advancement of technology offers opportunities to enhance teaching & learning methods.
-) Collaboration between the public & private sectors can help address the resource & infrastructure gaps in the education system.

- There is a growing demand for vocational & technical skills in the job market. Expanding vocational training programs and promoting technical education can equip students with practical skills & enhance their employability, aligning education with the needs of the economy.
- The government's commitment to educational reforms provides an opportunity to introduce progressive policies, curriculum updates and teacher training initiatives.
- International partnerships & collaborations can bring expertise, knowledge exchange and resources to the education system. This can help improve educational standards, implement best practices, & enhance cross-cultural understanding.
- Engaging parents, community members, & civil society organizations can contribute to creating a supportive & inclusive learning environment.

CONCLUSION :-

To address these challenges, Pakistan needs comprehensive reforms: increased education investment, improved infrastructure, curriculum reforms, enhanced education access in remote areas. Efforts must prioritize creating a safe, equitable learning space. By addressing seizing these opportunities Pakistan can build a more inclusive learning environment that prepares students for the 21st century.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

-Malcolm X

THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PAKISTAN :

WHAT IS GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE ?

Geopolitical importance of a country refers to its strategic significance in relation to global politics & international relations. A country's geopolitical importance can be influenced by a wide range of factors like location, natural resources, economic power, military strength, & cultural influence.

The American author & generalist John McPhee in his book "Annals of the Former World" highlights the complex interactions between natural resources, human activity, & political power - & explains how a geological history can affect a continent's landscapes & natural resources.

PAKISTAN ON THE GLOBE :

Like most of the other countries throughout the world, Pakistan's geopolitical significance is rooted to its location, history, & strategic importance in the region of South East Asia & beyond.

Founded officially, on 14th of August, in the Ramadan of 1947, Pakistan dug its roots around the borders of India in the East, Afghanistan & Iran to the West, China to the North, & the Arabian sea to the South. With a

total land area of approximately 881,913 km², Pakistan is the 33rd largest country in the world.

1. LOCATION WRT GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE :

Pakistan is located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, & the Middle East - making it a key hub for regional trade & transportation. Its proximity to the Persian Gulf & the Indian Ocean also makes it an important maritime power.

Pakistan's location is strategically important due to its proximity to key regional powers such as India, China, & Iran, as well as to important waterways such as the Arabian Sea & the Persian Gulf. This has made it a key player in regional geopolitics, & has contributed to its economic & strategic importance.

Being a maritime power, Pakistan has access to key shipping lanes & natural resources. Its location also makes it an important transit hub for regional trade & transportation, particularly with China through the Pakistan-China economic corridor.

Pakistan's total land area - the wide range of natural resources, including fertile agricultural land, natural gas, coal, & oil.

Hussain Haqqani - a Pakistani diplomat & author in his book "Pakistan: Between Mosque & Military" argues that the crossroad location of Pakistan gives it a strategic importance that cannot be ignored. He notes that Pakistan shares borders with two of the world's largest countries - India & China, & that it is located at the mouth of the Persian sea gulf, making it a key player in the region's energy & security dynamics.

Salman Rashid - a Pakistani travel writer & author, in his book "Jhelum: City of the Vitasta" discusses the key role played by the Jhelum river flowing through Pakistan in the region's history & politics. In another book "The Mountains of Pakistan", he notes that the silk road was a network of trade routes that linked China with the Mediterranean world, passing through most of Asia & including parts of Pakistan. He mentions how the ranges including Karakoram, the Himalayas, & the Hindu Kush, presented formidable obstacles to travelers & traders on the silk road while also being rich in resources such as precious stones, minerals, & timber.

Similarly, the Thar Desert presents its own unique opportunities, including the potential for renewable energy production & strategic positioning near the border with India.

"Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland ; who rules the Heartland commands the World - Island ; who rules the World - Island commands the world !! " — Sir Halford John Mackinder hinting, Pakistan as ruler of the East in "The Geo-Pivot of History" 1904

2. NEIGHBORS OVER THE FENCE :

"good fences make good neighbors" - Robert Frost

Pakistan shares a deep history, and a lengthy border with four different neighbors - according to the United Nations Geopolitical Information section (UNGASS) to the Pakistan Ministry of Interior, lengths of these borders are:

- 1- Afghanistan - Pakistan border : 2430 km / 1510 miles . It is known as the "Durand line" & goes from North-East to the Southwest.
- 2: China - Pakistan border : 558 km / 347 miles . It is known as the "Khunjerab Pass" & is at an altitude of 35,397 feet .
- 3- India - Pakistan border : 3323 km / 2065 mile . It is divided into the "line of Control (LoC)" in Kashmir, "International Border (IB)" in Punjab, & the "Sir Creek Boundary" in the Rann of Kutch .
- 4- Iran - Pakistan border : 958 km / 596 miles . It is known as the "Taftan border" & is located in Balochistan .

Pakistan shares a very complex history between these four neighbors - some being peaceful, while others blocking any entry into their territory .

Pakistan & China share a close & long standing relationship that has been strengthened over time through various milestones.

Pakistan was one of the first countries to realize & recognize the People's Republic of China in 1950. Formal diplomatic relationships formed between the two in 1951.

The CPEC or the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor aims to connect China's Western region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port through a network of highways, railways, & pipelines. It is also considered as a game-changer for Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan & China also have a long history of military cooperation, supply of nuclear technology, & equipment from China to Pakistan, & the support during the COVID-19 pandemic can also highlight the positive air between the two friends.

Den Xiaoping, a prominent Chinese politician & reformist leader in his book "Selected Works of Den Xiaoping" quotes the relationship between Pakistan & China as :

"Model of good-neighbourliness & mutual trust."

Unlike the smooth sail with China, Pakistan shares a complicated relationship with Iran. The diplomatic relationship between these two bodies was formed in 1947, soon after Pakistan's independence.

Iran has remained one of close economic ties with Pakistan & a source of oil & gas. Pakistan has also been accused of providing nuclear tech to Iran (a denied allegation).

Dr Moonis Amis in his article "Strategic significance of Pakistan-Iran Relations" claims the relation between these two countries is "multidimensional & strategic" with the potential to shape regional security & stability.

Similar to Iran, Pakistan & Afghanistan also share a very complicated relation. This complication roots all the way back to 1947 - after the independence of Pakistan, the Durand line was considered as the border between the two countries. However, Afghanistan has never accepted it as an official border.

In 1980, Pakistan served funding, trainings, & acted as a crucial base of operations for Afghanistan during the Soviet-Afghan War. It also supported the Taliban rule after the fall of the Soviet-backed government in 1996.

further similar events & border activities only make this bond more complicated. Ahmed Shah Karzai in his book "Afghanistan, A political & Diplomatic History" argues the importance of a strong & cooperative relation between Pakistan & Afghanistan.

lastly, we have the most historically connected neighbor of Pakistan - India. William Penn perfectly sums up the relation between Pak-Iran as:

"The jealous are troublesome to others, but a torment to themselves."

Pakistan & India have a long & complicated history, marked by both cooperation & conflict. The separation between the two was accompanied by a series of violence, mass migration, bloodshed & led to deep mistrust & animosity.

One of the key reasons of tension is - Kashmir. Azad? Jammu? Beautiful? Painful? Nobody knows... Both Pakistan & India claim this territory & several wars have broken out over it till this day.

In 1971, India supported the separation of East Pakistan which also lead to a war between the two nations.

On May 1998, India conducted ^{five} nuclear tests during May 11 & 13 to which Pakistan responded six tests of its own from May 28-30. The test raised international conflicts & further worsened the relation between India & Pakistan.

Even in recent years, different terrorist attacks are blamed on each other, border-related accusations are thrown, & general negative acts keep destroying this relation.

Shashi Tharoor in his book "Pax Indica: India & the World of the 21st Century" comments that both India & Pakistan need to move forward & beyond their historical grievance and try to build a more peaceful & prosperous region.

3. PPP - POPULATION, POLLUTION & POWER :

Pakistan has a complex place with a large population of over 220 Mil. Pakistan faces numerous challenges related to pollution & environmental degradation. An increase in air & water pollution, as well as a decline in natural resources such as forests & fisheries have been occurring due to the increasing population.

At the same time, our economy largely depends on the same factors that are increasing pollution or due to the resources that are lacking, resulting in a struggle to balance economic development with environmental stability.

All in all, Pakistan has its fair shares of beauties, its fair share of treasures, its fair shares of blessings - but, it also has its fair shares of problems, vice, risks, troubles.

"Pakistan is a land of beauty, culture, & opportunity, & being a Pakistani means being proud of all that it has to offer." - Atif Aslam

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History[edit]

Background[edit]

Plans for a corridor stretching from the Chinese border to Pakistan's deepwater ports on the Arabian Sea date back to the 1950s, and motivated construction of the Karakoram Highway beginning in 1959.^[42] Chinese interest in Pakistan's deep-water harbor at Gwadar had been rekindled by in 2002 China began construction at Gwadar port which was completed in 2006. Expansion of Gwadar Port then ceased thereafter owing to political instability in Pakistan following the fall of General Pervez Musharraf and subsequent conflict between the Pakistani state and Taliban militants.^[43]

In 2013, the then Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang decided to further enhance mutual connectivity.^[44] A memorandum of understanding on cooperation for long-term plan on China–Pakistan Economic Corridor between the two governments was inked by Xu Shao Shi and Shahid Amjad Chaudhry.^[45]

In February 2014, Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain visited China to discuss the plans for an economic corridor in Pakistan.^[46] Two months later, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with Premier Li Kequiang in China to discuss further plans,^[47] resulting in the full scope of the project to be devised under Sharif's tenure.^[48] In November 2014, Chinese government announced its intention to finance Chinese companies as part of its \$45.6 billion energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan as part of CPEC.

Announcement of CPEC[edit]

Main article: 2015 Xi Jinping visit to Pakistan

During the state visit of Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Pakistan in April 2015, he wrote in an open editorial stating: "This will be my first trip to Pakistan, but I feel as if I am going to visit the home of my own brother." On 20 April 2015, Pakistan and China signed an agreement to commence work on the \$46 billion agreement, which is roughly 20% of Pakistan's annual GDP,^[49] with approximately \$28 billion worth of fast-tracked "Early Harvest" projects to be developed by the end of 2018.^{[50][51]}

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a collection of infrastructure projects that are under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013.^[1] Originally valued at \$47 billion, the value of CPEC projects is worth \$62 billion as of 2020.^[2] CPEC is intended to rapidly upgrade Pakistan's required infrastructure and strengthen its economy by the construction of modern transportation networks, numerous energy projects, and special economic zones.^{[3][4][5]} On 13 November 2016, CPEC became partly operational when Chinese cargo was transported overland to Gwadar Port for onward maritime shipment to Africa and West Asia,^[6] while some major power projects were commissioned by late 2017.^{[7][8][9]}

A vast network of highways and railways are to be built under the aegis of CPEC that will span the length and breadth of Pakistan. Inefficiencies stemming from Pakistan's mostly dilapidated transportation network are estimated by the government to cause a loss of 3.55% of the country's annual GDP.^[10] Modern transportation networks built under CPEC will link seaports in Gwadar and Karachi with northern Pakistan, as well as points further north in western China and Central Asia.^[11] A 1,100-kilometre-long motorway will be built between the cities of Karachi and Lahore as part of CPEC,^[12] while the Karakoram Highway from Hasan Abdal to the Chinese border will be completely reconstructed and overhauled.^[13] The Karachi–Peshawar main railway line will also be upgraded to allow for train travel at up to 160 km per hour by December 2019.^{[14][15]} Pakistan's railway network will also be extended to eventually connect to China's Southern Xinjiang Railway in Kashgar.^[16] The estimated \$11 billion required to modernise transportation networks will be financed by subsidized concessionary loans.^[17]

CPEC's potential impact on Pakistan has been compared to that of the Marshall Plan undertaken by the United States in post-war Europe.^{[18][19][20][21]} Pakistani officials predict that CPEC will result in the creation of upwards of 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030, and add 2 to 2.5 percentage points to the country's annual economic growth.^[22]

Over \$33 billion worth of energy infrastructure are to be constructed by private consortia to help alleviate Pakistan's chronic energy shortages,^[23] which regularly amount to over 4,500MW,^[24] and have shed an estimated 2–2.5% off Pakistan's annual gross domestic product.^[25] Over 10,400 MW of energy generating capacity is to be brought online by the end of 2018, with the majority developed as part of CPEC's fast-tracked "Early Harvest" projects.^[26] A network of pipelines to transport liquefied natural gas and oil will also be laid as part of the project, including a \$2.5 billion pipeline between Gwadar and Nawabshah to eventually transport gas from Iran.^[27] Electricity from these projects will primarily be generated from fossil fuels, though hydroelectric and wind-power projects are also included, as is the construction of one of the world's largest solar farms.^[28]

Should the initial \$46 billion worth of projects be implemented, the value of those projects would be roughly equivalent to all foreign direct investment in Pakistan since 1970,^[29] and would be equal to 17% of Pakistan's 2015 gross domestic product.^[30] From the initial project, the scope has expanded from a net worth of \$46 billion to \$60 billion according to some sources.^[31] CPEC is seen as the main plank of China's paramount leader Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative.^[32]

According to official statistics, 20% of CPEC is debt-based finance,^[33] while 80% of CPEC are investments in Joint Ventures (JV) enterprise between Pakistan and China,^[34] with the project contributing to 40,000 jobs for local Pakistanis and 80,000 jobs for Chinese. Official statistics suggested a return of US\$6 billion to 8 billion from taxes per annum such as road and bridge tolls. The total CPEC loan is 6% of Pakistan's GDP, however the Indian Government has claimed the project a debt-trap. Nevertheless, officials countered that 3.5% of Pakistani GDP per annum is lost due to poor transportation networks, which the CPEC investment aims to remedy leading to added benefits for any lag in Pakistan's growth statistic. Economic analysts have stated tangible benefits of

Pakistan & China : Car — the world owners/rulers

1950 : cool relation b/w the two since America was against the new communist ruler of China while Pak wasn't

1951 : Recognition & diplomatic ties were formed as Pak sponsored a resolution to the UN to recognize the People's republic of China.

1950s : • China supported Pak during Kashmir conflict.
• Pakistan recognised the PRC as govt of China, breaking ties with Taiwan.

1960s : • China & Pak signed a boundary agreement in 63, resolving their border issues along the Aksai Chin region
• Pak provided PRChina assistance during its global isolation
• China supported Pak during the Indo-Pak war of 1965.
where US held 4.3 Mil\$ & China gave interest free 60 mil\$.

1970s : China supported Pak during the Bangladesh Liberation War, while India supported the separatist movement, resulting in tension b/w China & India.

1980s: • China supported Pak during the Soviet-Afghan War, providing military aid to Afghan Mujahideen, including training & weapons, via Pak.

1990s: China continued to support Pak diplomatically & economically. Both countries signed the Treaty of Friendship, cooperation & good-neighborly relations in 1996, further strengthening the ties.

2000s: • CPEC initiated in 2002 to further strengthen the infrastructure & connectivity b/w both countries.
• Cooperation has further improved/expanded in various fields including defense, trade, & energy.

2010s: China became Pak's biggest trading partners & a major investor in its infrastructure projects.

2020s: China provided medical assistance & vaccines to Pak during COVID19, & strategic & economic partnership improved further.

"Enemy of my enemy is my friend"

Today, China has economically aided Pak with over 14,34,000 USD.

Pak - America — CRs :

US recognized Pak as an independent state shortly after its formation.

1950s: US provided economic & military assistance to Pak in its early years. Pak thus became a member of the US-led military alliances, including the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) & the Central Treaty Org. (CENTO).

1960s: relations b/w the two deteriorated due to Indo-Pak conflict. US then imposed an arms embargo on both India & Pak during the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

1970s: US supported Pak during the liberation war 1971.
• Military ties & advancements were made during the rule of Zia-Ul-Haq & Pres. Richard Nixon

1980s: Pak became a key ally of the US in the context of the Soviet Afghan War. • US provided sustainable military & financial aid to Pak during the war (\$ 3.2 billion) to used Pak as a conduit to support Afghan resistance. By 1988, Pak was the second biggest aid receiver from US after Israel.

1990s: tensions increased in response to Nawaz Sharif's nuclear testing in Balochistan. Pres. Clinton imposed sanctions on both India & Pak which were lifted in 1998 for buying agricultural products from US.

2000s :

Pak supported US in global counterterrorism post 9/11.
US provided aid of over \$1 bill in support to this fight.
However, by 2007, drone attacks & innocent deaths
broke this partnership.

2010s : complications but aid both remain

2020s : positive momentum observed post COVID-19

Kashmir Dispute

started by Hari Singh signing to Indian rule on his own

Motto of Kashmir: United we stand, divided we fall

27 Oct 1947 → Kashmir was invaded by Indian army, after Hari Singh signed a doc of accession in response to shelter from the Gilgit tribesmen who had overthrown the Muslim majority Kashmir.

At that time commander in chief of Pak General Douglas Gracey refused to go protect Kashmir despite Quaid's orders.

India was blamed as it ignored the majority & Mountbatten's leaving words. India took things to UNO.

• UNO forced ceasefire in 1949 (LoC - Line of Control)

• issue unsolved till today.

→ Kashmir is the main cause of poor relation b/w both

→ Both claim Kashmir is theirs

→ India promised plebiscite but didn't keep it.

→ even international attempts to peace have failed.

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