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Topic: Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanctions

The strength of sanctions can significantly impact the outcome of a dispute. Hence It is an important task to further explore the principles of this phenomenon. The United Nations Security Council’s sanctions have taken several different forms, in pursuit of a variety of goals. The measures have ranged from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and financial or commodity restrictions. Pakistan is not currently subject to any International Sanctions however the UK government has had a stated policy on exports to nuclear and nuclear-related end users in India and Pakistan since March 2002.

The United States has imposed sanctions on Pakistan on various occasions to force Pakistan to comply with its strategic interests since 1965, with Pakistan's willingness to participate with the United States in the wars in Somalia and Bosnia, relations improved. Pakistan has a runaway nuclear program, built by relentlessly defying international sanctions regimes that it has been subjected to at different points in time. The United States imposed sanctions on Pakistan because of these nuclear tests in May. On imposing these sanctions, they seeked to send a strong message to would-be nuclear testers; to have maximum influence on Pakistani behavior; to target the governments, rather than the people; and, to minimize the damage to other U.S interested. Even many different aspects of the long-standing US sanctions regime against Iran may have affected Pakistan in one way or another. The two countries share a 500-mile border as well as common concerns about trade, security, natural resources, and regional politics. Even very extreme unintended consequences due to sanctions, such as any diminution in Iran’s ability to police the border to prevent smuggling, could have negatively affected Pakistan. Importantly, the economic interactions between the two states are limited. Two elements of the US sanctions regime against Iran were and are particularly relevant to Pakistan: Targeted designations of individuals and entities, and Prohibition on investment in Iran’s oil and natural gas sector.

Hence, the US should talk openly with Pakistan to build trust and honesty about its nuclear plans instead of just punishing. Working with other countries, especially through groups like the United Nations, can make stronger rules and make it harder for Pakistan to pursue its nuclear ambitions unchecked. Also, Policy makers must thoroughly assess potential consequences before imposing sanctions. Efforts should focus on addressing unintended consequences of sanctions. Detailed analysis, including public input, is essential before imposing sanctions.

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