

Lecture 29

Pak301

Pakistan and the Muslim World

Foundations:

The Muslims of the sub-continent have deep-rooted affiliation with the Islamic countries on the basis of religion. They demonstrated this zeal of brotherhood on many occasions. From the days of Pakistan movement, Muslims of India followed the traditional policy with the Muslim World. Pan-Islamism and Islamic values were the strongest motives behind the demand of a separate Muslim state. So after the partition, they always preferred close bilateral relations with the Muslim countries.

The principles of policy in all the constitutions carry special attachment for Muslims and their heritage. The love for Muslim brotherhood continued during and after the independence.

Support for Independence:

Pakistan rendered full moral support for the independence of Indonesia, Tunis, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Sudan and Eritrea.

Palestine:

Pakistan, being a Muslim state, always sided with the national rights of the Palestinian people. It strongly supported the independent Palestinian state. Sharing grievous concern over the atrocities inflicted on the Muslims, it condemned the Israeli policies.

Organization of Islamic Conference:

Organization of Islamic Conference is the largest Muslim forum in the world. Pakistan was among the 51 Muslim nations which attended the inaugural session in Rabat (1969). Its second conference was held at Lahore in 1974. Pakistani desired to make it an effective forum to address the political, economic, technical, scientific matters. The OIC always supported Pakistan on Kashmir.

RCD and ECO:

Pakistan, Iran and Turkey signed Regional Cooperation Development in July 1964. It worked for economic development till 1985 when it was renamed as ECO. Later on, Afghanistan and five Central Asian Republics, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan joined it.

Muslim World:

Pakistan has good relations with all the Muslim countries.

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia being sacred country is a centre of the Muslim 'Ummah'. Both the countries have conformity on major issues including Kashmir. The Saudi cooperation for the OIC and wars with India is unprecedented.

UAE, Kuwait and other Gulf States:

These countries and States have close and cordial relations with Pakistan. The ruling families make official and personal visits. The new era of economic relations has set in after the Gawadar port was built.

Iran:

Iran is a neighboring state with long historical and cultural ties. Iran was the first that recognized Pakistan. Iran's King was also the first head of state who visited Pakistan. Both had joint arrangements in regard to CENTO, RCD, and ECO. Iran supported Pakistan in the wars with India. It stressed on liberty of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan welcomed the Iranian Revolution of February 1979. In March 1997 President Rafsanjani and in December 2002, Khatami visited Pakistan.

Turkey:

Turkey is another country with a long history of close and cordial relations with Pakistan. Both have great contribution in the multilateral arrangements of CENTO, RCD, ECO, etc.

Egypt:

Egypt under Nasser had some reservations due to Pakistan's ties with the West. Pakistan supported Egypt when it was attacked by Israel in 1956, 1967, 1973. The relations began to improve since 1967 and especially after the death of Nasser in 1970.

Libya:

Col. Qaddafi has been a great well wisher and supporter of Pakistan. In American air raids in 1986, Pakistan condemned American attack.

Jordan:

Jordan is another example of cordiality. King Hussain had special regard for Pakistan. He supported us on India-Pakistan issues. King Abdullah continued with this tradition. Both have military relationship, trade and diplomatic exchanges.

Afghanistan:

Afghanistan is a neighboring state. It sided with the 'Pakhtunistan' issue and created problems for Pakistan. The Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan gave birth to the Mujahideen groups, Taliban. The Sept 11, 2001 incident in America concluded major changes in the world diplomacy. After Taliban, Karzai government took responsibility of Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Bangladesh:

Bangladesh was East Pakistan but the internal instability and external conspiracies gave birth to Bangladesh. Pakistan had initially bitter relations but recognized it in 1974 that set in the normalization of relations. Both worked together in SAARC, OIC.