

An Analytical Study of Pak-US Relations (2000-2010): Opportunities and Challenges

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Abstract

The 20th century is for liberal democracy, liberty, equality, democracy, moderation and human rights, “globalization of economy, peace, multi-literalism, and arms control, conflict resolution”, political norms, peace and security which unified world community against war of terrorism. After 9/11, the ups and downs took place due to three main turning points, disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991; US became champion for global as well as regional security, the terrorist attack. Therefore war against terrorism envisaged a new connection between America and Pakistan, during that Pakistan faced difficulties and became important friend for American in South Asia against the war on terror. One side Pakistan supported the Taliban movement and raised power in Kabul and recognized the Taliban government with military, technical and logistical support. But other sides face the harsh attitude from the Taliban government, and Pakistan faced highly risky. Both states took steps to remove the hurdles “since 1990 and adopted new measures to expand the scope of mutual interaction, against terrorism, security, political and economic affairs. Pakistan has good experienced in friendly relations with the US during fifties and eighties, but US changed their interests on several issues and policies, US tried to balance its interest in the region that factor adversely effects on the Pak-US relations which dealt Pakistan as extremist Muslim state”.

Key words: Pakistan, US, War on terror, Taliban, India, Afghanistan, Terrorism, Extremism

Introduction:

In the 20th century ideology changed and new liberal democracy took place on the bases of following principles (a) liberty (b) equality against the autocratic, despotism, totalitarianism and repression. And in history first time democracy, moderation and human rights issues were discussed in international level. Furthermore, the main agenda in the world was discussed in shape of “globalization of economy, peace, multi-literalism, and arms control and conflict resolution. It was associated with the development of political norms, legal contracts for achieve peace and security, and conventional view was rejected, later the world community was invited to unify against war of terrorism”. (Kapur, 2002)

After 9/11, the ups and downs took place during this three main turning points were identified to attention for the geopolitical situation for Pakistan in South Asia: which were very essential to the world powers which are under bellow.

(a) The First was defeated and “disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, which provided US as sole super power”, its influence in the world ads a single super power. And changed world political scenario the world faced world orders and terrorism

(b) The second was in the region US became champion for global as well as regional security. Because in that time both states India and Pakistan were engaged in nuclear weapons tested atomic bombs in May 1998. “Now the nuclear explosions in the Sub-Continent was the direct challenge for the major powers, the United Nations and rest of world to preserve non-proliferation, because nuclear weapons enhanced the risk of nuclear war in South Asia”.

The third was the terrorist attack on world trade tower and American security zones, “it was horrible and destructive, it changed the entire world drastically and also challenged the world security”.

Once Litwak said,

“These attacks started the new debate in the foreign policy on that issues which were critical for dual identity of America as an imperial republic” (Litwak, 2007)

Furthermore, Gilpin said,

“The US got highest position in economy, military power and dominant position in international scenario but faced foe-haunting cultural and ideological forces”. (Gilpen, 1981).

Therefore war against terrorism envisaged a new connection between America and South Asia. America, “Al-Qaeda was elegated as responsible for attack in Afghanistan and faced sixty countries including Pakistan, Egypt and Sudan. (Kapur, 2002) it was declared that the Osama bin Laden and his organization Al-Qaeda is enemy of rest of the world. Very soon American President Mr. Bush Speech in White House on June 2002”, he said that “the events of September 11, 2001, taught us that weak states, like Afghanistan, can pose as great a danger to our national interests as strong states. Poverty does not change poor people into terrorists and murderers. Yet poverty, weak institutions, and corruption can make weak states vulnerable to terrorist networks and drug cartels within their borders”. (Ibid, 2002)

“These events straightened the different nations and brought harmony among them. And point out that the nations who are failed to grasp these changes they were ordained for collapse. During that Pakistan faced two difficulties (a) to be a part of the international community (b) to be isolated. Due to geo-strategic location Pakistan was important friend for American in South Asia against the war on terror, in this situation Pakistan decided to join the international coalition in war against terror for their best national interests”. (Musharraf, 2006).

Other side the “Al-Qaeda wanted radical changes in American foreign policy and fundamental changes in West Asian countries particularly in Saudi Arabia and proposed for the balance of

power between the West and the Islamic world and reject the western thinking their grievances and persuaded Jihad that is recognized as freedom struggle to overthrow un-represented, illegitimate and corrupt regimes. The policy-makers of Pakistan defined and defended their core national interests and declared war against terrorism in South Asia and became front line state after Afghan War in 1980s”.

The Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Richard Armitage met with General Mahmood, he was the director general of ISI, in Washington and told him that “You are either with us or against us” (Jones, 2002: 201).

In that time Pakistan had diplomatic relations with Taliban and recognized Taliban government in Afghanistan and Pakistan had no option to break these diplomatic relations, therefore Pakistan offered US for “unconditional cooperation in war against terrorism”.(Woodward, 2002).

Now US demanded unconditionally seven non-negotiable demands to Pakistan after two days attack of 9/11 which were.

- (1) “Stop Al-Qaeda operative in Pakistan-Afghanistan border”.
 - (2).“Intercept arms shipment through Pakistan border and end all logistic support for Laden”.
 - (3). “blanket over-flight and landing rights”.
 - (4).“Access to Pakistani naval bases, air bases and borders”.
 - (5).“Immediate intelligence and immigration information”
 - (6).“Condemn the September 11 attacks and curb all domestic impression of support for terrorism against US, its friends and allies”.
 - (7).“Cut off all shipment of fuel to Taliban and stop Pakistani volunteers from going into Afghanistan and the last demand, “Should the evidence strongly implicate Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan to destroy Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network”.
- (Woodward, 2002)

On 14th September, “Pakistan president general Pervez Musharraf received a harsh telephonic message from American Secretary of State that was The American people would not understand if Pakistan was not in the fight with US, due to that telephonic message President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf agreed to accept all the seven demands. For that decision Pervez Musharraf got approval and backing from corps commanders and other politicians of different parties in Pakistan and he suppressed the dissent voices and insisted that there is no alternative therefore Pakistan accept the US demand”. (Optic, 2002)

Later On 19th September, “he addressed the nation on television and explained five reasons to justify his unstinted cooperation with US”. Which were

- (1) “Pakistan’s Integrity and Solidarity”

- (2) “Economic Revival”
- (3) “Incapability to Counter the US”
- (4) “Defense of Pakistan’s Strategic Nuclear and Missile Assets”
- (5) “Kashmir Cause”. (Musharraf, 2006)

Now US promised to Pakistan that “due to war of terrorism US will support to rebuild the nation of Pakistan but did not share Pakistan’s goal about Kashmir. Therefore Pervez Musharraf pointed out the Indian plan is to exploit the situation and calling Pakistan as a state harboring and sponsoring terrorism. (Washington Post, 2001) further more After attack the United Nation passed a series of resolutions to set the international communities’ commitment to counter the threat. The Security Council passed the resolution 1373 (2001) on 28th September 2001 (S/Res/1373, 2001). In that resolution it was decided that all the states would take necessary steps to prevent and control the funding of terrorists’ act. The resolution also provided to establish the counter terrorism committee of all the members of Security Council in this war. Pakistan provided logistic and military support to the US without noticing of the anti-American demonstrations across the country from the religious parties and other groups. In reaction religious leaders decided that Pakistan would not allow the US to use land against terrorism”.(Dawn, 2001).

Pakistan under pressure:

- (1) As already it is discussed that Before September 11, “Pakistan supported the Taliban movement and raised power in Kabul and recognized the Taliban government with military, technical and logistical support. But Pakistan became disappointed from Taliban in 2000 due to socio-cultural issues because Taliban demolished the pre-Islamic Buddha sculptures in February 2001 without felt international pressure and misbehaved international relief agencies and not allowed sanctuary in Afghanistan to the activists of religion sectarian groups they were involved in terrorism and sectarian killing in Pakistan”. (Jabeen, 2002)
- (2) “Pakistan faced American diplomatic pressure to seek the Taliban camps and handing over of Osama bin Laden to the US”.

Above all these pressures, “Musharraf calculated that if failure of cooperation to Washington, India would avail the opportunity of improving its ties with the US and would try to marginalize Pakistan. Pakistan became the partner of the US-led global war against terrorism as the geographical position on the Southern and Eastern border of Afghanistan and supported the US against the Taliban. Pakistan renew its military and diplomatic relations with US. In the Post-Taliban scenario, Washington continued to rely on Pakistan to root out Al-Qaeda terrorists who were suspected to operate from Pak-Afghan border. India offered logistical facility to the US for air operation against Afghanistan but due to aircrafts FLY from Indian to over fly from Pakistan”. (Washington Post, 2001)

“It was highly risky for Pakistan’s security. Therefore Musharraf responded.Quickly and closed its airspaces for several hours to enable the US in order to prepare and deploy its forces at the

Northern military bases in Pakistan. He made it clear that Islamabad had abandoned its former Taliban allies in the larger interest of the war on terrorism”. (Hussain, 2004)

“Sealing of Afghan border was included in this cooperation to pursue the capture of Al-Qaeda leaders who were assumed to infiltrate into Pakistan in the course of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) by quick and positive actions. Pakistan undercut any US temptation to use Indian support against Afghanistan”.

Two States on Same Track:

“Pakistan’s decision to support against the war of terrorism brought a positive change in bilateral relations. Pakistan once again achieved significance in regional security and invites the interests of the US. Both states took steps to remove the hurdles since 1990 and adopted new measures to expand the scope of mutual interaction, against terrorism, security, political and economic affairs”.

Sanctions from the US:

(A) “The Sanctions was imposed from the President Bush (Senior) this was the Pressler Amendment which suspending the economic assistance and military sales to Pakistan. In this sanction a provision was made to obligatory for the president to certify every year before the release of economic assistance that Pakistan will not possess any nuclear explosive device. In October 1990, Congress did not certified but suspended the aid with military sales and training programs. (B) The second sanction was related to the military and economic sanctions, which were imposed for Pakistan after the nuclear explosions in May 1998. Earlier India was also under these sanctions because of its nuclear explosion in May 1998. (C) The third was regarding the democracy, these sanctions were applied when General Musharraf assumed power in 12th October 1999. This sanction was part of the US efforts to promote democracy at the global level. (D) In November 2000, the US imposed two years’ sanctions on Pakistan’s Ministry of Defense and Pakistan’s Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Organization and receiving missile technology and equipment from China. (E) Some sanctions were also imposed for two years on Pakistani companies for the same charge. In March 2000 once again some limited sanctions were also imposed on Pakistani nuclear and missile research organization to violating the global norms of checking proliferation of missile technology”.

But very soon “first three sanctions were lifted due to Pakistan’s support for combating against terrorism. Security agencies of the two countries now shared information on the terrorist groups and American agencies were allowed to operate in Pakistan and arrested large number of Taliban and Al-Qaeda persons from different parts of Pakistan on the demand of US. In return Pakistan gained huge economic benefits from the US against combating terrorism. Now the US extended technological assistance for secure borders, improving communication and build roads in tribal area for controlling entry-exit of Taliban”. (Optic, 2004)

Challenges for Pakistan:

“Pakistan has good experienced in friendly relations with the US during fifties and eighties, Due to national interests but US changed their interests on several issues and policies therefore ups and downs in bilateral relations of the two countries remain constant. After 9/11 US tried to balance its interest in the region and assured Indian leaders that the military and economic assistance will be provided to Pakistan, it will be assist against the war of terrorism. The US perception for India’s future importance as a strategic partner remained as an inducement to cultivate further security cooperation. The India’s importance to the US was not core interests and policies towards South Asia, but Pakistan’s position to hold its ground with the US in the same policy areas. India lasted its relationship with the US on nuclear proliferation and war on terrorism. The second challenge was Pakistan faced the religious Islamic militancy. Pakistan banned some well-known extremist Islamic groups and arrested a large number of people which were involved in sectarian violence and assassinations. Pervez Musharraf enforced legislation to regulate the activities of Islamic madrasa for modernize academic program, but fail due to the opposition from the Islamic groups”. (Schaffer, 2003).

Downs Between Two States

“Pakistan and the US have diverged interests, because Pakistan could not be fully employed against extremist Islamic and sectarian groups. Third was the search of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda person in the tribal areas from the US military authorities. In Pakistan Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has undertaken security operations with Pakistani intelligence agencies. the US military authority request for conducting operation in Pakistani tribal area but not grant permission from Pakistan later they successes, and FBI conducted security operation in tribal area, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Lahore and Karachi with the help of Pakistani agencies, they arrested lot of Pakistanis and foreigners who were involved in terrorism and the government’s action against the militants increased as domestic violence led to the attacks on foreigners. In the beginning, Pakistan was not ready for the bases and raised objections for the stationing American troops on its soil but later permitted American troops to station on its territory. Pakistan also opened bases in Sindh and Baluchistan for logistical and communication support to launch military operation against Taliban in Afghanistan. American troops moved into Pakistan bases at Pasni and Jacobabad and launched their operation in Afghanistan”. (Singh, 2003)

The missile attacks in “Pakistani areas they killed many innocent people on the basis of wrong information about Al-Qaeda leaders it raised question for Pakistan’s status. They violated Pakistan’s sovereignty and harm relationship with the US and Pakistan losing importance in Washington”.

Security Challenge for Pakistan:

The relations between “India and Pakistan reached at the lowest ebb after the incident of terrorist attack on Indian parliament on 13 December, 2001, in that attacked over a dozen people. Bus, train and air services were terminated between the two countries. The military was buildup between both countries that followed the bombing, which intensified the situation. India called back its high commissioner in Islamabad for the first time after 1971 war”. (Hataway, 2003)

India announced to “deploy troops along the border with Pakistan and rejected the call for free and independent investigation of the event. Due to this Washington was worried about its ongoing military campaign against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Washington launched a diplomatic campaign to defuse the crisis and send Richard Armitage, the US Deputy Secretary of the State, who visited both countries in June 2002 to normalize relation. Bush called Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee and urged him to patience and showed his concerns for Indian loss. While Pakistan banned all sectarian activities and set up trial court to punish those who were involved in the attack. America was not willing to ignore its new natural ally India. Because Indian rising power and potential was highly appreciated as a balancer for China. India refused to talk about Kashmir unless the terrorism ended and adopted exactly the same position once was held from the United States in Afghanistan and from Israel in the Middle East”. (Mohen, 2002-03).

The risk of “hijacking of the nuclear assets and its use for terrorist activity and introduce profit into international terrorist channels. This nuclear risk was in many Western minds as well as American for security, they consider that Pakistan may sell these weapons and its technology to the Muslim extremist states. Pakistan was under the threats and allegations of nuclear proliferation due to activities of A. Q. Khan network. The US officials believe that Pakistan made a deal with North Korea, Libya and Iran to exchange its nuclear technology. The factor that adversely effects on the Pak-US relations was anti-US sentiments for policies and the laws of US, which dealt Pakistan as extremist Muslim state. Pakistan was not included in the list of those twenty countries whose nationals were required to register them”.

CONCLUSION:

The 20th century broth new liberal democracy on the bases of liberty, equality, democracy, moderation and human rights in international level with globalization of economy, peace, multi-literalism, and arms control and conflict resolution and the development of political norms, legal contracts for achieve peace and security which invited world community to unify against war of terrorism After 9/11, the ups and downs took placed due to three main turning points (a) The defeated and disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991,(b) The second was in the region US became champion for global as well as regional security. © The third was the terrorist attack on world trade tower and American security zones. Therefore war against terrorism envisaged a new connection between America and South Asia. These events straightened the different nations and brought harmony among them. And point out that the nations who are failed to grasp these changes they were ordained for collapse. During that Pakistan faced two difficulties (a) to be a part of the international community (b) to be isolated. Due to geo-strategic location Pakistan became important friend for American in South Asia against the war on terror, “the aim of the Al-Qaeda wanted radical changes in American foreign policy and fundamental changes in West Asian countries particularly in Saudi Arabia and proposed for the balance of power between the West and the Islamic world and reject the western thinking their grievances and persuaded Jihad that is recognized as freedom struggle to overthrow un-represented, illegitimate and corrupt regimes”. The policy-makers of Pakistan defined and defended their core national interests and declared war against terrorism in South Asia and became front line state after Afghan War in 1980s. “And Pakistan accepted US seven non-negotiable demands against Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan. And Pakistan president five reasons to cooperate with United

Nations. One side Pakistan supported the Taliban movement and raised power in Kabul and recognized the Taliban government with military, technical and logistical support. But other side face the harsh attitude from the Taliban government because Taliban demolished the pre-Islamic Buddha sculptures without felt international pressure and misbehaved international relief agencies and not allowed sanctuary in Afghanistan to the activists of religion sectarian groups they were involved in terrorism and sectarian killing in Pakistan. It was highly risky for Pakistan's security. Quickly and closed its airspaces for several hours to enable the US in order to prepare and deploy its forces at the Northern military bases in Pakistan. It was clear that Islamabad had abandoned its former Taliban allies in the larger interest of the war on terrorism, Sealing of Afghan border was included in this cooperation to pursue the capture of Al-Qaeda leaders who were assumed to infiltrate into Pakistan in the course of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) by quick and positive actions. Due to Pakistan's decision to support against the war of terrorism brought a positive change in bilateral relations. Pakistan once again achieved significance in regional security and invites the interests of the US. Both states took steps to remove the hurdles since 1990 and adopted new measures to expand the scope of mutual interaction, against terrorism, security, political and economic affairs. Pakistan has good experienced in friendly relations with the US during fifties and eighties, Due to national interests but US changed their interests on several issues and policies therefore ups and downs in bilateral relations of the two countries remain constant. After 9/11 US tried to balance its interest in the region, because Pakistan could not be fully employed against extremist Islamic and sectarian groups that factor adversely effects on the Pak-US relations which dealt Pakistan as extremist Muslim state".

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