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Abstract: *Since its foundation, Pakistan's foreign policy has gone through many stages. Political leadership, location, economic strength, philosophical viewpoints, history, ideology, and cultural values all had a big impact on Pakistan's decision-making process when it came to its foreign policy. Due to financial and military support from other nations, Pakistan's foreign policy was reliant on them. Priorities for foreign policy are determined at every stage in accordance with the national interests of major nations. Pakistan's foreign policy was impacted by internal considerations. Due to political and economic instability, Pakistan faced a number of threats from its close neighbours and foreign powers between 2008 and 2018. In addition to domestic considerations, effective foreign policy was also hampered by political clashes among political leaders. Relationships with a rival state (India) and the sole superpower of the world (USA) were hampered by the military establishment and civilian administrations' lack of collaboration.*

Key Words: Foreign Policy, Domestic Factors, Civilian Administrations, Military Establishment

Introduction

Pakistan uses its foreign policy as a weapon to achieve its national interests. Both internal and external variables have an impact on how Pakistan formulates its relations with regional and foreign countries. It is important to note that, internal forces have a greater impact than external ones. It has been analyzed that Pakistan's foreign policy was largely influenced by domestic factors between 2008 and 2018. It has developed its foreign policy in response to circumstances and demands at home. The decision-making process for foreign policy was impacted by

Pakistan's political system and the responses of its capable neighbours (India and Afghanistan) (Khan, 2020). Any state's foreign policy is a mirror of its domestic circumstances. The "Innenpolitik" school of realism maintains that domestic variables including economic ideology, political and social structure, and nationalism pave the way for governments to formulate successful foreign policy. The environment and the requirements of the state are taken into consideration while making foreign policy decisions. For the making of foreign policy, both internal and external variables are important. In addition, the psychological

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makeup of the leader and the material resources of the nations both have a role in the formulation of foreign policy. (Rose, [1998](#)). Similar to the previous example, Pakistan has taken note of all these aspects while forming its foreign policy. Along with external influences, Pakistan's internal elements drove the formulation of its foreign policy.

Furthermore, governments employ foreign policy as a weapon to further their own national interests. The notion of the nation-state system's inception marked the beginning of the process of foreign policy formation. Every state must build relationships with other states in order to accomplish its own national objectives. States need to engage with one another in order to thrive. This is a period of economic, geopolitical, and political interdependence between strong and weak states. According to Aristotle, "Man is a social animal" and cannot thrive alone. Similar to this, a state's ability to survive depends on its relationships with other nations. Two categories of causes (internal and external) have dominated the foreign policies of governments in the modern global order. Internal considerations influence how states respond to the rest of the globe. More than external variables, the domestic situation of the states has an impact on their foreign policy. For Pakistan, internal issues are crucial when determining foreign policy (Khan, [2020](#)). The two national interests of Pakistan that have not altered since the country's creation are the security situation and economic prosperity. These two elements significantly influenced Pakistan's foreign policy.

Furthermore, Pakistan's domestic situation has a significant role in the development of its foreign policy. Domestic and international policies of the state are closely related to one another. In terms of policy alternatives and priorities, the processes for developing domestic and

international policy may differ. Sadly, Pakistan did not pay attention to the creation of internal guidelines. The way that internal and external elements are taken into account while formulating foreign policy depends on the structure of the government, the opinions of the leaders, the general consensus, and state agreements. Political environment change, economic stagnation, societal unrest, and state institution conduct all play a big part (BiBi & Yousaf, [2020](#)). Domestic issues in Pakistan had an impact on its foreign policy. As a result, the country's ties with external and regional powers have gotten worse. The dependent foreign policy of Pakistan is made possible by the country's political instability, economic decline, and security issues. The major nations stepped in to stabilize Pakistan's political and economic situation. The decision-making process for foreign policy was consequently established by foreign powers (Sattar, [2020](#)).

The process of developing a nation's foreign policy is influenced by its internal regulations, system of government, and socioeconomic and political environment. Foreign policy is a reflection of the state's internal circumstances. Pakistan's internal situation is not as favourable as is required for an effective foreign strategy. The options for Pakistan's foreign policy were limited by ongoing internal difficulties and crises. The domestic situation is harming Pakistan's reputation abroad as well. States all around the world sought to have friendly relations with other countries that have superior economic, political, and military capabilities. Unfortunately, Pakistan has seen terrible things that have caused political and social conflict as well as the country's physical destruction (Ahmad, [2021](#)).

Judicial Assertiveness Towards Democratic Government

In 1921, Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo, while delivering a lecture, shed light on the main functions of the judiciary. He said, "Judges have the authority to pronounce judgment against a statute's requirement but not the legal right to do so. They have the ability to go beyond the restrictions placed on judicial innovation by precedent and tradition, but they do not have the legal authority to do so. Nevertheless, they break the law by abusing their position of authority. He described the judiciary's primary function". This institution is the main organ of the states which is bound to act according to constitutional obligations (Goldstein, 2018). The true intent of the judiciary cannot be altered by changes in democratic administrations. Political connections have no bearing on how the judge performs its duties. Ironically, Pakistan's court has been advancing the agenda of wealthy individuals and influential institutions. To safeguard their political concerns, judges provided interpretations of their intended modifications. Since its establishment, Pakistan's court has always acted in accordance with the interests of the wealthy.

Worth mentioning, it is a stand-alone organization that is accredited by international agreements (UDHR 1948, ICCPR 1976 and UN Convention on Prevention of Crimes and Treatments of Offenders). It was created to oversee how other governmental entities operated within the bounds of the Constitution. The primary responsibilities of the judiciary are clarified in the Pakistani constitution's article 63. One of them is to avoid subjugation by any other institutions (Shahid, 2021). Other Pakistani institutions, such as the military, have a say in the judiciary's rulings. Unrest in Pakistan's society and politics is a result of the military and judiciary's relationship. Additionally, it contributed to the escalation of conflicts between the military and civilian

administration. After independence, it has been determined that military interference in political matters has caused democratic governments in many nations to shift. In Pakistan, the military is in charge of all institutions of the state. Without the backing of the military, democratic administration is unthinkable. The military greatly dominates Pakistan's political system, and the court is a key factor in this (Lal, 2010).

The judiciary contributed to confrontations between the government and Pakistan during the democratic rule of 2008-2013. In order to undermine Pakistan's democratic government, the military utilized the court as a weapon (Zardari regime). The judges and military generals at that time got along well. It has been determined that the distribution of judicial acts up to this point has not occurred. The judiciary backed legislative and executive actions as well as military-friendly political partners. (Gazdar, 2009). Before that, the judiciary supports the military's interests and has never opposed democratic rule. As a result, conflicts between the court and the democratic government started to appear. Additionally, on June 19, 2012, the court rejected the Prime Minister's nomination of Yousef Reza Gilani. In the meanwhile, the court also asked the Swiss authorities to reopen the accusations of money laundering against Asif Ali Zardari. Conflicts between the court and the democratic government disrupted the nation's politics and economy (S, 2012). Consequently, Pakistan's political and economic unrest prevents it from implementing effective foreign policy. The nations that provided help determined the country's foreign policy.

War on Terror and Militancy in Pakistan

Pakistan has struggled with serious domestic security issues as a result of its alliance with the US in the fight against terrorism. The problems with domestic

security are what caused the rift between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Extremist organizations started in Pakistan because of the USA. In various regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and the Federal Administered Tribal Area, the Taliban began carrying out deadly operations (FATA). The Pashtun ethnic group grew more hostile to Pakistan and encouraged racial inequality there. Additionally, Pakistan's ties to Afghanistan deteriorated as a result of her participation in the war against terrorism (Nadiri, 2014). Besides this, it was also improper for Pakistan and the USA to have the same foreign strategy. The hostility between the US and Pakistan has a few causes. The democratic government and military were found to have secret ties to violent organizations, according to USA analysis. The regional peace has worsened as a result of Pakistan supporting terrorist organizations with financial and logistical support in Afghanistan and Kashmir. The United States of America and Pakistan relations are harmed by all of Pakistan's recent actions (USA). The United States has given Pakistan significant economic and military assistance in an effort to foster trust with its democratically elected government and military (Markey, 2007).

Pakistan's political, economic, and security situations were unproductive. The state of internal security has presented Pakistan with significant difficulties. Due to Pakistan's allying with the United States of America (USA), the Taliban launched a bloody offensive against Pakistan. In addition to many civilian lives lost, the Taliban had decimated Pakistan's infrastructure, educational system, law and order, and economic, political, and social structures. In addition, disputes between provinces over resource allocation arose. In Pakistan in 2009, there were more coordinated terrorist attacks, suicide bombings, and targeted assassinations. Around 80 suicide attacks, mostly in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, were reportedly recorded in Pakistan (KPK). In addition to suicide bombings, new terrorist organizations including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jangvi (LeJ) Due to the war on terror, Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), Lashkar-e-Taayba (LeT), Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), etc., were active (Firdous, 2014).

Furthermore, the rise of militancy in Pakistan was caused by a number of factors. The 2010 flood was one of them. The Pakistani President was visiting Europe at the time (Magnowski, 2011). Consequently, People were given food, housing, and other necessities by the troops. Militant organizations occupied the boundaries the military had left empty, increasing the nation's security concerns.

Internal Displaced People's (IDPs) Crisis (2008-2013)

The Internal Displaced People (IDP) situation in Pakistan grew as a result of security issues between 2008 and 2013. Three million individuals are known to have moved from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The escalating clashes between armed forces and militant organizations were the causes of the onset of these crises. In order to put an end to the crises and security issues, the Pakistani military has started a peace accord with terrorist organizations. A peaceful resolution was rejected by violent organizations for a variety of reasons. The massive influx of internally displaced people (IDPs) in 2010 spurred insurgencies in other parts of Pakistan (The Cost of Conflict in Pakistan, 2014). Pakistan's internal situation at the time was quite poor. Additionally, the nation had the fewest resources to address this situation. The home situation got worse as a result of the political turmoil and the economic downturn. Particularly in the Federal Administered Area (FATA) and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, terrorist organizations increased their activity throughout Pakistan. Pakistan's terrible situation served as a global example of terrorist activity (Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge, 2009). These several crises have had an impact on Pakistan's international relations. Due to Pakistan's security issues, ties between China and Pakistan were also becoming more intense.

Political Instability

Any state's domestic situation is reflected in its foreign policy. Interdependence exists between domestic and international policies. Due to ineffective home policies, Pakistan's foreign policy was ineffective. The poor institutional and political framework led to unsuccessful domestic measures. The political leaders sacrificed their interests for the sake of the country. Political representatives dominated the system, resulting in inadequate leadership and a decline in the importance of making decisions. According to constructivism, "Foreign policy is not only the result of the two, material interests and objective reality but also the reflection of social and cognitive processes by which leaders of the state interpret that reality." Political leaders have important responsibilities in deciding which foreign policy goals should be prioritized. Political decision-makers in Pakistan have historically made foreign policy decisions based on their personal characteristics and psychological traits (Khan S. A., 2014). Ironically, Pakistan's foreign strategy was ineffective compared to what was required. Pakistan's political elite has established its foreign policy in light of the political conflicts that have resulted in Pakistan's dependency on superpowers. Due to the political system's incompetence, Pakistan's foreign policy was dependent on foreign forces (Hussain, 2021). Political polarization reached its height from 2008 to 2013, and

civil-military relations were one of the key contributing factors.

Conflicts between military and political officials also contributed to the political polarization. A few political figures were exploited by the Pakistani military to put pressure on Zardari's democratically elected administration. The "Long March" was launched by the cleric Tahirul Qadri in December 2012. Election changes via the democratic revolution were the goal of the long march political movement. Additionally, he called for the removal of corrupt officials from the positions of president and prime minister. In addition, he requested the establishment of an interim caretaker administration that would be governed by the military and the courts (The Mystery of Tahir ul Qadri, 2013). The religious leader led a protracted procession from Lahore to Islamabad while remaining in front of the parliament building.

Ironically, the parliament, all of the provincial assemblies, and the Pakistani electoral commission were all to be dissolved, according to the demand. The goal of the campaign was to expose the identities of dishonest politicians. In response, Pakistan's top court ruled that these requests were unlawful. Tahirul Qadri's anti-corruption effort was supported by the authorities. (Joshua, 2013). The political unrest had an impact on Pakistan's relations with the regional and beyond the region. In addition, there were power-sharing disputes between the ruling party and the opposition party. In Punjab, the dominant party and the opposition formed a coalition. The opposing party's political representative took use of the ruling party's influence. (PPP and PMLN courted PML to win the fight for Punjab, 2011). In 2009, these battles increased, but under military pressure, both sides discreetly ended their hostilities.

Security Challenges

Baluchistan has been a serious security concern for Pakistan for many years. Pakistan's biggest province is Baluchistan. An insurgency in Baluchistan has been undermining Pakistan's authority in the international community for many years. The military rulers and democratic administration attempted to end the dispute with Baluchistan from independence till the years 2008 to 2013. Baluchistan was the main contributor to Pakistan's political and social upheaval between 2008 and 2013 (Asghar, [2009](#)). The major causes of conflicts between the democratic government and the people of Baluchistan were power politics, Islamic extremism, a lack of resources, problems with infrastructure and development, and a lack of education.

Additionally, the administration asserted that Baluchistan had received economic and strategic support from India and the United States. Both nations, however, disagreed with Pakistan's assertion. Also to blame for the increase in social unrest and violence between Baluchistan and the government were Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan (Noormal, [2014](#)). The Baluchistan insurgency caused a sharp decline in China's inclination towards Pakistan. The democratic regime that ruled at the time was another factor (2008-2013). The democratic government of Pakistan's conduct did not earn the Chinese people's trust. During their employment at the Gwadar Port in August 2008, two Chinese labourers were abducted (Boni, 2016, p 492). That gave Pakistan a bad reputation in China's eyes.

Ironically, Pakistan's decision to team up with the United States Of America (USA) in the fight against terrorism sows the seeds of future security concerns. Pakistan was unable to combat the threat of terrorism on its own. The war on terror has disastrous aftereffects on social, political, economic, and military advancement. Pakistan lost a

lot of people in 2010, including civilians and military personnel, but nothing was ultimately recovered. Due to security concerns from the capable neighbour (India), Afghanistan, and Iran, Pakistan's frontiers were not safe. India, a capable neighbour, supported the Baluchistan rebellion in order to undermine Pakistan (Malik, Zhilong, & Ashraf, [2019](#)). Relations between Pakistan and the rest of the globe were impeded by the political, social, and economic upheaval.

Economic Instability

Since the state's ability to exist in the global system depends on its economy. Prosperity, social, political, and strategic development was promoted by economic development. Unfortunately, Pakistan's economic situation has been stable from the beginning. Pakistan's dependence on major powers was mostly caused by economic development. Ironically, the major countries have consistently exploited Pakistan to cut their ties to both the region and the international order. Due to its involvement in the war on terror, Pakistan's economy grew slowly between 2008 and 2013. The war on terror had an impact on every economic sector, but tourism, lodging, business, and manufacturing were the most affected.

Additionally, the one per cent (1%) rise in terrorist activities diminishes per capita GDP to 0.39% (Sami & Khattak, [2017](#)). Foreign Direct Investment suffered significantly from 2008 to 2013 as a result of political and security issues. The loss of infrastructure was another factor contributing to the weak economy. The infrastructure of Pakistan was devastated during military operations against terrorist organizations. Domestic investment was impacted along with the decline in foreign direct investment (FDI). The democratic administration lacked the funds to invest in infrastructure growth. Because the

government had invested a significant amount of money in eradicating security issues and enhancing law and order.

Pakistan's shattering economy prevented it from developing an effective and autonomous foreign policy. The disastrous domestic situation had a significant impact on international policy. ([Zakaria](#), Jun, & Ahmed, 2019). To combat terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Federal Administered Area (FATA), and Swat, it has been noted that the nation raised its defence spending by around 17% (or \$5.17 billion) between 2010 and 2011 (Cohen, 2011, p. 27). Pakistan was in desperate need of economic aid from other countries due to its shaky economy. Pakistan contacted the IMF to ask for help with its struggling economy. At that time, Pakistan needed its economy to grow by around seven to eight per cent (7-8%) (Nawaz, June [2010](#)). Therefore, Pakistan's already unstable economy became much more so.

Clashes between Military and Democratic Governments

The military is an important national weapon that protects territorial integrity and sovereignty. According to modern rules, the state must grow its military if it wants to survive in the international system. Over the years, the military has had a tremendous impact on domestic and international politics in various nations. Similarly, Pakistan's military plays a significant part in determining the country's internal and foreign policy. Since independence, the military's role has been constrained and has evolved in accordance with military objectives and the political environment. The relationship between the military and government in Pakistan altered as a result of the country's transition to democracy. Insurgencies in Baluchistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA), cross-border terrorism, economic instability, and political divisiveness all

contributed to the army's control of Pakistan's internal and exterior affairs under the Pakistan People Party (PPP) administration (2008-2013). The involvement of India in Pakistan's insurgency and Afghanistan's terrorist operations both contribute to the military's expanded engagement in Pakistan. The army was in charge of the civil institutions, the courts, the government, law, and order. As a result, Pakistan's foreign policy was less successful than was required. The increased political agendas cause unrest in the nation because of the military's involvement in both domestic and foreign politics. Operations against Pakistani terrorist organizations allowed the military to maintain control over the escalating political and security unrest (Fair, [2011](#)).

The ties between the military and democratic governance were at their worst during the democratic administration of 2013-2018. To put it briefly, this was caused by Nawaz Sharif's political efforts to repair friendly ties with India. The democratic administration had chosen a course of action that put a strain on civil-military ties: reconciliation with a Competent neighbour (India). Following the 2013 general elections, the Indian Prime Minister wrote to the Pakistani Prime Minister who had just been elected to express India's desire to cooperate with Pakistan to forge new connections (Rodriguez & Magnier, [2013](#)). The democratically-elected new Pakistani administration has also expressed interest in forging friendly ties with India. Conflicts between the military establishment and the democratic government resulted from this.

Terrorism: as an Obstacle in the Way of Foreign Policy of Pakistan

The democratic government of Pakistan maintained strategic ties with several terrorist organizations between 2013 and 2018. (Ahle Hadith, LET, and Ittihad Islamic Afghanistan). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

provided funding for these violent organizations (KSA). The government has, however, denounced Tehrik-e- Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for fomenting terror and bloodshed in Kashmir. Because Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's terrorist actions in Kashmir have further strained relations with India. Ironically, the Lashkar-e Jangvi (LeJ) terrorist organization that was attacking the Shia population in Pakistan and Iran received funding from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and other Sunni organizations from the Arab world.

Moreover, the bloodshed between Sunnis and Shias was also promoted by this militant group in Pakistan, especially in Baluchistan. Relations between Pakistan and Iran worsened as a result of the conflict between Sunnis and Shi'as. According to analysis, Lashkar-e-Jangvi (LeJ) participated in the Iranian-Arab proxy conflict in Pakistan (Boggs, 2013). Due to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's terrorist activity in Afghanistan and Kashmir between 2013 and 2018, Pakistan's relations with the United States deteriorated. With respect to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, the democratic government of the period maintained appropriate ties (TTP) (Grare, 2013). Relations with the United States of America (USA) were also deteriorating as a result of the discussions between the government and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Azadi March and Political Polarization

Imran Khan, the head of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), started a political campaign against the incumbent party in 2014. To prevent more political and economic corruption, the goal was to remove the corrupt leader. At that point, a political crisis was ignited, leading to the suspension of the incumbent prime minister. Along with the growth of security challenges, the political turmoil causes the economic and social structure to become unstable. (Sood, 2018). The main party at the time issued a warning

not to cross the red zone in the capital city as the demonstration intensified day by day. However, they entered the red zone and remained there for seventeen (17) days. The protest escalated day by day and the leading party of that time warned the protestors not to cross the red zone of the capital city (Islamabad). But they crossed the red zone and stay there for seventeen days (Abi, 2014). They seek the Prime Minister's resignation, which was deemed unconstitutional.

Additionally, the country's foreign policy toward India, Afghanistan, and the USA is harmed by domestic political unrest. In terms of Indian and Afghan policy, the recently elected democratic administration was trying to work with the military. Unfortunately, the domestic anarchy gave a bad impression of the area and the global order. The democratic administration struggled to control the economy and the sectarian issue because of political division. In addition, the state's foreign policy reflects internal concerns. Democratic governments focused on addressing political revolutions and security issues. With a frail economy, it was very challenging for the government to eliminate all the evils at once (Kronstadt & Kumar, September 3rd, 2014).

Institutional Shortcomings

Analysts have noted that the institutional framework in Pakistan has collapsed. The conflicts about enhancing institutions' operations are intricate. The incompetence of the necessary institutions led to the politicization of bureaucrats, the choice of incompetent political leaders, and the incapacity of policymakers. Consequently, Pakistan has bad governance and institutional dependency on external powers. Inappropriate institutions also lead to the formulation of ineffective public and foreign policies (Kugelman & Husain, 2018, p. 2-3). The successful political, social, economic, and security systems of Pakistan

were hampered by the government's inability to strengthen institutional competence. Additionally, the internal structure made it difficult for the government to pursue an autonomous and successful foreign policy. The democratic administration from 2013 to 2018 made an effort to mend amiable ties with both China and the Muslim world. The military exercised considerable control over foreign policy. The military and civil bureaucracy has distinct perspectives on how to deal with India and Afghanistan. The government was unable to maintain balance in the South Asian region. Consequently, there was political havoc and institutional imbalance in Pakistan (Iqbal, [2018](#)).

Additionally, the institutional environment during the period 2013–2018 had an impact on Pakistan's interactions with regional and foreign powers. Especially with the big power, the United States of America (USA), because of their strategic and economic dependence. Due to the war on terror and the emergence of terrorist organizations in Pakistan at the time, the military was more dependent on peaking than on the economy. Ironically, it was noted that Pakistan's ties to India and lean toward China were to blame for the USA's shifting approach (Waheed, [2017](#)). Ineffective institutional developments in Pakistan were to blame for the country's military and economic dependence.

The role of the civil ruler was important for Pakistan's successful foreign policy. By disappointing the entire country, they have been advancing their own agenda. The term "democracy" was utilized to maintain control and to make the legislative and court into insignificant bodies. In addition, neither the bureaucracy nor the police were acting in the public's best interests; rather, they were advancing the objectives of their political overlords. By assisting political elites, they had violated Article 245 of the Constitution. There were various conflicts

and skirmishes between Pakistan's civil and military institutions that were motivated by issues of power. They have all been attempting to dominate one another (Ahmad, [2021](#)). Collectively, all of Pakistan's domestic issues constrained its foreign policy (2008-2018). As a result, Pakistan's domestic situation directly impacted its exterior difficulties. Pakistan's domestic problems undermine her ties with major countries like the United States, China, and Russia as well as with capable neighbours like India and Afghanistan and the Muslim world.

Terrorist Attack on APS in Peshawar and Impacts on Foreign Policy

Armed militants in Pakistan assaulted the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar on December 16, 2014. There were about 150 student fatalities and several injuries. Pakistan was also experiencing political unrest at the time. After the military conducted an inquiry, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) acknowledged making an attack claim. As a result, Pakistan saw hostile responses from both big powers and regional powers (India and Afghanistan) (USA). Early in 2014, Pakistan's military launched Zarb-e-Azb, a military campaign against the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, in the tribal region (TTP). Following the incident, the United States of America (USA) put pressure on Pakistan to end terrorism (Karock, 18 December [2014](#)). The policy with India and Afghanistan increasingly declined as a result of this strike.

Prior to the incident, Pakistan had started a military campaign in tribal regions with the US's financial and military support. The drone attacks were also carried out by the USA in Pakistani tribal regions. As a result, a sizable number of civilians lost their lives, possessions, homes, and hometowns. Following the Peshawar incident, the democratic government and its military allies detained and executed Jihadis across

the nation (Sayed & Hamming, 2021). The ongoing terrorist assaults in Pakistan are what started the security situation there. The political and economic systems became increasingly unstable as a result. Pakistan's public opinion and foreign policy were significantly impacted.

Role of Religion in Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Religion has a significant influence on how governments formulate their foreign policies in the twenty-first century (the 21st). The way states interact has been impacted by religion. Religion is viewed in international politics as an intellectual threat to the political and economic relationships between states. It has been noted that many international wars between governments have occurred along religious lines. When developing foreign policy, consideration should be given to the leader of the state's religious heritage. The leaders' political judgements are influenced by a certain set of religious principles and ideals. The country's relationship with other nations is influenced by its religious background. Political leaders appeal to religious beliefs to support their foreign policy decisions and to justify them (M. Warner & G. Walker, 2011). It was difficult for Pakistan to maintain a consistent and impartial foreign policy with Saudi Arabia throughout the difficult years of 2008 to 2013. Asif Ali Zardari, the president of Pakistan, was raised a Shia. Due to this, Pakistan's democratic government chose to maintain its neutrality by forging strong ties with Iran. Saudi Arabia has misgivings about Pakistan's ruling political party because of the friendly ties between that country and Iran.

In addition, on January 31, 2013, Pakistan officially began building a gas pipeline with Iran to help alleviate the dire energy situation. 2009 was the year in which Iran and Pakistan signed a gas pipeline. It is controversial to say that Saudi Arabia

opposed Iran's expanding commercial ties with her close friends. Due to their differing sects, Saudi Arabia and Iran have always been rivals. More mistrust developed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as a result of the deal. Similar proxy battles have broken out between Saudi Arabia and Iran over sectarianism. The dividend line was established by both nations within Pakistan as well. Saudi Arabia had stopped providing Pakistan with economic aid during that time. Moreover, Pakistani political leaders adopted the conduct of Saudi rulers. That was all a result of Pakistan's democratically-elected administration from 2008 to 2013. Due to his Shia heritage, the president of Pakistan had a tremendous affinity for Iran. President Asif Ali was the biggest barrier to Pakistan's advancement, according to King Abdullah. He claimed that when the head is unhealthy, the entire body is affected (Khan U., 2010).

Security, religion, and identity are intertwined in Pakistan's foreign policy and have an impact on its international ties. It has been noticed that in Pakistan, militarism and religious extremism are strongly related. As a result, the military dominates both Pakistan's internal and external affairs. Since Pakistan's founding, it has been believed that the military is responsible for protecting the nation's borders and Islamic ideological identity. The notion of India as a threat—a Hindu power that cannot tolerate an Islamic Pakistan—has given the claim that only the military establishment can keep this ideological state safe a certain amount of intellectual validity. Pakistan's religious identity was interfered via militarism (Bastos, 2021). Religion has been one of the main reasons behind Pakistan and India's animosity. Before independence, the people in the subcontinent were divided on the basis of religious differences which later became divided as Pakistan and India.

Consequences

Pakistan's foreign policy was impacted by problems at home. That in particular contributed to an increase in clashes between Pakistan and the United States of America (USA). Pakistan's political, economic, social, and security circumstances compelled her to join the fight against terrorism. Her involvement in the war on terror has disastrous aftereffects. The democratic administrations of Pakistan have been the target of resentment from the US and other regional countries ever since 9/11. Pakistan has crafted all of its policies—both domestic and foreign—in accordance with American interests. Due to a severe domestic crisis that lasted from 2008 to 2013, Pakistan's ties with India and Afghanistan suffered on the international stage (John & Chakrabarti, 2008). The USA also presented Pakistani authorities with certain difficulties. Both the security of Pakistan and the relations between the two nations were impacted by these difficulties. The United States of America (USA) also made it difficult for Pakistan and Iran to have good ties. Afghanistan condemned Pakistan, along with other nations, for giving the Taliban financial and logistical assistance. Throughout Afghanistan, rhetoric against Pakistan was in circulation. Pakistan and Afghanistan's economic and security ties were shattered by Afghanistan's belligerent stance. The political and strategic unrest in Afghanistan was posing security risks to Pakistan. Adversaries have also exploited Afghanistan as a base to undermine Pakistan. Since Pakistan gained its independence, India has also interfered negatively in its domestic affairs. During the war on terror, it played a disastrous role in Baluchistan. It is important to note that Pakistan's strong links to China are what led to India's involvement in Baluchistan. India intends to monitor all of China's economic, political, and military actions in South Asia (M. Amin, 2021).

Conclusion

To encapsulate the impacts of domestic factors on the foreign policy of Pakistan, it has been noted that Pakistan's choice of foreign policy has changed due to internal circumstances. According to the analysis, external influences had an impact on Pakistan's foreign policy. The focus of foreign policy is Afghanistan and India. However, a study of two democratic administrations revealed that home concerns affected foreign policy. In addition, financial and military support contributed to Pakistan's relations with the United States of America (USA). The institutional conflicts have had an impact on the foreign policy of Pakistan. Each institution had made an effort to rule over the others, which exacerbated the political and social unrest. The military and political institutions have interfered with each other's obligations and responsibilities from 2008 to 2018. Conflicts between militarized and democratic administrations arose as a result. That gave Pakistan a bad reputation in the eyes of regional and foreign countries. Conflicts inside institutions provided rivals with a chance to meddle in Pakistan's politics and security. In addition, Pakistan's foreign policy was crippled by the government and the public's lack of cooperation. Because the public's input was disregarded, the government came to be seen negatively. The development of militant organizations was indicative of conflicts between the populace and the government. The populace had formed covert ties with rivals and militant organizations, posing a threat to all facets of Pakistan. As a result, internal unrest impacted the friendly relations with foreign and regional powers. Pakistan requested assistance from powerful nations to address the internal unrest. In exchange, Pakistan's foreign policy aims and agendas were established in accordance with the needs of major nations.

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