

Foreign Relations of Pakistan

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Pakistan, due to its historical, religious and geographical position, plays a complex role in international foreign policy. Flanked by China in the North, India in the East, Iran and Afghanistan in the west and North-west, and the Indian Ocean in the south, its strategic location ensures that Pakistan remains prominent on the world stage. Pakistan's relations with most of its neighbours have been subject to ups and downs. Since independence in 1947, Pakistan and India have fought several wars over territorial claims on Jammu and Kashmir. Relations with Afghanistan have been strained for much of Pakistan's history, mainly due to Afghanistan's long-standing claims on the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the tribal areas. Relations worsened in the 1980s when Soviet backed regimes were in power in Afghanistan, and recovered only briefly during Taliban rule, to once again be subject to vicissitudes under the Karzai regime. Relations with Iran were exceptionally strong in the days of the Iranian monarchy, but since the revolution, although relations have generally remained cordial, signs of strain have been noticeable on occasion. China and Pakistan have strengthened their strategic relationship over the years, finding a reliable and trusted ally in each other.

India

Since partition, relations between Pakistan and India have been characterized by rivalry and suspicion. Although many issues divide the two countries, the most sensitive one since independence has been the status of Kashmir, with three of four wars having been fought over Kashmir (in 1948, 1965 and the Kargil conflict in 1999 which mainly involved irregular forces from Pakistan's side).

After the first war in 1948, the UN arranged a cease-fire in January 1949 and both countries agreed on an UN-supervised plebiscite to determine the state's future under the precondition that both nation's forces retreat from Kashmir. The two armies have not retreated, and the plebiscite has never taken place. In 1965, tensions once more flared between Pakistan and India, with frequent border skirmishes in the Rann of Kutch in southern Pakistan as well as along the Kashmir border, with efforts by India to incorporate presidential rule onto the state of Kashmir. Following a Pakistani incursion in Kashmir, India launched attacks on the cities of Lahore and Sialkot on the 6th of September 1965. An UN-brokered ceasefire under the auspices of the USSR came into effect two weeks into the

offensive, with the Tashkent declaration signed a year later, where both parties agreed to return their armies to their pre-August 1964 positions, a decision many regarded as a submission to India.

With the Indian intervention in the civil war in East Pakistan in 1971, saw the beginning of another Indo-Pakistan war. The war resulted in the formal separation of East and West Pakistan, with East Pakistan being declared as the independent nation of Bangladesh. The following year the President Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Gandhi met and signed the Simla Agreement, wherein captured territory and soldiers were returned, and both leaders endorsed the principle of settlement of bilateral disputes through peaceful means. Trade and diplomatic relations were restored in 1976 after a hiatus of 5 years.

India's nuclear test in 1974 was perceived as a threatening gesture by Pakistan, and laid the foundations for the development of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. In April 1984, tensions erupted after troops were deployed to the Siachen Glacier near the Chinese border, a region that was not demarcated under the 1949 cease-fire agreement. In December 1985, President Zia and Prime Minister Gandhi pledged not to attack each other's nuclear facilities, with a formal agreement signed to this effect in January 1991. In early 1986, the Indian and Pakistani Governments began high-level talks to resolve the Siachen Glacier border dispute and to improve trade.

In May 1998, the Pakistani government declared a state of emergency and undertook a series of nuclear tests, in response to those carried out by India. Amidst an international outcry, the US and other states imposed economic sanctions against both countries. In spite of the tension that ensued, bilateral relations looked to improve in February 1999 when Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee travelled to Lahore for a summit with his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif. However, when Pakistani infiltrators occupied positions near the town of Kargil in Indian-administered Kashmir, any political progress that was made was negated. The Kargil offensive escalated into what was almost a full-scale war, fought between irregular forces on the Pakistani side, and the Indian army. Eventually, with the international community bringing to bear its influence against Pakistan's incursion, Nawaz Sharif pulled out all 'militants' from Kashmir under a deal brokered by the US. Soon thereafter, relations deteriorated further when militants attacked the Indian parliament in December 2001. Although tensions rose

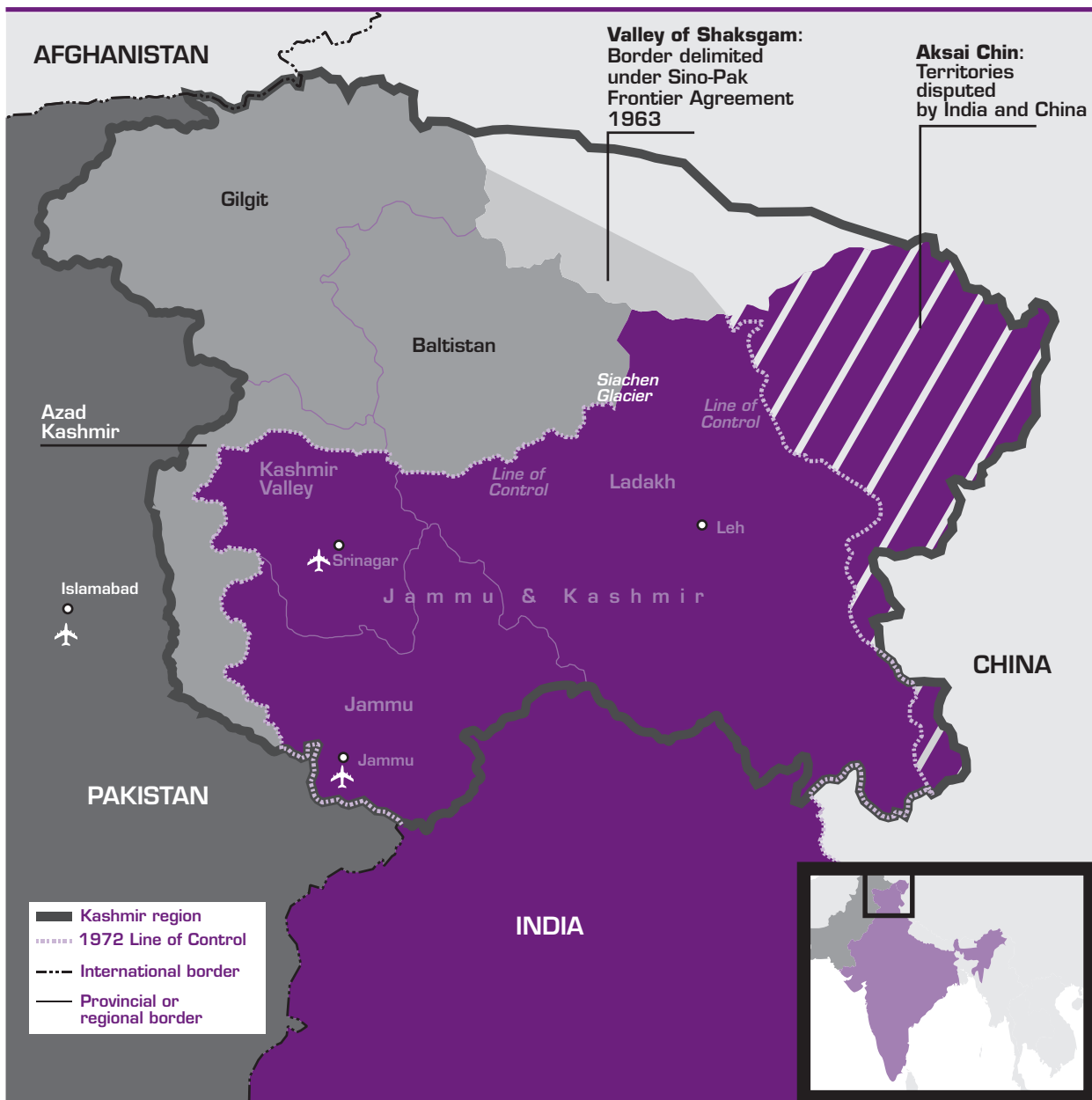
significantly following the attack, both countries showed restraint and by resumed bilateral talks in 2004. After a destructive earthquake hit the Kashmir region in October 2005, the two countries cooperated with each other to deal with the humanitarian crisis. The 2007 Samjhauta Express bombing, the July 2008 bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, and the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008 brought dialogue to a halt again, but the Foreign Ministers of the two countries met in 2010, and hopes of more wide-ranging, high-level talks are once again emerging.

Afghanistan

Sharing cultural, ethnic and religious ties, Pakistan and Afghanistan relations have always been close, yet conflicts over the Durand line, the Soviet Afghan war, Pakistan's support to the Taliban regime, the role of Pakistan in the War on Terror and the growing cross-border militancy has strained relations between the two countries.

At the time of Pakistan's independence, Kabul was supportive of an independent North West Frontier Province, known as 'Pashtunistan', harbouring the idea that this state would be eventually absorbed into Afghanistan. In Septem-

MAP OF KASHMIR



Source: Asia-Pacific Yearbook, CIDOB

Produced by: CIDOB

ber 1947, Afghanistan was the only country to oppose Pakistan's membership to UN, citing the Pashtunistan debate. The Durand Line¹ agreement on the frontier between the two countries, inherited from the British Raj, has never been formally accepted by Afghanistan as the international border, which has led to mistrust and occasional tension on both sides, although no armed conflict has ever ensued between the two states.

Following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Pakistani Government under General Zia-ul-Haq played a vital role in supporting the Afghan resistance movement known as the 'Mujahideen'. Negotiations between the various stakeholders in Afghanistan were mediated by Pakistan, until the signing of the Geneva Accord in April 1988, which led to the Soviets leaving the country in two instalments. The Afghan war saw a mass exodus of at least three million refugees crossing the border into Pakistan, with constant turmoil in the country preventing them from returning to Afghanistan for the decades to come. At a high economic cost, extensive support was provided to the refugees, and in 1999, more than 1.2 million registered Afghan refugees remained in Pakistan, with an estimated million more unregistered.

After the defeat of the Soviet Union, successive Mujahideen governments stayed in power for almost seven years, but Afghanistan was plunged into civil war. No meaningful post-war reconstruction took place – instead, the country was divided into fiefdoms with different groups and warlords overseeing administration in their respective areas. The Taliban movement began in southern Afghanistan in the early 1990s, largely as a reaction to the unlimited power of the warlords. Pakistan, which was already suspected of supporting the movement, was one of three countries to recognize the Taliban regime when the movement swept to power in Kabul in 1996. Relations between Pakistan and the Taliban regime remained close, although the Taliban never formally acknowledged the legitimacy of the Durand Line.

After the attacks on US soil in September 2001, General Musharraf's government reassessed Pakistan's relations with the Taliban, and decided that Pakistan would support the US in the War against Terror. The present administration in Afghanistan has had strained relations with Pakistan, repeatedly expressing the fear that factions within Pakistan support the Taliban insurgency, with Pakistan vehemently denying the charges. Recent moves made by the government of India to improve economic and political ties with Afghanistan have made Pakistan uneasy, further complicating the relationship with the Afghan government.

Being landlocked, Afghanistan relies on its neighbours for shipping links with international markets. Pakistan first signed a Transit Trade Agreement with Afghanistan in 1965. This was updated in 2010, with the introduction of provisions such as the need for all transit trade to take place through bonded containers, tracking devices to be installed on trucks, etc. Under the terms of the new agreement, Afghan truckers can traverse Pakistan and pick up cargo from the Pakistani port cities of Karachi and Lahore.

People's Republic of China

China and Pakistan are close strategic allies, a relationship that began in 1951 when Pakistan recognised the People's Republic of China and broke relations with Taiwan. Favourable relations with China are a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy. A mutually supportive relationship has developed over the years, benefitting both nations on diplomatic, economic and military frontiers. Since the 1962 Sino-Indian war, China has supported Pakistan in most of its disagreements with India, and in response Pakistan has remained steadfast in its support of China's territorial sovereignty. In 1962 Pakistan and China signed a boundary agreement on the alignment of the Sino-Pakistani boundary, eliminating any chance of conflict, and a similar agreement was signed in March 1963 for Xinjiang and adjacent areas.

The visit of Premier Zhou Enlai to Pakistan in February 1964 and that of President Ayub Khan in December the same year paved the way for a new era of friendship and partnership between the two countries. Pakistan was instrumental in opening the door to the West for China, facilitating President Nixon's historic trip to China in 1971. Initially, Pakistan's military depended mainly on the US for aid, which increased during the Soviet-Afghan war. The withdrawal of the Soviets saw a gradual shift in US foreign policy towards Pakistan, and bilateral aid was finally suspended in 1990 under the Pressler Amendment.² The 'betrayal' felt on part of Pakistan led to a strategic shift towards a more reliable ally, and resulted in strengthening defence ties with China.

The first trade agreement between China and Pakistan was signed in 1963, and in October 1982, the China-Pakistan Joint Committee of Economy, Trade and Technology was set up. Since the 1990s, bilateral trade has witnessed relatively fast growth, with China played a major role in supplying equipment and technology for Pakistan's energy sector development. China is also a major supplier of defence equipment to the Pakistan Army. In the recent years development cooperation with China's has speeded up, and although military and technological transactions continue to dominate the relationship, the trends include extensive economic support and investment in a significant number of infrastructure projects.

Iran

Historically, Pakistan has always had close geopolitical and cultural/religious linkages with Iran. Iran was the first country to recognize the newly independent state of Pakistan. In the 1960s and 1970s, many economic and political ties between the two countries were particularly strong, with the signing of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), a US sponsored initiative in which Pakistan, Iran and Turkey pledged to implement defense cooperation agreements purportedly against possible aggression from the Soviet Union.

Wishing to strengthen economic ties, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey signed the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) Pact in 1965. After the Iranian revolution, RCD became defunct, and a new group, the Economic Coop-



eration Organisation (ECO) was established in 1985. With the Shah of Iran overthrown, Ayatollah Khomeini followed a more rigid foreign policy, disassociating itself from the US and US-friendly countries such as Pakistan. Despite this, Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognise the new government after the revolution. During the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, ties between the countries improved, with their coordinated covert support for the Afghani Mujahideen. However, the bilateral relationship was once again strained in the 1990s, with Iran increasingly wary of Pakistan's support to the Taliban. Iran and Pakistan have traditionally supported opposing factions in Afghanistan, with Pakistan supporting the largely Pashtun and Sunni Taliban, and Iran supporting the mainly Shia and Persian speaking Northern Alliance. Anti-Shiite sentiments of the Taliban and subsequent sectarian violence in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban's victory led to a cooling of relations.

In spite of these periodic setbacks, Iran and Pakistan have in general supported each other in the international community. Since the revolution, Iran has no diplomatic relations with the US, and Iranian interests in the US are represented by the Pakistani Embassy. Trade between the countries has been increasing consistently since the fall of the Taliban, with several large infrastructure projects in the pipeline, including a possible rail network, motorway and a controversial gas pipeline project that originally included India, but is now bilateral. In February 2012, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad visited Islamabad to participate in trilateral talks including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. The meeting was significant in that the Pakistan government came out strongly in support of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, and also pledged to stand by Iran as the increasingly beleaguered country faces international sanctions for its alleged development of nuclear weapons.

United States

The US and Pakistan have enjoyed diplomatic relations since Pakistan's independence, and have a history of strong economic and military ties. Although the two countries have been strategic allies over the decades, fear and mistrust have plagued their relationship on several occasions. Economic and military assistance was instrumental in Pakistan's signing of the US-led CENTO³ pact, which meant to contain Soviet expansion in the Middle East, as well as the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO)⁴pact, limiting the sphere of interest of Communist China. Both treaties were signed in 1955, and were modelled after NATO. In 1965, during the Indo-Pak war, military assistance from the US was suspended to both countries, and Pakistan was not shown any preferential treatment in spite of its membership of the US sponsored multilateral defense cooperation mechanisms. After 1965, Pakistan reconsidered its Western orientation and proceeded to withdraw from SEATO, thereby opening up dialogue with China.

Although relations improved with arms sales from the US to Pakistan renewing in 1975, economic assistance to Pakistan was once more cut off in 1979 under the Symington

Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, with concerns over the development of Pakistan's nuclear programme. These restrictions were waived when Pakistan moved to provide assistance to the Afghan Mujahideen during the Soviet invasion. However, even in periods of cooperation, relations with the US are apt to be volatile, if not at a government to government level, then at a people to people level. For example, in 1979, protesters sacked the US embassy in Islamabad, resulting in the death of four persons. The violence had been sparked by a false report that the US was involved in the siege of the Grand Mosque in Makkah in November that year.

US-Pakistan relations strengthened under the backdrop of the Cold War, culminating in the Soviet invasion of December 1979. Through the covert support of the US, Pakistan supported the Afghani Mujahideen. Pakistan held out for increased civilian and military aid in this period, with General Zia-ul-Haq refusing the outgoing Carter administration's offer of \$400 million in aid, until a \$3.2 billion military and economic assistance programme was agreed on in 1981. The continuation of the war in Afghanistan led to waivers of legislative restrictions for Pakistan, on providing aid to countries with nuclear programs.

In March 1986, the two countries agreed on a second multi-year (FY 1988-93) \$4 billion economic development and security assistance program. However, aid was suspended under the Pressler Amendment from for the decade of the 1990s. Aid already stood suspended in 1998, when Pakistan carried out nuclear tests. But the tests brought strong condemnation from the US, as well as additional sanctions on humanitarian aid.

The attacks of September 11 and the subsequent US-led War on Terror changed the US-Pakistan relationship significantly. General Musharraf's decision to support the US campaign in Afghanistan dramatically increased military and economic assistance to the country, with a \$3 billion package commencing in 2005, and the designation of Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally. In addition, nearly \$510 million for relief and reconstruction was provided to the country after the devastating earthquake of October 2005. The Kerry-Lugar-Berman (KLB) bill passed in 2009 provides for \$1.5 billion in non-military assistance to be provided to Pakistan annually for 5 years. Despite these pledges, actual disbursements to Pakistan have remained relatively low.

The War on Terror is highly unpopular in Pakistan, and has been blamed for the deepening insecurity in Pakistan, the rise of militancy and extremism, and even the economic problems that the country has faced over the last five years. The US has, since 2007, carried out a policy of carrying out drone attacks in the border regions of Pakistan to target leaders of the insurgency in Afghanistan. Although the US claims that the strategy has been successful, it has made the US increasingly unpopular in Pakistan, with the aerial incursions being seen as violated of Pakistan's sovereignty. The alleged activities of US undercover security personnel in Pakistan have also increasingly come to be questioned. One such undercover operative,

Raymond Davis, was involved in an incident of shooting in the city of Lahore, and was released only on the payment of blood money to the relatives of his victims.

Distrust between the two countries has intensified following the killing of Osama Bin Laden in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbotabad in May 2011. US officials have repeatedly stated that Pakistani authorities were either complicit in Osama's concealment or were incompetent in that no official agency seemed to be aware of the fact that the most wanted man in the world was in Pakistan. Currently, Pakistani authorities are holding a doctor who is accused of orchestrating a fake vaccination campaign in Abbotabad, which allegedly helped the US to confirm the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden. The doctor has been charged with treason for helping out the intelligence services of a foreign power. The US has called for his release and repatriation to the US, in a new development that is likely to further raise tension between the two countries.

United Kingdom

Until 1947, Pakistan (then part of India), was part of the British Empire. After independence, Pakistan remained a British dominion until 1956, when Pakistan became a republic. Post-independence Pakistan saw a flood of emigrations towards the UK, and according to a 2001 survey in the UK, up to 1 million people of Pakistani descent currently live in the UK. There is over \$1.5 billion worth of trade flow between the two countries each year. The UK is Pakistan's second largest investor, after the US.

European Union and Spain

Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with members of EU, with trade relationships established with many EU members. Substantial foreign investments in Pakistan come from a number of European countries, which are also a source of important development assistance.

Bilateral relations with Spain were established in the late 1950s, with various cooperation agreements signed between the two countries. The 1970s saw a movement of Pakistani emigration towards Spain, mainly towards Catalonia, with a large influx of Pakistanis in the early 2000s when Spain introduced a scheme of legal amnesty for illegal immigrants living in the country. 2001 saw Spain contribute to the ISAF troops in Afghanistan, with Spain's Defence Minister visiting Pakistan to meet Spanish troops. The launch of Spain's 2005 Asia-Pacific Plan saw improved relations with Pakistan, with a visit from former President Pervez Musharraf in 2007, signing MOUs in the fields of science, culture, technology, tourism and education.

Russian Federation

In 1948, diplomatic relations were established between Pakistan and the Russian Federation. Under President Ayub Khan, advances were made in relations between the two countries yet Soviet arms sales to India, during and after the 1971 Indo-Pak war did weaken bilateral relations. President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto once more made great strides in improving bilateral relations, with a trip to Moscow in

1974, with substantial economic investments were made by the Soviet Union in steels mills and oil exploration. However, with General Zia-ul-Haq replacing Bhutto, the clash of ideology between the two nations deteriorated the status quo. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Pakistan's subsequent material and economic support of the Mujahideen rebel movement led to severe tension. With the withdrawal of Soviet troops, relations did defrost but Pakistan's support of the Taliban did remain a source of contention.

With Pakistan's decision to join the international struggle against global terrorism, relations with Russia improved once more. The Russian Prime Minister visited Pakistan in 2007, emphasizing ways to improve cooperation between the two countries. Although Putin had stated that Russia would not engage with Pakistan in military and strategic ties, this was reversed in 2011 when Russia endorsed Pakistan's bid to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation⁵ and offered assistance in partnering in the expansion of Pakistan's steel and coal sectors.

Turkey

Relations between Pakistan and Turkey have traditionally been very strong, with extensive cultural, economic and religious ties between the two nations dating back centuries. Relations between the two countries were established soon after independence, and in April 1954, a pact of friendship and cooperation was signed between the two countries. Soon after, both countries joined the US-led CENTO to bolster military and strategic cooperation to contain the spread of Soviet influence. Both countries are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation. In April 2007 Turkey initiated the trilateral Ankara process, meant to enhance coordination amongst itself, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 2009 the three countries committed to increasing coordination in the political, military and intelligence tiers in the battle against militancy and terrorism, and Turkey pledged \$100 million to projects in education, infrastructure and health to Pakistan. In dire situations, Turkey has been a reliable ally, with providing over \$150 million in 2005 after the earthquake and \$11 million in 2010 after the floods, not to mention the active presence of the Turkish Red Crescent.

Turkey has always been a support of Pakistan in its stance towards Kashmir, with Pakistan maintaining a similar position with respect to Northern Cyprus. Turkey and Pakistan have strong military and strategic cooperation, with the provision of equipment and military training to soldiers. A preferential trade agreement has been signed between the two countries, and both have sought to increase bilateral trade. A railway network between the two countries for cargo has also been established in 2009, with the promise of a passenger train to follow. Former and current leaders of Pakistan have expressed the desire to progress in a similar model as that of Turkey of modernism and secularism. The Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the fourth world leader to have spoken in the Pakistani parliament.

Saudi Arabia

As leading Muslim countries, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have developed deep bilateral ties based in cultural, trade, religious and strategic arenas, and play prominent roles in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Saudi Arabia has always been a staunch supporter of Pakistan in its problems towards India, and was especially against the Indian intervention in the separatist movement in East Pakistan, yet as of late has advocated for the peace process between the two nations. In the 1970s, Saudi Arabia had deep relationship with General Zia-ul-Haq and his 'Islamisation' process, seeing a heavy inflow of aid for religious education. Saudi Arabia along with Pakistan provided support to the Afghani Mujahideen during the Soviet invasion, and in the 1990s along with UAE and Pakistan, recognised the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia has provided extensive military support with equipment, arms, training and shared scientific research. Saudi Arabia remains an important immigration destination for Pakistani labourers with short term contracts, thereby providing a steady flow of remittances back to Pakistan.

REGIONAL DIPLOMACY

SEATO

The South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) was an international organisation for collective defence in South East Asia. In September 1954, the Southeast Asian Collective Defence Treaty, also known as the Manila Pact was signed in the Philippines, as a part of the Truman doctrine meant to contain communist powers in the region. The formal establishment of the institution SEATO was in February 1955, and membership included Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, Philippines, the United Kingdom and the US, and reflected the anti-Communist sentiment. SEATO was meant to be a South East Asian version of NATO, without holding military forces of its own. The organisation hosted annual joint military training sessions for the member states, and facilitated meetings and exhibitions on cultural, historical and religious topics. Although on two countries from Southeast Asia were represented in SEATO, it was meant to for countries that had interest in the region. Pakistan's strategic interest in the pact was based on the belief of receiving support in its struggles against India, despite the fact that neither country was located in the area under the organization's jurisdiction. With SEATO seeing fundamental weaknesses, many countries chose to withdraw in the early 1970s. Neither France nor Pakistan supported the US intervention in Vietnam, and in 1972, Pakistan withdrew membership after the separation of East and West Pakistan, as the organisation had failed to assist in the war the previous year.

CENTO

In 1955, the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO), also known as the Baghdad Pact, was formed by Turkey, Great Britain, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. CENTO was a defense cooperation organisation aimed at promoting shared military

and economic goals. Similar to NATO and SEATO, the main purpose of CENTO was to prevent communist advances in the Middle East and west Asia. The UK chose to adhere to the pact and the US participated as an observer and took part in committee meetings. It was renamed CENTO when Iraq withdrew in 1959, upon its unwillingness to endorse US intervention in Lebanon. Bilateral military aid treaties were signed between the US and all members of CENTO, to ensure their active support in the organisation.

CENTO never created a permanent military command structure, or a means to ensure 'collective defence', but merely ensured the support of the US to member countries. The Iranian revolution of 1979 led to Iran's withdrawal from CENTO, and a year later Pakistan too, chose to leave. CENTO disbanded later that year.

ECO

The Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) was founded by Pakistan, Turkey and Iran in 1985. The organisation was established to promote scientific, cultural and technical cooperation amongst the countries, and to provide a platform to discuss trade, development and investment opportunities. ECO was the successor organisation to the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), which was established in 1964 and disbanded in 1979. The objective of the organisation is to provide a single market for good and services, similar to the European Union. In 1992, seven new members, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, were allowed to join ECO.

SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was founded in December 1985, by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives and Pakistan, with Afghanistan joining in 2005. The purpose of the organisation was to enhance cultural, economic, scientific, technological and economic cooperation, with the base of 'collective self-reliance' through active collaboration and mutual assistance. US, South Korea and EU have been granted observer status. The South Asia Free Trade Agreement was signed in 2006, meant to lower tariffs by 20 percent by 2009.

OIC

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation⁶ was founded in September, 1969, and has 57 member countries. The OIC represents the collective voice of Muslim countries, and aims to preserve Islamic social and economic values, promote solidarity amongst member states, increase cooperation in social, economic, cultural, scientific and political areas, uphold international peace and security, and advance education.

Pakistan plays a leading role in the OIC, being the country with the second largest Muslim population and the only member possessing nuclear weapons. Pakistan played host to the second Islamic summit in 1974, advocating stronger ties between African and Asian countries. It is

PAKISTAN IN THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organisation	Description	Pakistan membership	Other member states	Comments
Commonwealth	Established in 1931 through the Statute of Westminster. International organisation of countries with historic ties with United Kingdom. Its main goal is the international cooperation in political and economic fields.	1947	54 member states	Pakistan withdrew the Commonwealth in 1972 to protest the recognition of Bangladesh by Britain, Australia, and New Zealand but rejoined in October 1989 under Benazir's first government. From 1999 to 2004 the membership of Pakistan was suspended after the coup d'état of general Pervez Musharraf.
South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO)	Regional organisation for collective defense created in 1955 as part of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (Manila Pact). Its original aim was to contain the communism influence in the region. Did not have permanent military structure.	1955, founder member	Australia, France, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States	Pakistan withdrew SEATO in 1972. The organisation was dissolved in 1977.
Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO)	Established in 1956 through the Baghdad Pact, CENTO promoted the cooperation in the fields of defense, economic and military, and also prevented the communist influence in the Middle East and Western Asia. CENTO did not have any permanent military structure.	1956, founder member	Iran, Iraq, Turkey and United Kingdom	United Kingdom joined the pact later on, and the US participated as observer. The organisation was dissolved in 1980.
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Established in 1969 through the Conference of Rabat. OIC is an International organisation that gather muslim states. Its goals are to defend the islamic economic and social values, and the cooperation in social, economic, cultural, scientific and political areas, among others.	1969, founder member	57 member states	Pakistan is the second most populated country of the organisation, after Indonesia.
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Created in 1985, its aims are to improve cultural, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.	1985, founder member	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Afghanistan	The Free Trade Agreement of South Asia was signed in 2006.
Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO)	Established in 1985. Its goals are the promotion of the scientific, cultural and technical cooperation among member states. It was the successor organisation of what was the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), founded in 1964.	1985, founder member	Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazajstan, Kirguizstan, Tadjhikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	ECO was the successor organisation of what was the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), founded in 1964. ECO is member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation since 1995.



also in this summit that former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, was formally recognised by Pakistan. Pakistan has always used the OIC as a platform to gather support for the Kashmir conflict, which is also why, despite holding a large Muslim population, Pakistan has blocked India from joining the OIC.

UN

Pakistan joined the United Nations in September 1947, one month after it gained independence. The topic of Kashmir has been the oldest dispute on the UN agenda. In the first Kashmir war of 1948, India requested the mediation of the UN, with the Security Council passing resolution 47, ordering both parties to retreat their troops to allow an impartial plebiscite to take place. With neither party following the resolution, the plebiscite has still not taken place. In 1948, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established to investigate and mediate the issue. In 1951, the Security Council passed another resolution on the establishment of UN Military Observer Group in Pakistan and India (UNMOGIP), to observe the ceasefire between the two countries. Since 1972, no complaints of violations have been lodged to UNMOGIP. After 1965, UN India Pakistan Observer Mission (UNIPOM) was established to observe the ceasefire in the border region from Kashmir to the Arabian Coast, until the Tashkent declaration in 1966.

After the invasion of the Soviet Union, Pakistan saw a massive influx of over three million refugees into Balochistan and the North West Frontier Province, seeing the establishment of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1980. The UNHCR provides emergency, resettlement and repatriation assistance to refugees and maintains refugee camps in Pakistan, what is considered one of the most complex refugee crises globally. In May 1988, the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) was established, deriving its mandate from the Geneva Accords. UNGOMAP's tasks included the monitoring the return of refugees, the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the non-interference by parties in each other's affairs. The UNGOMAP mandate ended in 1990.

Pakistan is the largest contributor in terms of troops to UN peacekeeping missions. Pakistan has signed the Universal Declaration of Human rights, signed and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Corruption, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Kyoto Protocol and Convention on the Rights of the Child. On the other side, Pakistan has signed but not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention. Pakistan has not signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) nor the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Notes

1. An agreement signed in 1893 establishing the so-called borders between colonial British India and Afghanistan.
2. Under the Amendment, the US President had to certify that the aid receiving country was not developing nuclear weapons. President George Bush decided in 1990 that such a certification could not be issued for Pakistan.
3. Also known as the Baghdad Pact and the Middle East Treaty Organisation (METO).
4. Also known as the Manila Pact.
5. An intergovernmental mutual security organisation with Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as members. Pakistan has observer status.
6. The organisation changed its name from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in June 2011.