



# UNIT 11

## Section 6 Pakistan and International Affairs

### Foreign Policy of Pakistan

In this unit the students will be able to:

- Review Pakistan's current foreign policy and examine its alignment with its objectives and guiding principles while exploring the determinants of the current state of Pakistan's foreign policy and the way it has impacted its relationships with countries like the US, Britain, China, Central Asian states, SAARC nations, EU members, and OIC countries.
- Examine the current status of Pakistan's relationships with countries such as Turkiye, Saudia, Qatar, UAE, and Russia and predict the prospects based on factors like Pakistan's geostrategic significance, ongoing projects, and efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Analyze the Kashmir conflict and expected outcomes of the issue if solved as the best-case scenario for the Kashmiris, inferring its impact on Pak-India relations.
- Criticize Pak-US relations before and after the 9/11 situation and its impact on the socio-economic status of Pakistan.

## Introduction and Meaning of Foreign Policy:

Like human beings, state also cannot live in isolation. They need to establish relations with other states and international organizations operating within the international system. This linkage with the outside world is established through a state's foreign policy.

## Definitions of Foreign Policy:

Some famous definitions of foreign policy are given below.

"Foreign policy is the strategy or approach chosen by the national government to achieve its goals in its relations with external entities." (Charles W. Kegley and Eugene R. Wittkopf).

Foreign policy is the system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behaviour of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment. (George Modelski).

Foreign Policy refers to the actions and strategies taken by a nation to safeguard its national interest and achieve goals within the international arena. (Michael H. Hunt).

Thus, foreign policy or foreign relations refers to a government's strategies for dealing with other countries and organizations. It is the strategy which a state uses to protect its international and domestic interests. The primary purpose of foreign policy is to protect a nation's national interests.

Formulation of foreign policy is influenced by many external and internal factors like ideology, international law, relations with neighbouring states and major powers, geography, history, security concerns, economic standing, international trade and political system of the country. Foreign policy is formulated by the executive branch with inputs from various departments and agencies.

## Determinants of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Several key determinants influence the current state of Pakistan's foreign policy:

1. **Geography:** Pakistan's strategic location at the junction of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East plays a crucial role. Its nearness to Afghanistan, Iran, and the Arabian Sea impacts its strategic outlook and foreign policy priorities. It requires careful management of regional relationships and security concerns.
2. **Security Concerns:** Security is an essential determinant due to ongoing regional instability and the persistent threat of terrorism. Relations with India, marked by historical conflicts and the Kashmir issue, influence Pakistan's foreign policy. Additionally, Pakistan's role in the global war on terror and its nuclear capabilities are critical factors.
3. **Economic Factors:** Economic interests are vital, with Pakistan's foreign policy driven by the need for foreign aid, investment, and trade relationships. For economic stability initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) highlight the importance of economic partnerships. Pakistan's economic ties with major powers and regional players are essential for its development and financial stability.
4. **Islamic Ideology:** The ideological basis of Pakistan, rooted in Islamic principles, profoundly influences its foreign policy. It includes adopting solid ties with Muslim

countries and advocating for Islamic causes globally. The influence of Islamic teachings and the country's foundational ideology endures to shape its diplomatic approaches and alignments. As a vital member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan often aligns its foreign policy with the collective interests of Muslim-majority countries. It includes encouraging issues related to the Islamic world, such as Palestine, and the rights of Muslims globally.

5. **Historical Context:** The historical relationships and conflicts with neighbouring countries, especially India and Afghanistan, continue to shape Pakistan's foreign policy. These historical factors contribute to a focus on national security and territorial integrity.
6. **Domestic Politics:** Internal political dynamics, governance issues, and public opinion significantly impact foreign policy decisions. Political parties and domestic economic conditions are crucial in shaping how Pakistan interacts internationally.
7. **Regional Dynamics:** Shifts in regional geopolitics, such as the changing relationships with Iran and the Gulf States and the evolving ties with Russia and Türkiye, require Pakistan to adapt its foreign policy strategies to maximize regional cooperation and stability.
8. **Influence of Major Powers:** Pakistan's foreign policy is significantly influenced by its relationships with major global powers, notably the United States and China. The U.S.-Pakistan relationship has been critical, especially in terms of military aid and cooperation in the war on terror. On the other hand, China's economic investments, mainly through CPEC, have strengthened bilateral relations. It influenced Pakistan's strategic and monetary policies.
9. **Regional Alliances and Organizations:** Pakistan's involvement in regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) helps shape its regional policies. These alliances facilitate economic cooperation, security collaboration, and regional political dialogue.
10. **Environmental Concerns:** Global issues like climate change have started influencing Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan's vulnerability to climate needs international cooperation for sustainable development and disaster management efforts. It includes seeking international aid and cooperation to confront environmental challenges.
11. **Counter-terrorism and Anti Money Laundering:** Pakistan's commitment to counter-terrorism and anti money laundering is critical to foreign policy. The country's efforts to combat terrorism and align with international standards on financial regulations influence its international relations and aid agreements.
12. **Technological and Scientific Cooperation:** Enhancing technological and scientific collaboration with other nations is becoming an important focus. This includes partnerships in space technology, nuclear energy, and information technology, which are seen as vital for Pakistan's progress and modernization efforts.

These points elaborate on Pakistan's multifaceted and dynamic foreign policy, illustrating how various internal and external factors collectively shape its international engagements and strategic decisions. In conclusion, Pakistan's foreign policy is a complex interplay of geography, security, economy, ideology, historical context, domestic politics, and regional dynamics, all of which guide its international relations and strategic decisions.

## PAK-US (The United States) RELATIONS

Significant changes in US-Pakistan ties occurred both before and after the 9/11 attacks, which had a substantial effect on Pakistan's socio-economic circumstances. A critical examination of these relationships in both eras is provided below:

### Pre-9/11 Pak-US Relations

**1. Cold War Alliances:** To oppose Soviet dominance during the Cold War, Pakistan joined forces with the United States through military agreements like CENTO and SEATO, receiving significant financial and military support. Pakistan was seen by the United States as an essential ally in South Asia, especially during the Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989). Pakistan was instrumental in aiding the Mujahideen with substantial financial and military support from the United States.



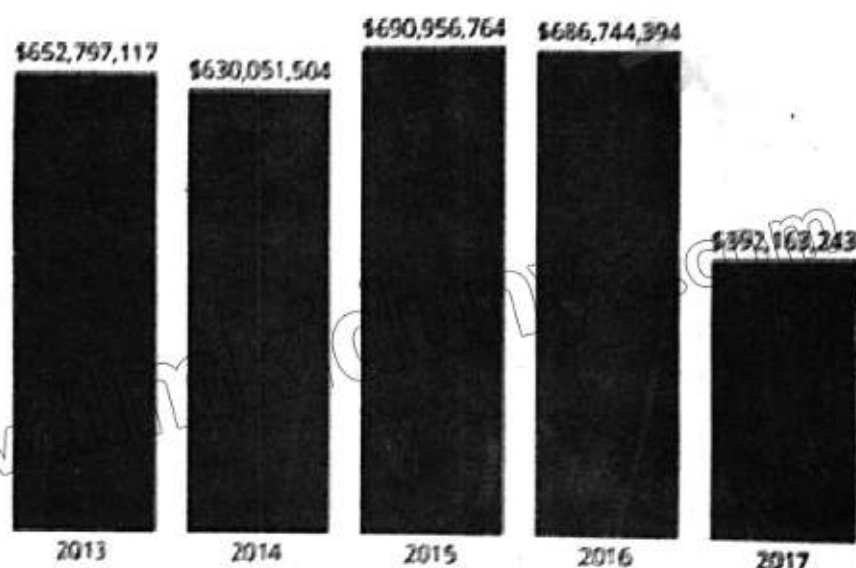
**2. Sanctions and Disengagement:** The US has always been showing concerns about atomic proliferation. It prompted a series of sanctions following the disclosure of Pakistan's nuclear program in the late 1970s, culminating in the Pressler Amendment in 1985, which shut off US aid. The US-Pakistan relationship was characterized by scant cooperation and disengagement throughout the 1990s. After Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in 1998, sanctions were put in place, and it further strained relations.

### 3. Post-9/11 Pak-US Relations

**1. Strategic Partnership against Terrorism:** Pakistan joined the US War on Terror as a front-line ally following the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The administration of President Pervez Musharraf

### U.S. Aid to Pakistan

Foreign assistance spent by the U.S. in Pakistan





consented to work with the United States, permitting the use of Pakistani air bases and offering assistance with intelligence gathering. The United States of America provided Pakistan with billions of dollars in economic and military help to battle terrorism and bring stability to the region.

**2. Trust Deficit:** Even with the cooperation, there was a severe lack of trust. Relations were strained by claims that Pakistan was playing a double game by supposedly retaining contacts with the Taliban while helping the United States.

**3. Drone Strikes and Sovereignty Issues:** Drone attacks by the United States on terrorists in Pakistan's tribal areas also claimed civilian lives, which infuriated the people and strained ties between the two countries.

### **Impact on the Socio-Economic Situation of Pakistan**

**1. Economic Dependency and Aid:** Pakistan's economy was temporarily stabilized by the inflow of US aid following 9/11. The United States has provided about \$10 billion in financial assistance to Pakistan since 2001. However, this led to a reliance on outside assistance. Development projects received some of the aid, but corruption and poor administration prevented the aid from having a significant overall impact.

**2. Security and Instability:** Pakistan experienced a surge in terrorism and instability as a result of militant groups' retaliation for Pakistan's participation in the War on Terror. Resources for social and economic development were taken away from combating terrorism due to the strong military focus, which worsened problems like poverty and educational gaps.

**3. Social Impact:** Humanitarian problems resulted from widespread population relocation by military actions in FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas). Now FATA has been officially merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the 25th amendment in the constitution in 2018. Drone strikes and perceived invasions of sovereignty contributed to the rise of anti-American sentiment, which affected both domestic politics and society.

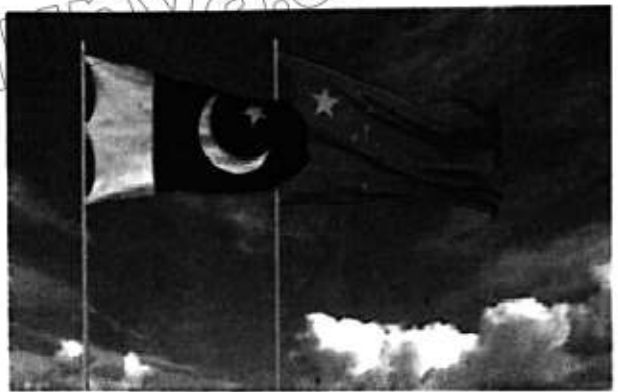
**4. Economic Challenges:** Economic growth was impeded by persistent instability and security issues discouraging international investment. Excessive dependence on foreign aid resulted in excessive debt levels and inflation because it did not address fundamental economic problems.

### **Conclusion:**

Pakistan was significantly impacted by the shifting dynamics between the US and Pakistan both before and after 9/11, often in contradictory ways. After 9/11, the strategic alliance contributed much to aid and development but also exacerbated socio-economic problems, reliance, and instability. The intricacies of these relationships highlight the necessity of adopting a more impartial and independent stance in Pakistan's economic and security strategies to attain stability and long-term progress.

## Pakistan-China Relations

Pakistan and China relations are often described as an "all-weather strategic partnership." It is built on mutual trust, economic collaboration, and shared strategic interests. Both countries have initiated several significant projects that have transformed their bilateral relationship. Below are key projects across different sectors:



### 1. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

CPEC is the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and represents the cornerstone of Pakistan-China relations. Valued at over \$62 billion, CPEC includes a series of infrastructure, energy, and economic projects. It aimed at enhancing connectivity and economic growth.

#### i. Energy Projects:

The projects include the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, Karot Hydropower Plant, and Hub Coal Power Plant, which aim to address Pakistan's chronic energy shortages. Developing coal, hydropower, wind, and solar projects is also important for Pakistan.

#### ii. Gwadar Port:

Gwadar is a deep-sea port in Balochistan province, a critical hub for CPEC. Projects include the Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar International Airport, and infrastructure improvements to turn the port into a regional trade and logistics hub.

#### iii. Transportation Infrastructure:

Major highways and motorways, including the Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Hazara Motorway, and the Peshawar-Karachi Railway Line (ML-1), are some examples of the relations. These projects help to enhance connectivity within Pakistan and with China.

#### iv. Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

Several SEZs, such as Rashakai SEZ and Dhabaji SEZ, are being developed to promote industrialization and attract foreign investment.

### 2. Karakoram Highway (KKH) Expansion

The Karakoram Highway is considered one of the world's most scenic yet challenging engineering projects. It connects Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass and symbolizes their friendship. Under CPEC, the highway has been expanded and upgraded to improve trade and people-to-people connectivity.

### 3. Energy and Power Projects

Besides CPEC energy projects, China is developing Pakistan's nuclear energy capabilities. Chashma Nuclear Power Plants (C-1 to C-4) and K-2 and K-3 reactors at Karachi are examples of China's collaboration with Pakistan in peaceful nuclear energy.

#### 4. Defense Collaboration

Defense cooperation is an essential aspect of Pakistan-China relations. JF-17 Thunder Fighter Jet Program is one of the critical defense projects jointly developed and manufactured by China and Pakistan. The transfer of military technology, naval vessels, and air defense systems are also examples of a friendship between Pakistan and China.

#### 5. Agricultural Collaboration

The Pakistan-China Agricultural Corridor under CPEC aims to improve agricultural productivity and food security. Projects have focused on modernizing Pakistan's agriculture sector through Chinese technology and investments.

#### 6. Information Technology and Telecommunications

China's collaboration in technology is very crucial for Pakistan. It includes deploying fiber optic cables under CPEC to improve Pakistan's connectivity with global networks. Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE play a significant role in developing Pakistan's telecommunications infrastructure.

#### 7. Cultural and Educational Exchanges

Thousands of Pakistani students study in China under scholarships, and joint academic research programs are increasing. Confucius Institutes in Pakistan promote the Chinese language and culture. Both states' cultural exchanges and media collaborations aim to strengthen people-to-people ties.

#### 8. Health Sector Cooperation

China provided significant medical assistance, including vaccines, equipment, and expertise during the COVID-19 pandemic. China's collaboration in developing pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in Pakistan is ongoing.

#### 9. Financial and Investment Projects

China has provided extensive financial assistance to Pakistan, including loans and grants for development projects. Chinese banks and companies are heavily involved in Pakistan's economic and industrial sectors.

#### 10. Future Key Projects

##### i. Mainline-1 Railway Project (ML-1):

China is also ready to invest in Gwadar as a futuristic trade and economic hub with advanced urban infrastructure.

##### ii. Gwadar Smart City Master Plan:

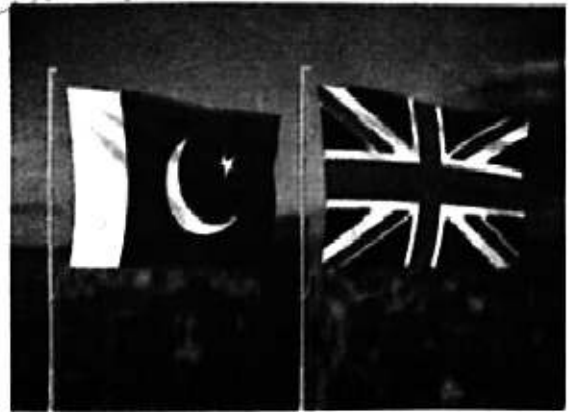
China is also ready to invest in Gwadar as a futuristic trade and economic hub with advanced urban infrastructure.

##### iii. Kohala and Azad Pattan Hydropower Projects:

New hydropower projects aimed at producing clean and renewable energy.

## Pakistan-United Kingdom(UK) Relations

Pakistan and the United Kingdom share a multidimensional relationship rooted in historical, economic, political, and cultural connections. Their bilateral relations are influenced by the legacy of British colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent. Their relations include cooperation in trade, development, education, defense, and people-to-people connections.



### Key Aspects of Pakistan-UK Relations

#### 1. Historical Ties

Their relationship dates back to the colonial era when Pakistan was part of British India until its independence in 1947. After independence, Pakistan joined the Commonwealth of Nations, holding a symbolic and cooperative link with the UK.

#### 2. Trade and Economic Relations

The UK is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners, with significant exports, including textiles, garments, and sports goods. British people in business operate in Pakistan's finance and energy sectors. In 2021, bilateral trade stood at approximately £2.9 billion, with both nations seeking to enhance trade under the UK-Pakistan Enhanced Strategic Dialogue.

#### 3. Development and Aid

The UK provides substantial development aid to Pakistan. This aid focuses on education, health, and poverty alleviation. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID), now merged into the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), has historically been one of Pakistan's largest aid donors.

#### 4. Diaspora and People-to-People Links

The Pakistani diaspora in the UK is one of the largest immigrant communities, with over 1.6 million people of Pakistani origin. This diaspora has strong cultural, economic, and political influence in both countries. Educational exchange programs i.e., Pak-UK Education Gateway are running under with many Pakistani students studying in UK universities. In 2022-2023, 34,690 Pakistani students studied in the UK, a 50% increase from the previous year.

#### 5. Political and Diplomatic Relations

The Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD), established in 2011, is a framework for strengthening bilateral ties. Issues such as Kashmir, regional stability, and counterterrorism feature prominently in diplomatic discussions.

#### 6. Cultural Ties

- ☐ Cricket has been a significant unifying cultural force, with matches between the two nations drawing wide attention.
- ☐ Literature, art, and media exchanges further enhance cultural connections.



## Pak-Russia Relations

Despite difficulties, Pakistan's relationship with Russia has experienced significant advancements recently, especially in the past ten years.



### 1. Economic and Trade Cooperation:

The North-South Gas Pipeline project is now experiencing delays owing to financial constraints and geopolitical difficulties, such as the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As a result, economic exchanges have been irregular. Despite these obstacles, both nations desire to improve bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The Soviet Union (now Russia) contributed to the construction of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSMC) in Karachi, Pakistan in the 1971. The foundation stone was laid in 1973, and the mill began commercial operations in 1984.

### 2. Defense and Security:

Pakistan has been buying Russian military equipment and participating in joint military exercises with Russia, strengthening defense ties between the two countries. Pakistan needs this collaboration badly because it needs inexpensive military hardware.

### 3. Geopolitical Significance:

Pakistan's geoeconomic significance to Russia has grown due to its advantageous location, particularly its involvement in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). A vital component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), this corridor could economically and geopolitically benefit Russia.

### 4. Regional Security:

Concerns for regional stability, especially in Afghanistan, are shared by both countries. They have worked together to combat terrorism and have made an effort to sway Afghanistan's peace negotiations. Their relationship is mainly motivated by this common interest.

### Future Prospects:

#### 1. Geostrategic Significance:

Pakistan is a significant participant in energy and trade corridors throughout the area due to its strategic location. Russia may gain from Pakistan's ability to reach South Asia and the Arabian Sea through the Gwadar port. Russia's strategic and economic interests may depend on this.

**Economic Projects:** Prospective initiatives like energy agreements and infrastructure expenditures can strengthen economic relations. But doing so means getting over current financial and geopolitical obstacles. Russia's Deputy Prime Minister arrived in Pakistan for a two-day official visit from September 18 to 19 in 2024. During his visit, Discussions have been focused on potential Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) transactions, with Russian terminals expected to be ready by 2026. Additionally, a Russian delegation is set to explore establishing a state-of-the-art steel mill at the Pakistan Steel Mills site. Pakistan is keen to expand trade, economic, energy, connectivity and security cooperation with Russia.

## 2. Educational and Cultural Exchange:

Long-term relationships may be strengthened through enhancing interpersonal interactions through cultural and educational exchanges. Reviving historical connections through language learning initiatives and student exchanges could also be necessary.

## 3. Technology and Energy Sectors:

Cooperation on sustainable development, especially in the technology and energy sectors, could help Pakistan meet its Sustainable Development Goals. Pakistan's growth aspirations can be aided by Russian experience in high-tech industries such as biotechnology, aviation, and space exploration.

## Pakistan and Central Asian States

Pakistan's relationship with the Central Asian States—Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan—is rooted in shared historical, cultural, and religious ties, alongside strategic and economic interests. Following the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991, these resource-rich and landlocked republics became integral to Pakistan's foreign policy due to their geographic proximity and potential for regional collaboration. Pakistan has sought to establish robust political and diplomatic relations with each state, emphasizing regional stability, counterterrorism, and economic integration. Shared platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) have facilitated cooperation on regional security, trade, and infrastructure projects.

Energy collaboration is a cornerstone of these relationships, exemplified by projects like CASA-1000 and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, which aim to address Pakistan's growing energy needs. Economic ties are growing through trade, investments, and connectivity initiatives, including using Pakistan's Gwadar port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to give the Central Asian States access to global markets. Security cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking, is another vital aspect, as regional peace hinges on stabilizing Afghanistan.

Cultural and educational exchanges, including scholarships and academic partnerships, further strengthen people-to-people connections. Defense collaboration, including training programs and intelligence sharing, underscores Pakistan's commitment to mutual security concerns. Collectively, these relationships aim to integrate Central and South Asia economically and geopolitically, fostering peace, development and shared prosperity in the region.

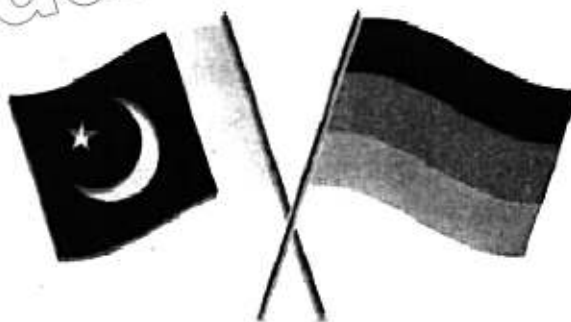
## Pakistan and the European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 European countries that work together to promote integration and cooperation in various areas, such as trade, security, environment, and human rights. The EU was established to foster peace, stability, and economic prosperity in Europe following the devastation of two World Wars. France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Greece are important EU members. Here, we shed light on a few important member states with which Pakistan has closed relations. In Afghanistan's stability, emphasizing the need for peace to ensure broader regional security.



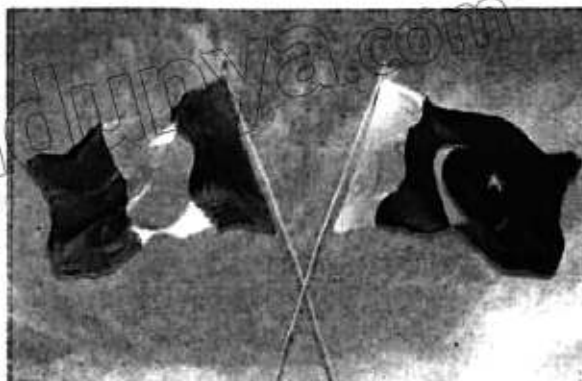
## Pakistan-Germany Relations

Pakistan and Germany have enjoyed strong diplomatic ties since 1951, which have been marked by trade, development, education, and humanitarian aid cooperation. Germany is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the EU, with exports including textiles and leather products from Pakistan and machinery and chemicals from Germany. Germany advocates for Pakistan's GSP+ status and hosts companies like Siemens and BASF. Development cooperation focuses on clean energy and technical training, while cultural ties are fostered through the Goethe-Institut and the education of thousands of Pakistani students in German universities. Germany has supported Pakistan during natural disasters and counterterrorism efforts, emphasizing regional peace. Both nations seek to deepen trade, energy, education, and climate action ties.



## Pakistan-France Relations

Pakistan and France share a multifaceted relationship built on diplomacy, trade, defense cooperation, cultural exchange, and shared strategic interests. Formal diplomatic ties were established in 1947, with both countries maintaining embassies in each other's capitals and cooperating in multilateral forums like the UN and WTO. France is a key trading partner in the EU, importing textiles, surgical instruments, and food products from Pakistan while exporting machinery, automobiles, and chemicals. French companies, such as Peugeot and Renault, have a presence in Pakistan, alongside energy and rural development collaborations. Cultural and educational ties are fostered by the Alliance Française and scholarship programs, with many Pakistani students studying in France. France has supported Pakistan during natural disasters like the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods, focusing on relief and reconstruction. Both countries collaborate on regional security, particularly counterterrorism and stability in Afghanistan. Recent high-level engagements, a shared commitment to climate action, and the evolving EU trade dynamics post-Brexit present opportunities for deeper cooperation despite occasional differences in human rights and counterterrorism policies.



## Pakistan-Spain Relations

Pakistan and Spain enjoy friendly relations characterized by trade, development, culture, and education cooperation. Established in 1950, diplomatic ties are strengthened through regular consultations on global issues, including peace and counterterrorism efforts in multilateral forums like the UN. Spain is a significant trading partner for Pakistan within the EU, with bilateral trade focusing





on textiles, machinery, and sports goods. Development assistance from Spain has supported rural development, healthcare, and disaster relief in Pakistan, particularly after the 2010 floods. Cultural ties are growing, with the Instituto Cervantes promoting Spanish language and culture in Pakistan and an increasing number of Pakistani students pursuing education in Spain. Spanish is being taught in NUML (National University of Modern Languages) in Pakistan. Tourism is a promising area, with both countries working to improve visa facilitation. While the relationship is not as prominent as with some EU nations, Spain's expertise in renewable energy and Pakistan's expanding market present opportunities for deeper collaboration.

## Pakistan-Italy Relations

Pakistan and Italy maintain warm and cooperative relations, which are marked by trade, development, culture, defense, and education collaboration. Established in 1948, diplomatic ties are supported by regular consultations on regional and global issues, mainly through multilateral platforms like the UN. Italy is a key EU trading partner for Pakistan, focusing on textiles, leather goods, and machinery, while Italian companies like Fiat and Eni invest in Pakistan's energy and infrastructure sectors. Development cooperation includes education, healthcare, and disaster relief projects, alongside Italy's support for social initiatives like girls' education. Cultural exchanges flourish through the Italian Cultural Institute, and there is a growing interest in the Italian language, with many Pakistani students pursuing higher education in Italy. In 2023-24, 20607 students took admissions in Italian Universities. Defense and security collaboration focuses on counterterrorism and regional stability, while tourism and people-to-people connections strengthen ties. The relationship holds significant potential for expansion, particularly in renewable energy, trade, and cultural diplomacy.



## SAARC NATIONS AND PAKISTAN

Pakistan has also been actively involved in various international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Commonwealth of Nations. Pakistan's membership in these organizations reflects its commitment to multilateralism and regional stability and its efforts to contribute positively to global and regional issues.





The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) organization of South Asian nations was established to promote economic and regional integration. It was founded in December 1985 and includes eight member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Through SAARC, Pakistan engages in dialogue and cooperation with neighboring countries to address common challenges and work towards shared prosperity in South Asia.

### **Pakistan's Role in SAARC**

**Founding Member:** Pakistan is one of the founding members of SAARC and plays a significant role in this organization.

#### **Economic Cooperation:**

Pakistan has been actively promoting regional economic cooperation through SAARC. This includes trade agreements, such as the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which aims to reduce trade barriers and increase intra-regional trade among SAARC countries. SAARC Food Security Reserve (a reserve to help with food security in the region) and SAARC Payment Council (a payment system to help make transactions more efficient) are some of the examples of Economic Cooperation.

**Security and Political Issues:** Political tensions between Pakistan and India have occasionally hampered SAARC's progress. Bilateral issues have often overshadowed regional cooperation efforts as Kashmir Conflict is significant example of this.

**Cultural and Social Initiatives:** Pakistan participates in various cultural, educational, and social programs under the SAARC umbrella, promoting people-to-people contact and cultural exchange. Track II diplomacy is a type of informal dialogue between individuals and groups involved in a conflict. It's been used between India and Pakistan, to help resolve conflicts under SAARC Organization.

**Pakistan's relations with SAARC Nations.**

## **Pakistan's Relations with Afghanistan**

**Security Concerns:** Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan is influenced by security concerns and the instability caused by the Taliban's return to power. Pakistan seeks a stable and friendly Afghanistan to avoid the spillover effects of terrorism and refugee influx, impacting regional security dynamics within SAARC.

**Economic and Humanitarian Aid:** Pakistan has provided humanitarian aid and economic assistance to Afghanistan, aligning with SAARC's regional cooperation and support goals.



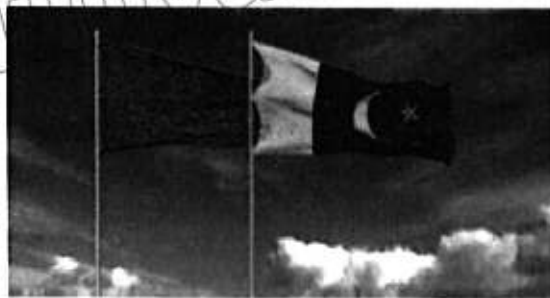
## **Pakistan's Relations with Bangladesh**

**Improved Ties:** Recently, there have been efforts from both Pakistan and Bangladesh to improve

bilateral relations, which had been strained due to historical issues stemming from the 1971 war. Improved relations could positively influence SAARC's cohesion and cooperation.

## Pakistan's Relations with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives

Pakistan maintains cordial but limited relations with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives within the framework of SAARC. With Nepal, ties are rooted in mutual respect and diplomatic engagement, including cooperation in regional forums. Pakistan and Sri Lanka share historical trade, defense, and cultural links, with regular bilateral exchanges. Relations with Bhutan remain minimal, mainly through multilateral platforms like SAARC. With the Maldives, Pakistan engages in diplomatic and educational cooperation. Overall, Pakistan's ties with these South Asian nations are largely shaped by regional integration goals, though progress is often hindered by broader SAARC challenges and India-Pakistan tensions.



## Pakistan's Relations with India

The relationship between India and Pakistan is shaped by a complex interplay of historical, geographical, and socio-political factors that have influenced their interactions since their independence in 1947. Emerging from a shared colonial past under British rule, India and Pakistan



were created as separate nations based on two nation theory. This partition left deep scars, with mass migrations, communal violence, and territorial disputes that continue to affect their relations.

**Political Tensions:** The relationship between Pakistan and India continues to be strained, particularly over issues like Kashmir, military standoffs and border skirmishes. East Pakistan-India boarder clashes 1958, the 1965 and 1971 Wars, the Kargil War of 1999 and standoffs of 2001-2002 and 2008 are some of the results of tension between the two neighbouring countries. These have negatively impacted SAARC's functioning, leading to stalled initiatives and summits.

**Bilateral Focus:** Both countries often prioritize bilateral engagements over regional cooperation. It limits the effectiveness of SAARC as a platform for resolving disputes and fostering regional development.

## Kashmir Conflict

When India and Pakistan gained independence in 1947, the princely states, including Kashmir, were given the choice to join either India or Pakistan. At that time, the Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir's decision to accede to India did not reflect the will of the Kashmiri people, who had a majority Muslim population. The right of self-determination was promised in United Nations

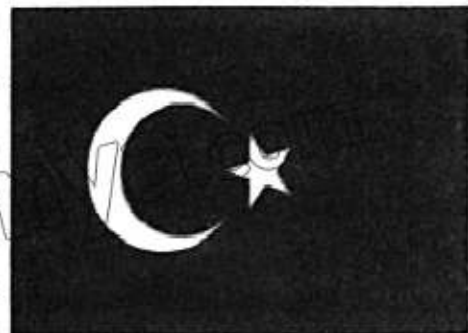
Security Council Resolutions (i.e; Resolution No, 47) in 1948, which called for a referendum to allow Kashmiris to decide their future. Pakistan contends that India's control over Kashmir denies Kashmiris their right to choose their political destiny. The conflict has led to four wars (1947-48, 1965, 1971, and 1999) and ongoing skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan continues to advocate for international intervention and dialogue to achieve a peaceful solution, supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## PAKISTAN AND OIC STATES

The relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye is marked by a strong bond characterized by mutual respect and multifaceted cooperation. Both nations have made significant strides in enhancing their strategic, economic, and defense ties.

### Türkiye

Pakistan and Türkiye share a robust and evolving partnership characterized by strategic, economic, and cultural cooperation. Defense collaboration forms a cornerstone of their ties, with joint military exercises, defense production agreements, and advanced technologies like UAVs and shipbuilding projects. Economic relations are expanding through MOUs in trade, technology, and infrastructure to foster a strategic economic partnership. Cultural and educational exchanges, including student programs and research collaborations, further strengthen their bond. With shared geostrategic interests at the crossroads of key regions and mutual efforts toward Sustainable Development Goals, their cooperation continues to deepen. Ongoing defense, urban development, and sustainable growth projects signal a commitment to long-term partnership and regional stability.



### Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a deep religious, economic, and strategic relationship. Saudi Arabia's status as the custodian of Islam's two holiest sites underscores the cultural and spiritual bond. At the same time, significant economic initiatives, such as the \$14 billion oil refinery in Gwadar and financial aid packages, highlight their robust financial cooperation. Military collaboration remains strong, with Pakistan supporting Saudi-led coalitions and joint defense efforts despite occasional political strains. Geopolitical shifts complicate their ties, including Saudi engagement with India and Pakistan's alignment with China. Looking ahead, enhanced economic partnerships, joint defense initiatives, and shared commitments to Sustainable Development Goals can drive long-term collaboration, fostering regional stability and mutual growth.





## The State of Qatar

Pakistan and Qatar share a growing partnership centered on economic cooperation, human resource development, and cultural ties. Qatar's \$3 billion investment in Pakistan focuses on energy, commerce, and infrastructure, while both nations explore collaboration in agriculture, renewable energy, and food security. Pakistani workers play a vital role in Qatar's economy, and there are plans to expand employment opportunities. Defense relations, though informal, include joint exercises

and material support. Prospects lie in enhancing economic ties, fostering technological exchanges, and deepening strategic alliances, particularly in regional peace efforts. This dynamic partnership aligns with shared goals, including advancing SDGs in food security and clean energy fostering mutual growth and regional stability.

## United Arab Emirates(UAE)

Pakistan and the UAE share a robust, multifaceted relationship rooted in economic ties, cultural exchange, and strategic collaboration. With a bilateral trade volume of \$5.6 billion in 2023-2024, the UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the MENA region, investing heavily in oil refineries and infrastructure. Over 1.6 million Pakistanis residing in the UAE contribute to its economy and deepen people-to-people ties. The UAE's \$6.2 billion financial aid and support in

international forums highlight the strength of their political alliance. Future cooperation in sustainable energy, education, and infrastructure promises to enhance this dynamic partnership, with significant regional connectivity and economic integration implications.

## Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Pakistan has been actively working toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 global goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all by 2030. In 2016, Pakistan was one of the first countries to adopt the SDGs as part of its national development agenda. The government has aligned its policies with these goals, focusing on areas such as education, health care, clean water, and gender equality. To track progress, Pakistan created a national SDG framework and set up special units in various government departments. Programs like the Ehsaas initiative, which supports low-income families through financial aid and social services, directly contribute to goals like poverty reduction and improved health. Pakistan has also made efforts in renewable energy, clean drinking water, and access to education, especially for girls. While challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and limited resources remain, the country continues to collaborate with international organizations and local communities to move closer to achieving the SDGs.



## EXERCISE

Answer the following questions by choosing the best answer A, B, C or D.

1. The significant issue between India and Pakistan is:
 

(a) Indus Water Treaty	(b) Siachen Conflict
(c) Kashmir Conflict	(d) Border Dispute
2. Pakistan joined the US War on Terror as:
 

(a) A back-line ally	(b) a side-line ally
(b) a middle-line ally	(d) a front-line ally
3. SEATO and CENTO were :
 

(a) Humanitarian Organizations	(b) military alliances
(c) Educational Institutions	(d) Health Centers
4. SAARC has -----member states:
 

(a) 8	(b) 9
(c) 10	(d) 12
5. SAFTA is an agreement between SAARC states to:
 

(a) reduce trade barriers and increase intra-regional trade	(b) educate the children in SAARC member states
(c) facilitate the poor people in the health sector in SAARC countries	(d) give financial assistance to needy SAARC States
6. SAARC was founded in:
 

(a) December 1983	(b) December 1984
(c) December 1985	(d) December 1986
7. The most advanced weapon of today's warfare is:
 

(a) missile	(b) Laser-guided bomb
(c) unmanned combat aerial vehicle	(d) rocket
8. when did the incident of 9/11 happened?
 

(a) September 11, 2001	(b) November 9, 2001
(c) September 9, 2001	(d) November 11, 2001
9. Kashmiris want ----- in Kashmir:
 

(a) elections	(b) referendum
(c) plebiscite	(d) recall
10. ----- Plays a vital role in making foreign policy of any state:
 

(a) Population	(b) Area
(c) Government	(d) Geography

Answer the following questions briefly:

1. Define Foreign Policy.
2. Describe the importance of Foreign Policy.
3. Write five key determinants influencing Pakistan's foreign policy.
4. Describe the importance of resolving the Kashmir Conflict.
5. SAARC stands for?
6. What are the post-9/11 effects on Pakistan?
7. Why is Pakistan's location vital for the Central Asian States?

Answer the following questions in detail:

1. Describe the determinants of Pakistan's Foreign Policy.
2. Analyze the Kashmir conflict and describe the expected outcomes of the issue in detail if solved as the best-case scenario for the Kashmiris.
3. Why were Pak-US relations affected in the pre-9/11 era?
4. Write a note on Pak-UAE relations.
5. What is the importance of SAARC countries to the development of Pakistan?

Learning Activities:

- (i) Explore the websites "ajk.gov.pk", "https://na.gov.pk" to study the history of the Kashmir Conflict in detail.
- (ii) Read about the CPEC in detail from the website, "https://cpec.gov.pk"
- (iii) Group discussion on the importance of the CPEC for Pakistan's Economic Growth from 2021 to 2025.

Divide the class into groups and assign the task:

- (i) Discuss the need of moral support of the world for Kashmiris,
- (ii) Discuss the need of material support of the world for suppressed nations,
- (iii) Conduct a debate between two groups about Indo-Pak friendship.

## GLOSSARY

**Demilitarization:** to reduce the size and strength of the armed forces of the two nations agreed to demilitarize themselves reciprocally in hopes of avoiding war. Disarmed. Demobilized. denuclearized

**Stalled:** Obstruct, Impede, Hinder

**Infrastructure:** basic facilities and systems serving a country

**Prospects:** likelihood, probability, possibility

**Geostrategic:** relating to the strategy required in dealing with geopolitical problems

**Encompass:** surround, enclose, encircle

### Expand Your Horizon

Visit these websites for further information:

<https://mofa.gov.pk>

<https://www.saarc-sec.org>

List words and write their meaning that you find difficult in this chapter
