

# Khyber Pakhtoonistan is a Factor in Pak-Afghan Relations: Challenges and Way Forward

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## Abstract

*This paper aims to explore out the challenges of Pak-Afghan relations and their impact on regional peace. Despite geographical proximity and common socio-cultural legacy, Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to settle their mutual differences amicably as a result, their bilateral relations have been exploited by the regional and international power. In addition to this, KPK and Balochistan provinces of Pakistan which are the main causes of geo-political differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been the home of terrorism, extremism and Afghan refugees since 1980s. The paper is qualitative in nature, and based on investigation of the various events and facts in order to address the question why did Pakistan and Afghanistan fail to set a mechanism to end up their mutual geo-political difference? The paper also intends to forward policy recommendations for the durable and permanent friendly relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan and their possible impacts on the region.*

**Keywords:** Taliban; Pakistan; Afghanistan; Terrorism; Afghan Refugees

## 1. Introduction

Despite the geographical proximity, socio-cultural affiliation and economic inter-dependency; Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to establish durable cordial political and economic relations. Moreover, contrary of the fact, both have been perpetually involved in blaming one another for the instability and uncertainty of the region. Thus, their bilateral relations which witnessed ups and downs from time to time, have been marred with trust deficit and baseless allegations. Disappointingly to note that the strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan created a political vacuum in the region which was filled by the regional and international power. There is no doubt that the geographical differences which they have inherited from British Raj that have been the main cause of tension between Pakistan. What has displeased Pakistan. It has also been found in intervening in the internal political affairs of Khyber Pakhtoonistan (KPK) and Balochistan since 1947 because Afghanistan never accepted Durand Line Agreement with Pakistan (Omran, 2009). On the other hand, Pakhtoons, who are residing in both sides of border and have socio-cultural affiliations and historical religious legacy with one

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another, have paved the way for Afghanistan to penetrate its political ideology in KPK. Thus, the terrorist and extremist activities which have been operating on the soil of Afghanistan have been easily planted in Pakistan in general and KPK and Balochistan in particular.

Since the intervention of Soviet forces in Afghanistan in 1979, the Afghan soil has been experiencing political engineering which has given birth to political instability, economic collapse, social defragmentation, extremism and terrorism in Afghanistan whose impacts are directly felt on Pakistan. It is believed that the establishment of Pak-US strategic partnership in 1980s in Afghanistan against Soviet forces which was meant to facilitate Mujahedeen, proved to be ever the worst decision in Pakistan's foreign policy since it enhanced terrorism and extremism in the region. Mujahedeen who fled from Afghanistan, were trained, equipped and facilitated by US via Pakistan, and became the main sources of terrorism and extremism in the region after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan (Durani & Khan, 2002). In order to maintain the regional peace; Pakistan continued to support Mujahedeen for their peaceful settlement in Afghanistan in 1990s and even awarded recognition to their Regime in Afghanistan despite US pressure (Hilali, 2017). However, Pak-Afghan relations went into a serious surprise right after the tragic incident of 9/11 since Pakistan was forcefully left with two choices to "either you are with us or against us" (Jabeen, 2014). Having no other option, Pakistan decided to join US-led mission on global war on terror. But, disappointingly to note that Pakistan emerged as the frontline state against the Taliban Regime with which Pakistan had established diplomatic and cordial relations. Thus, the government of Taliban was overthrown coercively and pro-US government was installed in Afghanistan.

Since then, the soil of Afghanistan has been witnessing terrorist and extremist activities that have not only destabilize Afghanistan, and has put dire consequences on Pakistan because Pakistan played frontline role in US-led war after 9/11.

As US war continued in Afghanistan without any timeframe: people of Afghanistan migrated to Pakistan to earn their livelihood. While socio-cultural affiliation with the both sides of border, Pakistan has been unable to control Afghan refugees in entering Pakistan. Thus, border-cross terrorism, drug and human-trafficking and weapon-smuggling from Afghanistan to Pakistan also were transferred. Pakistan also feared that these Afghan refugees have been involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. Thus, terrorism and extremism became order of the day in both sides of border affecting their relations. Finally, it is safe to note that the post-9/11 period relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been replete with political unrest, social distrust, cross border violation and refugees' crisis which have contributed for the disturbance of Pak-Afghan relations.

## **2. Historical Background of Pak-Afghan Relations**

The historical relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are replete with ups and downs due to their regional geo-political differences. Right after the independence of Pakistan in 1947, Afghanistan was the only country which denied voting for the admission of Pakistan into the United Nations (Qassem, 2009). Further, Afghanistan refused to accept Durand Line as a borderline between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Since Afghanistan claimed that the Durand Line agreement was concluded with British Raj, and it would remain void right after their departure (Grare, 2006). Hence, on the eve of Pakistan's independence in 1947, Afghanistan demanded the renegotiation of border agreement with Pakistan. It is interesting to mention that Pakistan denied renegotiating the Durand line since Afghanistan claimed over the FATA and Waziristan which currently belongs to Afghanistan (Omran, 2009) whereas Afghanistan denied accepting Durand Line over the fear of the division of millions of Pashtuns in both sides of border. Thus, the Durand Line border remained unresolved until now which has not only caused harms to their bilateral relations; it has also become the epicenter of political tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan. As part of Afghan's long term regional strategy, Afghanistan has been seen in aligning itself with USSR and India to destabilize Balochistan and KPK Provinces of Pakistan to create political unrest in Pakistan. Usman, (2008) in addition to this, Afghanistan has been involved in supporting the Separatist Movements of Pakistan on its soil to create political unrest in Balochistan and KPK. For instance, On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1950, when Afghan troops crossed the borderline near Bogra Pass, Pakistan took the serious note and called it a serious violation of border (Hasan, 1962). Moreover, Pak-Afghan took another serious shape when the government of Pakistan merged all its provinces of West Pakistan, and created One Unit on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1955 since Afghanistan feared that the identity of Pashtuns became at a risk (Hasan, 1962). Pakistani embassy and consulates were attacked in Afghanistan and resulted the closure of diplomatic relations between the both nations (Hasan, 1962). There is no denying the fact that the differences over Durand line between Pakistan and Afghanistan did not only disturb their bilateral relations, but it has also become the center of tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan due to Pashtuns factors in both sides of the border. History is replete with examples where Afghanistan has been seen in promoting political unrest and social defragmentation in Pakistan by backing up the Separatist Movements of Balochistan and KPK in order to destabilize Pakistan. For example, the secessionist movement of Mirzali Khan was supported by Afghanistan in 1950s against Pakistan which was meant to create political unrest in Pakistan. (Malik, 2016). In order to pressurize Afghanistan to disallow anti-Pakistani elements in Afghanistan, Pakistan cut down its diplomatic relations with Afghanistan from 1961 to 1963, and closed down the port of Karachi for Afghan transit trade (Weisburd, 1997). Moreover, the late 1970s period again witnessed the deterioration of Pak-Afghan relations since Afghanistan blamed Pakistan in penetrating its Islamic ideology in

Afghanistan to encounter the progressive and Soviet-dominated Afghan Regime.

However, Pak-Afghan relations travelled from bad to worse in 1979, at the eve of Soviet forces intervention in Afghanistan since Pakistan decided to fight the proxy war of US in Afghanistan in order to retreat the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The decade of 1980s witnessed the Pak-US cooperation and collaboration with the Mujahedeen who had fled from Afghanistan (Yousaf & Adkin, 2017). It ought to be noted that during this period, Pakistan hosted approximately three million Afghan Refugees in Pakistan for the humanitarian ground (Shaikh, 2011). However, Afghanistan blamed Pakistan that Pakistan would use these Mujahedeen against Afghanistan. The Pak-US strategic partnership against Soviet forces in Afghanistan in 1980s, have created a militant organization that later became successful dominating the political structure of Afghanistan. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, Taliban formed a government in mid 1990s as recognized by Pakistan since Pakistan wanted to maintain regional peace and its trade activities with the Republics of Central Asia via Afghanistan (Bajoria & Laub, 2011).

Pak-Afghan relations once again witnessed deterioration after the tragic event of 9/11 when Pakistan decides to be the part of US-led coalition in Afghanistan. Thus, providing logistic supports and allowing US-led coalition to use some important airbases for the airstrike in Afghanistan further, tested the Pak-Afghan bilateral relations (Khan, 2013). Due to the strategic depth, Pakistan was designated as the frontline state in the said mission. Hence, the war on terror which US initiated after 9/11, never reached to a desired result, it rather gave the birth to extremism and terrorism in the region, allowing US to ensure its military presence in Afghanistan, and finally became the bilateral war of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### **3. Significance of the Study**

The study of Khyber Pakhtoonistan is a factor in Pak-Afghan relations is an extremely area to be explored since the theme of argument in Pak-Afghan lies in the borderline which has divided the Pashtuns into two different territories. In addition to this, Pak-Afghan shares 2430 km borderline distance (Ahmed, 2016), historical socio-cultural legacy and interesting political affiliation. Despite being close immediate neighbors, Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to maintain friendly relations and political engagements due to their regional geo-political differences. No doubt, Pashtuns reside in both sides of the border and have close physical engagements with one another, but they have also been failed to bridge the differences of Pakistan and Afghanistan at national level. Moreover, the unfortunate soil of Afghanistan has been witnessing bloodshed, revolutions, foreign interventions, political engineering, economic recession and social defragmentation since its birth whose impacts are directly felt on Pakistan. Despite resolving the bilateral issues with collective efforts, both nations have been witnessed in blaming one another in intervening in the

internal affairs of one another. Thus, the blame game and baseless allegations in both sides greatly contributed for the deterioration of their bilateral relations.

Apart from this, Afghan refugees have been another issue between Pak-Afghan relations. It ought to be noted that the Pashtuns who reside in North part of Pakistan, find themselves much closer with Afghanistan ideologically and ethically. Therefore, their closeness with the people of Afghanistan paved the way for the immigration of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Thus, the Afghan refugees in Pakistan did not only become an extra burden on the economy of Pakistan, they have also been involved in terrorist activities. Finally, it is safe to note that Afghan refugees are termed to be a problematic factor in Pak-Afghan relations. Therefore, the study of KPK in Pak-Afghanistan relations is extremely important since KPK can either be a blessing or curse in their bilateral relations.

#### **4. Literature Review**

The ill-well relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan are traced back in 1947 when Afghanistan refused to vote in favor of Pakistan for its entry into United Nations. Moreover, the distrust and blame game between Pakistan and Afghanistan: further deteriorated their bilateral relations when both blame each other for feeding anti-state elements against one another on their respective soil. There is no denying the fact that insurgency in Pakistan has been an important factor to affect Pak-Afghan relations since Pakistan has claimed on many occasions that insurgents who operate in Balochistan and KPK, have been taking shelters and training in Afghanistan with the possible supports of National Directorate of Security (NDS) of Afghanistan and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of India. Ali & Hussain (2018) maintains that the nexus between NDS and RAW execute covert operations against Pakistan's security and stability through TTP and Baloch insurgents who are sheltered under the RAW funded facilities and provision of equipment and weapons. Such machinations against Pakistan by RAW have a pivotal role to stir insurgency and instability in KPK and Balochistan. It ought to be noted that anti-Pakistani elements either from Balochistan or KPK, due to their respective socio-cultural legacy and ethnical linkages with the people of Afghanistan, get shelter easily in Afghanistan. Boggs (2012) finds that the Pashtun populations of Afghanistan and Pakistan have long been a source of bilateral contention between both countries. Therefore, sufferings of Baloch and Pashtuns in Pakistan are directly felt by their respective ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, Durand Line which is the main cause of disturbance of Pak-Afghan relations has never been accepted by Afghanistan. Durani & Khan (2002) finds that the Durand Line issue and Pakhtoonistan movement and remaining all irritants have been affecting the bilateral relations of Afghanistan and Pakistan badly. Durani & Khan (2002) further believes that Pakistan has always feared that Afghanistan has been behind the anti-state

activities in KPK and Balochistan to weaken Pakistan's position in South Asia. As history witnessed in mid 1970s, Afghanistan provided sanctuaries to Bugti and Marree tribes in Afghanistan who later maintained their insurgency in Balochistan.

On the other hand, Afghanistan blames Pakistan for the political instability and terrorist activities in Afghanistan. There is no denying the fact that since Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, the soil of Afghanistan has witnessed insecurity, terrorism, extremism and political uncertainty. However, Afghanistan blames Pakistan for supporting anti-Afghan elements in the region. Zeb (2015) investigates that Afghanistan alleged Pakistan for the terrorist activities, as occurred in Afghanistan. Moreover, key officials of Afghanistan have claimed that Pakistan did not do enough to end the networks of Taliban and Al-Qaeda, present in the tribal areas of Pakistan. Even in February, 2006, Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan paid a visit to Pakistan to strengthen their regional cooperation against the terrorist networks. However, the visit ended with no proper results and implementation because of distrust in both sides. Pak-Afghan bitter relationship continued under the shadow of regional terrorism and extremism.

### **5. Challenges of Pak-Afghan Relations**

The relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan have revolved around cooperation, conflict and competition since 1947. Both have been perpetually involved blaming each other for regional insecurity, terrorist activities and interfering in the internal affairs of one another. Despite their common socio-cultural background, both nations could never settle their differences amicably. Cross border terrorism, drug and human trafficking, immigration of Afghan Refugees and Indo-Afghan nexus has been the greatest obstacles against the friendly relationship of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the region.

In addition to this, Pakistan has always blamed Afghanistan for supporting and providing sanctuaries to anti-Pakistani elements in Afghanistan which have contributed for further disturbance of Pak-Afghan relations (Bansal, 2008). Even Pakistan provided certain authentic proofs to Afghanistan which clearly indicated that the terrorists used Afghan territory to operate in Balochistan and KPK, but Afghanistan never took serious action against them. As a result, relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan badly sore down. Despite all these differences, Pakistan always preferred to establish permanent peace in Afghanistan since it believes that without permanent peace in Afghanistan, regional peace would not be established. Most importantly, peace in Afghanistan would also ensure the regional trade activities of Pakistan with the Republics of Central Asia via Afghanistan. However, unsettled Durand Line, Indo-Afghan nexus against Pakistan and terrorism on the border have never allowed Pakistan and Afghanistan to bridge their mutual differences.

## **6. Durand line Factor**

Durand Line which demarks Pak-Afghan border line on the North of Pakistan has been the main cause of differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan since 1947 because Afghanistan has never accepted the Durand Line Agreement with Pakistan, claiming that the agreement was signed with British Raj in 1893, to recognize Afghan territory a sovereign state and separate the Pashtun tribes from Baloch tribes who lived on the other side of border (Qassem & Durand, 2008). On the eve of departure of Great Britain from India in 1947, Afghanistan maintained that no doubt, the agreement was for 100 years, but the departure of Great British washed out the agreement and Pashtun areas of Northern belt of Pakistan would be reverted to Afghanistan (Qassem & Durand, 2008). However, on the failure of production of formal agreement, Pakistan denied to renegotiate Durand Border line with Afghanistan. Thus, Durand line became the hotline to disturb Pak-Afghan relations.

Due to the unsettled Durand Borderline, frequent cross border terrorist attacks have been witnessed in Pakistan that has questioned Pak-Afghan relations. It is disappointing to note that the soil of Afghanistan has been experiencing terrorist and extremist activities since 1980 whose effects are directly felt on Pakistan. In addition to this, political instability and foreign aid dependency of Afghanistan created space for regional and international powers to ensure their presence in Afghanistan to exploit the bilateral relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan. In order to sabotage Pak-Sino strategic partnership, India and US have used Afghan soil to maintain the covert activities within Pakistan, exploited the anti-Pakistani elements (Ganguly & Howenstein, 2009). The political instability and insecurity in Afghanistan have also directly affected Pakistan since there is no proper policy of Afghan government to deal with the regional players in Afghanistan which have ultimately exploited the disturbed relations of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The cross border terrorism further increased in the post 9/11 period since Afghanistan was converted a battleground in the mission of global war on terrorism. Moreover, the declaration of war on terror on the Afghan territory started in late 2001, with no defined timeframe, proved to be counterproductive, leaving millions of people killed in Afghanistan. In addition to this, it also created a hunger-force of refugees who became the main sources of terrorism in Pakistan and Afghanistan since they were left unsettled. No doubt, US installed a pro-US regime in Afghanistan, but it failed to design a mechanism to control cross border terrorism and extremism, and create political stability in Afghanistan.

## **7. Issues of KPK in respect to Pak-Afghan Relations**

KPK province of Pakistan as located on Southern border of Afghanistan, has been predominantly influenced by the Afghan culture, and social setup since both sides of border find the same ethnic with same socio-cultural background. In addition to this, ethical understanding and commonalities of people in both

sides of border have tightened them closely due to which the people of Afghanistan have occupied a great space in the hearts of people of KPK in Pakistan. This is what Afghanistan has never accepted Durand border line, believing that the geographical border would divide Pashtun into two different territories. Moreover, Afghanistan believes that Pashtuns are one nation, and forcefully divided between Pakistan and Afghanistan by the British rule.

On the other hand, Pakistan believes that Afghanistan has been supporting the anti-state movements in FATA and Waziristan to destabilize Pakistan. For instance, the emergence of Pashtun Tahfuz Movement (PTM) in KPK in Balochistan is an indication of Afghanistan involvement in KPK (Ramachandran, Hariharan, & Mehta, 2018). Despite feeding Afghan refugees for last four decades, Afghanistan has been involved in supporting Pashtuns and Baloch Movements in Pakistan which are meant to disintegrate Pakistan.

### **8. The Indian Factor**

There is no denying the fact that peace in Afghanistan is in the larger interest of Pakistan since it has a great impact on the regional trade of Pakistan. Peace in Afghanistan would guarantee the regional political stability, socio-economic development and geo-strategic integrity that would finally deny the intervention of regional and international powers in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the geo-political differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan have never allowed them to work on regional peace with collective efforts and maintain friendly bilateral relations. Contrary the fact, Afghanistan has been entertaining the anti-Pakistani activities in Afghanistan that have badly hurt Pak-Afghan relations (Raiphea, 2013). Furthermore, after the tragic event of 9/11, India found better opportunities to strengthen its relations with Afghanistan in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process of Afghanistan. The unconditional political and economic supports of India to Afghanistan have won the hearts of Afghan people. Thus, India has become successful in deepening its desired intention in Afghanistan to promote its regional interests in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has repeatedly expressed concerns over anti-Pakistani activities of India in Afghanistan and even shared authentic proofs with Afghan officials (Rafique & Anwar, 2014), but Afghanistan never took it seriously due to close Indo-Afghan relations. Pakistan believes that India has established numerous terrorist training camps and networks in the various cities of Afghanistan to train anti Pakistani elements to destabilize Pakistan in maintaining covert activities in Balochistan and KPK which are geographically connected with Afghanistan (Firdous, Nazir, & Ali, 2015). Moreover, Pakistan blames India in supporting Taliban in Waziristan to destabilize Pak-Afghan relations. Former Chairman of the Mushahid Hussain, ex-Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs said that Indian Intelligent Agency, RAW trained approximately 600 anti-Pakistani Baloch in Afghanistan to use them against Pakistan in July, 2006 (Grare, 2006). Therefore, such unconditional supports of Afghanistan to India has



created trust deficit in Pak-Afghan relations and affected the collective efforts of both nations in combating terrorism.

### **9. Refugees Factor**

Due to geographical proximity and common socio-cultural legacy between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Afghan Refugees have been easily migrating and settling in Pakistan without any political and social resistance since 1980s. On the eve of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan did not only fight the proxy war of US in Afghanistan, it also welcomed the Afghan Refugees who resisted the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and fled towards Pakistan (Sial, 2013). Thus, allowing three million Afghan Refugees in Pakistan put extra burden on the national economy of Pakistan (Nuri, 2007). In addition to this, they also became involved in terrorism and extremism which created political and social problems for Pakistan. It ought to be noted that with the passage of time, the number of immigration of Afghan Refugees increased due to civil war and continued drought in Afghanistan. However, Pakistan became unable to control the immigration process from Afghanistan and they finally engulfed in terrorism and extremism activities which are main concerns of Pak-Afghan relations presently.

### **10. Policy Options for Pakistan in the context of Pak-Afghan Relations**

Geostrategic locations of Pakistan and Afghanistan have unique significance for the entire region since both acts as gateways to the mineral and resourceful countries of Central Asian to access Indian Ocean. Moreover, both nations can play significant roles in making South Asia the greatest economic market of the region, connecting Middle East, Gulf region with Central Asia region. But, unfortunately, the geo-political differences of Pakistan and Afghanistan and most importantly, the Indian dominate role in Afghanistan created a political gap between Pakistan and Afghanistan which have not only jeopardize their bilateral relations, it also produced tension the entire region since Pakistan fears that nexus among NDS, RAW and CIA in Afghanistan as meant to destabilize Pakistan, exploiting the anti-state elements of Balochistan and KPK. On the other hand, “do more” policy of US for Pakistan in Afghanistan has also created rift in Pak-Afghan relations since Afghanistan believes that Pakistan has backed up the Taliban forces in Afghanistan for some intended desires. Thus, mistrust and blame game have taken deep root in the mutual relations of both nations.

On the other hand, both nations need to realize that peace in the region would only be established if both put collective efforts sincerely. It worth noting that Pak-Afghan friendly relations do not only guarantee the stoppage of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, they would also be able to settle the bilateral differences, including the issue of Durand Line, cross border terrorism and the issue of Afghan refugees amicably. Moreover, Afghanistan needs to realize the fact that the destiny of prosperous Afghanistan is attached with the peace in Pakistan. Afghanistan, being a

landlocked country, does not have direct access to warm water. No doubt, India and Iran are options for Afghanistan to access Indian Ocean, but Pakistan is the most appropriate option for Afghanistan since it provides safest, cheapest and shortest sea route to Afghanistan.

On the other hand, after ensuring peace in Afghanistan, Pakistan can access the markets of Republics of Central Asian via Afghanistan. In addition to this, for the cause of regional peace, both nations also need to set a mechanism for the rehabilitation and return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan so that economic burden of Pakistan would be eased and mutual difference would vanish. Meanwhile, Pakistan needs to involve itself in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process of Afghanistan in order to win the hearts of the people of Afghanistan and supersede the Indian role in Afghanistan since it is the only option for Pakistan to convince Afghanistan to avoid entertaining anti-Pakistani activities of India on its soil. Most importantly, Pakistan has to play the role to convince Afghanistan to join China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so that it enjoys economic partnership with Pakistan and China in the region. However, until and unless both nations do not understand to realize that terrorism is a common issue between them and affect them equally, peace process seems to be a rare dream.

In order to strengthen the relations with Afghanistan and end the trust deficit, Pakistan also need to avoid to entertain any US regional agendas and need to convert the policy of “do more” into “no more” policy so that it may avoid to be part of any external agendas in Afghanistan.

## **11. Conclusion**

Despite their cultural, religious and social similarities, Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to deepen their bilateral relations and maintain regional cooperation and collaboration since they have some serious geo-political differences. Moreover, these differences did not only give a birth to terrorism, extremism, blame game and trust deficit in their relations, they have created enough spaces for India to exploit the Pak-Afghan strained relations. In this all scenario, Afghanistan, it becomes the hub of insecurity, uncertainty and terrorism. Therefore, Afghanistan needs to realize the fact that peace in Afghanistan cannot be secured alone by Afghan government. It needs parallel supports from Pakistan as well. In order to settle the Afghan refugees in Afghanistan and bring Taliban on table-talks, Afghanistan needs to take Pakistan on board and need to respect the reservations of Pakistan in respect to Indian covert activities against Pakistan on the soil of Afghanistan. In addition to this, Afghanistan needs to accept the terms and conditions of Durand Line with Pakistan so that terrorism and drug and human trafficking over the border may stop.

On the other hand, Pakistan has to have clear, realistic and rationalist foreign policy options in respect to Afghanistan which may facilitate and support the peace, reconstruction and rehabilitation process of Afghanistan at

large since peace in Afghanistan is mandatory for the regional peace and harmony. Therefore, Pakistan needs to take it serious in regard to Afghanistan's development and reconstruction.

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