

## **9/11 Terrorist Incident: US Attitude towards India and Pakistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Currently Pakistan is fighting against terrorism with its utmost abilities and trying to show the world that Pakistan is a peaceful country. But many in the United States are showing serious concerns against Islamabad dedication and effectiveness toward achieving this goal. As attacks made by Taliban recently against an alliance of forces and their relations to Pakistan based global terrorist network are evident. Pakistan is the backbone to the efforts on international anti-terrorism and Washington should review its policy as Pakistan is no more the scapegoat for terrorists. Pakistan captured key terrorist leaders of al-Qaeda over the past five years and contributed to unfolding various deadly plots. However, the broader policy is needed from Islamabad to battling down hardly the violent extremism shown by individuals or groups to use Pakistani territory as a base.

In the past reliance of Pakistan on such intense radicals to gain strategic goals in Afghanistan and India. The ex-president of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf tried to make Pakistan a moderate and modern Islamic state under his administration but firm steps against the individuals groups seeking the destabilization of Afghanistan and India through acts of terrorism. For Pakistan, the possibility of future success lies in a strategy that prioritizes development economically and democratically. Furthermore, efforts should be made for the better relations of Pakistan, with Afghanistan and India. Pakistan needs the support of Washington in achieving these objectives and in developing greater economic relation.

**Key words:** Taliban, Terrorism, Strategic Alliance, United States, Pakistan.

### **Pakistan's foreign policy towards Taliban**

Before the 9/11 incident, Pakistan accepted the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. But officials largely in Pakistan were of different opinion with the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam. Still, Taliban were considered to the best option to accomplish strategic goals in the region. Continuation of Pakistan support and their consistent aid towards Taliban in late 1990's long time after Osama bin Laden took asylum there in 1996 lead to many problems in Pakistan - Washington relations. The 9/11 incident and the quickly changed U.S foreign policy toward Pakistan made Islamabad recalculate the supportive approach toward Taliban.

President Musharraf eventually cut off the official relationship with the Taliban and whole heartedly supported the invasion of U.S on Afghanistan which helps in destroying the Al-Qaeda's set-up in the constituency. Moreover, Pakistan had arrested and abandoned the apex leadership of Al-Qaeda.

Officials of Pakistani inter-services intelligence may seek benefits by keeping ties with Taliban leaders at moderate level. As Taliban may play a role in Afghanistan's politics, so Islamabad needs full crackdown on activities of Taliban leaders in Pakistan. After attacking the alliance of forces in Afghanistan Taliban fighters took shelter at border areas of Baluchistan, in Pakistan. Along with other factors Taliban attacks in Afghanistan is also a reason behind the instability. US Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte claims, manipulation by Taliban is evident on the issues of corruption and poor governance to direct new members towards Taliban's objectives which is essential for them in gaining control. He emphasized that the Taliban in those border areas are the reasons for the increase of attacks to increased NATO operations. If Pakistan denies Taliban forces safe haven on Pakistan soil it would decrease Taliban attacks. The issues of negating the terrorists safe haven in those zones is a key baseline for partnership in Pakistan. The need of a realistic strategy to raise insecurities among terrorists is highlighted by National Commissions on Terrorists Attacks upon the US in July 2004. The key element of U.S strategy on counter-terrorism is undermining terrorists by denying safe haven to them, as indicated by the state department in 2005. "We must prevent a terrorist from exploiting ungoverned areas" National Security Strategy March 2006.

### **Three-way meeting: a pace in the right instruction**

George W. Bush, Hamid Karzai and Musharraf met in a tripartite to decrease tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan that surfaced due to Taliban attacks. As a neighboring country and having a fully developed army makes Pakistan backbone to the elimination attempts of Taliban done by the U.S. Therefore, the U.S requires such high-level gatherings to ensure the coalition between Pakistan and Afghanistan and grows harmony by building security and economic ties between these two governments.

The US government is already working to reconstruct opportunity zones (ROZ's) in Afghan-Pakistan border areas to allow products that are manufactured in these zones to obtain trade preferences in the U.S. The Bush government and the upcoming U.S administration should work together to enforce the ROZ's. While in this meeting Musharraf and Karzai are also concerned on the issue of tribal Jirga by Pashtun local leaders to solve problems from both sides. President Karzai enlightened the importance of Jirga by implying that it would ensure peace and property of both countries.

## **The role of US in countering extremism**

An evident U.S assistance manifestation in the state will soothe the Pakistani inhabitants that Washington is loyal to average Pakistanis, not just to the army management. U.S aid curricula that emphasizes on building establishing and endorsing human rights and democracy would also demonstrate that the U.S was committed to Pakistan's conquest as a stable and prosperous republic and devalue extremist's point of view that Washington is involved only in misusing Pakistan for its own tenacities. Washington must work to daze the reservations of Pakistanis who remember when the U.S brusquely cut off its significant aid program due to Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear program in the early 1990s. Balloting in Pakistan and other parts of the Muslim world had proved the substantial impact that U.S philanthropic aid has on people's insights of America. A census by Terror Free Tomorrow, a U.S state organization, specified that auspicious attitudes toward America doubled ensuing the U.S retort to the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. The U.S should quest for means to follow the kind of altruistic programs that were hired following the earthquake on a more perpetual basis and to announce more effective assistance that Washington had already provided. Unfortunately, safety apprehensions had forced the U.S. to limit the extent and possibility of its aid projects in the country.

## **India ties with the USA**

The relations between the United States and India are not only based upon American hegemonic deign but also because of the pressure on India's leadership internally and externally arose after the disintegration of USSR the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan arise again. In 1994, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visited U.S. to settle the misconceptions with the U.S. which paved ways for cooperation between the two world democracies. The summit convention held after two years which gave time to both states to analyze each other's behavior and recognize their issues to sort them out helped both states to establish more credible relations.

During 90s India dramatically tilted toward the US by economic reconstruction and to secure her interest in the region. India is afraid of Pakistan over her stance on Kashmir issue furthermore Pakistan also became a nuclear power in 1998. US president Clinton visited India in 2000 to share joint good relations and this visit proved as a catalyst between both states. After Clinton, Bush administration came with a more broad vision of cooperation and signed a historic nuclear deal with India (Sridharan, 2009).

In the reign of Clinton, the strategy towards South Asia changed. Pakistan who always remains loyal and played the role of frontline ally of the United States became less important while India gained huge importance. An effort was made to accompany Pakistan to keep her integrity but Bush administration towards India. The strategy of US was to reduce sanctions on both states India and Pakistan at the

same time influence their atomic programmes.

Bush administration established new policies for South Asia although this region has secondary importance for the United States however India and Pakistan are two major states of South Asia. The defense department of the United States allocated distinct profiles for India and Pakistan. The focus of Bush administration was to develop durable pecuniary and strategic relations with India by keeping the veracity of Pakistan and restricting Islamic radicalism and avoiding possible nuclear weapons race in the region. US is urging to increase military relations with India for this purpose. US has to relax sanctions imposed in 1998 for testing nuclear weapons (Jha, 2000).

The economy is another aspect of cooperation between the US and India. Import and export have also increased between the respective states since the year 2000. The United States is working more on her economy with coordination of India to counter the influence of China in Asia. The US is keen to cooperate with India as she views India as a rising power. The US is also cooperating in the field technology and has increased a number of visas to Indians working in the technology field. After lifting sanctions completely the US will also sell military tools to India most of which India previously buys from Russia.

Currently the relation between New Delhi and Washington are stronger than US relations with Pakistan. Indians are seriously against and prevent the US from establishing good relations with Pakistan and is very much successful in this regard. Despite having less importance Pakistan's occupies substantial attention for the US, the main reason of this attention is Pakistan stand with the US against terrorism. For achieving this objective the US administration truly thinks for firming her relations with Pakistan's government and locals. Whereas advising Pakistan to limit her influence in Afghanistan and Kashmir (Biju, 2000).

The United States thrice imposed sanctions on Pakistan to pressurize her, for the first time in 1991 for certifying Pakistan not safe to be a nuclear state then in 1998 for nuclear tests and lastly in 1998 due to the military rule. The United States always used Pakistan for her interest and as a frontline ally to counter socialism in Afghanistan and then against terrorism. The US wants to dictate Pakistan and wants Pakistan to obey its every order whether if it is favor or against the national interest of Pakistan. While not doing so the United States pressurizes Pakistan sometimes by imposing sanctions and sometimes by making deals with India. But Pakistan always has faced the dual policy of US bravely.

During Obama's tenure, Prime Minister Modi invited him as a guest of honor on India's Republic Day Parade which Obama accepted wholeheartedly. This three day Obama's tour to India is a symbol of a meeting between two democratic states but for other states, it's not just a casual meeting but it could have geopolitical effects. In the meantime, China invited the former COAS General Raheel Sharif for a meeting. Both these meetings were a symbol of cooperation and friendship against each other (Banerjee, 2000).

PM Modi proclaimed that both states US and India have negotiated over the civil fissile deal and signed a new agreement of cooperation for 10 years over

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defense which will have extensive magnitudes on both states. With these agreements, both states can share aptitude and military training and bilateral trade will also improve for about 100 billion dollars annually till 2025.

The recent agreements and arrangements between New Delhi and Washington will make India more noticeable international political player. Both states are collaborating with each other in many fields like defense, science, health, education, technology, trade and climate. The interest of both states is to counter China, limit Pakistan stimulus in Kashmir and Afghanistan and refrain Pakistan from emerging power in the region (Sondhi, 2004).

Pakistan has always remained a frontline ally of United States but it has never been enough for the US. In the Afghan war and in the war on terror, Pakistan remained the frontline state for the US. Barack Obama is the first American prime minister who throughout his leadership fought for the same war to omit terrorism from the world. Although the United States administration oftentimes tilted towards India but it also needs to re-establish her ties with Pakistan time and again. The United States should decrease sanctions on both states of South Asia while promoting peace over Kashmir dispute (Cohen, 2000).

Hence, by discussing India's strategies (military/political), concerning Indo-US deal and the Indo-Pak standoff, we reach to the conclusion that India attempted to keep Pakistan's security in check ever since 1947. This role continued in the post 9/11 world and with the Indians being masters of designing 'grand stratagem' did not fall short of devising such strategies that served their interests in a way that undermined Pakistan's security. In short, all their strategies aimed to kill two birds with one stone. The post 9/11 scenario was one on which India capitalized to cause trouble for Pakistan. The Indian policymakers once again, came on the offensive mode and drafting aggressive yet reasonable strategies to threaten Pakistan's security.

As far as the Indo-US nuclear deal is concerned, Pakistan has been making efforts on putting pressure on the US administration on concluding the nuclear deal with India. Aware of the greater possibility of the bill being sanctioned by the US Congress in near future, Pakistan has done well in pressuring the US to conclude the same deal with Pakistan, irrespective of the all odds against it.

In such a scenario, the only thing that Pakistan's leadership and policy-makers should keep in mind is pragmatism, coupled with diplomacy, whilst giving national interest the top priority in all decision making. Concerning policy formulation towards India, our leadership, aside from countering the Indian designs, should seek peaceful co-existence with the arch-rival which might bring peace and strengthen human security in nuclear South Asia (Ollappally, 2005).

### **Impacts Indo – US on Pakistan**

Defense is always a sharp end of a thwart when it comes to precede Indo-US relations. After three decades, it happened for the first time when the United States had joint military exercise with India. Presently, India and United States have held

many military exercises than any other country ever had with the US. It indicates that both states have close defense relationship. Both states are cooperating with each other at all levels from disaster management to defense preparedness the two armies are establishing practices of collaboration especially for the same challenges, they are facing in the Indian Ocean and Asia Pacific region.

In 2002 US air force had drills in Agra after six years of those drills India purchased those aircrafts C-130J from the United States. Indian Air Force has received its first delivery. Marietta is the home place of this aircraft. This metaphorically significant defense deal has its influence on Georgia budget and helps to keep steadiness in the trade relations. But the effective transfer of the C-130J's in time and budget is the first phase. The Indian administration is finalizing \$4.1 billion transactions for ten C-17 Globemaster heavy lift conveyance aircraft-as Obama announced this deal. This deal has a margin to make twice the value of military trade between US and India (History Pak, 2014).

Once all these aircrafts delivered, India will have the second leading C-17 convoy in the world, first is the United States. With these military deals, both states will initiate joint exercises and doctrinal relations will assist to further strengthen their relations. The Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) is worth mentioning in this regard with this 126 frontline jets will be delivered to India. These efforts of U.S. will frequently increase India's aerospace industry and resistance proficiencies and reveal US assurance to share technology with India including AESA detector. The US welcomes India to provide her assistance for military purposes and boosting India's defense technology.

US-India economic cooperation has remained a tool that has renovated bilateral bond between the two states, is the major reason behind India's changed reputation in international politics. Bilateral trade is bourgeoning with India's scheme in the United States increasing noticeably. The step of modernization in India is overwhelming. Wipro an Indian company has sixteen headquarters in the United States, providing jobs to Americans and serving both countries for economic growth. Indian economy is directly linked with the global market to enhance her economy and affordability. This cooperation will boost the economy for both states and more employment opportunities (Ebrahim, Dawn,2015).

Locke, US commerce secretary visited India to see business there. He visited aeronautics, domestic fissile, security and information and communiqué skill sectors in Bangalore and Mumbai. Most of the members of his delegation own small or medium business that will provide 80% of the substructure to India till 2030. With this initiative, India will have an unbelievable chance to exploit the impetus of her industrial relationship. Three statistics are given below to show the US- India economic interaction:

- India's GDP is 10 times more than the previous two decades. India is now the 12<sup>th</sup> largest trading associate of goods.
- India is one of the world's fastest rising economies and is predictable to become the world's third leading economy by the year 2025.

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- India will also become the world's most crowded country. Half of the Indian population is below 25 years, giving India a surprising demographic advantage.

They have become frontline business partners. These figures mention the massive prospective for even countless modernization and business enlargement between two erudite societies. The duty ahead for these governments is to continually expose accesses for greater private zone collaboration. People to people contact will further help both states to establish strong relations especially in the business sector (Gul, 2013).

The Atlanta Indian-American group incorporates a significant number of business pioneers who represents India-US evolving relationship. With an advertising of about 1.2 billion of the world's trade and for every capita incomes predicted should develop at a rate of 8 percent in coming few years, India's advertise guarantees the companies of United States to continue durable ultimatum of economic consumption. It will help India to rise as a worldwide power; the United States is interested in building India's infrastructure.

The worth of US products exported to India multiplied from 2002 to 2009. According to the trade report for 2010 commercial ties between US-India have recovered intensely from the world's lag, by 30 percent progression exchange rate. While thinking about the consequences of India's economic rise and the prospects that present, US should see India not just as a business partner but also a strategic partner in the region. Being a rising economic power India's responsibility is to safeguard Asia's sea and air routes security; this is also America's interest.

### **Conclusion**

The United States pronounces her assurances to help India develop as another significant force. The nature of security in South Asia has always been described in the context of rivalry between the nuclear states of the respective region; India and Pakistan. The entire security arrangement of South Asia relies upon the bilateral and diplomatic affairs of these two major states. Both states are nuclear powers and traditional rivals, the rise of any one of them means deterioration in the region. In such an atmosphere the co-operation between India and the United States regarding highly advance defense equipment has increased Pakistan's apprehensions. It will lead Pakistan to search for counter strategy and more improved armaments to keep the balance of power in the region. Pakistan has serious concerns about India's nuclear and atomic capability. The cooperation between India and the United States will further enhance the 'weapon hysteria' in Pakistan.

The closeness between India and the United States has strengthened diplomatic and economic ties between Pakistan and China, moreover, the geographical location of Pakistan is very dear to China. Land and sea routes of Pakistan have huge significance for China. Gwadar seaport has a strategic value which further increases Pakistan's importance. Pakistan and China are developing

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Gwadar port with mutual assistance. This port will join Pakistan and China with the Middle East, Central Asian Republics and Persian Gulf states. This project named “China Pakistan Economic Corridor” will change the whole world political and economic scenario.

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