

## **SECURITY AND PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA: A CASE STUDY OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

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### **Abstract**

*According to former US President Bill Clinton “South Asian region is the most dangerous place on earth”. Security and Peace is a global issue especially in South Asia after the exit of Red Army from Afghanistan, talibanization, US invasion of Afghanistan, Post withdrawal of Coalition and ISAF forces, Indian involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan’s Eastern front, Arms race by India-Pakistan. Kashmir issue is the flashpoint between both the countries. Both India and Pakistan have fought four major wars on the issue which has led to the cause of Nuclearisation in the region. The peace process always goes down into the drain due to extremist mind set of the military establishment in Pakistan and Hindu nationalist parties like Shiv Sena and BJP. Peace is desperate need of both the nations because they are spending great deal of their budget on defence which have innervated socio-economic indicators in poor ridden India and Pakistan. The issue of Peace and Security in the South Asian region can only be resolved through perpetual dialogue and confidence building measures.*

**Keyword:** *Security, Peace, Terrorism, Indo-Pak conflicts, Nuclearisation*

### **Introduction**

South Asia immediately needs to overcome the hostile legacies of the past in order to create a permitting environment for peace and security, which is critical to unleash the collaborations essential for economic progress. (Lodhi: 2002)

The region of South Asia has always been highly important in the global politics because of its sensitive geographical location. India and Pakistan are two major countries of this region, which came into being as a result of the division of Sub-Continent in the year 1947. Both India and Pakistan have remained unable to have cordial relationship with each other due to various issues. The relationship between India and Pakistan has been marked by suspicion, hatred and distrust. Tense and hostile situation has been existing between India and Pakistan since 1947, which has resulted in three wars and various crises between them. In May 1998, both India and Pakistan has testes their nuclear devices and the region of South Asia became a nuclear flashpoint. Although India and Pakistan are two traditional rival states but both have also experienced such occasions when they became successful to hold peace talks and conclude various agreements to resolve different issues. But this situation has not been long lasting and suspension in the peace process further enhanced suspicion and mistrust on both sides. (2014: 108)

#### **Peace Process:**

Peace process is a multi-dimensional concept which after the end of Cold war is widely used to resolve inter-state conflicts. Its comprehensive nature is obvious from the fact that at the individual, group, community, state, regional and international levels. Stake holders involved in a conflict attempt to initiate the process of peace in an attempt to terminate the state of violence and armed conflict. (Ibid p.101)

The following chart between India and Pakistan will help understand the dynamics of the peace process and the issues covered under it:

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Results</b>
Jammu and Kashmir	No Progress, except the launching of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service
Siachen, Sir Creek and conflict over water resources	Stalemate
People to people interaction	Marginal progress owing to some relaxation in the visa regime

Trade and commercial ties	Marginal progress because of non-granting of MFN status to India by Pakistan
Military confidence building measures	At risk because of periodic violations and skirmishes along the Line of control
Consultation and meetings at the highest level	Not regular as bilateral visits by the heads of state and government have not taken place in the last few years
Role of track II and III dialogue	Continuing but without any significant impact on the peace process
Cooperation to combat terrorism	Still not institutionalized but in existence under the framework of SAARC
Role of civil society	Marginal
Review of peace process at track-I level	Infrequent

*Source: Shahid M. Imtiaz: Book 87, 1<sup>st</sup> Issue 2014, The Advanced Contemporary Affairs: Advanced Publishers Lahore, Pakistan, Pg. 105*

### **External Factors:**

#### **Indian Involvement in Western front of Pakistan**

Recently retired Indian Army Chief General Vijay Kumar Singh admitted the sponsored bomb blast in Pakistan in which the money was provided to the separatist elements in the province of Balochistan, which the Indian media has denied for several times.

India also paid the Kashmiri leaders to remain silent in the Indian held Kashmir, phone tapping within India were also part of the most sensitive report. One of the former Indian Army chief revealed that the inquiry report prepared by the India's

Director General of Military Operations also highlighted the activities of army unit raised after the Mumbai attacks.

V.K. Sindh last month announced a political alliance with Narendra Modi who was responsible for the massacre of the Muslims in Indian Gujrat. The Indian media has been repeatedly denied the report on terrorizing activities inside Pakistan which was leaked by the statement of the Former Army Chief. He also told the phone tapping inside India and buying silence of politician in Indian held Kashmir through loads of cash.

The plotting of these terrorist events inside Pakistan were carried out by the Tactical Support Division (TSD) which was raised after the Mumbai attacks on the directives of National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon and the Defence Minister in a way to complete particular tasks and to secure borders and balance the internal situation of the country.

Between October and November 2011, The India Today reported that, Tactical Support Division claimed money in which they tried to enroll a secessionist chief in the province of a neighboring country and poured in an amount of Rs. 1.27 Crore (Indian Rupees) to prevent transportation of weapons between neighboring countries. TSD also claimed to have carrying out low intensity attacks of bomb blasts in a neighboring country.

A covert operation inside Pakistan was reported by the Hindustan Times which was carried by the TSD, originally it was to catch Hafiz Muhammad Saeed of Jamat-ud-Dawah but it was not obvious that TSD was involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan, which was revealed by the inquiry board. (Cheema Umar: 2013)

#### **Indian Coast Guards Blew off Pakistani Boat:**

On December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 the Indian Coast guards blew up a Pakistani boat contradicting Indian Governments stand that the crew of the cost guards were responsible for blowing off the boat was said by a Deputy Inspector General of the Indian Coast Guards. It was later confirmed by the Indian Express.

The Indian Ministry of Defence and the Cost Guards maintain their stand that it was their crew which blew off the boat and were responsible for it after a long

chase by a coast guard ship 365 km off Porbandar. (Hindustan Times: March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015)

Later the Indian Express reported that the Deputy Inspector General had ordered the ship to be blown as it had entered the territorial sea to carry out an illegal transaction.

Then comes the statement by DIG B.K. Loshali who is also the chief of staff (Northwest Region) saying ““Let me tell you. I hope you remember 31st December night... We blew off that Pakistan... We have blown them off... I was there at Gandhinagar and I told at night, blow the boat off. We don't want to serve them biryani. (Tribune.com: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015) Later the Indian Government told the media that the DIG was drunk and made a humour during his speech which seems quite a humour itself.

#### **Events between Peace Processes:**

- *Indian Parliament Attack*
- *Samjhota Express Blasts*
- *Sri Lankan Team Attack in Pakistan*
- *Mumbai Attacks*
- *Karachi intensity (killing)*
- *TTP finances from state sponsors (India)*
- *Continuous violation of Line of Control*
- *Firing at Sialkot working boundary*

#### **International Factors**

South Asia since time immemorial remains hot spot of international politics. The recent history of the region has manifested new trends and dynamics of security and geo-strategic of the region. Indeed it is said from many corners of analysts that 21<sup>st</sup> century is for the South Asian Region. The explicit importance of this region on international politics emerged during the cold war era and post 9/11 period. The geo-strategic importance of this region emerged when Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan and Pakistan indulges itself as proxy of American in this war. The security dynamics of this region from that historic point got drastic changes. The repercussions of the Afghan war seemed to have intractable and crucial challenge to the security of this region. Increasing extremism, resistant

movement in Kashmir, and nuclear explosions by India and Pakistan dragged the region into new heights security challenges to the South Asian region. The phenomenon of War on Terror after 9/11 provided an alibi to every country to manipulate their security issue interims of so called war on terrorism. India tried to get its perfidious advantages from War on Terror declaring Kashmir resistant movement as terrorism and trying to manage Pakistan as terrorist state but due to Pakistan's geo-strategic importance it was difficult for India to peruse the Super powers to do so.

The most significant challenge to the security and Peace of the South Asian region is hegemonic attitude and security designed of India towards the smaller states of the region. Indian is a nuclear state and having largest geography and population. Its democratic character and economic stability have attracted European and America to make amicable relations with the Indian state.

American tilt towards India and possessing strategic relations posed peculiar kind of threat to the South Asian region. One India US civil nuclear deal have disturb the balance of power in the South Asian region the same deal China is going to sign with Pakistan .Second Washington is going to make deal regarding Anti-ballistic missile technology will further aggravate the situation and a new arm race will start between India, China and Pakistan.

Taking into Account the current scenario of the region three major factors are matters of great scrutiny. First the unstable situation of Afghanistan has posed security challenges to the whole South Asian region. Second the crisis in the Middle East has also direct bearing on the security issues of the region. Third the new cold war between America and Crania has also spill over implications on the security and peace of the region.

If we analyse the internal security situation According to Global Peace Index "India suffers chronically from international strife and widespread internal conflict. Maoist movements are the biggest threat to India's internal security, while sporadic conflict with China and Pakistan threaten the country's external security. An estimated 65 operational terror groups compound the challenge of maintaining peace in the world's biggest democracy" (Global Peace Index 2014)

<b>INDIA</b>	
<b>2014 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX RANK</b>	143/162 (LOW)
<b>2012 DEMOCRACY INDEX RANK</b>	38/167 (FLAWED DEMOCRACY)
<b>COST OF VIOLENCE CONTAINMENT PER CAPITA</b>	US\$145
<b>COST OF VIOLENCE CONTAINMENT AS % OF GDP</b>	3.6%
<b>LEVEL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	MEDIUM
<b>INCOME GROUP</b>	LOWER MIDDLE INCOME
<b>POPULATION SIZE</b>	1,236,686,700 (VERY LARGE)

*Source: Global Peace Index Report 2014: Pg. 29*

One of the ruling themes in Pakistan's competitive relationship with India is the desire to achieve strategic parity and equal power status with its larger neighbour. (Paul: 2014 p112)

Much of the Pakistani elite believe that India and Pakistan ought to be co-equals geopolitically. It sees relative parity-in military and diplomatic status terms-as a goal worth striving for, even at high cost to its society. Pakistan leaders are ardent believers in the Westphalia notion of de jure equality of states and balance of power politics.

Pakistan fears that Indian hegemony in the subcontinent will adversely affect its security and power position. (Ibid: 113)

### **Conclusion:**

South Asian region is the least peaceful region in the world owing to, war on terror in Afghanistan and historic conflict between India and Pakistan. Nuclearisation in the region has deteriorated the situation furthermore. The peace

and prosperity in the region can be ensured through confidence building measures, more trade and people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan. The conflicts among the South Asian countries are inflicting injuries to the socio-political and economic development of the people living in the subcontinent. Indeed, peace is a linchpin for development and prosperity in the South Asian region. Changing governments in India and Pakistan appear to be a positive sign for the peace and stability of the region. When Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, it seems a good omen for both the states.

The strategic calculus suggests that India has superiority over Pakistan in terms of military capability, economic growth and technological advancement. In this scenario, Pakistan at the one hand is engaged in counter-insurgency and on the other hand, Pakistan's armed forces are engaged on the Afghan border to fight against terrorists and Al Qaeda. In such a sordid situation, the state of Pakistan needs to take India into account through dialogue and track 2 diplomacy. It has been observed that increasing trade between the states decreases the conflicts; so both India and Pakistan must increase their trade relations. Pakistan has declared India as "Most Favorite State" for increasing trade and bilateral relations between the two states. Both the states should resolve their outstanding issues through dialogue. There are facets of issues such as Kashmir, Siachen, Wuller Barge, Sir Creek, nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

South Asia is in a deep quagmire of desperate lack of education, extreme poverty, lack of health facilities and malnutrition issues. South Asia has 23 percent of the population but 39 percent poor are living in this region. The huge resources of both India and Pakistan are being used for military build-up.

The India-Pakistan conflict, which began in 1947 after the independence and the subsequent creation of the two states, has assumed an international character in the past couple of decades. The two veritable outcomes of the conflict, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, have not only destabilized the region but have also posed a threat to international peace and security. What was originally a bilateral conflict, now, has unpleasant international implications. (Jauhari p. 49)



For a stable and peaceful South Asia, both Pakistan and India need to carry on the peace process by which they can lessen tensions and also may even resolve some of the contesting issue” (Javed 2008 p.69)

The ball is still in the court of the leadership of India and Pakistan to decide the fate of the People of one of the biggest and densely populated region. Both the countries must sit inn and discuss the matters until resolved through dialogue. It is still not too late to resolve the issues on bilateral agreements and stop spending on nuclear arms that could escalate hazardous war anytime.

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