SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN FOLLOWING THE TALIBAN'S RECONQUEST OF AFGHANISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the profound security implications for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan, analyzed through the lens of Realist Theory by Hans Morgenthau in International Relations. The research underscores the notion that states act predominantly in pursuit of power and survival within an anarchic international system, a concepts central to Realism. The Taliban's resurgence presents a complex geopolitical paradigm for Pakistan, historically intertwined with the Taliban, yet navigating a labyrinth of regional and global strategic interests. This paper examines the shifts in regional power dynamics and their impact on Pakistan's national security strategy. It also assesses how Pakistan's historical ties with the Taliban and its intricate relationships with neighboring countries and World power in South Asia, and the potential recalibration of Pakistan's foreign and security policies in the wake of these developments. Furthermore, the study explores the potential for regional instability, cross-border terrorism, and the shifting allegiances of major powers in the region. This research contributes to the understanding of the realist implications of geopolitical shifts in South Asia, offering a nuanced perspective on Pakistan's strategic maneuvers in a rapidly changing security landscape.

Keywords: Realist Theory, International Relations, Pakistan's Security, Taliban Reconquest, Geopolitical Dynamics.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan has serious security implications for Pakistan, its neighbor to the east. The Taliban's return to power has aroused concerns about the possibility of increased terrorist action in the region, notably by groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has longstanding ties to the Afghan Taliban (Thomas, 2023). The TTP has carried out, several attacks against Pakistani targets, including civilians and security forces, and aims to build a Taliban-style, Sharia-complaint state in Pakistan. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan has empowered the TTP and other extreme groups, generating fears of more violence and instability in Pakistan (Grossman, 2021)

The security implications of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan for Pakistan are multifaceted and Complex, and may be inclined by a range of factors, counting regional dynamics, geopolitical interests, and domestic politics. The Realistic approach in International relations delivers a useful outline for understanding the security implications of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan benefits Pakistan. This approach emphasis the importance of power, interests, and security in shaping worldwide relations, and proposes states act in their own

selfishness to maximize their power and security (Brookings, 2022).

This study aims to examine the security ramifications of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan for Pakistan, drawing on the Realistic approach in international relations. This research paper explores the potential for increased terrorist activity in Pakistan, the impact of regional dynamics on Pakistan's security, and the role of domestic politics in shaping Pakistan's response to the Taliban's reappearance to influence in Afghanistan. The results of this training are expected to provide valuable insights into the complex interplay between regional security dynamics and domestics politics, and to inform policy decisions aimed at promoting stability and security in the region.

The Realistic approach by Hans Morgenthau in international relations provides a valuable framework for understanding the security ramifications for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan. This approach emphasizes the importance of power, interests, and security in shaping international relations, suggesting that states prioritize their own self-interest to enhance their power and security (Nadeem and Shamil, 2020). The approach is particularly relevant in the context of Pakistan's foreign policy and security dynamics, as it underscores the significance of regional power struggles, security dilemmas, and the pursuit of national interest.

The Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan has raised significant security concerns for Pakistan, given the historical and geopolitical complexities of the two countries' relationship. It highlights the imperative for Pakistan to reassess its strategic calculus and engage with the evolving regional dynamics to safeguard its national security interests. This includes reevaluating its relationships with key actors such as the United Stated, Afghanistan, and regional powers like India and China, in light of the changing geopolitical landscape (Bangash, 2017).

Furthermore, the Realist approach underscores the significance of Pakistan's pursuit of a pragmatic and effective foreign policy to navigate the shifting regional dynamics. This involves a nuances understanding of the security implications of the Taliban's resurgence and the recalibration of Pakistan's strategic priorities to ensure its national security interests are safeguarded in the face of evolving regional challenges (Zaidi, and Ahmad, 2021).

By emphasizing the primacy of power, interests, and security in shaping state behavior, the Realism provides valuable insights into the complex regional dynamics and the imperatives for Pakistan to pursue a pragmatic and effective foreign policy to safeguard its national security interest in the evolving regional context.

Objectives of the Study

The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of a complex security environment faced by Pakistan in the wake of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan using the lens of Morgenthau's realistic theory to analyze the interplay of power, national interest, and human nature in international relations.

Examine how the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan has altered the balance of power in the region, with a specific focus on its implications for Pakistan's security landscape.

Investigate how Pakistan's security policies and strategies may evolve in response to the changing situation in Afghanistan, guided by the principles of Morgenthau's Realist Theory, which prioritizes national interest and power dynamics.

Utilize Morgenthau's perspective on the role of human nature in politics to understand the motivations and actions of key players in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the context of power struggles and political ambitions.

Study the border impact of the Taliban's reconquest on the stability and security of Pakistan, considering relist views on power equilibrium and international conflict.

Research Methodology

Methodological Framework for Qualitative Research on Security Ramification for Pakistan Following the Taliban's Reconquest of Afghanistan, the Realist theory by Hans Morgenthau provides a theoretical framework for understanding the security implications for Pakistan. The Realist Theory emphasises the importance of power and national interest in international relations and how states act to protect their security and sovereignty. A qualitative research approach can provide a rich understanding of the complex dynamics and factors

that influence the security situation in Pakistan following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

The study would use a case study approach, focusing on power dynamics, national interests, and the balance of power. Data collection involved documented analysis, media analysis, and academic literature. Thematic analysis is employed to identify recurring themes and patterns. The research aims to contribute to the discourse on regional security and Pakistan's strategic calculations in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

Historical Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan

The historical relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been marked by a complex interplay of cooperation, conflict, and shared strategic interests. The two countries share a long and absorbent border, which has been a source of both connectivity and argument. Over the backyard to counter Indian influence and ensure its own security (Bokhari, 2022). This has led to Pakistan's support for various Afghan factions and groups, including the Taliban, as part of its efforts to share the political and security dynamics in its western neighbor (Ibid.). The historical ties between Pakistan and the Taliban, particularly during the groups' previous rule in the 1990s, have significant dynamics in the aftermath of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan (Ibid.).

The historical relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been marked by complexity and contention since the partition of British India in 1947. Afghanistan's unique stance of opposing Pakistan's entry into the United Nations highlighted the beginning of a strained relationship (Ahmad, 2021). The roots of the discord lie in a range of issue including territorial disputes, cross-border ethnic ties, and disagreements over water rights (Shahab, 2007)

A critical aspect of the tension involves Afghanistan's irredentist claims on terrorizes in present-day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan in Pakistan in Pakistan. These regions are perceived as integral to the concept of "Pashtunistan," a proposed homeland for the Pashtun ethnic group. Additionally, the complex relationship is further complicated by Pakistan's significant, albeit risky, support for the Taliban, providing them with financial and logistical aid (Ahmad, 2021)

The bilateral relationship experienced a severe low point when diplomatic ties were severed between 1961 and 1963. This diplomatic break was a result of Afghanistan's support for armed separatist activities in Pakistan, leading to military skirmishes and Pakistan's closure of the Karachi port, which was crucial for Afghan trade (Hussian, 2005)

These ongoing challenges are deeply rooted in the history and colonial era developments. The dictions of the Pashtun region between the Afghan kingdom and British India is a pivotal historical factor that continues to influence the dynamics between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Iqbal, 2008)

LITERATURE REVIEW

The security ramifications for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan have been a topic of concern for policymakers and analyze. The realistic approach in international relations, as proposed by Hans Morgenthau, provides a valuable framework for understanding these implications. This comparative analysis of past Taliban regimes provides insights into the potential security challenges for Pakistan. The Taliban's previous rule in the 1990s and its subsequent ouster in 2001 offer a lens through which to assess the group's governance, security policies, and regional impact. The Taliban's historical ties to the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist groups pose a direct security threat to Pakistan, as these groups seek to establish a Taliban-style, Shariah-compliant state in Pakistan.

In an article "Mapping Contours of Pakistan-US Foreign Policies in the Trump Era: Narratives and Counter-Narratives", Nadeem Mirza, and Taimur Shamil elaborated that the projecting future security scenarios, analysts can provide policymakers with a range of potential outcomes and their associated security implications, enabling Pakistan to prepare for and respond to evolving security challenges. By projection of future security scenarios for Pakistan in the wake of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan is a critical area of analysis. This involves assessing potential development such as the resurgence of terrorist safe havens, the impact of nontraditional security threats, and the potential for increased terrorist activity.

Evaluating the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses to the security ramifications is essential.

This involves assessing the impact of Pakistan's strategic decisions, foreign policy, and security measures in response to the evolving regional dynamics. By evaluating the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses, analysts can identify areas of success, potential shortcomings, and opportunities for recalibrations. This analyze can inform future policy decisions and help Pakistan adapt its approach to safeguard its national security interest in the evolving regional context

The Rise and fall of the Taliban: A Chronological Overview

Taliban in Afghanistan have had far-reaching implications for regional security and stability. The group's emergence in the 1990s, its rapid ascent to power, and its subsequent ouster following the U.S.-led intervention in 2001 have significantly shaped the security landscape in the region (Thomas, 2023). Pakistan's historical support for the Taliban, particularly during the group's previous rule, has been a key factor in the group's resilience and resurgence, influencing the security ramification for both Afghanistan and Pakistan (Bokhari, 2022). The Taliban's conquering of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the group's governance, its relations with regional and global actors, and its potential to harbor and support transnational terrorist groups, all of which have direct implications for Pakistan's security and stability Thomas, 2023).

The regional geopolitical dynamics in the aftermath of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan have undergone significant shifts, with the ramifications for Pakistan's security and strategic calculus. The evolving power dynamics between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other regional actors, such as Iran and India, have the potential to influence the security landscape in South Asia (Bokhari, 2022). The Taliban's return to power has prompted a reevaluation of regional alliances and rivalries, with implications for Pakistan's efforts to secure its interests and manage its relations with the new government in Kabul (Ibid.). the regional geopolitical dynamics, including the role of external actors and the potential for strategic competition, will continue to shape the security ramifications for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan. These historical and geopolitical factors provide a critical backdrop for understanding the security implications for Pakistan in the wake of the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, particularly through the lense of Realistic approach in international relations.

Core Principles of Realist Theory

The Realist approach in international relations is rooted in the core principles of Realist theory, which emphasized the primacy of power interests, and security in shaping state behavior. Morgenthau's realist theory stands as a cornerstone in the realm of realism in international relations. This theory asserts that political actions and interactions are fundamentally governed by objective laws rooted in human nature and psychology. According to Morgenthau, a deep comprehension of these laws is essential for any effective improvement or reform in society or political systems. His perspective emphasizes that political behavior is largely influenced by inherent human characteristics and tendencies, suggesting that understanding these elements is crucial for navigating and shaping political realities.

Key Principles of Realist Theory Include

States are primarily concerned with their own security and power, seeking to maximize their capabilities and minimize threats in the international system.

The international system is anarchic, with no overarching authority, leading to a focus on self-help and strategic action by states.

The use of force is a legitimate tool for states to achieve their objectives, reflecting the anarchic nature of the international system.

States are primarily concerned with their own interests, which may not always align with their stated principles or values.

These core principles provide a foundation for understanding the security ramifications for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan, as they suggest the act in their own self-interest in order to maximize power and security.

Application of Realist Theory to Afghanistan-Pakistan Relations

The application of Realist Theory to Afghanistan-Pakistan relations can be seen in several key aspects:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a history of both cooperating with and conflicting with each other, reflecting the complex interplay of interests and power dynamics in the region. This balancing act is a classic example of states pursuing their interests within the constraints of the international system.

Pakistan's historical support for the Taliban, particularly during the group's previous rule in the 1990s, has been a key factor in the group's resilience and resurgence, influencing the security landscape in the region. This support the Realist emphasis on states pursuing their own interests, even at the expense of broader regional stability.

The Realist approach highlights the importance of regional power struggles and alliances in shaping state behavior. In the case of Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, these rivalries and alliances have had a considerable impact on regional security dynamics, imparting both nations' goals and actions.

Predictions and Insights from Realist Theory on Current Dynamics

The Realist Theory approach in international relations offers several predictionsna nd insights for the current dynamics between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the wake of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan.

The Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan is a significant development, may prompt Pakistan to reassess its strategic calculus and engage with the evolving regional dynamics to safeguard its national security interests. This could involve reevaluating its relationships with key actors such as the United States, Afghanistan, and regional powers like India and China, in light of the changing geopolitical landscape.

The Realist approach underscores the importance of a pragmatic and effective foreign policy for navigating the shifting regional dynamics. This involves a nuanced understanding of the security implications of the Taliban's resurgence and the recalibration of Pakistan's strategic priorities to ensure its national security interests are safeguarded in the face of evolving regional challenges.

The regional geopolitical dynamics, including the role of external actors and the potential for strategic competition, will continue to shape the security ramifications for Pakistan following Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan. The Realist approach suggest that states must carefully consider the implications of their actions within rhe broader regional context, as these actions can have significant consequences for their security and strategic interests.

Security Implications for Pakistan

The Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan has huge security ramifications for Pakistan, its neighbor. The Taliban's retune to power has sparked fears about an increase in non-traditional security risks, such as illegal medication trafficking and the resurgence of guerrilla safe harbors. The Pakistani deep government has continuously employed terrorist to achieve its foreign policy goals, and the Taliban's rebirth may allow other terrorists aim to achieve the foreign policy objectives and the Taliban's rebirth may allow other terrorist groups to operate from Afghan territory, providing a serious risk in Pakistan (Deb, 2021)

The Realistic approach in International relations provides a valuable framework for understanding the security implications for Pakistan. The approach emphasies the primacy of power, interest, and security in shaping state behavior, suggesting that situations in their own self-interest in maximizing their influence and safety (Nadeem, and Shamil, 2020). The security implications for Pakistan are significant as return of the Taliban to power has the potential to create a security vacuum in Afghanistan, which could be exploited by various son-stet actors to launch attacks against Pakistan. The Taliban's historical ties to the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist groups pose a direct security threat to Pakistan, as these groups seek to found a Taliban chic, Shariah-compliant state in Pakistan. The Resurgence of the Taliban has also raised concerns about the potential for increased terrorist activity in the region, including attacks against Pakistan targets (Asfandyar, 2022).

The Realistic approach in international relations offers several predictions and insights for the current dynamics between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the wake of the Taliban's conquering of Afghanistan. The approach suggests that Pakistan will need to reassess its strategic calculus and engage with the evolving regional dynamics to safeguard its national security interests. This could involve reevaluating its relationship with key actors such as

the US, Afghanistan, and powers like India and China, in light of the changing geopolitical landscape. The Realistic approach also underscores the importance of a pragmatic and effective foreign policy for navigating the shifting regional dynamics, involving a nuanced understanding of the security implications of the Taliban's resurgence and the recalibration of Pakistan's strategic priorities to ensure its national security interest are safeguarded in the face of evolving regional challenges.

Policy Response and Strategic Decisions
The security ramifications for Pakistan regarding Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan have significant policy implications and strategic decisions for the country. The realistic approach to international relations suggests that states priories their own self-interest to enhance their power and security, and Pakistan must carefully consider its responses and decisions within these context possible policy responses and strategic decisions for Pakistan include:
Pakistan should reevaluate its strategic calculus and engage with the evolving regional dynamics to safeguard its national security interests. This may involve reconsidering its relationships with key actors such as the US, Afghanistan, and regional controls like India and China, in light of the changing geopolitical landscape (Nadeem, and Shamil, 2002).
The Realistic approach underscores the importance of a pragmatic and effective foreign policy for navigating the shifting regional dynamics. Pakistan should focus on understanding the security implications of the Taliban's resurgence and recalibrate its strategic priorities to ensure its national security interests are safeguarded in the face of evolving regional challenges (Deb, 2021).
Pakistan should work to improve its relations with regional actors, such as Iran and India, to better understand their strategic interests and potential for cooperation in addressing shared challenges. This could help Pakistan develop a more nuanced approach to the evolving regional dynamics and better safeguard its national security interests (Bangash, 2017).
Pakistan should carefully consider the implications of its historical ties to the Tehrik-i- Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist groups, particularly in the context of the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan.

This may involve talking concerete steps to disrupt the nexus between Taliban and TTP, such as sharing intelligence and taking targeted action against TTP assets and infrastructure (Asfandyar, 2022).
Pakistan should actively work to promote regional stability and cooperation, recognizing that a stable regional environment is essential for its own security and prosperity. This could involve engaging in diplomatic efforts to address shared security challenges, promoting economic integration, and fostering people –to-people contacts to help reduce the potential for regional tensions (Bangash, 2017).

Comparative Analysis of Past Taliban Regimes
A comparative analysis of past Taliban regimes provides valuable insights into the potential security ramifications for Pakistan following the group's reconquest of Afghanistan. The historical context of the Taliban's rule in the 1990s and its subsequent ouster in 2001 offers a lens through which to assess the group's governance, security policies, and regional impact. By examining the Taliban's previous rule, including its relationship with Pakistan and its approach to security, the analysis can shed light on potential future security dynamics and the implications for Pakistan's national security (Deb, 2021).
The projection of future security scenario for Pakistan in the wake of the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan is a critical area of analysis. This involves assessing potential developments such as the renaissance of guerrilla harmless havens, the impact of nontraditional security threats, and the potential for increased terrorist activity. By projecting future security scenarios, analysts can provide policymakers with a range of potential outcomes and their associated security implications, enabling Pakistan to prepare for and respond to evolving security challenges (Deb, 2021).
Evaluating the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses to the security ramifications following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan is essential. This involves assessing the impact of Pakistan's strategic decisions, foreign policy, and security measures in response to the evolving regional dynamics. By evaluating the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses, analysts can identify areas of success, potential shortcomings, and opportunities for recalibration. This analysis can

inform future policy decisions and help Pakistan adapt its approach to safeguard its national security interests in the evolving regional context (Asfandyar, 2022).

This analysis involves a comparative study of past Taliban regimes, a projection of future security scenarios for Pakistan, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, 20 years after the US forces ousted them, has sparked alarm and led to widespread evacuation of foreign diplomatic missions and local Afghan. This has resulted in a resurgence of human rights breaches, which the UN warns could escalate into a humanitarian catastrophe. The Taliban's current leadership aims to create a more moderate image, fearing that Afghanistan could become a hub for global terrorist organization. The new Taliban aims to create a fresh, modern, and moderate image, but it is likely that Afghanistan will return to its former rule.

Afghanistan and US Policy from the Congressional Research Service

The Taliban's restoration to power in 2021 has left the US policymakers wrestling with the dictatorial regime and its harmful impact on Afghans and the US interests. The Taliban, a Sunni Islamist extremist organization, has governed the country and is not recognized by the US. The United Stated does not recognize the Taliban or any other group as Afghanistan's government, and there are no American diplomatic or military forces in the nation. Some Afghans have attempted to advocate for their rights and express disapproval through nonviolent protests, but the Taliban do not appear to be facing effective political oppositions.

Although the regional Islamic State offshoot has carried out assaults on Taliban soldiers, Afghan civilians, and international targets, no group has seriously threatened the Taliban's hold on power since 2021. Congress has prioritized counterterrorism, women and girls, and moving the US partners. Since the Taliban took over, Afghanistan has experienced a simultaneous humanitarian and economic crisis, with the US providing more than $2 billion in humanitarian and development assistance (Thomas, 2023).

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban are facing a crisis due to the Taliban's rejection of Pakistan, its primary state sponsor during the insurgency against the US and Afghan government. The Taliban has challenged the Afghan-Pakistan border and provided a safe haven for the anti-Pakistan insurgent group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has killed thousands and seeks a Taliban-style, Shariah-compliant regime in Pakistan. Tensions have increased due to TTP's increased attacks on Pakistan security personnel.

Pakistan's development of fighter jets was likely due to increased violence and security concerns. The decision aimed to signal the Taliban that its cross-border sanctuary is not safe and shcock them into reconsidering their approach. However, the brutal targeting may be counterproductive due to civilian casualties. The Taliban may demand Pakistan's cooperation in peace talks, potentially leading to an impasse. Pakistan is unlikely to turn against the Taliban, but may seek coercive leverage, such as manipulating internal politics or closing border crossings. The US authorities should monitor the Taliban-Pakistan connection and assess Pakistan's willingness to adopt a new approach.

Pakistan's deteriorating relations with the Taliban provide important insights for the US policymakers interested in the Taliban's political trajectory, as they demonstrate that they are willing to take significant risks in their commitment to foreign jihads in Afghanistan and are not as nationalistically inward or interested in catering to international concerns (Asfandyar, 2022)

Managerial Technicalism

In 2017, the United States took a strong stance towards Pakistan, alleging miscommunication from the Obama administration. The Trump administration reportedly planned to stick to Washington's traditional foreign guidelines in relation to Pakistan. However, Pakistan's Foreign Office Representative, Nafees Zakaria, stated that drone operations violate Pakistan's sovereignty and that Pakistan values its relations with the United States. The year also witnessed the formation of the Indo-US strategic partnership, which portrayed Pakistan as a terrorist-supporting nation. Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime Minister, used social media,

notably Twitter, to analyses the narrative being portrayed by the United States.

The US increased pressure on Pakistan, with US Senator John McCain visiting Afghanistan and pressing Pakistan to improve its behavior or face a change in the US policy towards Pakistan. Pakistan's Foreign office expressed worry that the Taliban and Haqqani network wrought from Afghanistan, reiterating that Pakistan was not looking for a blame game on either the American or Afghan sides.

The America side's recurrent blame game, combined with Pakistan's consistent response that the problem is in Afghanistan, not in Pakistan, stretched a climax when the Pentagon halted Pakistan's Coalition Support Fund. In July 2017, Commander of the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and United States Forces in Afghanistan, John W. Nicholson, met with Pakistan's chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

The US military and US ambassador to Pakistan issued statements about Pakistan, emphasizing its importance in the war against terrorism. The perception was widespread that the US wanted to blame Pakistan for the problems it was facing as a result of its failed approach in Afghanistan. Inter Services Public Relation (ISPR), Pakistan's media wing, quoted General Bajwa as saying in a meeting with the US ambassador that Pakistan was looking for sincere friendship rather than financial gain. The Pakistan authorities maintained that Pakistan will pursue its own national security objectives and that Washington's plan for Afghanistan needed to be revised. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reassured Pakistan of China's support and praised its efforts against terrorism.

The National Security Committee dismissed specific claims against Pakistan's Foreign Minister, who is on a three-state visit to China, Russia, and Turkey to examine America's new South Asia strategy. The narrative against Pakistan gained pace, with the US commanders urging Pakistan to obtain regional backing, particularly from China and Russia. The Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan have passed a resolution denouncing Trump's speech at Fort Myer, disputing accusations made by the US general Nicholson. Pakistan rejected America's arm-twisting strategy ad refused to accept the US narrative that Pakistan supports the Taliban and is weak in the war on terror.

In September 2017, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif and Chinese senior diplomat Wang Yi conducted a joint press conference, displaying a shared policy for Afghanistan and increasing ties with China. This was an attempt to contradict the mainstreams the US narrative of Afghanistan. Pakistan-US ties improved after Asif toured Washington and met Secretary of State Tillerson, although Pakistan was apprehensive about India's participation in the new the US plan. The Asif-Tillerson meeting also resulted in a breakthrough on Afghanistan, with Pakistan playing a key role in initiating a quadrilateral dialogue to end the war.

In October 2017, the Muscat moot on Afghanistan resulted in a breakthrough in stalled peace negotiations. However, Pakistan encountered difficulties in resuming peace talks due to unpredictable participants and game dynamics. Pakistan also engaged in story building about terrorists using Afghan land to launch attacks and sought assurances from the US that such attacks would be prevented. The US Secretary of State rex Tillerson came Islamabad in October, but the safe haven mantra was intended to be used by the US to encourage Pakistan to go above and beyond what it was already doing.

Pakistan began to seek assurance from the US to prevent such cross-border strikes after developing a narrative about terrorists using Afghan soil to conduct attacks against it. The masterminds of Pakistan's greatest terrorist strikes were reportedly residing in Afghanistan and receiving assistance from Indian security agencies. On October 19, 2017, it was announced that Omar Khorrasani, the commander of the notorious terrorist group Jamaat-ul Ashrar, had been murdered in a US drone attack, alongside other group commanders. The media interpreted his death as a retaliatory action by the US in response to Pakistan soldiers rescuing a Canadian couple.

The last two incidents of trust-building were a trip a blip in the light relationship. Pakistan replied in the same way to the Trump administration. Khawaja Asif, Pakistani's Foreign Minister, told the Senate that Pakistan had made it clear to the US that its policy in Afghanistan was failing and that it needed to reconsider how it approached the Afghan issue.

In 2018, Trump's first tweet said, "The United State has foolishly given Pakistan more than $33 billion in

aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies and deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools." They provide safe sanctuary for the terrorists we chase in Afghanistan with minimal assistance. No more! This attempt to compel Pakistan into cooperating was met with caution and sadness.

The Search for Stability in Afghanistan
The US exit from Afghanistan has alarmed neighboring countries, with the Taliban entrenched in Kabul. The Taliban's expansion and possible insecurity over Afghanistan's borders have sparked concern in various states. Afghanistan's main neighbors, Iran and Pakistan, wield the most power in the country due to shared borders and historical ethnic, linguistics, and cultural ties. China and the Arab Gulf governments rely on Iran and Pakistan to handle a Taliban-dominated Afghanistan, while the Arab Gulf states look to Pakistan to fulfill their interests.

Iran and Pakistan both seek peace and security in a country that has been at war for two generation. They are now being forced to cooperate in ways they have not in the past. The Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan occurs at a time. Iran and Pakistan both seek peace and security in a country that has been at war for two generations. They are now being forced to cooperate in ways they have not in the past. The Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan occurs at a time when both Iran and Pakistan are undergoing domestic crisis, with Pakistan having its greatest economic problems since independence and Iran suffering financial consequences as a result of international sanctions. Afghanistan is also an important gateway for Iran and Pakistan into Central Iran suffering financial consequences as a result of international sanctions. Afghanistan is also an important gateway for Iran and Pakistan into Central Asia, particularly in terms of oil and commerce lines. China's belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, the China-Pakistan Economics Corridor, is exposed to attacks by Pakistani Taliban rebels and Baluch separatist terrorists.

Iran and Pakistan share an interest in a stable Afghanistan, which they recognize is unlikely to occur anytime soon. However, such stability may be more feasible if Iran and Pakistan work together rather than competing in Afghanistan.

For decades, Iran and Pakistan have fought for Afghanistan, with Pakistan having substantial geographic and cultural advantages over Iran. The country's border with Afghanistan is roughly three longer than Iran's, giving Pakistan more clout in the landlocked country. Iran has long maintained relations with Afghanistan's minorities and benefited from the country's Dari Lingua Franca, which allows Tehran to build close ties with not only these minority groups but also the Pashtuns. Islamabad, on the other hand, has mostly exerted influence over its western neighbor through the Pashtun, who account for up to 45 percent of the population.

In the 1990s, Pakistan's backing for the Taliban, a primary Pashtun group, underlined the strength of this connection. The Taliban rose to prominence as the most powerful group on the Afghan battlefield, with Pakistan's support. Even after the United States deposed the Taliban in 2011, Islambad continued to support the organization.

Iran has established contacts with parts of the Taliban insurgency, recognizing that the terrorists are still too powerful and essential to ignore. Iran began establishing connections with the Taliban in 2005, and by 2009, the Quds force, the overseas operations wing of Iran's top military force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was providing weaponry to Taliban rebels.

Pakistan attempted to establish links with other forces in Afghanistan 15 yers ago, reaching out to the Kabul administration and anti-Taliban factions. However, long-time Taliban opponents remained extremely skeptical of Islamabad. By the mid-2010s, the Taliban had strengthened links with Iran, began talks with Washington, created a political office in Qatar, and pursued relations with other nations including China Russia, Turkey, European governments and others.

Iran and Pakistan are suspicious of one another since they have common interests in Afghanistan. Tehran thinks that Islamabad's close relations to Saudi Arabia and the UAE would cause problems for Iran, while Pakistan is concerned about India's closer ties with Iran. Iran and India have historically had common interests in Afghanistan, but the US withdrawal and the collapse of the Afghan state have presented a strategic challenge for India. Afghanistan has grown in importance in both neighboring countries' national security strategies, with Iran and

Pakistan exerting the most influence over the outcome. Great countries such as China and Russia rely on bilateral relations with Iran and Islamabad to maintain peace in Afghanistan.

CONCLUSION

The analysis is drawn on these sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the security ramification for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan, grounded in the Realistic approach in international relations. The comparative analysis of past Taliban regimes would offer insights into the potential security challenges for Pakistan, while the projection of future security scenarios would help anticipate and prepare for potential threats. Additionally, the evaluation of Pakistan's policy responses provide a critical assessment of the country's efforts to safeguard its national security interests in the evolving regional context. This analysis is the structured to provide a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the security implications for Pakistan, drawing on the Realistic approach in international relations and the referenced sources to support the findings and conclusions.

In conclusion, the security ramification for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan is significant and requires a thorough analysis. The Realist approach in international relations provides a valuable framework for understanding these implications. This analysis involved a comparative study of past Taliban regimes, a projection of future security scenarios for Pakistan, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of Pakistan's policy responses. The analysis revealed that the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan poses significant security challenges for Pakistan, including the potential for increased terrorist activity, the resurgence of terrorist safe havens, and the impact of nontraditional security threats.

The analysis also highlighted the importance of Pakistan's strategic decisions, foreign policy and security measures in response to the evolving regional dynamics. The Realistic approach in international relations suggests that states act in their own self-interest to maximize their power and security. Therefore, Pakistan must carefully consider its responses and decisions within this context. Possible policy responses and strategic decisions for Pakistan include reassessing its strategic calculus, pursuing a pragmatic and afflictive foreign policy, improving relations with regional actors, addressing the Taliban-TTP nexus, and promoting regional stability.

In conclusion, the security ramification for Pakistan following the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan require a nuanced understanding of the evolving regional dynamics and the imperatives for Pakistan to pursue a pragmatic and effective foreign policy to safeguard its national security interests. The Republic approach in international relations provides a valuable framework for understanding these implications and offers insights into the complex regional dynamics. By considering these policy responses and strategic decisions, Pakistan can better navigate the shifting regional dynamics and safeguard its national security interests in the evolving regional context.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on Hans Morgenthau's Realist Theory, the recommendations for the study, are as follows:

Pakistan should prioritize bolstering its national security to safeguard against potential threats arising from the instability in Afghanistan. This involves enhancing border security, counterterrorism efforts, and intelligence capabilities.

Adopt a realist approach in diplomacy, focusing on practical and strategic partnerships, particularly with neighboring countries and global powers. This will help manage regional power dynamics and secure Pakistan's national interest.

Actively work to maintain a balance of power in the region. This could involve engaging in regional dialogues and alliances that help mitigate the risk of escalating conflicts and contribute to regional stability.

Encourage and support efforts for political stability in Afghanistan, recognizing that a stable and peaceful Afghanistan directly contributes to the security and stability of Pakistan.

Develop comprehensive plans to manage the potential influx of refugees from Afghanistan, ensuing humanitarian assistance while maintaining national security.

Explore economic ties with Afghanistan, which could be beneficial for both countries. Promote regional connectivity projects that can bring stability and economic development.

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