



1st Pakistani-Russian International Conference



The Evolving Pakistan-Russia Relationship in a Changing Global Order



Abstract Booklet

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Jointly Organized by
Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Pakistan &
Kazan Federal University, Russian Federation

The Evolving Pakistan-Russia Relationship in a Changing Global Order

Abstract Booklet

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Table of Contents

Preface

Conference Overview

Welcome Messages

Organizers and Partners.....	07
Scientific and Organizing Committee.....	13
Special Invited Dignitaries	15
Abstracts and Bio.....	23
Concept Note of the Panel.....	147
Participating Institutes	152
Location Map.....	153

Preface

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that we present the abstract booklet for the 1st Pakistani-Russian International Conference, which encapsulates the breadth of academic contributions gathered for this historic event. This landmark event, jointly organized by the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST) and Kazan Federal University, marks a significant milestone in fostering academic, cultural, and strategic collaboration between Pakistan and Russia.

This event would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our organizing team, institutional partners, and dedicated scholars. The conference has brought together more than 54 universities, think tanks, and research organizations from both countries, a remarkable testament to the shared commitment to building academic and strategic bridges. We extend our sincere thanks to our co-organizer, Kazan Federal University, and partners for Russia and Pakistan.

The abstract booklet is a reflection of the diverse themes explored during this conference, ranging from regional connectivity and trade to geopolitical realignments and energy partnerships. Each submission has undergone a thorough review process, ensuring that the content aligns with the conference's goals of fostering meaningful academic dialogue and actionable insights. Special appreciation goes to the faculty, staff, volunteers, and research assistants who worked tirelessly to bring this conference to life. Their dedication and hard work have ensured that this platform provides opportunities not only for intellectual growth but also for strengthening people-to-people and academic ties between Pakistan and Russia.

We are optimistic that this conference will pave the way for future collaborations and contribute meaningfully to the evolving relationship between our two nations.

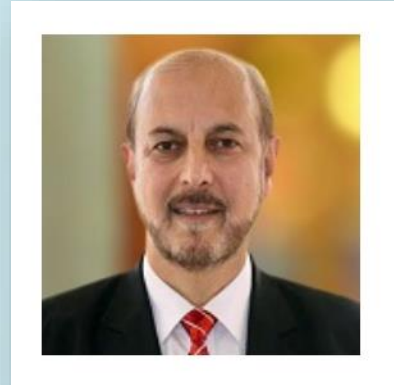
Warm regards,

Conference Organizing Committee



WELCOME MESSAGE

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that I welcome all esteemed participants to the 1st Pakistani-Russian International Scientific Conference on “The Evolving Pakistan-Russia Relationship in a Changing Global Order.” This historic event, co-organized by Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST) and Kazan Federal University, Russia, serves as a vital platform to explore and deepen the multifaceted relationship between our two nations. In a world shaped by shifting alliances and emerging power centers, this conference provides an opportunity to critically engage with key issues affecting Pakistan-Russia relations. From regional connectivity to energy cooperation and from defense collaboration to shared geopolitical interests, the conference sub themes reflect the urgent need for academic, diplomatic, and policy level dialogues. It is particularly gratifying to witness over 100 research contributions from 54 universities and think tanks in Pakistan and Russia, underscoring the collective intellectual effort to forge pathways for mutual understanding and cooperation. The diverse range of perspectives presented here will not only enrich our academic discourse but also inform strategic policies that contribute to regional stability and global peace.



This conference embodies our shared commitment to bridging gaps in people-to-people connections, fostering academic networks, and building scholarly collaborations. As Pakistan and Russia navigate a rapidly changing global order, the insights and discussions from this forum will play a pivotal role in shaping our bilateral relations and addressing the shared challenges of our time.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all contributors, organizers, and participants for making this event possible. Together, let us pave the way for a future where academic, economic, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Russia continue to grow stronger.

Warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari
Vice-Chancellor



WELCOME MESSAGE

Russian-Pakistani relations have a long history, the various stages of which were qualitatively different from each other and had different degrees of intensity. Since the beginning of the 21st century, bilateral cooperation has been developing very dynamically. Today's multi-spectral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia within the framework of various organizations and international platforms shows the desire of both states for a multipolar, more just world order. There is a common understanding of strategically important promising areas of cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, transport, agriculture and security. Of course, all of them are basic for high-quality state relations, however, the development of dialogue in the field of education and science today also seems to be extremely relevant. Over the past few years, Kazan Federal University has been paying a lot of attention to the development of cooperation with universities and research centers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as training personnel as part of the training of students from Pakistan. KFU is the only Russian university that is a member of the Excellence Consortium of the OIC Standing Committee of Ministers on Scientific and Technical Cooperation - COMSTECH, which is headquartered in Islamabad. Academic mobility of young scientists is developing, including within the framework of the scientific and academic mobility program of KFU "Lobachevsky" and the holding of the Youth Scientific Congress of the OIC countries based on KFU. Young people in Pakistan are becoming active participants in these projects. Undoubtedly, the annual holding of the International Economic Forum "Russia – Islamic World" in Kazan with the active participation of KFU is also a driver for more extensive cooperation.



Prof. Dr. Lenar Rinatovich Safin

Rector-Kazan Federal University





Organizing Institutes

Federal Urdu University (FUUAST)



Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST) stands as a pioneering federal institution in Pakistan, dedicated to fostering research, academic innovation, and educational excellence. As the first university in Pakistan to promote Urdu as the primary language of instruction, FUUAST has a unique mission to bridge the gap between cultural heritage and modern education. The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) and Department of International Relations at FUUAST, Karachi has been instrumental in organizing the 1st Pakistani-Russian International Conference, ensuring that the event aligns with global academic standards.

Established on November 13, 2002, under Ordinance No. CXIX of 2002 by the President of Pakistan, FUUAST aims to contribute significantly to the advancement of education while embracing Urdu as the medium of academic instruction.

The university's foundation is rooted in the mission of Baba-e-Urdu, Dr. Abdul Haq, who advocated for the promotion of Urdu as a language of teaching and its recognition as the national language of Pakistan.

FUUAST began its journey in 2002 by taking over two federal government colleges, namely the Federal Urdu Science College in Karachi and the Federal Urdu Arts College, originally established in 1949 by Dr. Abdul Haq. His lifelong dedication to Urdu and its promotion in academia continues to influence the university's mission today. FUUAST's vision is to integrate the language into modern academic programs while ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary skills in both Urdu and English to excel on the global stage.

With its central campus in Islamabad and additional campuses in Karachi, FUUAST serves

more than 18,000 students across its three campuses, supported by a dedicated faculty of 750 members. The university offers a wide range of programs, including 39 undergraduate and 31 master's programs, as well as M.Phil. and Ph.D. opportunities across various fields such as Arts, Science, Technology, Engineering, Business Management, Commerce, Economics, Pharmacy, and Law. This diversity of programs reflects the university's commitment to providing advanced education in both traditional and cutting-edge disciplines.

FUUAST is strategically positioned to make a meaningful impact on higher education in Pakistan, particularly in regions where access to modern education may be limited. One of its core objectives is to provide high-quality education in

in Urdu, ensuring that students are not only proficient in their national language but also well-versed in English to compete internationally. The university's efforts are particularly focused on making advanced education in fields like Information Technology accessible to those who might otherwise be unable to afford it.

In a short period, FUUAST has made remarkable progress, positioning itself among the top universities in the country. The university is highly regarded for its academic departments in fields such as Economics, Computer Science, Business Administration, and Urdu Studies. With a focus on quality education and research, FUUAST has earned recognition for its innovative approach to teaching and research and is gradually establishing a strong reputation among employers and scholars alike.



Kazan Federal University (KFU)



Kazan Federal University (KFU), one of Russia's oldest and most prestigious universities, is renowned for its expertise in international relations and its dedication to fostering cross-cultural academic collaboration. The Institute of International Relations at KFU has played a pivotal role in organizing this conference, further enhancing its global outreach and academic excellence.

Founded on November 17, 1804, KFU was established by Emperor Alexander I through the Affirmative Letter and the Charter for the creation of Kazan Imperial University. With over two centuries of history, KFU stands as a beacon of academic excellence, research, and innovation in Russia and beyond. The university continues to address pressing global challenges while fostering meaningful international collaboration.

With a student body of over 52,000, including approximately 11,500 international students from 101 countries, KFU represents a diverse and vibrant academic community. The university employs over 8,000 individuals, including more than 4,000 faculty members and researchers who contribute to the university's broad spectrum of academic disciplines. The university's 18 educational units across its central campus, along with its territorial campuses and secondary schools, provide cutting-edge education to students from all over the world.

KFU boasts state-of-the-art academic and research infrastructure, including the Nikolay Lobachevsky Scientific Library, which houses over 5 million storage units of rare and historical manuscripts.

The university clinic, serving more than 40,000

district residents, reflects its commitment to community-focused research and practical application. Additionally, with 10 museums, 11 sports and cultural facilities, and a student campus accommodating 13,000 individuals, KFU offers an enriching environment for academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Kazan University has earned recognition in global academic rankings, reflecting its impact on the international research and education landscape. It currently ranks 404th in the Round University Ranking (2024) and 401st in the QS World University Rankings (2025), a testament to its commitment to excellence and its contribution to global knowledge.

The university's strategic goal is to become a self-developing, multicultural academic ecosystem at the crossroads of civilizations. By 2030, KFU

aspires to enter the top 100 global rankings in several disciplines, contribute significantly to national and regional development, and uphold its rich academic traditions while embracing an entrepreneurial spirit. The university's mission includes shaping academic and research agendas in response to global challenges, fostering international collaboration, and cultivating leadership and professional competencies.

KFU envisions a future where it continues to be a hub of knowledge, innovation, and cultural exchange, playing a key role in both regional development and global academic networks. With its deep historical roots and forward-looking vision, Kazan University remains a powerful force for positive change and a beacon of academic excellence.



Partner Institutions

This conference is supported by a strong network of academic institutions and think tanks from Pakistan and Russia. These esteemed institutions and think tanks have been instrumental in supporting the conference, ensuring the event's academic and logistical success. Their collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing research, fostering dialogue, and strengthening academic and diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Russia. Through their support, this conference will serve as a significant platform for mutual learning, cooperation, and future collaborations between the two countries. These include:

Russian Partner Institutes	Pakistani Partner Institutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MGIMO-University• Lomonosov Moscow State University• St. Petersburg State University• Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation• Moscow Polytechnic University• Moscow State Linguistic University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Karachi• Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad• Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA)• Centre of International Strategic Studies Centre, Sindh (CISS)



Scientific Committee

Prof. Dr. Khabibullina Elmira Kamilevna,
Kazan Federal University

Prof. Dr. Shahid Iqbal,
Federal Urdu University

Prof. Dr. Bolshakov Andrei Georgievich,
Kazan Federal University

Prof. Dr. Natalia Galistcheva,
MGIMO-University

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Dr. Mamnoon Ahmad Khan,
Federal Urdu University

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Languages

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Moscow State Polytechnic University

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Financial University

Prof. Dr. Veronica Usacheva,
Financial University

Prof. Dr. Boris Volkhonsky,
Lomonosov Moscow State University,

Prof. Dr. Anna Chelnokova,
St. Petersburg State University

Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Smirnova,
St. Petersburg State University

Prof. Dr. Imrana Begum,
NED University

Dr. Sharjeel Naveed,
Federal Urdu University



Organizing Committee

Dr. Alishev Timirkhan Bulatovich
Kazan Federal University
Dr. Faisal Javaid (Conference Secretary)
Federal Urdu University
Prof. Dr. Rustem Chayshev Narimovich
(Conference Focal Person)
Kazan Federal University

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(Conference Focal Person)
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Aqsa Zaffar
Arooba Khan
Ashar Ali
Atika Khan
Abdul Qadir
Hamza
Hanzala Farooq

Haseeb Ullah
Jamal Ud Din
Jaweria Saeed
Laiba Ansari
M. Hamza Bhutto
M.Hasan Ul Haq
Mahnoor Khan
Maleekhan Zainab
Manahil Amjad
Muhammad Fahad
Muhammad Naseem
Muhammad Shahneel
Muqaddas Saleem
Naveed Kamal

Noorulain Hanif
Poonam Lakhoomal
Qirat Khan
Rahemeen Abid
Rameen Rafi
Rumaisa Fatima
Saffiya
Sartaj Ahmed
Syed Ali Ain
Taba Sagheer
Taha Jawed
Umama
Wajahat Ali
Zukhruf Ejaz



Special Invited Dignitaries



Mr. Andrey Viktorovich Fedorov

Consul General

Russian Federation in Karachi



Mr. Andrey Viktorovich Fedorov is the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Karachi, Pakistan, a position he has held since April 2022. With a distinguished diplomatic career spanning over two decades, Mr. Fedorov has held various key positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and abroad, contributing significantly to Russia's international relations.

His diplomatic journey includes:

2012–2013: Serving as Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

2013–2018: Serving as Senior Consul (Deputy Chief of Mission) at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Karachi.

2018–2022: Working as Senior Counsellor at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in India.

Mr. Fedorov is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University), where he studied English and Bulgarian, and he further honed his diplomatic expertise at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (2002–2004). With the diplomatic rank of Counsellor, 1st class, Mr. Fedorov has been a driving force in strengthening bilateral relations between Russia and Pakistan, particularly in trade, energy, and cultural exchanges. His extensive experience and deep understanding of regional dynamics have made him a key figure in fostering mutual cooperation and understanding between the two nations.



Dr. Alishev Timirkhan Bulatovich

Dr. Timirkhan Bulatovich Alishev, currently serving as Vice-Rector for External Relations at Kazan Federal University (KFU), is a distinguished academic and administrator with a PhD in Sociology specializing in "Social Structure, Social Institutions, and Processes" (2011). He oversees KFU's internationalization strategies, including enhancing its global image, fostering partnerships with foreign institutions, and managing international student recruitment and training. He also ensures compliance with international agreements and federal programs related to KFU's global activities. Dr. Alishev's career spans significant roles in education and governance, including serving as Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tatarstan. He has extensive experience in policy development, research coordination, and professional education. Fluent in Turkish and English, with independent proficiency in German, Dr. Alishev has contributed to academic literature on topics such as trust in sociology and global educational systems. He also completed postgraduate studies at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.



Ambassador Dr. Jamil Ahmed Khan (Retd.)

Dr. Jamil Ahmed Khan, a highly respected diplomat, author, and international civil servant, was recently appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Senate at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST) by the President of Pakistan, who also serves as the University's Chancellor. As Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Libya, and Malta, Dr. Khan achieved significant diplomatic milestones, earning commendation from the Government of Pakistan for his invaluable contributions to the nation's foreign relations. Beyond his diplomatic service, Dr. Khan has held key roles within the United Nations, serving as Chief Security Advisor in East Timor, Yemen, Oman, Somalia, Kenya, and Botswana. His leadership and expertise in these critical regions have been pivotal in addressing complex challenges related to peace, security, and development on both bilateral and multilateral levels. Dr. Khan is also an accomplished author, having published three notable books that delve into diplomacy, international relations, and geopolitical strategy. His writing reflects his profound expertise and deep understanding of global affairs. In addition to his career in diplomacy and writing, Dr. Khan has made significant contributions to academia. He serves on the faculty of New Westminster College in Canada and frequently lectures as a visiting faculty member and guest speaker at various universities in Pakistan. His expert analyses on regional and global geopolitical issues are regularly featured on television, where his insights contribute to shaping public discourse on key international matters.



Dr. Masuma Hasan

Dr. Hasan is Chairman of The Pakistan Institute of International Affairs. She is a scholar, diplomat, and civil servant, President of the Board Governors of Aurat Foundation, Senate and Syndicate member and member of the Selection Board of the University of Karachi. In her public service career, she was Cabinet Secretary to the Government of Pakistan which is the highest post in the civil service, moreover, she held position of Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and in all other international agencies in Vienna where she chaired the Group of 77. Additionally, she was Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia. Furthermore, she was the director of the National Institute of Public Administration Karachi and Director General of the Management Services Division in Islamabad and Karachi. Moreover, Dr. Hasan has a Ph.D. degree in Politics from the University of Cambridge UK. She is the editor of Pakistan in a Changing World and Editor-in Chief of the quarterly Pakistan Horizon. She has been a member of commissions on public sector reforms, served on the boards of many universities and has written articles on public administration and international politics. She has received many awards and was recently named Goodwill Ambassador of the World NGO Day Initiative. She has also written a book titled as Pakistan in an age of Turbulence.



Ambassador Qazi M. Khalilullah (Retd)

Ambassador Qazi M. Khalilullah is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Centre for International Strategic Studies Sindh since 2021. He holds a Master's Degree in International Public Policy from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, USA. He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1985 and served at the Foreign Office Headquarters in Islamabad as Section Officer (1986-88), Director (1996-1999), Director General (2005-2008 and 2014-2015) and Additional Secretary (2015-2016). He held various diplomatic assignments in Pakistan Missions abroad: Embassy of Pakistan Moscow (1988-1993), Embassy of Pakistan Ashgabat (1993-1996), Embassy of Pakistan Kyiv (1999-2002) and Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva (2002-2005). He also attended United Nations Conferences and Expert Group Meetings: (i) World Summit on the Information Society (Phase-I), held in Geneva (2003); (ii) Member of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance (2004-2005); and (iii) Member of the UN Group of



Governmental Experts on Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons Brokering (2006-2007). He was the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from May 2015 to February 2016 and Served as Ambassador to Myanmar (2008-2012), Ambassador to Cuba (2012-2014) and Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2016-2019).

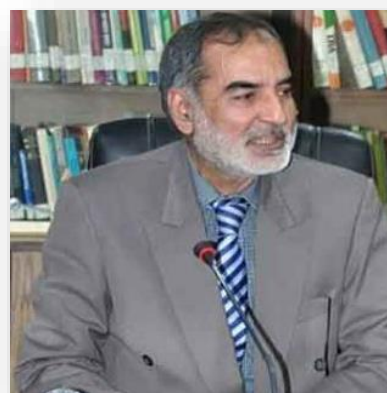
Mr. Abdullah Farrukh

Mr. Farrukh is a distinguished professional in Pakistan's shipping, transport, and logistics industry, currently serving as Director at Pak Shaheen Group, a leading multimodal logistics company established in 1949. With a career marked by significant contributions to enhancing Pakistan's maritime capabilities and fostering international trade relations, Abdullah has played a pivotal role in expanding the group's operations, including negotiating with international shipping lines such as Samudera Lines (Indonesia), Sarjak Lines, and Neco Lines (Russia), which led to the establishment of the first direct sea trade route between Pakistan and Russia. Abdullah has also served as Chairman of the All Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA) for multiple terms, where he worked to modernize the organization, promote professional education, and advocate for the shipping industry's growth. Additionally, as Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Standing Committee on Shipping Affairs, he has been instrumental in formulating proposals to improve the shipping sector in Pakistan. Educationally, Abdullah holds a Master's degree in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick, UK, and a Bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations from Royal Holloway, University of London. He has further enriched his expertise through courses at the London School of Economics and the Cambridge Academy of Transport. With extensive international exposure, Abdullah has participated in high-level conferences and workshops, including the National Security Workshop at the National Defense University in Islamabad and a workshop on the Palestinian Refugee Crisis at Oxford University. Known for his excellent time management, decision-making skills, and deep understanding of socio-political and economic issues, Abdullah is a respected figure in both the shipping industry and broader economic and diplomatic engagements.



Mr. Khalid Rehman

Khalid Rahman is the chairman of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. He is one of the pioneers of the Institute, and having previously served as the Institute's Executive President (2018–2021), Director General (2006–2018), Executive Director (1982–2006), and Associate Director (1979–1982), has been instrumental in turning IPS into a dynamic think tank. Masters in Economics, the main focus areas of his research work include international affairs, economy, governance and politics, religious education institutions, and human development. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of Policy Perspectives, a peer-reviewed flagship journal of IPS that disseminates research on a diverse range of current and emerging topics. Rahman frequently speaks at international seminars and conferences as well and has presented papers and presentations in numerous academic events on diverse topics of national and international significance. He has authored and edited around 50 books, book chapters and reports in English and Urdu, including some contributions to Chinese publications as well. He has almost 30 research papers, 13 reports and 17 policy briefs to his credit, to go alongside 37 conference papers and other research contributions. He also contributes frequently to both national and international print and electronic media in the form of articles, interviews, expert views and op-eds. Rahman, in addition, is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Research Centre for SAARC States (RCSS), Hainan Normal University, Haikou, China, and Non-Resident Research Fellow at the Research Center for Social Development of Islamic Countries, Hebei University, China. Moreover, he is also on the board of advisors and directors of several national and international research and social development organizations and forums.



Mr. Muhammad Farooq Afzal

Muhammad Farooq Afzal is a seasoned entrepreneur with over 12 years of experience in Pakistan's textile sector and 23 years of international business expertise. As President/CEO of the ITN Group of Companies, he has been instrumental in promoting bilateral and multilateral trade since 2004. Mr. Afzal regularly shares his insights on economic development and trade opportunities as a guest on television talk shows. Holding a Master's degree in Business Management from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and a Bachelor's in Commerce from the University of Sindh, he also serves on the Managing Committee of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Prof. Dr. Shaista Tabassum

Prof. Dr. Shaista Tabassum is a distinguished academic and currently serves as the Dean Faculty of Arts at the University of Karachi. She has previously held the position of Chairperson of the Department of International Relations at the same institution. With a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Karachi, her research focuses on nuclear non-proliferation, conflict resolution, and trans-boundary water disputes in South Asia. Dr. Tabassum is the author of a book, a monograph, and numerous research papers. She has also contributed to several research projects, including studies on the Indus Waters Treaty and environmental conflict resolution. Her academic excellence has been recognized through prestigious awards, including the Kodikara Award and the Kulsum Bai Valika Gold Medal. An experienced educator, she has taught at leading institutions such as SZABIST, and IBA. Dr. Tabassum has also participated in international conferences and workshops, including programs at the United Nations and the Woodrow Wilson Center, further enriching her expertise in global affairs.



Prof. Dr. Naeem Ahmed

Prof. Dr. Naeem Ahmed is an accomplished academic and currently serves as the Chairman of the Department of International Relations at the University of Karachi. With a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Karachi, his research focuses on state, society, and terrorism, particularly in the context of Pakistan post-9/11. He also holds a Master's in International Affairs from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Ahmed has extensive teaching experience, having served as Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Lecturer at the University of Karachi. His expertise spans areas such as South Asian security, nuclear issues, conflict resolution, and terrorism. He has also contributed to numerous research projects, including studies on small arms proliferation and peace-building in South Asia, funded by organizations like the Fulbright Program and the Regional Center for Strategic Studies (RCSS). As the Editor of the Pakistan Journal of International Relations (PJIR), Dr. Ahmed has published widely on topics such as counterterrorism, Pakistan-US relations, and regional security dynamics. He has also organized and participated in international conferences, including the SAARC Simulation Exercises and workshops on strategic studies and conflict resolution. Dr. Ahmed's academic contributions and leadership in international relations make him a respected figure in the field both in Pakistan and abroad.



Mr. Boris S. Gusev

Boris Gusev is Deputy Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in charge of the Karachi Branch of the Russian Trade Mission (a governmental agency aimed at promoting trade and economic relations between Russia and Pakistan). Formerly held various executive positions with Russian and international corporations in the private sector. Boris Gusev received his B.A. in Oriental Studies from the Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1986. In 1992 he received a degree cum laude from the Department of International Economics, and in 2005, a degree cum laude from the International Law Department of the All-Russia Academy for Foreign Trade.



Abstracts and Bios

PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC INTEREST

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Talat A Wizarat

Pakistan-Russia relations have seen many ups and downs. Lack of consistency resulted in erosion of confidence and trust on both sides. India got an opportunity to develop close relations with Russia while at the same time benefiting from close relationship with the Western powers. After the end of Afghan war there was a realization in Pakistan that despite suffering adverse consequences during the war the US did not value Pakistan as an ally. After US and other Western powers efforts to involve Pakistan in one war after another there is realization in Pakistan that we need allies who would help us in creating a peaceful regional environment. There are many areas in which Pakistan and Russia can work together for mutual benefit. Cheap oil from Russia can give a boost to Pakistan's economy, many factories had to close down due to inflation in the cost of oil and gas. If oil is available at cheaper rate many of these factories can be revived. Opening new factories with create jobs and improve the country's G.D.P. Russian and Chinese companies can be encouraged to invest in Pakistan's energy sector. There are well founded reports that there are untapped energy resources located in Pakistan's territorial waters. Western oil and gas companies are not interested in providing these energy resources to Pakistan at least for now. Reviving the economy with Russian and Chinese assistance would also help Pakistan get out of IMF's trap which is one of the greatest sources of weakness. To revive the economy also needs improvement in law and order situation in the country. Cooperation between intelligence agencies of Pakistan, Russia, China and other state i.e Afghanistan and Iran would be desirable. For long term peace in the region and promotion of economic cooperation between regional states Russia and China can play pivotal role. Through the efforts of Russia Pakistan-Afghanistan and Pakistan-Iran relations can improve thus reducing the ability of Western powers to exploit regional tensions in their favour.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, China, Economy, Strategic

Prof. Dr. Talat A Wizarat is an esteemed academic with a distinguished career in International Relations. She earned her PhD from the University of Karachi with a thesis on "Strategies for Peace and Security in the Persian Gulf." Dr. Wizarat has held various significant academic positions, including serving as a Professor and Chairperson at the University of Karachi, a Professor at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), and a faculty member at the Institute of Business Management (IOBM). She has taught courses on International Relations, Middle East Studies, Pakistan's Foreign Policy, and more. Dr. Wizarat has authored notable publications, including *Belt and Road Initiative: Emerging World Order* (2023) and *Middle East in a Globalised World: Some Core Issues* (2010), alongside contributing chapters to books and articles in national and international journals.



ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN: MAIN PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Natalia Galistcheva

In the 2000-2020s, there was a change in the scale of economic cooperation between the two countries, the weakening of the Russian vector in the system of priorities of Pakistan's foreign economic policy in the post-reform period. The latest emerging recovery in the Russia-Pakistan interaction is due to the complicated political situation in which Russia and Pakistan appeared to be several years ago on the one hand as well as the gradual reduction of weighted average tariffs of both countries on the other hand. Meanwhile, Russia's share in Pakistan's foreign trade turnover during this period, according to Pakistani customs statistics, is still 0.5%. The share of Pakistan, according to Russian customs statistics, does not exceed 0.1%. Among the positive trends of recent years, it should be noted the increase in the intensity of mutual trade. The calculated index of the intensity of mutual trade between Russia and Pakistan and Pakistan and Russia in 2010-2021 in both cases shows a significant increase. Among the negative trends is the weak diversification of mutual trade, as well as its vertical nature. Analysis of the Grubel-Lloyd index shows that for three relatively large commodity items (vegetable products, pharmaceutical products, plastic products), intra-industry Russian-Pakistani trade has been increasing over the past decade and in 2021 was at a relatively advanced level: for example, for pharmaceutical products, this indicator was 0.6. Thus, mutual trade between Russia and Pakistan is a very weak link in bilateral relations, and its existing level is obviously lower than potentially possible one.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Economic Relations, Mutual Trade

Prof. Dr. Natalia Galistcheva is the Head of the World Economy Department at MGIMO University, where she has been a faculty member since 2002. A Doctor of Science (Economics) with a specialization in the Indian economy, she has extensively studied South Asia's economic policies and international economic relations. She earned her PhD in 2001 and her Doctorate in 2013, focusing on India's tax system and external economic policy during liberal reforms. Dr. Galistcheva's professional experience includes diplomatic roles at Russian consulates in India and Bangladesh, highlighting her practical engagement with South Asia. Her academic interests encompass the global economy, South Asian economies, and national innovation systems. She has authored over 50 publications, including books on Indian economic policy and South Asian economies. Fluent in English, German, and French, she has received numerous accolades, including a prestigious grant from Stroytransgaz. Her courses and research continue to contribute significantly to understanding South Asia's role in the global economic landscape.



FROM DIVERGENCE TO CONVERGENCE OF INTERESTS: NEO REALIST APPROACH TO PAKISTAN RUSSIA RELATIONS

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Adam Saud

This paper explores the evolving dynamics of Pakistan-Russia relations through the lens of Neo-Realism, with a focus on how their bilateral interests have shifted from divergence to convergence over recent decades. Historically, Pakistan and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) had strained relations, particularly during the Cold War era, due to ideological differences, Pakistan's alignment with the U.S., and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. However, in the post-Cold War period, geopolitical shifts, particularly the changing regional security environment in Central and South Asia, have led to a recalibration of their foreign policies, bringing both nations closer. From a Neo-Realist perspective, this convergence can be understood in terms of structural factors and the pursuit of national interests. Neo-Realism emphasizes the role of an anarchic international system and the quest for power as central drivers of state behavior. For Pakistan, improving ties with Russia is seen as a strategic move to diversify its foreign policy options and counterbalance its dependence on the U.S. and China. For Russia, strengthening ties with Pakistan offers a means of expanding its influence in South Asia, particularly in the wake of India-US growing strategic relations and securing its interests in Afghanistan. The paper also analyzes the implications of this shift for regional security dynamics, emphasizing the growing economic and military cooperation between the two nations. By examining both countries' foreign policies through the Neo-Realist framework, this study underscores how their evolving relationship reflects broader global power shifts and the pragmatism inherent in international relations. The paper concludes that while historical and ideological differences remain, the changing balance of power has facilitated a pragmatic convergence of interests between Pakistan and Russia, with potential long-term implications for South Asian security.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Neo-Realism, Regional Security, Divergence, Convergence

Dr. Adam Saud serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bahria University, Pakistan. Holds a master's degree in Political Science and a PhD in IR. His research interests include Central Asia, democratization, foreign policy, terrorism studies, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Dr. Saud is a member of the Board of Governors at Quaid-i-Azam University and serves on the Faculty Boards of Studies (FBOS) of several universities. He is also a reviewer for numerous renowned international and national research journals. As a founding core member of the Ministry of Information's Working Group on Countering Violent Extremism, he has played a pivotal role in shaping counter-extremism strategies. He is the Secretary of the Pakistan Society for International Studies, an esteemed academic society dedicated to the disciplines of International Relations and Political Science. Additionally, Dr. Saud is a member of the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) National Curriculum Revision Committee (NCRC) for International Relations.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: SHARED REGIONAL INTERESTS AND CONNECTIVITY

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan

Russia's changed approach to South Asia influenced by a change in its policy goals and changes in global and regional orientations resulted in a shift to develop strategic and economic cooperation with Pakistan. Pakistan also made efforts to diversify its foreign relations and forge closer cooperation with Russia by adopting a policy of hedging which synthesizes the balancing and band-wagoning approaches. Countries hedge to avoid overdependence on a single major power which may abandon or threaten national security of a weak country. Central Asian regional geopolitical configuration has undergone significant change once again after the US/NATO withdrawal. The regional geo-economic landscape has been evolving with trans-regional integration and connectivity plans of major powers particularly of Russia, China and European Union. The changed regional geopolitical and geo-economic configuration in Central Asia including Afghanistan compels both Pakistan and Russia to develop closer strategic cooperation for the sake of regional stability and connectivity. Both the countries share common understanding of the threat posed by instability in Afghanistan. Joint military and counterterrorism exercises, seven in a series, between Pakistan and Russia enhance their operational capabilities and symbolize joint commitment to address the issues of terrorism collectively with shared resolve. Drug-trafficking, presence of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan and its fragile economy amid institutional decay demand a collective regional approach to address these issues. Pakistan and Russia share perspective on a regionally inclusive settlement of Afghanistan's imbroglio for sustainable peace as the 'layover' phenomenon has come to an end in the wake of US military withdrawal from the region. Sino-Russian strategic collaboration also enforces and solidifies Pak-Russia cooperation. Russia had old plans to access South Asia and Indian Ocean which has been enforced by war with Ukraine and Western sanctions. Shared interests of peace and development in Central Asia and Afghanistan ultimately lead towards Central and South Asia integration and connectivity to link Russia via Central Asia to South Asia, Indian Ocean and beyond in post Ukraine war. Russia's Greater Eurasian Partnership plan makes Pakistan a natural partner. Pakistan would welcome to be a linking bridge between Russia-Central Asia and South Asia. The Asian highway 7 starting from Yekaterinburg in Russia via Astana, Tashkent, Kabul, Kandahar, Quetta and Gwadar/Karachi will take the form of overland North-South trade and logistic corridor. This corridor will enhance the bilateral trade between the two countries to efficiently utilize the recently signed (October 2024) barter trade agreement between Pakistan and Russia. It will also efficiently link the east-west trans-continental Eurasian trade and logistic corridors to the trans-oceanic corridors in north-south direction enhancing trans-regional trade and economic activity.

This research work attempts to answer three questions: first what are the areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Russia bilaterally and in the regional context? How the changed global and regional circumstances impact Pak-Russia bilateral relations? How connectivity between Pakistan and Russia has been evolving in changed regional configuration? The methodology adopted is qualitative in nature. The content and discourse analysis methods are employed to examine, interpret and reinterpret the documents/texts as well as the context. The approach is exploratory as well as explanatory aiming to explore the under studied aspects of Pakistan Russia relations in regional context and explains the causes and consequences of evolving regional geopolitical landscape for bilateral relations.

Keywords: Mutual Interests, Connectivity, Pakistan Russia

Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan graduated from Central Asia (Tashkent) and holds a PhD in Central Asian Studies from the University of Peshawar. He has 23 years of teaching, supervision, and research experience at the MPhil and PhD levels at the Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar. With some knowledge of the Russian language, he has actively participated in numerous international conferences held in Moscow, Tashkent, Bishkek, Ankara, Ashgabat, and China. Dr. Khan is an accomplished researcher, with 44 research publications and 233 citations on Google Scholar, reflecting the impact of his academic contributions. His extensive experience and expertise make him a distinguished figure in Central Asian studies and a valuable asset to his academic community.



AN ANALYSIS OF SCO COUNTER TERRORISM MECHANISM

Abstract

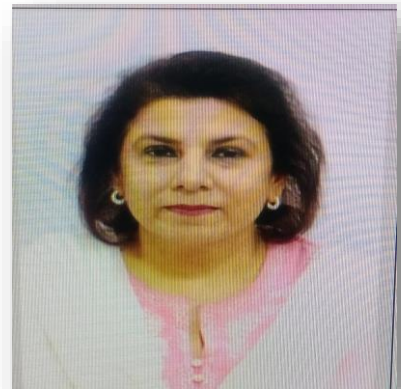
Prof. Dr. Shabana Fayyaz

SCO remains one of the most vital multilateral forum to address the trilateral threats of: terrorism, extremism and separatism. The present research work underscores the necessity of envisioning, pursuing a collaborative approach towards the scourge of terrorism be at national, regional and global level. SCO's Charter, which the members have to adhere to, CT (Counter terrorism) is the third objective which is aligned to the first two objectives. This study elaborates on the drivers, competing perspectives, opportunities and challenges that SCO offers to its member states to include broader regional security parameters (objective 1-2) and its CT specifically (objective 3). The study proposes a 'Integrated and multi-sectoral Counter-terrorism' theoretical prism to explain, analyze the CT mechanism of the SCO in place and foresee the prospect of SCO as the most plausible medium to address the common challenge of terrorism on the sustainable basis. Here, focus is also on Pakistan being fully cognizant of the lethality of terrorism within and beyond its frontier – to effectively contribute, learn and bridge a gap that exists between itself and other member states particularly India, is also highlighted. The following inter-related key queries:

- 1. How SCO's permanent Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is an effective forum to counter Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism?*
- 2. How Pakistan continues to contribute towards the realization of RATS goals versus terrorism for itself and others at large?*
- 3. In nutshell, this study situates terrorism as a multi-dimensional phenomenon cutting across national borders and SCO promises a constructive and long-lasting counterterrorism roadmap for the betterment of all!*

Keywords: SCO, Counter-Terrorism, Regional Security, RATS

Prof. Dr. Shabana Fayyaz is a Professor in the Defence and Strategic Studies Department with over 20 years of teaching and research experience. Her expertise lies in non-traditional security issues, focusing on terrorism and counter-terrorism, youth radicalization, and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). She has an extensive academic record, with more than 40 publications in national and international research journals. Additionally, she has presented over 80 research papers at various conferences. Prof. Dr. Fayyaz also serves as an Advisory Board member for strategic think tanks, contributing her expertise to policy-making and research initiatives.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: DEFENSE AND SECURITY DIMENSIONS

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Ishrat Afshan Abbasi

This study examines the evolving bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, focusing on defence and security dimensions. The findings highlight key milestones in Pakistan-Russia defence and security cooperation, starting from the early 2000s when the two nations began overcoming Cold War-era hostilities. The evolving security and defence relations between Pakistan and Russia are influenced by changing international politics. The US pivot to Asia, strategic rivalry between China and India, and the evolving security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region have prompted Islamabad and Moscow to recalibrate their foreign policies and seek new strategic partnerships. In this context, Pakistan's growing ties with China and Russia's efforts to strengthen its influence in South Asia underscore the changing contours of global power politics. Pakistan and Russia have significantly improved their bilateral collaboration in security and defence, fostering a multifaceted relationship marked by military training, defence collaborations, and nuclear partnerships. This cooperation aims to bolster their defense capabilities and address mutual security challenges. Joint military exercises and training programs have become pivotal, enhancing interoperability and tactical proficiency between their armed forces. The two nations have also explored avenues of nuclear collaboration, particularly in civil nuclear energy, reflecting a deepening strategic partnership. Furthermore, their shared interest in the Afghan peace process underscores a commitment to regional stability, highlighting their roles as pivotal actors in South Asian security dynamics. This paper examines the evolution of Pakistan-Russia security and defence relations, analysing key initiatives and their implications for regional security and geopolitical alignments.

Keywords: Defense, Security, Pakistan, Russia, South Asia

Prof. Dr. Ishrat Afshan Abbasi is a Professor in the Department of International Relations at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, where she has worked as a faculty member since 2004. She has also been Chairperson of the same Department since January 2019. Dr. Abbasi completed her M.Phil. from the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in 2012 and obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Erfurt, Germany, in 2018. Her research interests cover East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East in the context of Peace & Conflict and Security Affairs. She has authored several research papers and articles for academic journals, magazines, and books. Dr. Abbasi has participated actively in different international forums. Among them, the most prominent are i. International Visitors Leadership Program, Washington D.C; ii. Japan-South Asia Youth Invitation Program, Tokyo; iii. Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace, New Delhi iv. Regional Center for Strategic Studies, Colombo. v. IAHR 21st World Congress, Erfurt, Germany. She has contributed to several conferences, workshops, and seminars.



TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS IN PAKISTANI-RUSSIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS: DIFFICULTIES, PROBLEMS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Said Zakirovich Gafurov

Role of Foreign trade in Pakistani-Russian economic relations: reasons of inadequate size, Russian demand for Pakistani goods, Pakistani demand for Russian goods, potential for energy and hydrocarbon trade, potential for high-tech trade, problems of financing of Pakistani-Russian trade. Possibilities and obstacles for land trade routes. Sea trade routes. Eastern and Western routes. Air trade routes. Intermediate trade bases and centers. Challenges and opportunities for Pakistani-Russian trade.

Keywords: Economy, Trade, Trade Routes, Russia, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Said Zakirovich Gafurov is a Russian scholar, Marxian economist, orientalist, bureaucrat, and opera critic. After working in the government in his early career, Gafurov transitioned into the academic sector and is now an associate professor at Moscow State Linguistic University. His journalism centers on trade unionist activities and electoral politics. He also hosts the web shows Point of view: Orient, Point of view: Economy, and Point of view: Behind the Ocean on Pravda.



THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF RUSSIAN-PAKISTANI COOPERATION IN EURASIAN INTEGRATION

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Boris Volkhonsky

The pivotal role of Russian-Pakistani cooperation in Eurasian integration Russia – Pakistani relations have come a long way since the times of the Cold War, especially 1980s, when Soviet troops were present in Afghanistan and Pakistan was one of the major forces behind the anti-Soviet coalition. Today, the relationship is obviously on the rise in many spheres. The basic geopolitical objectives of the two countries either coincide or are very close. Both Russia and Pakistan are opposed to the unipolar world order when one hegemonic power intends to dictate its will upon others. Luckily, the situation is much different from what it used to be in the 1990s, soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, China has risen as a powerful global centre capable of challenging the U.S. hegemony in almost all spheres. The historic accession of both Pakistan and India to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2017 further signifies the importance of Pakistan as one of the pivotal states in the Eurasian region, without which no integrational efforts on the continent would ever succeed. Still, the situation is far from being over-too-optimistic. The changing global geopolitical context leaves too many options open and unpredictable. The attempts of the outgoing hegemonic powers to preserve their status may lead (and have led) to drastic attempts to change the global tendencies in a coercive manner. Therefore, Russia – Pakistan bilateral relations cannot be looked upon simply as bilateral ones, but rather in a broader multidimensional context.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Eurasia, Geopolitical, Cooperation

Prof. Dr. Boris Volkhonsky was born on 7th July 1955. He holds an MA from the Institute of Asian and African Countries, obtained in 1978, with a focus on South Asian philology. He earned his Ph.D. in 1982 in Sinhala language. From 1982 to 1998, he served as a lecturer at the Institute of Asian and African Countries. Between 1998 and 2008, Boris was a senior correspondent at *Kommersant* Publishing House. He worked as a senior researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences from 2008 to 2011, and later at the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies until 2017. Since 2017, he has been an associate professor at the Institute of Asian and African Countries. His research fields include South Asian languages and culture, politics in South Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Boris is fluent in English, Sinhala, and Hindi, speaks Urdu, and reads Sanskrit.



FACTORS OF TRANSFORMATION OF MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Kashirina Tatyana

The report presents an analysis of the process of formation and transformation of the Westphalian system of international relations. Special attention is paid to the transformation of its latest modification – the Yalta-Potsdam subsystem in the post-bipolar period. The author gives an assessment of the process of shaping the modern world order, especially after the deterioration of relations between the collective West and Russia. The analysis of the factors of the fundamental restructuring of the modern world order is presented, the most significant of which are Russia's conceptual revision of its foreign policy, strengthening ties with China and the countries of the Global South and the objective strengthening of non-Western countries in political and economic terms.

Keywords: Russia, Modern World Order, Political, Economic

Prof. Dr. Kashirina Tatyana Vladislavovna has over 12 years of experience with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. From 2015 to 2021, she served as the Head of the Department of International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. Since 2021, she has chaired the Dissertation Council on Historical Sciences at the same institution. Currently, she is the Head of the Department of International Relations and Foreign Policy of Russia at Moscow State Linguistic University. Her research focuses on Russian-American relations, arms reduction, and international conflicts, reflecting her extensive expertise in global diplomacy and international relations.



REALIGNMENTS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA: GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Sarwat Rauf

This paper examines the evolving dynamics of Russia-Pakistan relations, focusing on their shared strategic interests and initiatives. In light of shifting global geopolitics, Moscow and Islamabad are realigning their policies to address mutual regional challenges, including counterterrorism, energy security, and infrastructure development. As Pakistan's demand for diversified energy sources grows, Russia's expertise in the energy sector presents significant opportunities for collaboration. Furthermore, multilateral platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) offer avenues for both nations to coordinate efforts on countering extremism, enhancing trade, and improving regional connectivity. The study addresses key questions: How are Russia and Pakistan leveraging shared interests while navigating challenges such as regional rivalries and divergent foreign policy priorities? What are the implications of this partnership for the geopolitical stability of South Asia? The study found that historically shaped by Cold War rivalries, the bilateral relationship of Pakistan and Russia has undergone a transformation, driven by shared interests in stabilizing Afghanistan and ensuring regional security. This paper analyzes the complexities and opportunities within the Russia-Pakistan relationship, highlighting how their growing collaboration is reshaping the geopolitical landscape of South Asia. By examining this realignment, the study reveals how nations can reshape their relationships, balancing past frictions with the need for a shared future. It shows how geopolitics is not only about power but also about finding ways to build stability in a world full of uncertainty.

Key Words: South Asia, Pakistan, Russia, Geo-political Landscape

Dr. Sarwat Rauf is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of International Relations and Peace & Conflict Studies at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. She earned her Ph.D. in International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University in 2017. With over two decades of academic experience, Dr. Rauf has held various teaching and administrative roles, including visiting research positions at prestigious institutions such as George Washington University and Cambridge University. Dr. Rauf has published extensively in renowned academic journals and has contributed chapters to books on international relations and regional politics. She has also been involved in organizing international conferences and seminars, playing a pivotal role in promoting scholarly discourse on critical global issues. An active member of several academic boards, Dr. Rauf is a recognized supervisor for Ph.D. and M.Phil. Scholars.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA: QUO VIDAS

Abstract

Dr. Rizwan Zaib

National interest is the core of the international state system. As per the dictum, “there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, only permanent interests,” international politics functions on the principals of commonality of interest. It is this principal that has brought Pakistan and Russia closer. Although the historical baggage and its psychological effects are still there yet the prevailing geostrategic environment has pushed them to come closer as there is growing sense of commonality of interest. In the last two decades, due to several compulsions and developments, both countries have identified a common ground that has resulted in though a cautious yet pragmatic approach to improve and strengthen the bilateral relationship leaving the historical baggage where it belongs. Of late, one has witnessed a growing bilateral partnership and engagement in areas such as counter-terrorism, Afghanistan, military-to-military engagement, economy and diplomacy. This indicates that there is a desire and potential to further improve and expand this relationship. However, several impediments such as the ensuing US-China competition, role of India, Moscow’s supplier dependency syndrome, Pakistan’s western orientation etc., remain. What lies ahead for this relationship would largely depend on how both countries navigate through these challenges.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, National Interests, Counter-Terrorism, Afghanistan, Economy

Dr. Rizwan Zaib is the Associate Editor of the *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs* (Sage). He previously held the position of Benjamin Meaker Professor of Politics at the University of Bristol and served as a research scholar in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, USA. With his extensive academic and research background, Rizwan Zaib has made significant contributions to the fields of Asian security, international affairs, and foreign policy analysis. His work has shaped critical discussions on global political dynamics and security issues.



PERSPECTIVES OF PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA: ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW POLITICAL REALITIES

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Ilsur Nafikov

Pakistan and Russia have been working to strengthen their economic and trade relations in recent years, reflecting a mutual interest in enhancing cooperation across various sectors. During the Cold War, Pakistan and the Soviet Union had a complicated relationship, with Pakistan aligning more closely with the United States. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, relations were relatively limited, but both countries began to explore opportunities for collaboration in various fields. In recent years, there has been a noticeable warming of relations, marked by high-level visits and dialogues aimed at fostering closer ties. Several agreements have been signed to enhance cooperation in areas such as defense, energy, and trade. The trade volume between Pakistan and Russia has been modest compared to other countries, but efforts are being made to increase it. In recent years, trade has included commodities like textiles, agricultural products, and machinery. Pakistan exports textiles, leather goods, and agricultural products to Russia, while it imports machinery, fertilizers, and energy products from Russia. One of the significant projects under consideration is the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline (formerly known as the North-South Gas Pipeline), which aims to transport natural gas from Russia to Pakistan. There are still several barriers to trade, including tariffs and regulatory hurdles that need to be addressed to facilitate smoother economic exchanges. The evolving regional dynamics, especially with the rise of China and India, may also play a role in shaping the future of Pakistan-Russia economic relations. In general, while the economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Russia have historically been limited, recent efforts indicate a desire to deepen cooperation. Both countries recognize the potential benefits of collaboration in various sectors, which could lead to increased trade and investment in the coming years.

Keywords: Economy, Trade, Energy, Pakistan, Russia

Prof. Dr. Ilsur Nafikov is a distinguished scholar and educator with a strong background in Oriental Studies. He graduated from Kazan State University's Institute of Oriental Studies in 2009 and completed his Doctoral research in History in 2013. Following his doctoral achievements, he continued his academic career at Kazan University as a lecturer. From 2015 to 2022, he served as a visiting lecturer at Istanbul University's Faculty of Letters. During his tenure, he advanced to the role of Deputy Head of the Department of Altay, Turkic, and Central Asian Research, contributing significantly to the study and promotion of these fields.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA SECURITY CHALLENGES: ROLE OF AFGHANISTAN

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Imrana Begum

Pakistan and Russia share the challenge of insecurity. Regional and internal insecurity is one of the basic strategic drivers behind the evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship. Afghanistan has been the primary source of their insecurity. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan and handing over power to the Taliban, whom they ousted twenty years ago, was perceived by these regional countries as the beginning of a new era of peace and stability in the region. The perception was based on the fact that the Taliban have deep roots in Pakistan. While Russia played a significant role in the Afghan crisis. It initiated diplomatic summits on Afghan settlement and brought two opposite poles of Afghanistan's politics, the Afghan state and the Taliban representatives, to a dialogue table to find a solution for the war-weary country. When the Western countries closed their embassies in Kabul, Islamabad, and Moscow were among the few regional countries that kept their missions open during the Taliban takeover. The Taliban government became responsible for the security of Afghanistan. However, forty-two years of turmoil made it a breeding ground for terrorist organizations that threaten Pakistan, Central Asian states, and Russia. These organizations consistently use Afghan territory to launch terror attacks inside these countries. The internal political dynamics in Pakistan and Russia further complicated the security issues. Russia appreciates Pakistan's efforts in combating international terrorism, and both believe in collective efforts to eradicate this evil. The paper explores the security challenges that Pakistan and Russia are confronting following the US military's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, Afghanistan, Taliban, Security Challenges

Prof. Dr. Imrana Begum is an Associate Professor at the Department of Essential Studies, NED University of Engineering & Technology. She has been teaching at the university since 2009. She completed her Master's in General History from the University of Karachi, securing second position. In 2010, she earned a Ph.D. from the Area Study Centre for Europe, University of Karachi. Her book, "The Impact of the Afghan-Soviet War on Pakistan," was published by Oxford University Press, Karachi, in 2017 and was nominated for the UBL Literary Award for the Best Non-Fiction English book in 2018. Dr. Begum has contributed chapters to books, and her research papers have been published in national and international reputable journals. Her research interests focus on South Asia, Russia, China, and Central Asia. She is a lifetime member of the Society of Social Sciences and Research Association.



STUDYING AND LEARNING PAKISTANI LANGUAGES, LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN RUSSIA: HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVES

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Anna Chelnokova

It is well-known that diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Soviet Union were established on 1 May 1948. Pakistan, a new-born country, was a territory of great political interest for USSR and its leader Josif Stalin, but for common people the culture of this country very soon became a subject of great interest and love. Urdu, the official language of the country was taught in both scientific centers of Soviet Union, Moscow and Leningrad (currently St. Petersburg). The works of Mirza Ghalib and Muhammad Iqbal, as well as "Umrao Jan Ada" the novel by Mirza Hadi Ruswa (later several films based on it also became popular), were well known and loved among Russian readers, so they wanted to know much about modern literature and culture of Pakistan. Soviet radio was broadcasting from Moscow in Urdu and two main publishing houses, "Progress" and "Raduga", have published a number of translations of fiction written by Pakistani authors (short stories by Ghulam Abbas, Mirza Adeb, Ibrahim Jalees, Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, Saadat Hasan Manto were translated from Urdu and published in 1965 and 1988, novel "Khuda Ki Basti" by Shaukat Siddiqui in 1965, poems by A.N. Qasmi in 1966 etc). Due to the efforts by academician Alexey Barannikov and linguist Georgiy Zograf teaching of Urdu and other languages of Pakistan in Leningrad University reached the highest level, several books and textbooks were published. This tradition is alive now in St. Petersburg State University and will be presented in the paper.

Keywords: Pakistan, Language Literature, Culture, Russia, Urdu

Prof. Dr. Anna Chelnokova is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Indian Philology at the Faculty of Asian and African Studies, St. Petersburg State University. She graduated from the same university, specializing in South Asian Literary Studies, and has also studied in India and the Netherlands. Her primary scientific interests include the Theory and Sociology of Literature, Modern South Asian Literature, Cross-Cultural Communication, Gender, and Translation Studies. Dr. Chelnokova is the author of more than 50 scientific publications in Russian, English, and South Asian languages, including 10 monographs and textbooks. She has also published over 15 translations of literary works from South Asian languages and English. Dr. Chelnokova frequently gives lectures and masterclasses on literature in Russia, Europe, and South Asia.



COMMON CHALLENGES IN THE CONTEXT OF EVENTS IN SYRIA: TO THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Maria Kolesnikova

The presentation is dedicated to the designation of key issues related to the dramatic changes happened in Syria in the late November-December. How do the events affect the Russian foreign policy? What can it mean for Pakistan? Are there any common points of high significance on the agenda of the diplomacy of Moscow and Islamabad? Any new specifics in the triangle Russia-Turkiye-Pakistan? The author does not pretend to answer directly all of these questions but prepares some specific commentaries that can pave a way to the broader professional discussion.

Keywords: Syria, Russia, Pakistan, Common Challenges.

Prof. Dr. Maria is a distinguished scholar with an academic foundation in International Relations, having graduated with honors in both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. Petersburg State University. With experience in diplomatic service at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow and the Russian Embassy in Morocco, maria has a practical understanding of international diplomacy. In 2021, Maria earned a Ph.D. in Political Science in Moscow, focusing on Turkish policy in Africa at the current stage. Since 2022, Maria has been serving as an Associate Professor at the Moscow State Linguistic University. An accomplished academic, Maria has authored over 40 scientific papers and one monograph, along with translating Reza Aslan's book on the history of Islam into Russian. Maria's spheres of scientific interest include Turkey, the Islamic world, the Middle East and North Africa, geopolitics, and political conflicts, reflecting a deep commitment to advancing research and understanding in these areas.



THE RUSSIAN-PAKISTANI RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF RUSSIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Veronica Usacheva

The geopolitical turbulence of recent years, and Russia's confrontation with the Global West open new opportunities to increase and diverse cooperation of Russia with the countries of the Global South including Pakistan. In the last two decades, objective preconditions have emerged for strengthening relations between Russia and Pakistan, due to the fact that Islamabad has begun to increasingly gravitate towards Eurasian policy both in the international agenda and in the trade and investment sphere. Today Russia and Pakistan are considering mutually beneficial projects in such sectors as trade, energy, transport, IT, science, education and media. Joint projects in infrastructure development could lay the foundation for Pakistan's broader integration into the Eurasian cooperation agenda. Consistent work on strengthening political, economic and humanitarian ties will make it possible to overcome the problems of the past and create an understanding that Russia is not building a tactical alliance with Pakistan for its immediate benefit, but is creating a system of long-term partnerships, forming a belt of friends and partners of the Global South. The paper analyses the potential of Russia-Pakistan relations in various spheres, identifies the main challenges and possible limitations for them.

Keywords: Global South, Cooperation, Trade, Challenges, Russia, Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Veronica Usacheva is an Associate Professor at Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Mass Communication, Financial University under the Government of Russian Federation. She holds MA in Political Sciences from the Russian State University for the Humanities, PhD in Political Sciences from the Institute for African Studies. Dr. Usacheva is an alumna of the TESIS TEMPUS Program at the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialization: «Sociology of Mass Communication», and alumna of the Summer University program of the Central European University (CEU), course “Media Globalization and Post-communist European Identities”. Usacheva was a visiting scholar with the African Studies Centre, Faculty of Social Science of the University of Leiden. Dr. Usacheva has participated in fieldwork in Africa (Tanzania) and among people of African origin in Russia, USA and India. She has conducted research project on Cross-cultural adaptation in modern Russian megalopolis (Moscow).



RUSSIAN-PAKISTANI RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE THEORY OF A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Rustem Chanyshv Narimovich

The theory of a multipolar world tries to answer the question of how to consider international relations in a rapidly changing world. The interaction of elements of realism, liberalism and constructivism within the theory of multipolarity allows for a more complete consideration of various aspects of international relations, thereby creating a more comprehensive and balanced understanding of global politics. A comparison of the above theories reveals a complex relationship between different approaches to the analysis of international relations. Multipolarity, recognizing the multi-vector nature and diversity of the international system, integrates elements from each of these theories, creating a flexible and multi-faceted conceptual framework. Russian-Pakistani relations are at the stage of manifestation. The modern system of international relations is characterized, first of all, by a significant number of states seeking to build constructive relationships with new partners. Pakistan, with its important geopolitical position, is primarily of interest to Russia as a reliable partner in South Asia. Pakistan itself is showing tendencies towards rapprochement with a powerful geopolitical player, which could be a profitable partner in conditions when the hegemony of the West is declining. The West, promoting the universality of its institutions, norms and values as the only correct and possible ones, does not pay due attention to civilizational differences. The theory of the multipolar world argues from the point of view of the civilizational approach. By analyzing modern international processes in more depth, it offers a new understanding of world order, where civilizations with cultural and value differences are the main actors in international relations. Thus, the theory of the multipolar world is more flexible in its approach to the analysis of global political processes, which helps it to more accurately predict the development of the global order in the future.

Keywords: Multipolar World Theory, Civilizational Approach, World Order, Global Politics.

Prof. Dr. Rustem Chanyshv completed his higher education at Kazan State University from 2002 to 2007, earning a degree in History from the Faculty of History, with qualifications as a Historian and History Teacher. He holds the academic title of Candidate of Historical Sciences (PhD), awarded on February 17, 2012, specializing in General History. His dissertation was titled “George Frost Kennan as a Diplomat, Statesman, and Historian.” Currently, he serves as an Associate Professor (PhD) at Kazan Federal University (KFU) in the Institute of International Relations, History, and Oriental Studies. He is a primary faculty member at the Higher School of International Relations and World History in the Department of International Relations, World Politics, and Diplomacy, while also contributing as an internal part-time staff member. His academic and professional focus is on advancing research and teaching in international relations and world history.



WORLD ECONOMY

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Irina Morozova

In the modern world, the economy plays a key role in the life of every individual and society as a whole. The global economy is a complex system of interconnections between countries, constantly evolving under the influence of various factors. In 2023, we observe numerous trends and challenges that require careful analysis and reflection. The global economy encompasses concepts such as international trade, investments, exchange rates, and economic relations between states. It is characterized by dynamism and volatility, making it vulnerable to various crises and challenges. In the context of globalization, countries are becoming increasingly interdependent, creating both opportunities and risks. Climate change is becoming an increasingly relevant issue for the global economy. Countries are beginning to realize the need to transition to sustainable development and reduce carbon emissions. For example, many nations are adopting laws aimed at developing green energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Only through collective efforts and international cooperation can the difficulties in the global economy be overcome, leading to a more sustainable and equitable economic system.

Keywords: Global Economy, Trade, Globalization, Climate Change

Prof. Dr. Irina Morozova graduated from Kazan Federal University in 2000 and has accumulated 11 years of experience as a lecturer. For the past 3 years, she has been teaching at Kazan Federal University, contributing her expertise and knowledge to the academic community. Her long-standing career in education reflects her commitment to fostering learning and academic growth.



TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN: HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY ASPECTS

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Tumasheva Marina Viktorovna

This paper analyzes the development of bilateral economic relations between Russia and Pakistan, examining key stages of cooperation, including periods of growth and decline, as well as factors that have influenced the dynamics of trade and economic ties. The author explores the structure of bilateral trade, identifying the main export and import positions of both countries. Special attention is given to the potential for further development of cooperation, analyzing existing barriers and opportunities for expanding trade and economic relations, including prospects in energy, infrastructure, and other sectors. In conclusion, the paper presents findings on the current state and future prospects of the Russian-Pakistani trade and economic partnership.

Keywords: Economic Relations, Trade, Import, Export, Russia, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Tumasheva Marina Viktorovna, a Candidate of Economic Sciences (2016) and Associate Professor in the field of "Economic Theory" (2021), holds two higher education degrees: "Applied Mathematics" (1999) and "Management" (2002). She has 22 years of academic and teaching experience and has published over fifty scientific works, including articles in central journals, a monograph (2017), textbooks (2012, 2020, 2022), and publications indexed in Scopus. Her research interests focus on the sustainable development of the national economy in the context of globalization, the global economy, and international economic relations. Currently, she serves as the Head of the Department of International Economic Relations at Kazan Federal University.



WAYS TO DEVELOP TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN

Abstract

Dr. Kirillova Olga

Currently, relations between Russia and Pakistan tend to develop and expand further. The volume of mutual trade is relatively small (no more than \$ 1 billion), but there are prerequisites for their increase. Since 2023, road transport between the countries has been launched to deliver imported products from Pakistan to Russia. A memorandum was also signed on the creation of an international transport corridor between Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The issue of cooperation in the field of rail transportation is being actively lobbied. A solution to the problem of launching direct flights is being discussed. At the same time, an increase in indicators for the transportation of goods by sea is expected. A special place is occupied by the issue of the construction of a gas pipeline in Pakistan. Oil supplies from Russia to Pakistan began in 2023. The government of the country is also interested in expanding military-technical cooperation with the Russian Federation. Pakistan has shown great interest in joining the BRICS, but it was not possible to do so in 2024, but it is likely that, based on Russia's support, it will definitely join the next group of countries that joined the association.

Keywords: Trade, Cooperation, Transportation, Russia, Pakistan

Dr. Kirillova Olga holds a PhD in Economics and serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Institute of International Relations, History, and Oriental Studies at Kazan Federal University. She is a distinguished academic, contributing her expertise to the fields of economics and international relations through teaching and research.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND COOPERATION

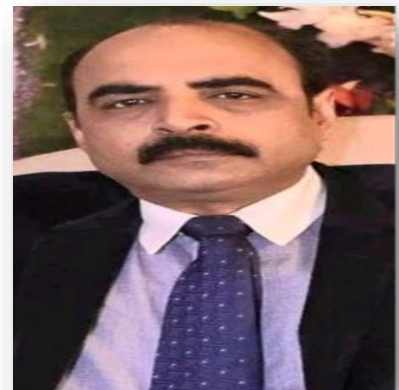
Abstract

Dr. Arshad Javed Rizvi

Though the traditional bipolar world is fast fading as this seems to be an era of multipolar world, the importance of Russia in the context of regional and international affairs cannot be overemphasized. Despite absence of enviable relations in the past, Pakistan-Russia ties have been productive during different governments in the two countries. In recent years, Pakistan-Russia relations have experienced a significant shift, with a growing emphasis on regional connectivity and cooperation. The two nations are exploring opportunities to strengthen their economic ties, enhance energy cooperation, and promote regional stability.

Keywords: Regional Connectivity, Cooperation, Pakistan, Russia, Bilateral Relations

Dr. Arshad Javed Rizvi is an Associate Professor at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology. He completed his doctorate in Pakistan Studies with a thesis titled *The Political System of Pakistan: A Constitutional Study*, which was later published as a book with amendments by Paramount Publishers. Dr. Rizvi is also the author of four books and has published ten research papers.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Malaev Vladimir Valentinovich

The imbalance factors in the national economy are defined by the whole bunch of drivers such are: common transformation of geopolitical realities, using sanctions as a tool for regulating economic problems, realisation of factors complicating the development of multipolar world. On the other hand, the imbalance of the national economic system creates risks for sustainable development of the world economic system in general. The limitations and opportunities formed by complicating globalization processes and regionalization of modern world economics require new approaches to deal with problems of emerging changes. Formation of new industrial and financial centers, integration of friendly economic systems in the innovative process creates foundations to achieve stability and sustainable speed of economic growth. Using tools of government control and market economy allows to improve coordination of businesses and government in the solution of economic growth imbalance.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Market Development, Emerging Changes, Russian Economy, Multipolar World.

Prof. Dr. Malaev Vladimir Valentinovich, born on April 29, 1971, is a distinguished academic with a strong background in economics and mathematics. He graduated from Kazan State University with a specialization as an economist-mathematician and successfully defended his PhD thesis in 1998. Currently, Malaev V.V. serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of International and Economic Relations at Kazan Federal University. His academic contributions and expertise in the field of international and economic relations highlight his commitment to research and education in these critical areas.



RUSSIAN-PAKISTAN COMMON CHALLENGES AND INTERESTS IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Zamaraeva Natalia Alex

Russia and Pakistan share numerous common challenges and interests at global, regional, and bilateral levels, including security, economic collaboration, and geopolitical concerns. Diplomatic relations, established in 1948, have witnessed fluctuations but have evolved into a constructive partnership. Notable milestones include the Tashkent Agreement (1965), Soviet-supported industrial projects in the 1970s, and the Consultative Group on Strategic Stability since 2003. A strategic realignment began in 2011, marked by joint military exercises, economic initiatives like the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline, and collaboration within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Recent developments reflect Russia's increasing interest in strengthening ties with Pakistan through investments in energy, defense, and infrastructure. Despite challenges such as sanctions and limited trade volume, institutional mechanisms like the Inter-Governmental Commission facilitate ongoing cooperation. The partnership exemplifies a shift toward mutual trust, engagement, and a shared commitment to addressing regional challenges, fostering peace, and enhancing economic connectivity.

Key Terms: South Asia, Russia, Pakistan, SCO.

Prof. Dr. Zamaraeva Natalia Alex is affiliated with the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences. She graduated from Moscow State University and earned her PhD in 1999 from the Institute of Oriental Studies, specializing in the Middle East. Her research focused on the internal and foreign policy of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Natalia Alex has published more than 600 research articles, showcasing her extensive expertise in a variety of areas. Her areas of specialization include Pakistan's internal politics (political parties, political opposition, civil-military relations, the fight against terrorism, FATA reforms following the Constitutional Amendment of May 2018, the judicial system, and state-building). She also examines Pakistani society, covering aspects such as demography, education, poverty, youth, and the labor force, as well as the country's economy. Her work on Pakistan's foreign policy encompasses regional relations with Afghanistan, India, Iran, China (including CPEC), Central Asian republics, and Middle Eastern countries, as well as Pakistan's ties with the European Union, the USA, and Russia. Additionally, she explores Pakistan's involvement with international organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, FATF, ASEAN, SCO, and BRICS+.



PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA'S RELATIONSHIP AND REGIONAL STABILITY

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Mussarat Jabeen

The aim of the study is to explore evolving Pak-Russian relationship after disintegration of Soviet Union. In post-cold war politics, Russia emerged as a multi-party democracy with a liberal economy. It alleviated to military and economic power and tried to re-organize itself as a world power. Pakistan recognised Russia as the successor of former Soviet Union and enhanced relations, comprehending Russia's significance in international politics. Any goodwill gesture from Moscow was welcomed by Islamabad, expecting better relations as the fluctuating nature of mutual ties kept the two at distance during Cold War, Afghan Jihad, and Taliban regime. However, the tragic events of 9/11 brought a shift and led to convergence of interests. Change in Pakistan's policy compel Moscow to look positively with optimistic views. No doubt, peace and stability in Afghanistan is difficult without regional collaboration and Moscow understands it. Both countries have moved from estrangement to institutional engagement, driven by strategic interests. Russia is working to get back its lost glory, whereas Pakistan is in search of energy resources to overcome its faulting economy. Enhanced Russian role is required for stability and prosperity. The study has raised question, either Pak-Russia's relations are without any mistrust and regional environment is facilitating them. After reviewing literature and empirical evidences, it is assumed that bilateral relations require trust and interest along with regional stability. Analytical and interpretive approaches are to be applied. It is concluded that geopolitical landscape and shared interests provide a base for pragmatic ties.

Keywords: Post-Cold War politics, Terrorist attacks, economy, peace

Prof. Dr. Mussarat Jabeen is currently working at the University of Sargodha. She has previously worked at the University of Lahore and Sargodha and also served as Associate Professor/Chairperson in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sargodha. Dr. Jabeen completed her Ph.D. in International Relations and M.Phil. from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in 2002. She has been teaching and researching since 1990 and has served as an HEC-approved supervisor for Ph.D. students. Under her supervision, around 70 students have completed their M.Phil. degrees, and one Ph.D. scholar has earned their degree. Dr. Jabeen has also been a member of the HEC curriculum committees. With over 60 research articles to her name, she has co-edited three books and contributed chapters to several others. Dr. Jabeen has participated in and presented papers at numerous national and international conferences and seminars. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Board of Studies at various universities.



CHINA'S PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMON SECURITY WITH THE "GLOBAL SECURITY OUTLOOK" IN THE NEW ERA

Abstract

Prof. Xu Chang

In the new era of deepening globalization in the 21st century, the international security environment is undergoing unprecedented and profound changes. Accelerated technological advancements, economic globalization, and the dissemination of information have increasingly intertwined countries in mutual dependence, forming a complex and ever-changing global security landscape characterized by both traditional and non-traditional security threats. Against this backdrop, China, as the largest developing country and a responsible major power, profoundly recognizes the importance of maintaining international security and stability. It has put forward the "Global Security Outlook" with distinct Chinese characteristics, aiming to lead the international community in jointly addressing security challenges and achieving lasting peace and common development in the world. This paper aims to comprehensively sort out the current hot-button issues in the international community and the common security challenges faced, including geopolitical conflicts, terrorism, climate change, cybersecurity, and more. It also delves into China's positions, principles, and specific measures in promoting international common security under the guidance of the "Global Security Outlook." "China advocates multilateralism, advocating peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation; it adheres to win-win cooperation, promoting the building of a new type of international relations; it focuses on addressing both symptoms and root causes, advocating comprehensive measures to tackle security challenges. Through these initiatives, China has not only played an active role in international security governance but also provided valuable references and inspiration for the international community to jointly address security challenges and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Keywords: China, Security, Geopolitical Conflicts, Multilateralism, International Community

Prof. Xu Chang is an accomplished academic specializing in Russian and comparative studies. She is doing PhD in Political Science from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Russian People's Friendship University, Moscow. Currently affiliated with Songyuan Vocational and Technical College in Jilin, China as an Associate Professor since 2018. She has made significant contributions to the academic field through her teaching and research, fostering a deeper understanding of Russian studies within a comparative framework.



STRATEGIC DRIVERS OF THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: CHALLENGES, OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Dr. Sumeera Imran

A reshuffling of alliance partnership is making in the evolving trends of Pakistan-Russia relations in contemporary South Asia. The drift earmarks immense implications for Pakistan's domestic, regional and global security interests. The paper tends to analyze strategic drivers of Pakistan-Russia relations, shaping the contours of their alliance partnership from 2018 to the present. The research employs neo-classical realist framework to analyze the contours of Pakistan-Russia relations, while relying on qualitative methodology, using content analysis and elite interviews to examine the changing dynamics of great power competition in Pakistan and the latter's quest for security. The research aims to forecast the strategic drivers of Pakistan-Russia partnership despite the former's tough choices amid traditional alignment patterns of engagement in South Asia. The study has furnished an empirical study of the strategic choices, constraints and opportunities entailed in Pakistan-Russia relations. The research has argued that changing dynamics of great power competition has up-surged the entente in Pakistan-Russia relations, with implications for Pakistan's partnership with traditional allies such as the US in the region.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Alliance, Strategic Drivers, South Asia.

Dr. Sumeera Imran, Assistant Professor, NDU, Faculty of Contemporary Studies, holds a doctoral degree from QAU in International Relations. She holds a doctoral dissertation on US-China Relations and her area of specialization is Great Powers Involvement in South Asia. She writes on national and international security, identity politics, authoritarian populism and international politics of Asia Pacific region. She teaches politics, theories and philosophy of international relations.



EVOLVING POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN AFGHANISTAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL SECURITY AND REGIONAL STABILITY

Abstract

Dr. Mujahid Hussain

The evolving political dynamics in Afghanistan have profound implications for Pakistan's internal security and regional stability. The withdrawal of international forces, the resurgence of the Taliban, and ongoing power struggles within Afghanistan have created a volatile environment with direct repercussions for neighboring Pakistan. Key issues such as the rise of extremist ideologies, cross-border militancy, refugee influxes, and challenges to border management have intensified security concerns. This study examines the interplay between Afghanistan's shifting political landscape and Pakistan's internal security, focusing on the spread of militancy, the impact on counterterrorism strategies, and socio-political disruptions. It analyzes how these dynamics influence Pakistan's regional relationships, particularly with neighboring states and global powers, in the context of strategic alliances and geopolitical realignments. By exploring these factors, the research underscores the necessity for robust policy responses, regional cooperation, and conflict resolution mechanisms to mitigate risks and foster long-term stability in South Asia.

Keywords: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Internal Security, Militancy, Counterterrorism, Regional Stability.

Dr. Mujahid Hussain is serving as the Head of Department at MY University, Islamabad, and as an Honorary Associate Professor at the International Open University, Gambia. His research focuses on South Asian politics. He is an "Approved Supervisor" recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, authorized to supervise BS, MS, M. Phil., and Ph.D. scholars in the domains of Social Sciences. Dr. Hussain has over 46 peer-reviewed national and international research publications, and one book on Orientalism is currently in process. With more than 10 years of experience in administration, research, and teaching, he supervises BS, MS, M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars in Politics and International Relations. He has presented over 15 research papers at national and international conferences. He is a member of various national and international statutory committees and bodies and serves as an external examiner and academic consultant. He has delivered guest lectures and talks at both national and international levels. Additionally, he has participated in many national and international conferences as a keynote speaker and session moderator.



ONTOLOGICAL SECURITY, POLITICAL MEMORY, AND ITS IMPACT ON PAK-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Abstract

Dr. Huma Siddiqi

Political Memory and understanding of the past events are often used instrumentally in international politics to legitimise the present and future choices. At the state level this practice is operationalised top-down by political elites and key public figures. Public discourses are purposely engineered to influence national consciousness, and to get required acceptance from masses. However, it is not possible without bottom up acceptance by the masses. According to scholars this broad acceptance is subjective to the public's understanding of its identity, goals, and future position in global system, which substantiate or endorses elite decision. This exploratory paper aims to use the lens of political memory to first understand the contours of collective identity in the Cold War (1947- 1990), and Post-Cold War era (1992 – 2024) Pakistan, and then use it to analyse how it influenced the Pak-Russian relations over time. Based on the findings the paper will make recommendations for improving future relations in the end.

Keywords: Political Memory, Collective Identity, Cold War, Post-Cold War, Russia, Pakistan

Dr Huma Siddiqi has done her doctorate from the prestigious Griffith University, Australia's Centre of Government, and International Relations. She is a member of the European International Education Association. She has her paper published in national and international journals. She has also read her research papers in a number of international conferences in Australia, Germany, Greece, and Turkey. Her area of interest includes Global Governance and its challenges, International Liberal Order (its history and structure), Islamic Internationalism, State and its ontological security, Political security and ideology, democratization (transition and consolidation), and foreign policy decision making in Pakistan. She is an expert in Research Methodology and teaches RM to MPhil classes, especially qualitative research, institutionalism, structuration, and process tracing. She supervises BS, MPhil and PhD research. She has also worked as peer reviewer in Sage Journal.



THE PROSPECTS OF PAK-RUSSIA STRATEGIC AND SECURITY COOPERATION, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Idrees

The evolving geopolitical dynamics of South Asia and Central Asia have heightened the significance of strategic and security cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. Despite their historically adversarial relationship during the Cold War, recent developments such as counterterrorism collaboration, joint military exercises, and energy agreements indicate a shift toward pragmatic engagement. This research critically examines the prospects of Pak-Russia strategic and security cooperation, focusing on the challenges and opportunities within this partnership. The study addresses the major question: What are the key drivers and impediments to strengthening Pak-Russia strategic and security ties, and how can both countries leverage mutual interests amid regional and global challenges? The objective is to evaluate the factors influencing this bilateral relationship, including regional security concerns, economic interdependence, and global power realignments. A significant research gap exists in comprehensively analyzing the role of shifting alliances and multipolarity in fostering closer Pak-Russia ties, which this study aims to fill by integrating theoretical insights from neorealism and complex interdependence theory. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research relies on primary and secondary data, including policy documents, expert interviews, and media analysis, to provide a nuanced understanding. The findings contribute to scholarship on evolving regional alignments and offer practical recommendations for policymakers to enhance cooperation.

Keywords: Strategic, Security, Shifting Alliances, Multipolarity, Pakistan, Russia

Dr. Muhammad Idrees holds a PhD in Political Science from International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Pakistan. He is a Subject Specialist at the Education Department KP, a researcher, and an educator. Dr. Idrees serves as a member of the Board of Studies at the University of Swabi and is a visiting lecturer. He has authored 20 research articles published in peer-reviewed journals, with a focus on Peace and Conflict Studies, South Asia, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Philosophy.



RUSSIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS IN THE CONTEMPORARY GEO-POLITICAL ORDER

Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Habib, Dr. Panira Ali, Dr. Sahar Afshan

The evolving nature of geopolitical dynamics persistently frames new alliances while resolving conflict situations. The strengthening ties between Pakistan and Russia is a striking case study of transforming alliances. This research focuses on the post-2024 SCO Summit developments, examining the deepening bond between Islamabad and Moscow and their implications for regional geopolitics highlighting strategic, economic, and defense cooperation. Russia continuously appreciates Pakistan's strategic geographical location as a vital corridor linking Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia. However, Pakistan has contended with struggles in crafting a structured framework for captivating Russia, especially amidst US and EU sanctions, unlike India, which has skillfully harmonized its relations with all. This study investigates the risks and opportunities for Pakistan in fostering economic and diplomatic ties with Russia, particularly through the SCO framework, examining how this corporation could reshape Pakistan's role in South Asia. Employing qualitative and quantitative methods, the research aims to provide actionable insights into how Pakistan can leverage these developments for mutual benefit.

Keywords: Economic, Diplomatic Relations, SCO, Russia, Pakistan, South Asia

Dr. Muhammad Habib is an Assistant Professor at Bahria University, Karachi, with a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Karachi. He has extensive experience teaching social sciences at various institutes and universities. As an HEC-approved Ph.D. supervisor in Social Sciences, Dr. Habib has guided numerous students in their research endeavors. His research interests span various aspects of political science and International relations contributing significantly to the field. With a strong academic background and teaching experience, Dr. Habib is a renowned expert in his field.



Dr. Panira Ali is an Assistant Professor at the Humanities & Social Sciences Department, Bahria University Karachi Campus. With a PhD in European Studies and Masters in International Relations, her academic contributions include research on the transition from colonialism to neo-colonialism, the psychological and societal implications of global crises, the geopolitics of natural resource exploitation, and the balance of power in the age of technological globalization. Her interdisciplinary work also extends to analyzing literary Orientalism. Alongside teaching, she has gained practical research experience as a Research Associate at CPSD, drafting policy reports and concept notes. Dr. Ali's work bridges historical analysis and contemporary international challenges, fostering a deeper understanding of global affairs.



Dr. Sahar Afshan is a Senior Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bahria University Karachi Campus. She holds an MA in English Literature and a PhD in European Studies. With over 8 years of academic experience, Dr. Afshan has published numerous research articles and a book, "Europe Under US Imperialism." Her research interests include English Literature, International Relations, Foreign Policy, and Geo-Politics.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA TRADE RELATIONS

Abstract

Dr. Syeda Bushra Batool

This paper is focused on analyzing Pakistan-Russia trade relations during 2011-2020. The decade of 2011-2020 is important because Pakistan's exports to the Russian Federation increased 2.5 times during this time, as compared to the previous decade. Moreover, to make the research focused, the study only analyses trade of products and does not take into consideration trade of services. All the commodities that are traded internationally have been categorized, by the HS Nomenclature, into sixteen major groups. Based upon the analysis of trade values, the paper identifies not only bilateral trade trends of the two countries but also highlights trade potential that exists them.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, Trade Relations.

Dr. Syeda Bushra Batool completed her PhD thesis titled Pakistan-Russia Relations (2001-2013): Problems and Future Prospects. She has conducted significant research on the socio-political and economic relations between Pakistan and Russia, focusing on their evolution over time.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA DEFENSE COOPERATION: AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY

Abstract

Dr. Sayed Amir Hussain Shah

The Asian region has great political, military, economic and geostrategic implications for the entire world. Contemporary challenges have influenced the international order, generally, after the cold war and especially in the past two decades in the South Asian continent. Transformation of power in Southern, Eastern and Northern parts of Asia is an embodiment of new power structures on the globe. The rapid emergence of geo-strategic relations in South Asia has affected ties between old friends and foes. This research article examines the evolving defense cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, with a focus on its implications for regional security. It is evident that Pakistan-Russia defense cooperation has expanded significantly since 2010, driven by shared interests in counter-terrorism, regional stability, and energy security. The cooperation encompasses arms sales, joint military exercises and counter-terrorism agreements. This research assesses the impact of this cooperation on regional security dynamics, including the India-Pakistan rivalry, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. Using a qualitative research methodology, primary data would be collected from government reports, official statements and expert interviews, whereas academic articles, books, think tank reports and news articles would be utilized as secondary sources. The study concludes that Pakistan-Russia defense cooperation has significant implications for the regional security and recommends that policy makers and scholars consider these implications in their analysis of regional security dynamics.

Keywords: Defense Cooperation, Regional Security Dynamics, Pakistan, Russia

Dr. Sayed Amir Hussain Shah is an individual with a diversified background, having worked with the Armed Forces of Pakistan as well as in academia. He holds a PhD from the Department of International Relations, University of Karachi, where his research focused on "*Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean: A Case Study of Pakistan After 9/11.*" His research areas extend beyond maritime security to include Indian Ocean politics, Middle Eastern affairs, Pakistan's maritime policy, and foreign policy analysis. Sayed Amir Hussain Shah has published numerous research papers in accredited journals, covering a wide range of topics such as maritime security, the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, terrorism and security in Pakistan, environmental degradation, Iran's missile program, Pakistan-Russia relations, and Middle Eastern political issues. He has been an active member of the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, Karachi, since 2015, and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, since 2020, reflecting his commitment to contributing to key academic and policy-oriented discussions.



EURASIAN QUAD: STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE OF CHINA, RUSSIA, PAKISTAN AND IRAN IN EVOLVING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

Abstract

Dr. Tatheer Zahra Sherazi

A number of new strategic alliances have emerged as a result of the changing global landscape, which is characterized by shifting geopolitical alignments and the resurgence of multipolarity worldwide. These alliances include China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran, which I refer to as the Eurasian Quad. The strategic convergence of these four countries and their combined to changing the regional and global power dynamics are examined here. A complicated mix of competitiveness, pragmatism, and a shared desire in thwarting Western influence—particularly that of the United States—has historically defined their interactions. In recent years, this convergence has accelerated because to common political, security, and economic goals, including as infrastructure development, energy cooperation, and regional stability. The study has been divided into III sections; section I would deal with historical underpinnings of the all the 4 countries, section II would deal with the convergence of interests either political or economic at bilateral and multilateral level, section III would deal with future trajectories. The study's theoretical framework is based on ideas from geoeconomics and neorealism, which offer a prism through which to view how these countries use their combined strength to counter shared risks and seize opportunities. In light of the ongoing US-China rivalry and the changing dynamics of global governance, where China is attempting to take a larger role and Russia is attempting to regain its influence alongside Iran and Pakistan through strategic alliances, the findings underscore the growing significance of the Eurasian Quad in promoting regional stability, cooperation at the multilateral organizational level, advancing economic integration through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and reshaping the global balance of power. China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iran's strategic convergence are a significant shift in the global geopolitical environment that might threaten Western power dominance, change alliances, and impact regional security architectures. By providing insights into the future trajectory of the Eurasian Quad as a major factor in international affairs, this study advances our understanding of Eurasian geopolitics.

Keywords: Eurasian Quad, Strategic Alliances, BRI, Cooperation, Regional Stability

Dr. Tatheer Zahra Sherazi is currently working at Assistant Professor at National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. She has been teaching for the last 13 years. She has worked in two HEC funded projects under supervision of Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani in close collaboration with Gallup international and Gilani foundation. Dr. Sherazi is also editor of Journal of Research in Social Sciences, NUML. Dr. Sherazi is a regular presenter on China affairs, Global governance, changing power dynamics, global drivers for change, Trade war, CPEC, rising China. She has contributed to multiple national and international journals.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN STRATEGIC DEFENSE COOPERATION: ANALYZING THE PAKISTAN-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Abstract

Dr. Syed Shuja Uddin

This research paper will highlight the necessity of artificial intelligence in Pakistan and Russia's defense ties and broader security cooperation concerning changes in the global political situation. This study discusses and explains how AI is going to change national security dynamics, and AI warfare is the future of national security. This work will analyze the potential roles of AI and the functions of global security challenges and opportunities. Qualitative research methods will be used to explain strategic collaborations in defense, energy sector cooperation, and regional connectivity. Structural realism defines and analyses concepts, such as balance of power, security dilemma, defensive realism, chain gaining, and bandwagon in the context of emerging powers in the weak unipolar regime and the increase in the complexities of the multiplex world order. Additionally, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) also discuss providing a gateway to a new era of relations between both states in international frameworks. The strategic defense bonds between Pakistan and Russia are inevitable to the national interests of both states and regional peace and stability. National interest is the constant element in international relations and derives states to formulate relations accordingly. The goal of the research is to find out the opportunities for cooperation that will strengthen the regional power and prepare counter policy or doctrine for AI warfare.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, Defense Cooperation, Artificial Intelligence, SCO, EAEU

Dr. Syed Shuja Uddin is an Assistant Professor at the Federal Urdu University's department of International Relations in Karachi, Pakistan. His doctorate in International Relations was earned at the University of Karachi. He specializes on the relationship between Pakistan and India, Afghan affairs, Pakistani foreign policy, and security issues. His primary areas of expertise are Defensive Realism and Offensive Realism. More than eight research articles were also published in local, national, and worldwide journals. He has good academic writing and speaking abilities and is a good researcher. His capacity to comprehend issues, arrange ideas, discover crucial information or facts, and offer a well-rounded academic argument is really excellent. He is a very accomplished academic with a keen interest in research. He excels at using his own knowledge and observations to form well-considered judgments on a range of subjects. It is quite commendable that he is currently focusing on modern issues, especially International System: Cooperation or Conflict, Climate Change: Postponement or Anticipation, Migrants: Public Health and National Health, International Relations Theory and the Problem of Sustainable Development.



DIPLOMATIC SHIFTS IN PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: A TOPIC MODELLING DISCOURSE STUDY

Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Afzaal, Dr. Ahmed Bux Jamali, Syeda Nobia Zehra

Diplomatic discourse is a significant tool for economic cooperation, regional connectivity and foreign policy, (Afzaal et al., 2023). It (re)shapes strategic partnerships and influences geo-political dynamics. Pakistan and Russia cultivated diplomatic engagement in 1948 and have undergone substantial strategic shifts during the Cold War, the post-Cold War era, and the post-9/11 period. Pakistan considers Russia an important player in shaping its strategic and economic outlook toward the West, South Asia, and Central Asia. For Russia, the geostrategic location of Pakistan provides access to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean Region. This connection brings new integration opportunities for Russia to manage its sanction-ridden economy, particularly after the Russia-Ukraine war. In this rapidly evolving global landscape, both states have recognized common ground to strengthen cooperation, particularly after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, to maintain a prominent role in the international community. Against this backdrop, this study explores the evolving diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia through a nuanced analysis of their discursive constructions in official communications, media reports, and public statements. Using Keyword-Assisted Topic Modelling (Key ATM), we uncover recurring themes, sentiment patterns, and the shifting priorities that have shaped the rapprochement process over the years. By incorporating corpus linguistic techniques, the study identifies the linguistic strategies employed to frame bilateral relations, emphasizing areas of strategic interest such as energy cooperation, defense partnerships, and regional stability. The corpus of the study comprises of press releases taken from the official websites of Pakistan and Russia spanning from 2009 to 2024. By employing this approach, the study unfolds the implicit ideologies and perceptions of Pakistan and Russia towards each other. It will delve into diplomatic nuances of Pakistan-Russia relations. The findings reveal how discourse patterns mirror geopolitical shifts, reflecting mutual interests and shared challenges while negotiating historical legacies. This research not only contributes to the understanding of Pakistan-Russia relations but also demonstrates the efficacy of Key ATM in analyzing complex, multi-dimensional diplomatic texts. The study underscores the role of language in shaping international alliances, offering valuable insights for policymakers and scholars of international relations and discourse studies.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Pakistan, Russia, Politics, Topic Modelling, Discourse

Dr. Muhammad Afzaal joined the Institute of Corpus Studies and Applications, Shanghai International Studies University, China as an associate professor after gaining his PhD at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China and extensive research fellow experience at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, and seven years teaching experience at Foundation University Islamabad, Pakistan. He is author of the book “Corpora and Discourses of the Belt and Road Initiative, 2023 by Springer, Nature”. He received the Yang Yong research award from Shanghai Jiao Tong University graduate school in China. Afzaal’s research interests include corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, translation Interpretation studies, and, more particularly the merging of language sciences with AI.



Ahmed Bux Jamali is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of International and Regional Studies, Sun Yat-sen University, Zhuhai, Guangdong province, China. He has recently obtained his Ph.D. in International Relations at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Shanghai International Studies University China. He also holds a master’s degree in International Relations from Jilin University, China, and another master’s degree from International Islamic University Islamabad Pakistan. His research interests include India’s Foreign and Security Policy, US-China Relations, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs and BRI.



Syedah Nobia Zehra is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of English, The Women University Multan. She also serves as a Visiting Lecturer in the department. She holds a Bachelor of Studies in English Language (Hons) from National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and an M.Phil. degree in English from The Women University Multan. Moreover, she has actively contributed to the organization of international conferences and seminars at the Department of English, WUM. Her research interests include corpus linguistics, CDA, diplomatic and media discourses.



STRATEGIC DRIVERS BEHIND THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP

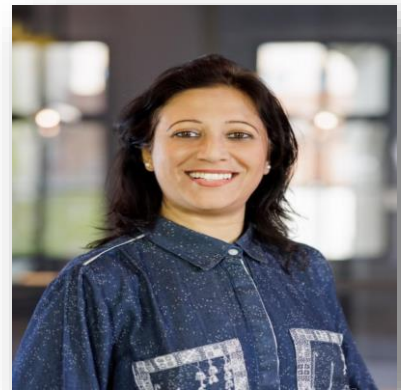
Abstract

Dr. Lubna Sunawar

The changing geopolitical environment in South Asia and Eurasia is reflected in the changing relationship between Russia and Pakistan. The bilateral relationship, which was once characterized by hostility and conflicting alliances during the Cold War, has changed in recent decades due to a convergence of strategic, economic, and security interests. In order to understand how changing global power dynamics, regional security concerns, and economic imperatives have transformed Pakistan's and Russia's foreign policy agendas, this study examines the strategic reasons underlying this rapprochement. This paper argues that the strategic realignment stems from shared objectives, such as energy agreements, counterterrorism collaboration, and concerns over Afghanistan's instability. It also looks at how the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) might serve as a hub for promoting trilateral cooperation between China, Russia, and Pakistan. This paper also emphasizes how Pakistan's diversification of alliances was prompted by the U.S. exit from Afghanistan and the growing tension in U.S.-Pakistan ties. The study assesses the consequences of this changing connection for regional power dynamics using qualitative data and geopolitical analysis, especially in light of India-Russian relations and the larger U.S.-China rivalry. It also takes into account the possibility of a long-term collaboration in the face of obstacles like conflicting interests on multilateral forums and internal limitations. Although the Pakistan-Russia cooperation is still in its infancy, the study's trajectory highlights the difficulties of realpolitik in a multipolar world, presenting both governments with new chances and difficulties within the regional and global order.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, CPEC, Alliances, Regional Dynamics, Strategic

Dr. Lubna Sunawar serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National Defence University, Islamabad. She holds an M.Sc. in Pakistan Studies and an M.Phil. in American Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and earned her Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Dr. Sunawar has the distinguished honor of being the only Pakistani candidate selected for the prestigious Female Science Talents Program 2023 in Berlin. She was also awarded a U.S. Visiting Leadership Fellowship, sponsored by the U.S. State Department, during her M.Phil. studies, and a Ph.D. Split Fellowship, funded by the French Embassy, during her doctoral program. In addition to her current academic role, Dr. Sunawar has lectured at leading universities in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Her research focuses on Pakistan-U.S./Afghanistan relations, peacebuilding mechanisms, and conflict resolution strategies across South Asia and the Middle East. Her academic interests include political challenges, securitization processes, violent conflicts, organized crime, state formation and governance, civil wars, globalization, nonstate actors, and both regional and global conflicts.



REGIONAL SECURITY AND EMERGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: PAKISTAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION AMID SHARED CHALLENGES

Abstract

Dr. Sundas Khizar

The evolving security relationship between Russia and Pakistan has undergone a significant transformation, influenced by mutual concerns over terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking in Central and South Asia. This research paper explores the historical trajectory and contemporary dynamics of this bilateral relationship, shaped by Afghanistan's instability, transnational crime networks, and shifting international power alignments. Guided by Barry Buzan's Regional Security Complex (RSC) theory, the study investigates the strategic convergence between Russia and Pakistan, particularly their efforts to counter the rise of ISIS-K (Khorasan Province) and promote regional stability. The Moscow Trilateral Summit of December 2016 marked a turning point in their collaboration, as both nations, alongside China, sought to address Afghanistan's security challenges and recalibrate alliances amidst heightened U.S. apprehension. This paper highlights how Russia's outreach to Pakistan signifies a departure from Cold War antagonism and a pivot away from its historically India-centric South Asian policy. Pakistan's role as a key player in the region, coupled with its strained ties with the U.S., has driven its alignment with Russia on issues such as combating narco-terrorism and mitigating regional instability. The strategic significance of Greater Central Asia, a vital hub for energy and trade, provides a shared impetus for collaboration. Joint projects such as CASA-1000 and the TAPI pipeline exemplify their commitment to enhancing connectivity and fostering economic interdependence. Additionally, multilateral frameworks like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) offer an avenue for deeper cooperation. This study concludes that the evolving Russia-Pakistan partnership reflects broader changes in the regional security architecture, with practical alliances replacing historical rivalries. By addressing shared concerns and leveraging mutual interests, this partnership is reshaping geopolitical dynamics in Greater Central Asia, with implications for regional and global stability.

Keywords: Regional Security, Strategic, Pakistan, Russia, Afghanistan, SCO

Dr. Sundas Khizar is an independent researcher with a focus on regional politics, Central Asia, and Russia. Her academic expertise lies in understanding the intricate dynamics of geopolitical shifts and strategic partnerships in these regions. Dr. Khizar has served as a lecturer and assistant professor at various esteemed institutions, where she has contributed to both teaching and research. Her scholarly work encompasses critical themes such as regional security, the socio-political fabric of Central Asia, and Russia's evolving role on the global stage. With a commitment to fostering knowledge exchange, Dr. Khizar actively participates in seminars and academic forums, highlighting the implications of geopolitical trends on regional stability.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS DURING THE 2ND TERM OF PUTIN REGIME (2018-2024): STRATEGIC REASONS & MOTIVATIONS FOR REGIONAL PEACE

Abstract

Dr. Rani Erum

The research is intended to explain the strategic relations between Pakistan and Russia during the 2nd Putin Era. It is an underlying fact that regional security plays an important role in every nation's foreign policy. Russia relations faced many ups and downs after the demise of the USSR. The graph of their relations exhibited variations, but the last five years in particular showed a mark rise which is virtuously based on collective regional and global interests, including stability in Afghanistan, counterterrorism, and energy cooperation. Both countries aim to diversify their alliances amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics, such as the decline of U.S. influence and the rise of multipolarity. Economic collaboration, particularly in energy and infrastructure, reinforces their partnership, while joint military exercises and defense cooperation are the indication of growing trust. Russia seeks to balance its ties with India by engaging Pakistan, while Pakistan views Russia as a key partner to reduce reliance on traditional allies like the U.S. and China. This evolving partnership is further reinforced through multilateral platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The focus of the paper is also be enlighten the prospects for further improvement in trust from both sides on mutual grounds.

Keywords: Strategic, Geopolitical Dynamics, Collaboration, Pakistan, Russia

Dr. Rani Erum has been working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Federal Urdu University for Arts Science and Technology, Karachi since 2011. She did his PhD in 2014 from the University of Karachi. She has been a member of the Board of Studies since 2012. Currently, In charge of the Department of Political Science & a Member of NCRC for Political Science by HEC. She is the Admission Committee Convener and student Advisor of the Abdul Haq Campus as well as a member of the Disciplinary of FUUAST. She has also authored 2 books and more than 20 publications in HEC-recognized Journals. She also presented her research work at many national and international conferences in the field of Politics and International Relations.



CPEC: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN

Abstract

Dr. Maria Reshchikova

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is aimed at linking China's Kashgar in Xinjiang and Pakistan's Gwadar, is a flagship project of China's global "Belt and Road Initiative". Its implementation implies constructing various transport and other infrastructure facilities that are to improve connectivity, trade, communication, and cooperation between the countries. It is obvious that this project impacts greatly Pakistan's economy and leads to significant social and economic changes.

Keywords: CPEC, Pakistan, Connectivity, Trade, Economy

Dr. Maria Reshchikova holds a Doctorate in Economics and is a researcher at the Institute for International Studies. She also serves as a lecturer in the Department of Indo-Iranian and African Languages at MGIMO University in Moscow, Russia. Maria specializes in South Asian studies, with a particular focus on Russia-India-China relations, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Her research and academic contributions are dedicated to enhancing the understanding of these critical international relations dynamics and their broader implications for global geopolitics.



EXPLORING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA STRATEGIC COOPERATION VIS-A-VIS ISLAMIC STATE IN KHURASAN (ISK): CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Umar Abbasi

History has proven that departure of the great power not only creates instability across the region of its presence but also offers re-alignment opportunities for the regional states to offset effects of the prevailing chaos. The same is true for the US draw down from Afghanistan in 2021. The hasty withdrawal of the US allowed the Taliban to takeover, but their financial constraints, strategic incapacity and lack of legitimacy gave space to other terrorist organisations, particularly, the Islamic State in Khurasan (ISK). Within three years the ISK has regrouped and reorganized its activities and began to wreak havoc in Afghanistan as well as in the neighboring countries. Since both Pakistan and Russia have been affected by the recent surge of its terrorist activities, therefore, the convergence of their security interests is inevitable. In this context, it is pertinent to explore the possibility of the potential strategic cooperation between Islamabad and Moscow. Further, investigation is required to find the challenges & opportunities in the way of their joint counter-terrorism collaboration against the onslaught of rising extremism and terrorism in the Af-Pak region. Designed in qualitative research methodology, the study aims to furnish analysis based upon drawing inference from the context in which the ISK has enhanced its capabilities, changed its strategies and broaden its scope of activities. Moreover, policy measures for addressing the ISK threat will be ascertained by relying upon the opinions and suggestions of the state officials associated with policy matters and academic experts dealing with the counter terrorism and foreign policy domains.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Strategic Cooperation, ISK, Taliban, Security

Dr. Muhammad Umar Abbasi has been a faculty member in the Department of International Relations at the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad, since 2012. He earned his Ph.D. in International Relations, specializing in International Security from NDU. His dissertation was titled "The Impact of Post-Arab Spring Developments on the Persian Gulf Regional Security Dynamics." Dr. Abbasi has taught courses on Politics & Security of the Middle East, Foreign Policy Analysis, and Research Methodology at the M.Sc., BS, M.Phil., and Ph.D. levels. He has published six articles in national HEC-recognized journals, focusing on international security, particularly related to the Middle East. Three of his research articles are currently under review for international journals.



ECONOMIC SYNERGIES AND REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY: EXPLORING THE PAKISTAN-RUSSIA NEXUS THROUGH SCO AND EAEU

Abstract

Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq

The emerging Pakistan-Russia nexus offers a transformative potential for enhancing economic cooperation and fostering regional connectivity, particularly through frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Despite complementary economic strengths and shared geopolitical interests, this bilateral relationship has remained underdeveloped, primarily hindered by political complexities, economic misalignments, and limited trade infrastructure. Since 1947, both states have experienced a fluctuating relationship, shaped by Cold War rivalries, with Pakistan aligning with the USA and the West while Russia supported India. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s deepened their divide, but Pakistan and Russia have gradually explored defense and economic cooperation, particularly in regional security and the energy sector. This study seeks to explore the potential of the Pakistan-Russia nexus through the lenses of regional integration frameworks, evaluating their role in facilitating energy, trade cooperation, and infrastructure development. The theoretical framework incorporates Dependency Theory, which explores how both countries can reduce their reliance on external powers by strengthening mutual economic ties. This approach highlights the potential for Pakistan and Russia to achieve greater autonomy through deeper cooperation within platforms like the SCO and EAEU. The study adopts a qualitative approach, utilizing regional agreements, bilateral trade agreements, and strategic policy frameworks to explore the constraints and opportunities in the Pakistan and Russia partnership. This research identifies gaps in policy coordination, financial frameworks, and infrastructure connectivity, proposing recommendations for leveraging the SCO and EAEU to deepen ties. By addressing these challenges, Pakistan and Russia can unlock significant economic opportunities, ensuring mutual growth and contributing to broader regional integration in Eurasia.

Keywords: Economic Cooperation, Regional Connectivity, SCO, EAEU, Russia, Pakistan

Dr. Ayesha Ashfaq is an Assistant Professor at the School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. She holds a Ph.D. in South Asian Studies from the University of the Punjab, Lahore, where she also earned her Master's degrees in History and Philosophy. Additionally, she has a diploma in Hindi language and literature from the same institution. Her research interests include political and sociocultural issues in Pakistan and India, communal politics, ethnic issues in South Asia, violence and human rights, extremism, security issues, CPEC, SAARC, and women's empowerment.



REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Abstract

Syed Ashique Hussain Hamdani

This paper examines the historical evolution and contemporary dynamics of Pakistan-Russia relations, with a focus on regional connectivity and economic cooperation. Tracing the relationship from the Cold War era to the present, it highlights key milestones, such as the 1961 Oil Exploration Agreement, the 1966 Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement, and the Soviet Union's involvement in industrial development projects in Pakistan. The paper delves into modern initiatives, including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Astrakhan Special Economic Zone (SEZ), emphasizing their transformative potential in enhancing trade and logistics efficiency. Russia's Maritime Doctrine, which identifies the Indian Ocean as a strategic focal point, underscores the importance of bilateral collaboration in maritime connectivity and energy security. This study explores how Pakistan can leverage Russian expertise in energy—particularly oil, gas, and renewables—to address its energy challenges and foster economic growth. Additionally, opportunities for joint ventures in metallurgy, agriculture, and technology are analyzed, alongside initiatives for cultural and academic exchange to strengthen people-to-people ties.

Keywords: Pakistan-Russia Relations, Regional Connectivity, Economic Cooperation, Energy, Contemporary Dynamics, Opportunities.

Syed Ashique Hussain Hamdani is an accomplished professional with expertise in international relations, business development, and media. He serves as the Editor Resident of Sada-E-Rus and the General Secretary of the Eurasia Business Forum. Specializing in trade documentation, business mediation, and regional economic strategies, he connects Asian, Arabian, and African markets with CIS and European regions. His extensive training includes a Russian language course, participation in international relations programs (Moscow, USSR), and workshops on refugees, security, and diplomacy across Lithuania, Maldives, and Pakistan. He has contributed to global trade forums, media events, and promotional campaigns, including the FIFA World Cup 2018. Fluent in English, Russian, Urdu, Punjabi, and Lithuanian, he excels in public speaking, event management, and media production. His work bridges cultural and economic divides, fostering collaboration through strategic consulting, seminars, and business forums across Eurasia.



BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN PAKISTAN-RUSSIA ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

Abstract

Dr. Attiq Ur Rehman

The inter-state academic collaborations in the international system significantly empower the state governments to improve their multifaceted bilateral ties across the globe. The academic collaboration between states leads their respective leaderships to expand their long-term partnerships in diverse domains. In the case of Pakistan-Russia inter-state cooperation, joint academic ventures have always remained a marginalized area, needing more adequate policy frameworks to introduce different student exchange and combined faculty development programs. The historically prevailed political disconnects, diplomatic estrangements, cultural dissimilarities, and societal alienation have mainly undermined the role of education collaboration between the two countries, which is parallel to weakening their soft image projection in the bilateral people-to-people connections. The inadequate development of people-to-people interaction has reduced the chances of close societal collaboration between Moscow and Islamabad. Therefore, the paper's central theme seeks to provide a descriptive analysis of academic collaboration between Islamabad and Moscow while identifying the potential challenges and feasible opportunities for diversifying the conventional patterns of Pakistan-Russia bilateral ties in research and education. The central point of investigation in the paper endeavours to explore the potential of deepening bilateral cooperation between two states with the support of enhanced academic connections at the societal level. In this way, this paper could be treated as a comprehensive academic account emphasizing the historical contexts, contemporary initiatives and probable future dimensions for increasing the scope of student exchange programs, joint research projects, and institutional partnerships between Pakistan and Russia, which could facilitate the two-sided governments to overcome the factors hampering the vision of constructing knowledge-oriented cooperation between both nations.

Keywords: Academic connections, exchange programs, research, institutional partnership, Russia, Pakistan

Dr. Attiq ur Rehman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at NUML, Islamabad. A distinguished alumnus of IIUI, he pursued his M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs at the prestigious Quaid-i-Azam University. With a wealth of academic and professional experience, Dr. Rehman has shared his intellectual expertise at numerous national and international forums, contributing to critical discussions on global issues. He has collaborated with esteemed organizations such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (Istanbul), Social Science Baha (Kathmandu), the Center for Strategic Studies (Baku), the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (Athens), and the NATO International School of Azerbaijan (NISA, Baku).



RECALIBRATING RELATIONS: THE EMERGING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP

Abstract

Dr. Sidra Khan

Russia's pivot towards South Asia is a key driver of this change, stemming from its strained ties with the West and its broader aim to reassert itself as a global power. This shift is particularly evident in shared security concerns over Afghanistan, where both nations seek stability to safeguard their interests. Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a crucial player in peace-building efforts, while Russia aims to prevent the spillover of militancy into Central Asia, prompting joint military exercises and counter-terrorism dialogues. Economic collaboration further cements this partnership. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened avenues for Pakistan to diversify its economic ties, with energy cooperation being a focal point. Russia's energy surplus aligns with Pakistan's growing needs, fostering potential synergies in trade and infrastructure development. Additionally, evolving regional dynamics, particularly India's deepening ties with the United States, have motivated Pakistan and Russia to explore closer cooperation. While India's historical relationship with Russia complicates this equation, the partnership underscores a pragmatic recalibration of alliances. In sum, the Pakistan-Russia relationship exemplifies broader geopolitical shifts, driven by shared security concerns, economic interests, and a multipolar global order. This evolving alignment reflects a strategic response to contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, South Asia, Geopolitical Shifts, Economy, Security

Dr. Sidra Khan is an accomplished professional with proven experience in research and academia at the national and international stage. Armed with a PhD in International Relations, Dr. Khan seeks to thrive in challenging environments and establish herself as a respected industry professional. Her journey is not only about personal growth but also about inspiring change and setting new standards in the field.



THE IMPACT OF PAKISTAN-RUSSIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES ON REGIONAL STABILITY

Abstract

Dr. Waseem Ullah

The nature of interaction between Pakistan and Russia has transformed over the years, especially over the last decade, in defense collaboration. Military cooperation has formed an important part of the bilateral cooperation, specifically, drills, especially the Druzhba series starts from 2016. These exercises are specifically aimed at strengthening counter-terrorism efforts, developing interoperability between the two countries' militaries, and bolstering confidence-building measures within the bilateral relations. Through these drills, the countries hope to cooperate on security issues now prevalent in the South Asian and Central Asian regions such as terrorism, insurgency and political unrest. If the Druzhba exercises bear any sense which can be deciphered, then they represent the new multipolar world and the rebalancing of axes. For Pakistan, these exercises are beneficial in that they allow it to diversify its defense relations while for Russia, they present the chance to extend its sphere of influence in South Asia beyond their strategic partnership with India. This research work examines the trend and nature of these exercises and its strategic and geo-political consequences on the regions. This paper focuses on the increasing intensity of defense cooperation and investigates its compatibility with other regional security complexes like the SCO, drawing out implications for combating terrorism, power relations, and stabilization in South Asia. Furthermore, the paper discusses the relations between the Pakistan Russia cooperation and other acting regional players such as India, China and Afghanistan. Through analysing the scale and impact of the exercises Druzhba this paper demonstrates that potential of effective and prolonged stability in the region, considering the balanced scale of the security that can be provided through the exercise. The research indicates that although there are still obstacles, Pakistan-Russia defense cooperation indicates a realistic and effective require for managing threats in the changing world order.

Keywords: Defense Cooperation, Military Exercises, Druzhba, Strategic, Geopolitical, Regional Stability

Dr. Waseem Ullah is an accomplished academic and administrator with over 11 years of experience in higher education. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Peshawar, specializing in regional security affairs, with a focus on Pakistan's post-9/11 domestic security challenges. He achieved a perfect CGPA of 4.0 for his doctoral research. Dr. Waseem has held key administrative roles, including Director of the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Controller of Examinations, Director of Student Affairs, Chief Proctor, and Coordinator of BS and MA Programs at the University of Lakki Marwat. He also served as Head of the Political Science Department, demonstrating his leadership in both academic and administrative domains. A prolific scholar, Dr. Waseem, has published more than twenty research papers extensively in national and international journals.



Balancing Act: Pakistan and Russia's Foreign Policy Strategies in Navigating US-China Competition

Abstract

Dr. Najam Us Saqib

This study examines how Pakistan and Russia adapt their foreign policy strategies in response to the growing competition between the United States and China. As relatively powerful states, both states aim to maintain their autonomy while managing relationships with these major powers. The research addresses three questions: (1) how do Pakistan and Russia navigate their ties with China and the United States amid rising tensions? (2) What similarities and differences exist in their strategies to promote their interests? (3) How has US-China competition influenced Pakistan-Russia relations, and what are the implications for the global order? Using the concepts of hedging and neoclassical realism, the study analyses how countries mitigate risks and adapt their foreign policies based on domestic and international factors. A qualitative approach will involve case studies, drawing on official documents, expert interviews, and academic analyses. The research will explore Pakistan's balancing act between its historical ties to the U.S and its partnership with China, primarily through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It will also examine Russia's increased alignment with China and cautious engagement with the U.S. Finally, the study will highlight the growing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia in defence and energy and within organisations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, contributing to understanding how powers navigate a multipolar global landscape.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, China, US, Pakistan, Russia, Competition, Cooperation, Global Order.

Dr. Najam Us Saqib, a political science PhD, has nearly a decade of experience teaching and conducting research at universities such as FUUAST, PIEAS, and IIUI. His research focuses on Central Asia, the Belt and Road Initiative, issues in the Muslim world, Pakistan and foreign policy. He currently teaches in the Department of IR at the FUUAST Islamabad campus.



RE-EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Abstract

Dr. Sadia Rafique

Converging relations between Russia and Pakistan open door to opportunities and counter challenges. Historically, it was a story of one step forward, two steps back relations. They rode a roller-coaster ride because of Cold War legacy, regional conflicts, geo-economic constraints and geo-strategic position of Pakistan in South Asia. This study clarifies the pros and cons of re-evolving relations through the analysis of current developments and historical context with the help of Commercial Liberalism branch of neoliberalism institutionalism to evaluate emerging bilateral ties between Pakistan and Russia. Based on Immanuel Kant's principle of universal hospitality, Commercial Liberalism sheds light on the importance of economic interdependence and free trade in sustaining peace. This research aims to pinpoint opportunities and problems on the basis of geo-strategic position of Pakistan in this age of globalisation and free trade. This study underscores the noteworthy re-converging relations and discloses the facts about the opportunities and challenges lies ahead for the both states. To maintain balanced ties and counter challenges collectively, they are in a dire need of strong military, Political, economic and social cooperation to counter threats such as US hegemony, fear of India, Afghan imbroglio and prevalent mistrust because of decades-long diverging relations. The critical necessity for re-evolving relations between the two states emerged because of multifaceted reasons ranging from politics to economy which have been emphasized by this study. In order to avail opportunities and eliminate hurdles, it is imperative that pragmatic policies should be made and executed for cooperation in multiple sectors such as politics, economy, military and education. Resultantly, inclusive policies would strengthen the re-evolving relations.

Keywords: Opportunities, Challenges, Geo-Economic, Geostrategic, Re-evolving Relations, Russia, Pakistan.

Dr. Sadia Rafique has been teaching at a public sector university since 2007 as an Assistant Professor of Political Science. She teaches a variety of courses, including Western Political Thought, Politics of International Relations, Politics of Globalization, Foreign Policy Analysis, and Political Psychology at the BS and MPhil levels.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR RUSSIAN-PAKISTANI COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Abstract

Dr. Marina Bakanova

International medical cooperation is currently a topical issue for both health care and diplomacy. This subject remains untouched on the SCO platform, despite the high potential of its member countries. Cooperation in this area between Russia and Pakistan is practically at a zero level, despite the high potential. The main areas can be considered: cooperation in the field of new medical technologies, developments in psychiatric, pediatric, preventive medicine and hygiene areas, organization of mutual recognition of diplomas and medical tourism, modern pharmacology, integrative medicine and medical searching.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, SCO, Medical Technology, Healthcare

Dr. Marina Bakanova is an accomplished MD, publicist, analyst, and political scientist with expertise in Oriental studies. She is a prominent leader in the field of public diplomacy, combining her diverse academic background with a deep understanding of global political dynamics. Her work bridges the intersections of medicine, analysis, and international relations, establishing her as a multifaceted expert and thought leader.



CHINA-PAKISTAN-INDIA TRIANGLE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL COMPETITION AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE 2020

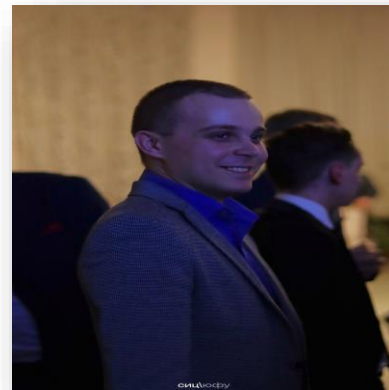
Abstract

Dr. Arseniy Vladimirovich Lepkov

In 2024, Pakistan applied to join the BRICS. This initiative draws attention to the dynamic, growing and changing role of Pakistan in the economic development of Eurasia and the key states of this region. It makes special sense to pay attention to the situation 10 years ago, starting in 2014 - the beginning of the development of China's ambitious "Belt and Road initiative". It was during this period that China's role and position in Pakistan's exports and imports grew and strengthened (2nd and 1st place, respectively). From 2014 China is investing in the development of Pakistani infrastructure, including the deepwater port in Gwadar. Gwadar should become a key point of the logistics route within the framework of the global "Belt and Road initiative" "At the same time, China was interested in India's integration and participation in this common economic corridor project, but at that time this idea was not supported by the Indian side. In addition, economic ties between Russia and Pakistan have strengthened over this decade, in particular the role of the port of Karachi in Russian-Pakistani trade, as evidenced by trends in 2022-2023. Now that the issue of joint membership in the BRICS is on the agenda, it is possible to predict whether possible common economic interests will prevail over the regional rivalry of China, India and Pakistan and what positive future prospects this portends for Russia by the 2030s.

Keywords: BRI, China, India, Pakistan, BRICS, Economic Interests.

Dr. Arseniy Lepkov holds a Bachelor's degree from South Federal University (Institute of History and International Relations) in Rostov-on-Don, where he studied from 2014 to 2017. He completed his Master's degree at the same university from 2017 to 2019, graduating with honors (Red Diploma) and receiving the Yuri Zhdanov medal. Arseniy is currently pursuing his PhD at South Federal University, with a thesis titled U.S. Policy towards Iraqi Kurdistan in 1988–2005. He began his PhD studies on September 22, 2023. From 2020 to 2024, Arseniy served as a trainee researcher and assistant teacher at South Federal University. Starting in August 2024, he will take on the role of assistant professor. His research interests focus on the politics of the modern Middle East and international politics in Asian countries. In his current position, he engages in scientific research related to his field of interest, conducts seminars and lectures on historical disciplines, and leads collective scientific projects with students.



PAKISTAN AND THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: PROSPECTS

Abstract

Dr. Nadyrov Rustem

This paper examines the potential for Pakistan to engage with the EAEU, with a particular focus on the role of investment ties and the conditions that could facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation. It considers the geopolitical factors that could either facilitate or hinder deeper integration. The paper emphasises the potential for increased trade, particularly in the agriculture, energy and textile sectors, which could strengthen the economic base of both Pakistan and the EAEU.

Keywords: Pakistan EAEU, Integration, Economy, Trade.

Dr. Nadyrov Rustem holds a PhD in History, a law degree, an MA in International Relations, and an MA in Philosophy. His principal research interests include international security, global political processes, international organizations and their integration, with a specific focus on Central Asia and South Asia.

THE GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PAKISTAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION

Abstract

Dr. Summar Iqbal Babar

The geopolitical environment of South Asia is experiencing substantial changes as evolving alliances and new partnerships influence the region's strategic dynamics. A notable development is the expanding collaboration between Pakistan and Russia, two historically remote nations progressively aligning in areas of shared interest. In recent years, both nations have endeavored to enhance their bilateral relations, especially in trade, energy, defense, and regional security. The analysis examines Russia's participation in multilateral institutions, particularly the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as it offers Pakistan new regional influence and collaboration opportunities. This article examines how this collaboration might bolster Pakistan's standing in Central Asia, augment its security capabilities, and offer increased diversification of foreign policy alternatives. It also underscores the economic and energy collaborations between the two nations, which present substantial prospects for Pakistan's energy security and infrastructure advancement. This study highlights the strategic benefits of an enhanced Pakistan-Russia alliance and its ramifications for Pakistan's long-term foreign policy objectives.

Keywords: Pakistan-Russia Cooperation, Geostrategy, Defense Partnerships, Energy Security, Regional Security

Dr. Summar Iqbal Babar is an esteemed academic and a leading voice in the field of International Relations and Security Studies, with a specialization in the geopolitics of South Asia. Dr. Babar's research has been featured in leading national and international journals. His expertise bridges theoretical inquiry and practical application, making his contributions indispensable for policymakers, scholars, and students navigating the intricacies of South Asian geopolitics and global strategic stability. Dr. Babar has participated in prestigious international programs and training workshops, including the Study of the United States Institutes Fellowship at the University of Delaware and the NATO-hosted seminar on non-traditional security challenges in Brussels. His role as a curriculum reviewer for the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and coordinator for international linkages at QAU highlights his commitment to fostering global academic collaboration. His research focuses on South Asia's security dynamics, exploring traditional and non-traditional threats, including autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace. His work delves into India's military modernization, hybrid warfare, and regional strategic rivalries, emphasizing their implications for Pakistan.



AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGING WORLD ORDERS

Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Ali

It is important to understand the nature of international relations and to do that it is important to understand the nature of various world orders within which international relations were conducted. Orders are designed to bring sanity in international relations that are conducted in an anarchic international environment. Great powers take the responsibility of setting up orders and when they same great powers make mistakes and their power declines, they cede space for other rising powers to create a new order. All orders seek to establish basic rules of international conduct and the power that leads the order takes it as its responsibility not to allow these rules to be violated. However, when the very power that leads the order violates the established rules that it was supposed to defend then it loses its credibility and moral standing to lead the order. Rise of other powers and the balance of power holding the order together shifts thus creating the necessary circumstances for the deterioration of this order until it finally expires. This paper attempts to analyze the various world orders that have existed and how the current US led order may expire and be replaced by an order of multipolarity.

Keywords: World Orders, US, Multipolarity, International Relations

Dr. Muhammad Ali is currently a Postdoctoral student at Kazan Federal University, Russia, since September 2023, with an ongoing transfer process to Tomsk State University, Russia. The focus of his postdoctoral dissertation is "Russia-China-Pakistan Trilateral Alliance under the Changing World Order." He has previously served as an Assistant Professor in the International Affairs Department at the National Defense University, Islamabad, and has taught at several universities across Pakistan, including Habib University Karachi, SZABIST University Karachi, Bahria University Karachi, Lahore Garrison University, and DHA Suffa University Karachi. In addition to his academic endeavors, Dr. Ali is a Sunday columnist for the national English daily newspaper The Express Tribune. He is also the author of two books: Two Years of Democracy in Pakistan and Russia-Ukraine Crisis.



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY: RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN ANALYSES

Abstract

Dr. Tonyan Anait

In the conditions of the modern globalizing world, States begin to pay more attention to their own image and allocate considerable funds for its formation and maintenance. Departments of public diplomacy are created in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and governments hire PR companies to create and promote national brands and certain messages. All this brings tangible results: increase in tourist and investment flows, strengthening of national identity, etc. Russia and Pakistan are also aware of the need to create an attractive image. Both countries face the problem of overcoming many negative stereotypes that hinder international communication. This was said by the President of Russia V. Putin at a meeting of ambassadors at the Russian Foreign Ministry in 2004, noting that the ideas about Russia abroad are often far from reality. At the same time, he outlined the area of responsibility of embassies "in forming an unbiased, favorable image of Russia's domestic and international policies, its history and culture." Even then Russia began to expand significantly its network of foreign missions, due to which, according to the Lowy Institute's Global Diplomacy Index for 2024, Russia ranks the 6th place (66 countries, 714 cities and 7,701 posts). Pakistan took the 27th place (89 countries, 121 cities and 121 posts) out of 66 positions. The Index takes into account the number of foreign missions, comparing these data with demographic and economic indicators. Since 2021, according to the Index, Pakistan has significantly expanded its diplomatic networks, which indicates growing interest in forming positive image of Pakistan.

Keywords: Public Diplomacy, Positive Image, National Identity, Russia, Pakistan.

Dr. Tonyan Anait was born in 1993 in Stavropol, Russia. She holds a bachelor's degree in law and a PhD in History. Her research interests focus on Indian diplomacy, with her dissertation dedicated to Indian soft power policy. Since 2022, she has been working at the North-Caucasus Federal University, teaching courses such as International Relations, Ethnopolitical Processes in the Countries of the East, the Greater Caucasus in the System of International Relations, and Non-State Actors in World Politics.



CENTRAL ASIA AS A KEY LINK BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA: BRIDGING ROLE OF REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION FROM PAST TO FUTURE

Abstract

Dr. Hina Khan

Links between Pakistan and Russia have not been exemplary. Be it the nineteenth century great game or the twentieth century cold war, or the twenty-first century war on terror, the regions now comprising Pakistan and Russia have been subjected to rather adversarial sentiments, ideologies and practices. Suspicions and threat perceptions have often eclipsed the relations between the two countries. Nevertheless, there are geographical, cultural, economic and strategic factors which point out to possibility as well as feasibility of fruitful relations between the two in future. One such factor is the bridging potential of Central Asia between Pakistan and Russia. In this context, this paper tends to explore the concept of regional transformation as a catalyst in bringing conflicting countries to a coordinating relationship: how Central Asia which has close historical, cultural and economic ties with both Pakistan and Russia, can play the role of intermediary in bringing the latter two in a closer and mutually beneficial cooperation and what are the irritants, challenges and future prospects in this regard comprise the basic research problem in this study.

The paper is divided into three major sections: First, the historical overview of role of Central Asia as a connecting link between Pakistan and Russia; Second, the perils of the post-Cold War era in the Pakistan-Central Asia-Russia triad; and the third, assessing the dynamics of regional transformation in Central Asia as a bridging link between Pakistan and Russia.

Keywords: Regional Transformation, Pakistan, Russia, Central Asia, historical links, geopolitical and geo-economic considerations

Dr. Hina Khan, with over twenty-five years of teaching experience, currently serves as the Head of the Department of History at the University of Karachi. Her areas of interest include the history of democracy, constitutionalism, civil society, human rights, and international relations in Pakistan, South Asia, Central Asia, and Europe. She has actively participated in numerous international and national conferences, including those held in the United States and South Asian countries. Dr. Khan has also successfully organized several international conferences and has over twenty-five research publications in reputable journals, in addition to contributing numerous articles to newspapers.



YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS: A POST-COLONIAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL NARRATIVES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Dr. Kalim Ullah

This study explores how youth in Pakistan, particularly students of political science and international relations, perceive the evolving relationship between Pakistan and Russia. Anchored in a post-colonial framework, the research examines the extent to which historical narratives—rooted in Cold War alliances—shape their understanding of this collaboration and its implications for shared regional interests like counterterrorism, energy security, and connectivity. By analyzing socially constructed perceptions, the study identifies gaps in awareness that hinder a future-focused perspective on Pakistan-Russia ties. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research collects data through surveys and thematic analysis of open-ended responses, targeting students from public and private universities. The findings aim to provide actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and media professionals to foster balanced and forward-thinking narratives around Pakistan-Russia relations.

Keywords: Youth, Students, Connectivity, Pakistan, Russia

Dr. Kalim Ullah is a Political Economist with a Ph.D. in International Relations from the International Islamic University Islamabad. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the National Defence University Islamabad. His areas of specialization include International Political Economy, Global and Regional Power Politics, and Research Methodology, and he supervises Ph.D. and MPhil theses. Dr. Ullah has presented his research at numerous conferences, including the Pakistan-Iran Academic Dialogue (2023), the 2024 Congress on Middle East Crises (Turkey), and the National Conference on Security & Development (2021). His research interests cover topics like distributive justice, Middle East crises, and Pakistan's foreign policy. Notable works include "COVID-19 & Socio-Economic Development of Pakistan" and "Towards Sustainable Solutions for Middle East Crises." He frequently appears on platforms like BBC and PTV to share his insights. With degrees in International Relations, Political Science, Computer Science, and History, Dr. Ullah aims to contribute meaningfully to global academic and policy discourses.



CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS FROM TRADITION GREAT GAME TO GRAND GREAT GAME: ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN U.S.-CHINA-RUSSIA EQUATIONAL RELATIONS IN A MULTIPOLAR FRAMEWORK

Abstract

Dr. Asifa Jahangir

This paper implies the radical transformation from the ancient Great Game into today Grand Great Game such as Pakistan was projected as a key player in the triangular relationship of the United States, China, and Russia. Historically, the Great Game was an arena of competition for domination over Central Asia between the British and Russian empires. From being a single dimension, it has transmuted into a complex multilevel web involving major global powers and key regional players chasing strategic advantages along an ever-shifting landscape in terms of power. Due to its strategic importance to Pakistan, the relationship becomes even more significant when it has been able to balance the most critical powers from its historical perspective for the gymnastic exercise of U.S. relations against an increasingly lucrative economic relationship with China through the CPEC. More than an economic interface, the corridor symbolised people-to-people interactions and a picture of current geopolitics. This study posits certain challenging questions: (1) In its contemporary sense, how is the Great Games notion moulded to suit present-day geopolitics? (2) What is the actual role of Pakistan in mediating relations between the US, China, and Russia in this multipolar framework? (3) How do these economic initiatives such as CPEC relate to the strategic positioning of Pakistan? (4) How does this shifting multipolar reality influence the stability of the region and global power configurations? Thus, this paper would contribute in various ways by answering all of these questions in qualitative content analysis, disclosing the nature of international relations, and, thus, the strategic calculations behind Pakistan foreign policy concerning the emerging Grand Great Game.

Keyword: CPEC, Pakistan, China, Russian, US, Multipolarity

Dr. Asifa Jahangir is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Arizona State University's Centre for Muslim Experience, funded by an American agency. Their current research focuses on a proposed Routledge book titled *Afghanistan under the Shadow of Indo-Pakistan Geopolitics*. Holding a PhD in South Asian Studies with a specialization in International Relations, they have extensive teaching and research experience in Pakistan's leading institutions, including the Lahore University of Management Sciences and the Political Science Department at Government Islamia Graduate College for Women. The author has contributed to nationally and internationally recognized journals and has diverse research interests, including South Asian geopolitics, foreign policy analysis, politico-climatology, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. They have also been awarded several prestigious national and international fellowships.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS AND KASHMIR DISPUTE: AN ANALYSIS

Abstract

Dr. Mamnoon Ahmed Khan

The Relations of Pakistan and Russia (former Soviet Union) started on diplomatic grounds on May 1, 1948. Both countries have close and cooperative relations based on International mutual cooperation and trust. The relations between Pakistan and Russia lost their warmth after the state visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan to USA. In Cold War period Pakistan took side with America and joined SEATO and CENTO against USSR. On the other side India was the member of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), that's why Soviet Union was closer to India. In the past USSR always took side with India on Kashmir Dispute. Russia vetoed many UN resolutions on Kashmir Dispute due to which the 1965 war occurred between Pakistan and India. After the disintegration of USSR and the formation of Russian Federation, relations between Russia and Pakistan seemed to move forward towards normalization. Russia backed Pakistan's permanent membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was very much valued by Pakistan's Government. Meetings of Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Chiefs of Armed Forces and other officials of both the countries show the level of good relations of both the countries. Pakistan and Russia relations focused mainly on the safety and reliability of their nuclear weapons, exchange of anti-terrorism experiences and cooperation in drugs control.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Kashmir, SCO, Nuclear Weapons, Anti-Terrorism, Drugs Control

Dr. Mamnoon Ahmad Khan did his PhD from University of Karachi in 2010. The topic of his dissertation was Kashmir Dispute: A Search for Solutions (1947-2003). His PhD thesis has been published from Germany. In International Relations he has eighteen years of teaching and research experience of graduate and postgraduate level. He joined the Department of International Relations Federal Urdu University as Assistant Professor in 2010. He held the positions of In charge Department of International Relations and In charge MS/PhD program. He held the positions of member syndicate and Board of Studies also. Dr Mamnoon has more than twenty research publications and he is the author of two books on Kashmir Dispute. He has produced three PhDs and two M.Phil. scholars; many M.Phil. and PhD scholars are working under his supervision.



CONVERGENCE OF INTERESTS: RUSSIA-PAKISTAN COOPERATION IN THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

Abstract

Sabeen Azam, Dr. Faisal Javaid

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has evolved as a strong platform for regional cooperation for the promotion of economic integration, security collaboration, and geopolitical convergence among its member states. This paper attempts to outline the convergent regional interests of Russia and Pakistan within the SCO framework, focusing on synergies and complementarities in their cooperation. The two main members of SCO, Russia and Pakistan, are actively involved in regional stability, counter-terrorism, and economic development. Their bilateral cooperation is inspired by common motivations: countering the extra-regional influence in regional power dynamics, promoting multi-polarity, and ensuring that both national interests are secure. Russia and Pakistan, together through the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure mechanism, coordinated efforts, shared information, and increased regional security cooperation against terrorism. Through SCO medium BRI and the EEU have created opportunities for the two, allowing Russia and Pakistan to expand their economic engagement in deepening the two economic ties, to enhance mutual trade, and to contribute toward infrastructure development. CPEC is a flagship project that facilitated Russia's entry into the Pakistani market, and the trilateral cooperation between China, Russia, and Pakistan was able to be created. This paper argues the SCO has furnished an enabling environment that can be pursued by Russia and Pakistan based on their joint regional interest, leveraging each other's complementary strengths in order to promote stability, security, and economic prosperity within this region. This research therefore aims, through a qualitative analysis of primary and secondary sources, to contribute to deeper understanding of the Russia-Pakistan partnership through the SCO context, raising implications for regional geopolitics and global governance.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, SCO, Interests, Security, Economy.

Sabeen Azam is a dedicated academic currently pursuing a PhD in International Relations at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST), Karachi. Alongside her doctoral studies, she serves as a lecturer at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Karachi, where she contributes to shaping the next generation of scholars. Her core research interests lie in non-traditional security, with a focus on exploring contemporary global challenges and their implications for international relations. Sabeen's academic journey reflects her commitment to advancing knowledge in her field and addressing critical security issues in today's world.



Dr. Fasiel Javaid is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology (FUUAST), Karachi, where he also serves as the Deputy Director at the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). With over 15 years of teaching experience in higher education, his expertise lies in the foreign relations of Central Asia, with a focus on regional connectivity between Pakistan, Central Asia, and Eurasia. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, USA. Additionally, he served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland, and as a Guest Researcher on the "TRANSECT" project at Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany. He is also a Country Expert for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He has authored three books, including "Bridging Horizons: Unraveling the Enigma of Connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asia" (IPS, 2024), contributed two book chapters, and has two additional chapters accepted for publication with Palgrave Macmillan. He has published 31 research papers in national and international journals. Dr. Javaid has organized five international conferences, four undergraduate conferences, two international workshops, and one graduate symposium. He has presented 15 research papers at international conferences, secured grants for conferences and travel, and supervised three Ph.D. and 13 M.Phil. students. He is a member of leading international associations, including ISA, IPSA, MPSA, APSA, and APT. Dr. Javaid has played a key role in establishing academic collaborations, signing six agreements with international universities, further advancing his contributions to regional and international research.



STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF PAKISTAN-RUSSIA DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

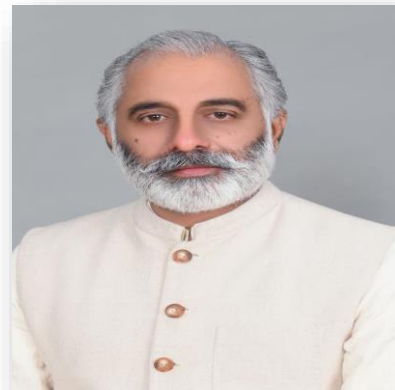
Abstract

Dr. Rashid Ahmed

The increasing defense and security cooperation between Pakistan and Russia reflects strategic imperatives shaped by a shifting global order characterized by multipolar power dynamics. Previously antagonistic during the Cold War, both countries have rebalanced their relations in response to evolving geopolitical realities, regional security problems, and common strategic interests. This cooperation has taken shape through cooperative military exercises, arms sales, counterterrorism initiatives, and regional stability operations, establishing them as emerging security allies in South and Central Asia. Understanding this growing relationship necessitates answering three essential issues. What fundamental strategic drivers have fuelled Pakistan-Russia defense and security cooperation? These include counterterrorism, the stabilization of Afghanistan, and balancing Western dominance in the area. Why has this collaboration grown despite Pakistan's longstanding links to the West and Russia's long-standing defense relationship with India? The solution resides in common regional security concerns, shifting US foreign policy, and pursuing strategic autonomy. How may this emerging cooperation transform South Asian security dynamics and influence the global order in an increasingly multipolar world? Exploring these concerns shows the strategic rationale underpinning their defense links and the possible consequences for regional peace, global power competition, and future policy choices. This presentation will comprehensively discuss the Pakistan-Russia security alliance, including its current status, future trajectory, and implications for international and regional stability.

Keywords: Defense Cooperation, Strategic Imperatives, Multipolar World, Geopolitical Realignment, Security Dynamics

Dr. Rashid Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Ethnopolitics at the National Defence University, Islamabad, is an accomplished academic and educator specializing in ethnopolitics, international relations, and conflict transformation. Holding a PhD in International Relations from the University of Karachi, his research focused on ethnic conflicts in Afghanistan and their implications for Pakistani society, with a particular emphasis on the Pashtun group. His expertise is further enriched by postdoctoral studies on conflict transformation dynamics in Afghanistan's tribal conflicts. Dr. Ahmad brings a unique perspective to his field, shaped by over two decades of service in the Pakistan Army. His military career complements his academic work by providing practical insights into civil-military relations, counterterrorism, and counterinsurgency—key areas of his research and teaching. Since joining the National Defence University in 2015, Dr. Ahmad has been a prolific writer, publishing numerous essays in prestigious journals on topics such as religious nationalism, regional peace initiatives, and security challenges in South Asia and the Middle East.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA MILITARY COOPERATION: A NEW PILLAR FOR REGIONAL SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Abstract

Ms. Khushboo Farid Khan Ghouri, Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan

The evolution of Pakistan-Russia military cooperation, particularly since the early 2000s, marks a significant shift in regional geopolitics, transforming the once adversarial relationship during the Cold War into a strategic partnership with profound implications for South Asia and Central Asia. This paper examines the contemporary defense and strategic partnership between Pakistan and Russia, highlighting key areas of military collaboration such as joint exercises, arms deals, and counterterrorism efforts. It traces the evolution of their relationship from initial skepticism to greater trust, emphasizing milestones like the 2014 defense agreements and the growing frequency of joint military drills. This paper explores how this growing cooperation is reshaping the regional balance of power, particularly in the context of shifting alliances and the changing global order. As both countries seek to counter common security challenges, including terrorism, extremism, and instability in neighboring regions, their military partnership presents a new pillar for regional security. The paper argues that this collaboration has the potential to not only enhance the strategic stability of South Asia and Central Asia but also serve as a balancing force against the influence of other global powers, particularly the United States and China. By analyzing the strategic drivers behind the Pakistan-Russia defense ties, this paper assesses how their emerging partnership is likely to shape the future security architecture of the region, contributing to a more multipolar global order and fostering greater stability in these strategically critical areas.

Keywords: Military Cooperation, Defense and Strategic Partnership, Regional Balance of Power, Security, Russia, Pakistan.

Ms. Khushboo Farid Khan Ghouri is a Teaching Associate and Ph.D. Fellow at the Department of International Relations, University of Karachi. She completed her M.Phil. in International Relations from the University of Karachi, earning two medals for outstanding performance in both her bachelor's and master's degrees. Ms. Ghouri is a contributor to the book titled 'Dark World: A Book on the Deep Dark Web,' published by the Taylor & Francis Group. Her areas of interest include human rights, community development, gender equality, climate change, strategic studies, and the transformative impact of emerging technologies on power dynamics.



Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan has been serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) since 2015. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Jilin University, China. A prolific scholar, he has published extensively in national and international research journals, contributing valuable insights to the field. His primary areas of expertise include South Asia, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Peace and Conflict Studies, Power Transition in the International System, Strategic Stability in South Asia, Regional Cooperation and Integration, and Non-Traditional Security Threats. Dr. Khan's work is distinguished by its relevance to contemporary geopolitical issues, particularly within the context of South Asia's evolving dynamics. As an academic and researcher, he is committed to advancing understanding in his field and fostering collaboration to address pressing global challenges. In addition to his research contributions, Dr. Khan actively participates in academic conferences and integrates his expertise into his teaching, inspiring the next generation of International Relations scholars. He can be contacted at arif.khan@fuuast.edu.pk for academic inquiries and collaboration opportunities.



AFGHANISTAN'S INSECURITY AND THE EMERGING POWER NEXUS: STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC, AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA, RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN

Abstract

Dr. Amir Ahmed Farooqui, Mr. Yasir Ali

Pakistan's vital geographical and political structure has a multidimensional nexus of cooperation and competition. The crossroad of the regional geopolitical landscape involving Russia, China, and Pakistan, distinctly in the realm of Afghanistan's security challenges and economic potential is one of the contentious issues. A case study of Chinese mine worker's killing in Afghanistan, exploring security vulnerabilities in the region despite the Taliban's unremitting efforts to stimulate Chinese investment. This incident sheds light on the geopolitical dynamics between Russia, China, and Pakistan in the region. China's investments in Afghanistan through CPEC, are imperative for its Belt and Road Initiative. After decades of animosity, Russia has now taken strategic interests in the country to secure its dominance in Central Asia. Pakistan, due to its ties with both countries and proximity to Afghanistan, plays a pivotal role in regional stability and economic cooperation. The study examines how these dynamics influence regional stability, economic connectivity, and security cooperation amidst evolving global power structures.

Keywords: Geopolitics, security, CPEC, BRI, strategic interests

Dr. Amir Ahmed Farooqui is an Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations at Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology. He joined the department in 2022 after previously serving as a visiting faculty member at the University of Karachi. He has presented his work on only in many national and international conferences in Pakistan but represented the country internationally. Dr. Farooqui is also a member of International Network of Genocide Scholars InoGS. Along with a strong background in academia, Dr. Farooqui has also held various administrative positions at Federal Urdu University. He has also contributed to the field of international relations through his research. Dr. Farooqui has published research articles in various HEC-recognized journals, indicating the quality and relevance of his work. His research primarily focuses on the dynamics of political violence, violent extremism as well as political theories of international relations.



Mr. Yasir Ali, an esteemed academic, has over twelve years of experience in research, teaching, and electronic media. He serves as a Research Officer at the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chair, University of Karachi, and as a Teaching Associate in the Department of International Relations at the same university. Mr. Ali's leadership is evident in his pivotal role in developing curricula, a task that inspires many, organizing conferences, and launching online research journals. His academic qualifications include a Ph.D. (ongoing) and an M.Phil. in International Relations from the University of Karachi. He has contributed extensively to research with numerous publications and presentations. Mr. Ali is also a member of multiple international academic forums and actively participates in various educational and professional networks. His work focuses on enhancing education standards, supporting interdisciplinary collaborations, and fostering research in international relations.



THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP: STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Abstract

Dr. Fouzia Amin

The evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship signifies a transformative shift in South and Central Asian geopolitics, reflecting broader strategic imperatives in an increasingly multipolar world. This paper explores the key drivers behind this partnership, including historical realignments, mutual security concerns, and economic aspirations. It highlights how both nations, driven by shifting global power dynamics, have recalibrated their foreign policies to forge deeper bilateral ties. The research examines Pakistan and Russia's defense and security cooperation, emphasizing joint military exercises, counter-terrorism efforts, and arms trade agreements as pivotal elements of their strategic alignment. Furthermore, the paper investigates the role of regional connectivity projects, such as the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline and the North-South Transport Corridor, in fostering economic interdependence and enhancing regional integration. The study also addresses collaborative efforts within multilateral frameworks like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), showcasing how these platforms enable both countries to advance shared goals of stability and economic development. Against the backdrop of global power transitions, this paper underscores the significance of the Pakistan-Russia relationship in shaping regional security and economic prospects in the 21st century.

Keywords: Pakistan-Russia Relations, Multipolarity, Regional Connectivity, Strategic Cooperation

Dr. Fouzia Amin is Assistant Professor at the department of Strategic Studies (SS), National Defence University (NDU). Her PhD dissertation is on “Evolving Strategic Competition in the Indian Ocean: Implications for the South Asian Region.” She did her MSc in Defence and Diplomatic Studies from Fatima Jinnah University Rawalpindi, and M.Phil. in Strategic and Nuclear Studies from NDU. Her areas of interest include nuclear strategy, nuclear politics of South Asia, power politics of Indo-Pacific, Iranian and Middle Eastern politics and other regional issues. Dr. Fouzia has a number of national and international publications on her credit. Also, she has contributed book chapters in different books published by the Moscow State Linguistic University, Russia, Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies, National Defence University. She has participated and represented Pakistan in a number of international conferences/seminars and bilateral dialogues abroad. For the last seven years she has been a member of every Pakistan Council on China (PCC) delegation to China for conferences and bilateral dialogues with various Chinese think-tanks.



RECALIBRATING RELATIONS: PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RAPPROCHEMENT DYNAMICS IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA (2002-2022)

Abstract

Dr. Gul-i.Ayesha Bhatti

This research study examines the changing dynamics of Pakistan-Russia relations from 2002 to 2022, a transformative period marked by a shift from Cold War hostilities to pragmatic collaboration. The primary objective of this study is to analyze the motivations for the rapprochement, pinpoint significant areas of cooperation, and evaluate its consequences for regional and global geopolitics. The study aims to elucidate the elements influencing this strategic shift and its sustainability in the face of increasing global challenges by an analysis of defense, energy, and diplomatic interactions. Research indicates that mutual security apprehensions and Pakistan's necessity to diversify its defense alliances were crucial in overcoming past distrust. The formation of the Pak-Russia Joint Military Consultative Committee, collaborative military drills, and alignment in hybrid warfare tactics highlight the intensification of military collaboration. Moreover, Russia's energy exports to Pakistan and collaborative infrastructure initiatives have established Pakistan as a vital energy client, enhancing the overall economic tie. Diplomatic interactions and cooperative initiatives in regional stability, counterterrorism, and multilateral platforms underscore shared convergence on significant geopolitical matters. The research contextualizes these developments within the regional political framework, including Russia's pivot to Asia and Pakistan's strategic realignments in response to shifting global power dynamics. It concludes that while significant progress has been made, challenges such as geopolitical rivalries and external influences could test the durability of

Keywords: Pakistan-Russia Relations, Strategic Partnership, Defense Cooperation, Energy Collaboration, Regional Stability, Hybrid Warfare, Eurasian Geopolitics

Dr. Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti is a distinguished academic, foreign affairs analyst, and columnist. She is a faculty member at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) in Islamabad. Specializing in International Relations, her expertise includes geopolitics, defense cooperation, regional stability, human rights, and foreign policy. A sought-after commentator, Dr. Bhatti, regularly appears on national and international television, providing incisive analyses of global and regional political dynamics. Her opinion pieces in leading newspapers address contemporary geopolitical and humanitarian challenges, establishing her as an influential voice in international affairs.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN PAKISTAN-RUSSIA ENERGY COLLABORATION: INNOVATION IN WATER REMEDIATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL

Abstract

Mr. Kamran Siddique

Expansion of energy partnership between Pakistan and Russia is significant for economic development. This research-based work emphasizes innovative bioremediation technology, particularly Floating Treatment Wetlands (FTWs) and plant-bacteria synergistic methods, which are more economical solutions to control industrial wastewater pollution in the oil and gas sector than conventional methods. The objective of this conversation is to promote Pakistan-Russia collaboration in clean energy practices by bridging the gap between scientific innovation and policy implementation. Both nations may increase their dedication to regional sustainability and technical growth in environmental conservation by incorporating nature-based solutions into the energy sector's initiatives. Russia's oil & gas production, in Western Siberia, Eastern Siberia, and the Arctic, faces significant water challenges due to hydrocarbon pollution from extraction operations. This research-based bioremediation technology is an innovative, economical, and sustainable method for control of hydrocarbons contamination. This technology is suitable for high energy production areas of Russia to achieve SDG 6. Furthermore, these solutions may accelerate Pakistan-Russia partnership in environmental research and clean technology exchange.

Key Words: Pakistan, Russia, Environment, Sustainability, Energy Collaboration

Mr. Kamran Siddique is a seasoned Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Specialist with over 14 years of experience in oil and gas industry, specializing in environmental management, clean technology, and bioremediation of hydrocarbon-based wastewater. He holds an MS in Environmental Sciences and is currently pursuing a PhD, focusing on bioremediation through floating treatment wetlands. As a certified Corporate Director (PICG), NEBOSH-certified professional, and ISO 14064 expert, he actively contributes to sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions management. Mr. Kamran has published research in international journals and is deeply involved in technical trainings and capacity-building programs. His expertise spans HSEQ compliance, ESG strategies, and industrial environmental solutions, making him a key figure in fostering collaboration between academia and the energy sector.



FOSTERING STRATEGIC GROWTH THROUGH CROSS-NATIONAL EDUCATION AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Abstract

Nazir Magsi

Amid the challenges of a transforming international framework, the evolving dynamics between Pakistan and Russia highlight the critical need for strategic interdependence to drive sustainable growth and global competitiveness. This article explores the pivotal role of joint investments in industry, infrastructure, and agriculture, with a particular focus on the importance of developing a technologically skilled workforce. Just as any solid structure depends on a strong foundation, progress can only be achieved through enhanced cooperation between educational institutions in both countries, fostering knowledge sharing and elevating educational standards. By prioritising education, cross-sector collaboration, and cross-border academic partnerships, Pakistan and Russia can accelerate sustainable development, strengthen bilateral relations, and elevate their global standing within an ever-changing global order.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, Education, Academic Partnership, Bilateral Relations

Nazir Magsi is a visionary leader in consulting, analytics, and project management, with expertise spanning education, research, IT, and energy. As a lecturer in management at Moscow Polytechnic University, he inspires the next generation of leaders with innovative perspectives. He leads the SAFER project, which reimagines seismic science to explore renewable energy opportunities. Nazir's frameworks, including the Concurrent Employee Evolution Framework (CEEF) and impact LMS, are reshaping corporate learning by fostering continuous professional growth. Additionally, his Corporate Learning and Developing Ecosystem (LDE) model enhances organizational adaptability, while the CLIE model focuses on driving sustainable energy solutions. With extensive experience in process automation, technological innovation, and education, Nazir spearheads initiatives that blend technology, sustainability, and learning. His work is focused on creating transformative impacts across industries and communities, driving progress in educational ecosystems, and fostering resilience in a rapidly evolving global landscape.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION IN CLIMATE SECURITY AND MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

Abstract

Fajeera Asif

In an era of intensifying climate challenges and geopolitical shifts, the nexus between climate security and multilateral diplomacy emerges as a critical area for collaboration. This paper, will explore the evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship through the lens of climate security, focusing on multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). While Pakistan and Russia experience distinct climate vulnerabilities—ranging from glacial melt and water scarcity in South Asia to Arctic permafrost thawing in Eurasia—this divergence presents a unique opportunity for complementary action. The paper will examine how these two nations, with their differing yet interconnected priorities, can leverage the SCO and EAEU to foster collaborative responses to climate-induced security risks. These risks, which transcend national borders, include resource conflicts, climate-driven migration, and economic disruptions. By delving into the mechanisms of these multilateral platforms, the paper will identify actionable pathways for joint disaster resilience initiatives, advocacy for equitable climate financing, and the development of sustainable energy solutions. Moreover, the paper will situate Pakistan-Russia cooperation within the broader context of a shifting global order, where multipolarity and regionalism increasingly shape international relations. The analysis will underscore the potential for these two nations to champion regional climate diplomacy, advancing shared objectives while addressing the broader implications of climate change on peace and security. Ultimately, this research will argue that by deepening their engagement within the frameworks of the SCO and EAEU, Pakistan and Russia can redefine the contours of their bilateral relationship, transitioning from a traditionally limited partnership to one that meaningfully contributes to global climate governance. This partnership, rooted in shared regional interests and multilateral collaboration, holds the promise of shaping a more resilient and secure future in the face of mounting climate challenges.

Keywords: Climate Change, Security, SCO, EAEU, Pakistan, Russia

Fajeera Asif is a political scientist and researcher specializing in climate change, gender, and conflict. She has had the privilege of engaging with international academic platforms, including fieldwork in Nepal to study climate change adaptation. Fajeera also participated in a research opportunity at Nottingham University, Malaysia, where she explored the intersection of political parties, democracy, and climate change. Before joining DevTrio as a Research Associate, Fajeera was a Research Fellow at Habib University, Karachi, where she focused on the nexus between climate change and peacebuilding. She is deeply passionate about research and its potential to inform policy and practice.



BALANCING SUPERPOWERS: RUSSIA, USA AND CHINA IN SOUTH ASIAN GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Abstract

Ayesha Mazhar

South Asia has always been the focus of major powers due to its geopolitical significance, in recent years US, Russia and China have given South Asia much significance in their global policies. Pakistan has been fetching this limelight since decades. After the end of US war on terror in Afghanistan it was believed that Pakistan may lose its importance. Time has proven that Pakistan is still a key agent in the region. US has been using coercion as its policy vis a vis Pakistan and cooperation with India. Russia has been trying to develop friendly relations with Pakistan, despite a very tense historical background of mistrust and competition. Russia is trying to foster its interests once again in the region by allying with both India and Pakistan. Russia is trying to balance the influence of US as well as China in the region because multipolarity is on the rise and no state can live at its own, so alliances, balancing and realignment tactics are again in fashion of global politics. This paper analyzes through the lens of Strategic Hedging, the complex interplay of cooperation and coercion among global powers like US and Russia in the region with reference to Pakistan. This paper will not only analyze the role of the powers, but it will also try to understand the impact and prospects of this strategic hedging for Pakistan.

Keywords: South Asia, Geopolitical Significance, Global Politics, US, Russia, China, Pakistan.

Ayesha Mazhar is a dedicated scholar of International Relations, recognized for her academic excellence and strong foundation in qualitative research. With a keen interest in strategic studies, her academic journey has been distinguished by notable achievements, including earning a Gold Medal and securing the position of highest achiever in her Master's program from the International Islamic University Islamabad. Ayesha's commitment to academic excellence and her passion for understanding global dynamics have positioned her as a promising researcher in the field. Her achievements reflect her dedication to contributing meaningful insights into strategic and international studies.



EVOLVING RUSSIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS IN THE MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Abstract

Arooba Abbasi

Since the regional political order has been evolving, the world is embracing the prospect of a New World Order, bringing different nations together in pursuit of mutual objectives. Thus, Given the changing global landscape, Pakistan is modifying its foreign policy. Policymakers began to recognize the value of diversity in the global order, as opposed to the past when an entire tilt revolves around the Western powers. Therefore, this study aims to assess and evaluate the expanding bilateral relations between Russia and Pakistan, as well as its implications in the multipolar world order. Although both have friendly military relations for a long time but given Russia's wealth of natural resources and its resurgence as an economic player especially soon after Ukraine crisis Pakistan has begun to realize that it can be a useful ally in Eurasia; and that its substantial oil, gas, and coal resources can fulfill growing energy demands. The article's objective is to evaluate Russia's increasing inclination towards the global south as Russia requires allies to counter US-led western efforts to isolate it, particularly in the wake of the Ukraine war started in February 2022, while fearlessly opposing the US-led Western order; vis a vi' Pakistan's economic woes compel it to continue engaging with it despite the potential impact on its relations with the US; amid all of this, the study will address the importance of growing connectivity between them. Collaboration on multilateral platforms the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, and Russia's backing of Pakistan's membership into the BRICS is also noteworthy.

Keywords: Multipolar World Order, Pakistan, Russia, Global South, Collaborations.

Arooba Abbasi is currently enrolled in the MS International Relations program at Muslim Youth University, Islamabad. Her thesis focuses on the theme of "Resurgence of Russia: Implications for the Global World Order." Her primary areas of interest include Russia's foreign policy, maritime security—particularly in the Black Sea—and related geopolitical dynamics. This interest motivated her to participate virtually in this conference. Arooba is particularly keen on exploring the future course of Russia-Pakistan ties and would like to assess it while keeping historical context of these relations in mind.



GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY IN LIGHTS OF SCO: THE TRIANGLE OF PAKISTAN-INDIA AND RUSSIA POST (2017-2024)

Abstract

Shahid Jan Afridi

At present, regional security and energy crisis is one of the most serious problems of a state and unfortunately Pakistan is one of them, due to its energy deficit and internal security problem. Regional integration has become a major trend in the modern world, with countries seeking cooperation and building mutual trust for economic and security purposes. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an important regional forum that fosters cooperation among its member states. This dissertation research will explore the dynamics of global and regional security in relation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Pakistan, India and Russia triangle. The SCO, a regional security organization comprising Central and East Asian countries, has played an increasingly important role in defining the security dynamics in the Eurasian region. The focus of this research will be on the interactions and relationships between Pakistan, India and Russia within the framework of the SCO, and how these interactions impact the global and regional security dynamics. The research will analyze the security challenges facing these countries, including terrorism, regional conflicts, and great power competition, and examine how SCO can contribute to addressing these challenges. The thesis will also examine how the SCO can provide a platform for ensuring regional security, particularly in the context of China-Pakistan-Russia relations, and what potential scenarios could unfold in the Pakistan-India-Russia triangle, and what impact they could have on global and regional security. The role of Pakistan, India, and Russia in shaping the SCO agenda and priorities, and assess the implications of their collaboration or rivalry within the organization for global and regional security. Through this analysis, the thesis aims to provide an overview of the evolving security architecture in Eurasia and the potential fo

r cooperation and conflict between these key actors in the region.

Keywords: SCO, Pakistan, Russia, India, Security Dynamics

Mr. Shahid Jan Afridi, graduated from the University of Peshawar. He obtained his Master of Philosophy degree from Qurtuba University, Peshawar, Pakistan. In 2010, Shahid was appointed as an administrative officer at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, where he served in various sections and offices. He is currently on study leave pursuing his Ph.D. at RUDN University in Moscow, Russia. After completing his MPhil, Shahid applied for the Russian Government Scholarship, which he was awarded. He completed his preparatory course in the Russian language at Altai State Pedagogical University in Barnaul and then began his main Ph.D. course at RUDN University in Moscow. His Ph.D. thesis is titled Global and Regional Security in the Light of SCO: Pakistan-India Triangle and Russia (2017 to 2024), and he is supervised by Professor Marina Lapenka.



LOGISTIC NETWORK OPTIMIZATION TO MAXIMIZE ROUTE UTILIZATION: A CASE STUDY OF NATO SUPPLY ROUTES

Abstract

Qaisar Ali

This paper examines the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) fuel logistics operation in Afghanistan and its implications for the logistics community as a whole. The research focuses on a small group of individuals and how they were able to supply over three million liters of fuel per day to Afghanistan with minimal commitment from ISAF nations. The paper explains how these individuals managed NATO fuel operations outside of typical institutions such as the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) and the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy. In addition, this analysis compares NATO's mission in Afghanistan to analogous historical examples of large-scale coalition fuel initiatives with extensive communication networks. These historical case studies provide background for the successes of NATO logisticians and the level of risk they assumed in supplying gasoline to the ISAF deployment headed by NATO.

Keywords: NATO, Afghanistan, Fuel Logistics, ISAF

Qaisar Ali, is currently an employee at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan. He is also pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science at RUDN University. His research is focused on the Gaza-Israel conflict, aiming to contribute valuable insights into this complex and ongoing geopolitical issue. Through his academic work, Qaisar Ali is dedicated to exploring the dynamics of conflict and its broader implications for regional and global politics.



ANALYZING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA DEFENSE COOPERATION IN COUNTERTERRORISM IN THE POST-AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL ERA

Abstract

Maria Jawad Khan

The evolving defense and security relationship between Pakistan and Russia marks a pivotal shift in South Asia's geopolitical landscape. This study critically examines the role of Pakistan-Russia defense cooperation in addressing terrorism and ensuring regional stability, with a specific focus on the post-Afghanistan withdrawal environment. As both nations grapple with the security spillovers of Afghanistan's instability, this paper explores how their collaboration—through joint military exercises, counterterrorism operations, and intelligence sharing—provides a strategic framework to counter regional terrorist networks. The study also evaluates the broader implications of this partnership on regional power dynamics, particularly its impact on Pakistan's relations with traditional allies like China and adversaries like India. By leveraging Russia's renewed interest in South Asia and Pakistan's geostrategic location, the paper argues that this defense alignment serves not only as a counterterrorism strategy but also as a balancing mechanism in an increasingly multipolar world. Employing qualitative analysis and case studies, this paper delves into the motivations behind Russia's outreach to Pakistan and Pakistan's pivot towards Moscow in light of shifting global alliances. The objective is to assess whether this cooperation can evolve into a robust security framework or remain constrained by historical mistrust and geopolitical limitations. The findings offer insights into the potential for sustainable defense collaboration between the two nations and its implications for South Asia's security architecture, providing a unique lens to understand emerging trends in international security cooperation.

Keywords: Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, South Asia, Geopolitical, Defense

Maria Jawad Khan is a Research Associate at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), where she contributes to advancing policy-oriented research and fostering intellectual discourse on critical regional and national issues. With a robust academic background in International Relations, her work spans conflict resolution, trade diplomacy, and regional stability. Her research methodology emphasizes qualitative insights, using thematic analysis and tools like NVivo to address complex issues such as resisting violent extremism and promoting inclusive governance. Maria has authored multiple articles, contributed to national-level initiatives like Econ Fest, and delivered impactful research outputs. As an advocate for actionable solutions, she is focused on bridging theoretical frameworks with practical outcomes. Beyond academia, Maria maintains an active digital presence, engaging diverse audiences through thoughtful discourse. She looks forward to presenting her insights and contributing to meaningful dialogues at conferences.



THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

Abstract

Shafiqat Rasool

The Pakistan-Russia relationship has undergone significant transformation, emerging as a strategic partnership shaped by shifting global dynamics. Historically defined by Cold War rivalries and divergent alliances, the relationship has evolved in response to changes in the global order, including the decline of unipolarity, the rise of multipolarity, and shared interests in regional stability. This analysis identifies key strategic drivers behind this evolving relationship, including shared concerns over terrorism, regional security, and economic integration, particularly through platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and collaborative energy projects. The paper employs a qualitative methodology, incorporating analysis of diplomatic exchanges, defense agreements, and trade data, alongside policy reviews and expert interviews. Gap studies reveal limited exploration of Pakistan-Russia cooperation in technology transfer, cultural exchanges, and institutional collaboration, presenting opportunities for further research and engagement. The global shift toward a multipolar order, driven by the rise of China and the increasing assertiveness of Russia, provides a conducive backdrop for Pakistan and Russia to strengthen ties, particularly in the domains of defense, energy, and regional connectivity. The study recommends institutionalizing dialogue mechanisms, enhancing trade ties, and leveraging shared interests in stability to create a robust and mutually beneficial partnership. This evolving relationship reflects broader geopolitical realignments and holds potential for shaping regional and global stability.

Keywords: Strategic Drivers, Evolving Relationship, Security, Economic Integration, Energy, SCO

Shafiqat Rasool is an M.Phil. scholar in International Relations at the International Islamic University Islamabad, with a focused interest in global politics and maritime affairs. Currently serving as a Research Associate at the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Karachi, shafiqat is actively involved in research initiatives addressing critical issues related to maritime security, geopolitics, and regional cooperation. With a strong academic foundation and hands-on research experience, shafiqat is committed to contributing valuable insights to the field of International Relations, particularly in the context of maritime studies and strategic affairs. Her work reflects a dedication to bridging academic knowledge with practical policy solutions.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION IN THE INSTC: A PATHWAY FOR TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Abstract

Hamza Bhutto, Dashab Annus

This paper explores the history, objectives, and contemporary situation of the INSTC, highlighting how it has the potential to transform regional and international trade by improving connectivity and decreasing time and cost for the transportation of goods. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), initiated in 2000 and signed in 2001 between India, Iran and Russia, is a trade route connecting South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The 7,200 km corridor aims to reduce trade costs and transit times by establishing efficient trade routes that bypass traditional paths like the Suez Canal. Despite initial delays caused by geopolitical and economic challenges, renewed interest has expanded participation to include countries such as Kazakhstan, Turkey, Syria and Pakistan. This paper focuses on Pakistan's geostrategic location and opportunities, such as using the Gwadar Port to increase trade with Central Asia and Europe through Iran bypassing Afghanistan, it shows the potential economic benefits for important South Asian stakeholders, such as Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. Additionally, the research explores the geopolitical implications of the corridor, including its potential to counter Western sanctions on Iran and Russia, foster regional stability, and drive economic integration. However, it also addresses critical challenges, including infrastructure gaps, geopolitical tensions, and competing interests among regional powers.

Keywords: INSTC, Pakistan and Russia, Cooperation, Trade, Regional Integration.

Hamza Bhutto is an undergraduate student from FUUAST currently serving as an Editor at Politico Vista. With a year of experience in event management and public diplomacy, he has honed his skills in organizing impactful initiatives.



Dashab Annus has over 7 years of experience. He is currently working as Political Analyst at the Consulate-General of Japan in Karachi and recently completed his M.Phil. in International Relations from FUUAST



THE NEW WORLD ORDER: BRICS AND THE ROLE OF PAKISTAN

Abstract

Shafiq un-Nisa

After experiencing the Cold War and the war against terrorism, the world has shifted in a new direction since the eruption of the Arab Spring in the Middle East. Countries have had to adapt to their internal and external affairs in response to these significant changes. This research examines major events surrounding this transformation, with a particular focus on the development of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). The study discusses the primary reasons for establishing this new organization, emphasizing its role as a counterbalance to the supremacy of the American dollar in global finance. It posits that the world is gradually transitioning towards a multipolar order, which will fundamentally alter international relations. Many countries are increasingly interested in exploring this new order, expressing dissatisfaction with the dominance of superpowers. This research delves into the opportunities and challenges presented by this emerging power structure globally, highlighting Pakistan's significant role in this context. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is identified as a crucial component of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), underscoring Pakistan's strategic importance. The geographical location of Pakistan is pivotal not only in historical contexts but also in shaping future global dynamics. The constructive approach will serve as the main theoretical framework for this research. Additionally, historical, qualitative, and quantitative methods will be employed as primary tools for analysis.

Keywords: China, America, Pakistan, dollar hegemony, multipolar world order, de-dollarization.

Shafiq Un Nisa is a M.Phil. scholar at Department of IR, Federal Urdu University, Karachi with a class of 2023; She previously acquired her master's degree in the International Relations discipline from the University of Karachi in the academic year 2021. Currently, her Area of interest is study of ""THE NEW WORLD ORDER: BRICS AND THE ROLE OF PAKISTAN"" Her devotion to advancing understanding of the complex political interests of the global order and geopolitical dynamics gives a glimpse of the contemporary picture through her research.



PROSPECTS OF RUSSIA-PAKISTAN JOINT EFFORTS FOR MAINTAINING RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER

Abstract

Taimur Khan

Russia-Pakistan relations have undergone significance transformation since the inception of Pakistan. During the cold war in bipolar world order both the countries have witnessed strained relationship due to different foreign policies. In the post-soviet era in unipolar world the relations have improved driven by mutual interests counter-terrorism, energy, trade and defense. Russia and Pakistan have cooperated on various issues within the United Nations on matters related to international law. The rapidly evolving global order, marked by shifting power dynamics and emerging challenges, highlights the imperative of upholding the rule of international law. Against this backdrop, the growing partnership between Russia and Pakistan offers a promising avenue for collaborative efforts aimed at reinforcing the international legal order. This paper examines the prospects of Russia-Pakistan joint endeavors in promoting and protecting the rule of international law, with a particular focus on the areas like counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, maritime security, cybersecurity and promotion of international humanitarian law and human rights. Through a comprehensive analysis of the converging interests and shared concerns of Russia and Pakistan, this research aims to identify potential areas of cooperation and collaboration. Furthermore, this research seeks to explore the implications of their joint efforts for the broader international community, with a view to promoting a more stable, secure and just world order. This study argues that the Russia-Pakistan partnership has the potential to play a constructive role in upholding the rule of international law, thereby contributing to the maintenance of global peace and security in the face of emerging challenges.

Keywords: International Law, Collaborative Efforts, Implication, Russia, Pakistan.

Taimur Khan is a Ph.D. scholar at Quaid-i-Azam University with over five years of research and teaching experience. His academic interests are centered around International Politics and Foreign Policy Analysis, with a particular focus on the roles of Russia, the United States, and other great powers within the United Nations. Taimur's research also delves into Middle East politics, humanitarian military intervention, and the dynamics of US foreign policy. Additionally, he is keenly interested in exploring Russia-Pakistan relations, seeking to understand their evolving diplomatic and strategic significance. His work is dedicated to contributing valuable insights to these critical areas of global politics.



BRIDGING THE GAP: PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL, CULTURAL, AND SOCIETAL DYNAMICS

Abstract

Fatima Jabeen & Dr Asim Muneeb Khan

The evolving dynamics of Pakistan-Russia relations offer a compelling case study in the context of South Asia's geopolitics and socio-cultural interactions. This comparative analysis examines Pakistan-Russia ties alongside other bilateral relationships in the region, including Pakistan's alliances with China, the United States, India, and Afghanistan. Unlike the deeply entrenched and historically significant partnerships with China and the U.S., Pakistan-Russia relations are steadily growing, reflecting shifting cultural perceptions and societal engagements between the two nations. The analysis highlights the unique characteristics of this partnership, such as pragmatic defence collaboration, shared interests in counterterrorism, and regional stability, particularly in Afghanistan, while also exploring their cultural and societal underpinnings. These ties differ from Pakistan's long-standing strategic alliance with China, rooted in shared developmental aspirations such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and from the transactional nature of Pakistan-U.S. relations, shaped by contrasting societal values and historical legacies. The study further underscores challenges posed by Russia's historical alliance with India, which has traditionally shaped its South Asia policy, creating cultural and political complexities for Pakistan. Simultaneously, it identifies emerging opportunities for socio-economic and geopolitical interaction, such as energy cooperation and connectivity projects like the North-South Transport Corridor. By situating Pakistan-Russia relations within the broader context of South Asia's bilateral and multilateral frameworks, this research explores how cultural exchanges, societal shifts, and shared aspirations for regional stability influence these evolving ties. This analysis contributes to understanding the strategic reorientation of both nations and its implications for regional cultures, societies, and global power dynamics in an increasingly multipolar world.

Keywords: Regional Geopolitics, Socio-Cultural Interactions, Complexities, Emerging Opportunities, Russia, Pakistan.

Fatima Jabeen is a Lecturer at Foundation University, Islamabad, Pakistan, with expertise in cultural anthropology, international relations, and societal dynamics. Her academic focus lies in exploring the intricate connections between geopolitics and cultural contexts, offering insights into how global power shifts influence local traditions and societal structures.



Dr. Asim Muneeb Khan serves as an Associate Professor at the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice System, Minhaj University, Lahore, Pakistan. With a distinguished background in criminology and justice studies, his work addresses the intersections of societal norms, law, and governance. Collaboratively, they engage in interdisciplinary research that bridges anthropology and criminology, analysing how cultural and societal elements shape regional and international relations. Their shared vision is to contribute meaningful discourse to academia and policy-making, fostering an understanding of the dynamic interplay between culture, society, and governance in a globalized world.



RUSSIA ENERGY ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA: A BALANCE ACT

Abstract

Taha Jawed, Saroj Rizwan Khan

The history of Pakistan and Russia relations has been deeply affected by geopolitical complications and the effects of the Cold War still in the present era these relations have gained importance in the context of the changing geographical and economic dynamics of the region Russia's look east policy and Pakistan's diversified foreign policy have provided new opportunities to expand economic and energy cooperation between the two countries this study examines the impact of Pakistan and Russia's growing energy cooperation and economic partnership in the region, particularly in the context of projects such as the Pak Stream gas pipeline over research shows that cooperation in the energy sector between Russia and Pakistan has not only strengthened bilateral relations but also strengthened the prospects for economic stability in the region although western sanctions limited infrastructure and a historical lack of trust hinder this cooperation the study emphasizes that comprehensive strategies and multilateral cooperation for energy and economic partnership are necessary to ensure economic growth and energy security in the region these relations are not only beneficial for both countries but can also have a positive impact on the geographical and political balance of the region Pakistan and Russia relations energy cooperation Pak stream gas pipeline geopolitics regional economic partnership west Asia.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan Energy, Engagements.

Taha Jawed is a dedicated undergraduate student in International Relations at the Federal Urdu University, currently volunteering at Lincoln Corner PACC and working as an Assistant Editor at Politico Vista E-Magazine. He possesses skills in content writing, leadership, and graphic design while advocating for water conservation through personal projects.



Saroj Rizwan Khan is currently serving as a Project Coordinator at the Centre for Excellence in Journalism and pursuing an MPhil in International Relations at the University of Karachi. With over 8 years of diverse experience, she has worked as a Program Coordinator at Lincoln Corner PACC (2 years 9 months), a Lecturer at Jinnah University for Women (4.5 years), and a Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs. She is a certified trainer and researcher, her expertise lies in community engagement, communication and leadership skills, international relations, and journalism.)"



HISTORICAL ROOTS OF RUSSIAN-PAKISTANI COOPERATION: RUSSIA ON THE WAY TO SOUTH ASIA

Abstract

Andrei Berezhnov

This paper analyzes Russian projects from the 17th century to the present day aimed at finding and creating a land route to South Asia. The Russian interest in South Asia dates back to the 17th century. The Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich dispatched embassies to the court of the Great Mogul and attempted to organize trade with India. Peter-I assigned the expedition of A. Bekovich-Cherkassky to the Khiva Khanate in 1717 and conducted the Persian campaign in 1722-1723 for the same reason. Another attempt to reach the banks of the Indus was the Indian campaign, which was developed by the Russian Emperor Paul I and the First Consul of France Napoleon in 1801. In the 21st century, Russia has not abandoned the idea of building a land trade route to the Hindustan Peninsula. The main obstacles to implementing this centuries-old plan are the unstable situation in Afghanistan, sanctions against Iran, and tense relations between India and Pakistan. However, since the 2010s, Russia has been involved in the construction of the TAPI gas pipeline, which should pass through the territories of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. In 2024, Pakistan joined the North-South transport corridor project, which can fulfill Russia's long-standing dreams and connect the post-Soviet space with the countries of South Asia. Thus, the relations between Moscow and Islamabad have great prospects, since without the participation of Pakistan, Russia will not be able to start land trade with India.

Keywords: History, Connectivity, Land Route, Trade, Russia, Pakistan

Andrei Berezhnov is a lecturer and Ph.D. student in the Department of World and Russian History at MGIMO. His thesis focuses on the perception of India and Africa in the Russian Empire in the 18th century. Additionally, Andrei is a junior researcher at the Centre for Global and Strategic Studies of the Institute for African Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences.



AVENUES OF TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN: ANALYSIS OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DOMAINS

Abstract

Muhammad Danish Khan

Pakistan and Russia's changing relationship offers great chances for cooperation in the information technology (IT) and technology sectors, which might lead to major economic growth for both countries. Opportunities for collaboration are examined in this paper, with a focus on important topics including software and Product developments cyber security, digital transformation, IT services, and cutting-edge technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing. With its highly qualified workforce and affordable outsourcing options, Pakistan's rapidly growing IT industry enhances Russia's cutting-edge know-how in software development, telecommunications, and cyber security. The creation of e-commerce platforms, the advancement of 5G rollout, and the promotion of innovation through research partnerships and tech incubators are examples of collaborative efforts. Human capital development can be further improved through educational exchanges, capacity-building initiatives, and information sharing in the engineering and IT domains. Furthermore, Pakistan's technical modernization can benefit from Russia's experience in industrial software, renewable energy, and space technology. Despite infrastructure gaps, regulatory differences, and geopolitical constraints, bilateral agreements and investment incentives can help overcome barriers. Strengthening cooperation in technology and IT not only aligns with both countries' economic aspirations but also positions them strategically in the global digital economy. This collaboration represents a pathway to economic diversification, enhanced productivity, and shared prosperity.

Keywords: Trade, Information Technology, Cyber Security, AI, Cutting-Edge Technologies, 5G, E-Commerce.

Muhammad Danish Khan is the CEO of MD-ULTRA DESIGN, a company specializing in IT exports and research and development, with a focus on CAD/CAM. He is also passionate about International Relations (IR), particularly in the context of Middle Eastern countries. Under his leadership, MD-ULTRA DESIGN works with major clients in the USA, Singapore, and South Korea, providing research and development services for prominent semiconductor companies like Intel, IBM, and Samsung. The company is focused on expanding into the European market, particularly in Poland, which is currently a leading IT hub in Eastern and Central Europe. MD-ULTRA DESIGN values creativity, innovation, client focus, quality, responsiveness, continuous improvement, and teamwork in its operations.



RUSSIA AS AN EXTERNAL FACTOR INFLUENCING PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY

Abstract

Artur Makhlaiuk

In this paper, it is proposed to consider the national military strategy of Pakistan as a multifaceted phenomenon, including the development of its own military-industrial complex, the peculiarities of the development of a particular type of military, the development of bilateral relations with foreign countries, the perception of external and internal security threats, and so on. I believe that the national military strategy is largely influenced by current events taking place in Russia's special military operation, as well as the development of Russian-Pakistani military-technical cooperation in its various forms: both direct supplies of weapons and military equipment, and, for example, military exercises such as Druzhiba or AMAN. On the one hand, Pakistan is actively studying the experience of the "old style" conflict with the use of infantry formations and artillery, and on the other, it is adopting the experience of operating UAVs and other systems that have never been used in combat before. On the other hand, at the moment Pakistan is under-equipped with some advanced technologies that Russian manufacturers have. This applies both to individual parts of weapons (for example, engines) and directly to weapons and military equipment. Thus, despite the fact that the volume of military-technical cooperation is currently not so significant, it can be concluded that Pakistan is closely monitoring current trends on the battlefield, as well as new products that may be imported from Russia in the future. Moreover, there are broad prospects for the exchange of experience in different services, since the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are currently among the most experienced in the world.

Keywords: Military, Security, Pakistan, Russia, Exercises, Cooperation

Artur Makhlaiuk is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Pakistan Studies at St. Petersburg State University, focusing on his research thesis in this field. Alongside his academic work, Artur is the Managing Partner of a consulting company that supports Russian businesses in navigating and expanding their presence in South Asian markets, including Pakistan. He also holds the position of Analysis and Supply Counselor for one of the largest Russian IT companies, where he provides expertise on market dynamics and strategic decisions. Artur's multifaceted career bridges both academic research and practical consulting, reflecting his deep engagement with South Asia and international business.



PAKISTANI-RUSSIAN RELATIONS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION PROMOTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Abstract

Alisa Novolodskaia

Pakistani-Russian relations in the military-technical and educational spheres are developing quite rapidly today. Furthermore, Pakistani-Russian negotiations are underway on cooperation between Russia and Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. At the same time, Pakistan largely depends on the economic support of the West, receiving tranches from the International Monetary Fund. Relations between Russia and Pakistan can contribute to prosperity in South Asia and the diversification of Pakistan's foreign policy. At the same time, it is important to understand that the region is undergoing multidirectional transformations. On the one hand, Chinese Belt and Road initiatives are developing and the American Indo-Pacific strategy is advancing. In 2022, the Biden administration published the Indo-Pacific Strategy, in which the United States pays more attention to India, without mentioning other South Asian countries. At the same time, it is important to understand that Pakistan, as a friendly country to China, is of strategic interest to the United States. The U.S. strategy has significant implications for Pakistan, intensifying Indo-Pakistani rivalry, exacerbating Sino-Pakistani strategic ties, creating friction in U.S.-Pakistani relations and jeopardizing Pakistan's energy security due to its dependence on supplies from the Middle East and marine resources. In his report, the author examines the relationship between Pakistan and Russia as one of the aspects of Pakistan's position in the Indo-Pacific concept of the United States and, assessing their state, tries to assess the prospects for the development of the US strategy towards Pakistan.

Keywords: Indo-Pacific, Pakistan, Russia, United States, Implications.

Alisa Novolodskaia is an analyst at the Institute for International Studies of MGIMO University, Moscow, Russia. She received a master's degree with honors in Global Politics and International Political Analysis, MGIMO University. During her education she was also an intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in the Asian and Pacific Cooperation Department. She published some articles in peer-reviewed journals on Asian political issues. Her research interests focus on new formats of “small geometry” in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, India's foreign policy, and social issues in South Asia.



KEY DIRECTIONS OF THE CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Abstract

Anastasiia Voropaeva

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was founded in 2013. The purpose of this project is to create a transport corridor connecting the west of the PRC and coast of the Arabian Gulf, including the Pakistani port of Gwadar. Undoubtedly, CPEC is the most important and successful corridor within the BRI. For Pakistan, this corridor provides an opportunity not only to become more integrated in the region by increasing connectivity, but also to develop the poorest and most economically backward regions of the country.

Keywords: CPEC, China, Pakistan, Connectivity, Economy, Gwadar

Anastasiia Voropaeva serves as the Deputy Commercial Director of Tech Invest Group LLC. Her research primarily focuses on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and regional connectivity, exploring their implications for economic development and geopolitical dynamics. Combining her professional expertise with her academic interests, Anastasiia contributes to a deeper understanding of infrastructure development and strategic cooperation in the region.



THE ROLE OF THE SCO IN DEEPENING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIAN COOPERATION

Abstract

Nuzhat Tariq & Maryam Anwar

Pakistan has yet to explore its association in broader spectrum with Russia and Central Asian countries. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), notably, has played a significant role in bolstering the relations of its member countries such as it endowed Russia and China with more trade and commercial activities with the Central Asian countries. As being situated at the crossroads of the Central Asia, this region possesses distinct weight for Pakistan and vice versa. Besides, Pakistan actively seeks opportunities for enhancing its trade ties with Central Asian countries. Also, there are unparalleled Continuum to enhance collaboration between Russia and Pakistan. This paper will employ theories of Energy Security and Regional Integration to analyze the mutual interests between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asia. It will deploy qualitative research methodology to provide analytical responses to the queries of this paper, while obtaining data from primary and secondary sources. It will demystify the magnitude of defense ties, trade and investment policies, regional connectivity, cultural exchange, educational exchange and research-based programs between Central Asia and Pakistan and Russia. The purpose of this research paper is to come across mutual agendas and matters and to stumble on their resolutions. This research paper aims to analyze the basis for cooperation in the emerging geopolitical period. It also aspires to emphasize the function and the endeavors of SCO to strengthen the regional connectivity and stability between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian region. This research paper intends to answer certain key questions such as Why SCO can affectively unite the division between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian countries. Which approaches as a regional forum SCO can provide for better connectivity in accordance with the shifting global politics? Why Pakistan has been incapable to seize opportunities to strengthen its ties and to collaborate with the Central Asian region.

Keywords: Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Pakistan, Russia, Central Asia, Energy Security, Regional Integration, Geopolitics".

Nuzhat Tariq is a Master's student in International Relations at the National Research Tomsk State University, Russia. She is the founding editor of Politico Vista, the first bilingual student e-magazine at FUUAST, focusing on national and international affairs. She also served as Vice President of the Free Thinkers' Society. Nuzhat Tariq has presented her research at various international and national conferences and her research has also been published across several platforms. Her research interests include Eurasian integration, regional connectivity between South and Central Asia, the Global South, cult politics, post-truths, and feminism



Maryam Anwar is a Master's student in International Relations at the National Research Tomsk State University, Russia. She is the founding assistant editor of Politico Vista, the first bilingual student e-magazine at FUUAST, focusing on national and international affairs. Maryam Anwar has presented her research at various international and national conferences and her research has also been published across several platforms.



PROSPECTS FOR ISLAMABAD-MOSCOW CONNECTIVITY IN A NEW MULTIPOLAR WORLD ORDER

Abstract

Siraj Nizamani, Bakhtawar Talpur

Friends and foes keep changing in international relations, national interest is the only permanent feature of this system. Hence, the recent developments in international politics also shaping a new global structure in the form of multipolarity that brings new avenues of connectivity and collaboration for both Pakistan and Russia. This paper sheds light on the future of Islamabad-Moscow engagement, keeping in view their convergence in energy security, economic assimilation, and international peace and stability. This study explores the underpinnings of significant projects namely the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline (PSGP) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that have the potential for strengthening their bilateral ties. The paper also examines Moscow's strategic vision vis-à-vis Asian continent by viewing Islamabad's strategic significance as a door to South Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, and so forth. Furthermore, the study elaborates Pakistan's quest for expanding its diplomatic ties towards permanent UNSC members and Russia's souring relations with the West provide a favourable ground for bracing consensual threads despite severe divergences during the Cold War. This research wraps up by giving prominence to the challenges and opportunities for enhancing Islamabad-Moscow diplomatic bonding in a new global order.

Keywords: Energy Security, International Peace and Stability, PSGP, CPEC, Diplomatic Ties, World Order.

Siraj Nizamani has been teaching in the Department of International Relations at the University of Sindh for the past twelve years. His research interests include strategic studies, the foreign policies of great powers, and the regions of Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific.



Bakhtawar Talpur is a dedicated academic and researcher senior political science lecturer at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro. With expertise in comparative politics, governance, and national security, she has taught master's-level courses since 2015. Bakhtawar is also an Assistant Editor of "The Government," an annual research journal (Y-category) and an accomplished scholar with publications on governance, global politics, and socio-economic transformations.



BARTER TRADE AGREEMENTS AND DIGITAL CURRENCY INTEGRATION: A NEW PARADIGM FOR PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Abstract

Arjumand Farooq, Syeda Nida Rizvi

This research paper aims to analyze the implementation of barter trade agreements supplemented with digital currencies together with the current economic relations between Pakistan and Russia. The aim is to discover how these developments may help improve economic sustainability for the two countries. The barter trade MoU signed recently between Pakistan and Russia is expected to improve both countries' economic relations by facilitating the export of goods without using money. This initiative aims at fixing the problems Pakistan has in the economic sector while at the same helping Russia export its products. Enhancement of implementation could require better policies, improved business relationships, and enhanced technology in the trade procedures. This paper addresses critical questions: How barter trade agreements be implemented for the flow of goods more effectively between Pakistan and Russia? The International Political Economy (IPE) perspective supports the study to analyze the nature of, and drivers of change in, economic relations. The study is primarily 'qualitative,' and relies on case studies, key informant expert's views, and policy documentation to understand the current state of barter trade structures and multimedia digital currencies. This methodology makes it easier to grasp all the methodology's practical aspects and the inherent difficulties. The implication of this research lies in the fact that it seeks to provide an understanding of the kind of trade systems that may help improve the existing relations between Pakistan and Russia. The key objective of the present paper is to show that the modernization of the barter trade by digital currencies contributes to increasing the stability of the economic cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

Keywords: Pakistan and Russia, Barter Trade Agreements, Digital Currency, and International Political Economy.

Arjumand Farooq is a distinguished MPhil researcher in the Department of International Relations at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology (FUUAST). With a strong academic foundation from the University of Karachi, he has carved a niche for himself in the study of non-state actors and their influence within international political systems. His seminal work, *Strategic Ambitions and Global Dynamics*, critically examines the far-reaching implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative, showcasing his commitment to addressing complex global challenges. Currently, Arjumand is pursuing groundbreaking research on Barter Trade Agreements and Digital Currency Integration: A New Paradigm for Pakistan-Russia Relations in a Multipolar World under the guidance of Dr. Faisal Javaid.



Additionally, he is delving into the Thucydides Trap through his thesis, supervised by Dr. Syed Shuja Uddin, focusing on U.S. hegemony and China's rise in a multiplex world. An advocate of realism theory,

Arjumand offers profound insights into the enduring relevance of Thucydides' traps in today's geopolitical landscape, with a particular emphasis on the South China Sea conflict. His academic journey is further enriched by his contributions to journals such as Migration Letters and International Journal of Contemporary Issues in Social Science, alongside his role as a regular contributor to Politico Vista. His work extends to e-book publications, including a chapter in Global Shifts: A Comprehensive Analysis of the AI Era, Thucydides Trap, Emerging Alliances, and Multinational Corporations in a Multiplex World Order.

Syeda Nida Rizvi is an M.Phil. scholar at the Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University, Karachi. Alongside her academic pursuits, she serves as a Branch Manager in a bank, where she develops expertise in time management, financial analysis, and strategic decision-making. Her professional role includes analyzing economic conditions, monitoring fluctuations in dollar rates, and focusing on profitable activities in developing countries. She also engages with international clients on account-related matters, enhancing her knowledge of global financial systems and economic trends. Known for her ability to absorb and analyze complex information quickly, she excels in both research and coursework. Syeda is highly motivated, goal-oriented, and committed to leveraging her academic and professional experience to contribute to her field. Her work reflects a strong focus on economic growth, financial stability, and emerging systemic risks, making her a valuable contributor to academic and professional discussions.



CONTEXTUALIZING GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS: THE STRATEGIC FACTORS SHAPING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP

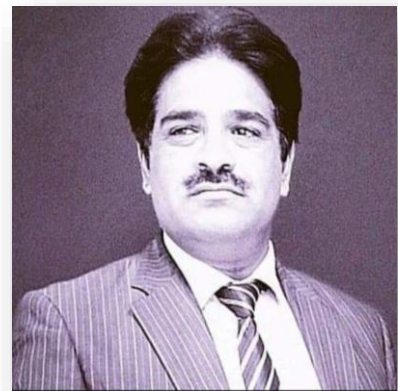
Abstract

Syed Almas Haider Shah

Shifts in geopolitical dynamics and strategic imperatives have significantly influenced the transformation of the nature of the Pakistan-Russia relationship in recent decades. This research paper aims to contextualize the key strategic drivers that are influencing the variation in policy behaviours about each other putting into perspective the role of geopolitical shifts, emanating security concerns, mutually beneficial economic interests and great power realignments. This research paper would attempt to analyze the interplay of strategic drivers and their influence on shaping the bilateral relationship. Geopolitical realignment in terms of the rise of China and the recalculation of U.S. influence in the Asia Pacific region compelled Pakistan and Russia to reposition their strategic outlook in South Asia and Central Asia. Threats posed by ISIS and other terror groups in Afghanistan cause both countries to cooperate with each other on security and counterterrorism. Stability in Afghanistan is the core concern for Pakistan and Russia to avoid terror spillover into Central Asia and cross-border terrorism. Pakistan's evolving relationship with Russia provides strategic leverage to balance the regional power dynamics specifically between India and China. For Russia, India remains a privileged partner, in South Asia however improved relations with Pakistan would offer economic incentives for Russia and extend the Eurasian integration. Pakistan and Russia are collaborating with multilateral organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the United Nations to leverage their influence on regional and global issues, including peace security and development.

Keywords: Geopolitical Dynamics, Strategic Factors, Bilateral Relationship, Russia and Pakistan, Security Concerns, Integration.

Almas Haider Naqvi is a Ph.D. Scholar enrolled at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), awarded with Higher Education Commission (HEC)'s prestigious scholarship International Research Support Initiative Program (IRSIP), having international research exposure at the Faculty of World Politics, Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU), Moscow, Russian Federation. Mr. Naqvi presented research papers at international conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions and delivered lectures and talks at prestigious international think tanks and university departments. Along with a strong academic background, Mr. Naqvi has an excellent journalism career at one of the leading media outlets Dunya Media Group, he served as a Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Correspondent. Mr Naqvi hosted a current affairs program titled 'The Real World' at DBTV, Pakistan's first professional digital TV. He is co-founder and Executive Director of Regional Rapport, a geopolitical Think Tank. He is also the Coordinator of Islamabad Circle, (Pakistan's first formal philosophical study forum, working to promote logical, rational and critical thinking).



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND TRADE POTENTIAL

Abstract

Abdul Samad, Munazza Khan & Erum Naz

The Pakistan Russia relations in strategic aspect has seen a new shift in the last decade mainly in economic face and trade prospects. Economic aspects as influential factors of bilateral relations will be analyzed in this paper with a special emphasis on the energy sector, trade, and investments. Historically, Pakistan has sought to diversify its energy sources, and Russia's vast natural resources present a unique opportunity. Collaborative projects, such as the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline, highlight the potential for enhanced energy cooperation. Additionally, trade agreements aimed at increasing bilateral trade volumes are being pursued, with a focus on sectors like agriculture, textiles, and defense. The paper will also look at the effects of geopolitics and the possibility of both nations balancing the effect of geopolitical power, especially about China, India, and the West. Given the attempts of both countries to build up their economies in the context of global vulnerabilities, their example of cooperation might contribute to the evolution of interstate relations in the context of the emerging multipolar world. Furthermore, the study will analyze the obstacles to achieving full economic potential, including trade imbalances, infrastructural challenges, and regulatory barriers. By assessing these strategic drivers, the paper aims to provide insights into the future trajectory of Pakistan-Russia relations and the implications for regional stability and economic development. Ultimately, this research underscores the importance of economic cooperation as a cornerstone of their evolving partnership.

Keywords: Strategic Partnership, Economy, Trade, Energy, Geopolitics, Cooperation.

Abdul Samad has completed his graduation in International Relations from Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST), Karachi). He has several recognized internships to his name, notable of which are the Internship with Institute of Policy studies, the internship under the supervision of Dr Michal Spies, the Head of Junior Research Group Transect Centre for Economics and Ecosystem at the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde, Germany on Keyword research from notable English and Urdu Newspapers and internship from public diplomacy center Lincoln Corner (Pakistan American Culture Centre, Karachi) as an FOC. He Presented Posters in 1st Pakistani-Polish International Scientific Conference 2022 and remained the key organizer in the 2nd Internal Polish Conference as well. Presented his Posters in second and third Undergraduate conferences held at Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC), Karachi. He Worked as the pioneer Sub-Editor of the 1st Bilingual Students' E-Magazine named ""Politico Vista"" and now serving in it as an Academic collaborator and member of advisory board. He has attended several National and International Conferences and served as an organizer, focal person, presenter and volunteer. He has notable publications to his name and is currently working as the Research Analyst at Mastermind Enterprises, Karachi.



Munnaza Khan is a dedicated and ambitious individual currently pursuing master's degree in international relations from Tomsk State Research University, Russia. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology. Her academic journey is enriched by practical experiences, including an internship at Lincoln Corner, where she refined her research and communication skills. She presented her work at the 2nd Undergraduate Pakistani Russian Poster Conference and actively contributed as a volunteer at the 1st and 2nd Pakistani Polish International Scientific Conferences held at IBA Karachi and Arts Council, respectively. She has been the part of several projects such as History of Russia in 120 Minutes, History of Japan in Urdu and remained Assistant Editor and Cartoonist in 1st Bilingual Quarterly E-Magazine named ""Politico Vista."" These experiences, combined with her passion for global understanding, highlight her ability to excel in diverse and multicultural settings.



Erum Naz is a very hard working and promising student of Department of International Relations, FUUAST Karachi. She has a number of recognized internships to her name out of which she has recently completed her internship as a research trainee from Centre of International Strategic Studies Centre, Sindh (CISSS), Karachi. She has also completed an internship at the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. She is one of the Pioneers and Editor of the 1st Bilingual quarterly Students' E-magazine of IR FUUAST. She has presented poster presentation in 2nd and 3rd Undergraduate poster conferences held at Liaqat Library and Russian Centre of Science and Culture, respectively. She has been the key member of 1st and 2nd International Pakistani-Polish Conference held at IBA and Arts Council of Pakistan Respectively. She has served as the head of managing committee in the recently concluded conference on Non-traditional security threats in 21st Century, organized by IR FUUAST with the collaboration of Greenwich University. She is also working as the member of the team that is working on "History of Japan in Urdu" a landmark history project that is being published on IR FUUAST's official YouTube channel.



TURN TO THE EAST AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF RUSSIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Abstract

Ernest E. Novinskii

The purpose of the report is to analyse and assess the mutual perception of Russia and Pakistan under the influence of transformation in bilateral relations in the context of the turn of Moscow's foreign policy towards the East. Despite the difficult history of bilateral relations during the Cold War, in recent years experts note that the ties have significantly intensified, especially in the economic sphere, regular political contacts have been established, and cooperation in defence and security spheres is strengthening, especially within the framework of international forums. The simplification of Islamabad's visa policy, in particular the removal of visa fees for Russians, is also contributing to the strengthening of Russia-Pakistan contacts. Educational co-operation is expanding. In this regard, the question arises: is this increased co-operation accompanied by changes in the mutual perception of Russia and Pakistan by their citizens? In recent years, Pakistan was listed among the countries with most favourable attitudes towards Russia, which is particularly important due to Western media's ongoing campaign to damage Russia's reputation, including in South Asia. Russians also show great interest in Pakistan, although the potential for cultural co-operation is not sufficient. Ideas are proposed to strengthen contacts between the two countries.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Cooperation, Bilateral Relations.

Ernest E. Novinskii is a junior researcher at the Centre for South Asian Studies at the Institute for International Studies, MGIMO University, Moscow, Russia. In addition to his research work, Ernest is currently a third-year PhD student at the Department of Asian and African Studies at MGIMO University. His academic and research pursuits are focused on South Asian studies, contributing to the deeper understanding of the region's geopolitical dynamics.



GLOBAL POWER SHIFTS AND GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN-RUSSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE ERA OF MULTIPOLARITY

Abstract

Maryana Khan and Izhar Ahmed Bacha

In near past, Pakistan and Russia have turned a new leaf by mending the fences of past when both decided to bury the hatchets of their Cold War era. An era during which Pakistan had aligned with USA against USSR on Afghan soil to Russia having been an ally of Pakistan's historical adversary: India. Alliances shape foreign policies and thus, these alliances shaped the foreign policy of Pakistan, too; however, with the evident transformation of unipolarity into multipolarity, the geopolitics is changing, and the realignments has become increasingly relevant in recent years. With the commencement of Russia-Ukraine war, many countries around the globe have been revisiting their policies and many countries including Pakistan have been influenced by this shift and are reassessing their alliances, approaches and strategies. This paper assesses the interests pursued with the increased engagements resulted from realignment policies between Pakistan and Russia and how could both countries achieve their goals and objectives in the long run. It also studies that the progress in Pakistan-Russia relations not just reflect the reorganization of Pakistan's Foreign Policy but also its conclusive impacts on global power shift particularly in relations to United States, China and India. This shift will continue to impact every sphere of both states' affairs from security dynamics to economic growth cooperation, regional stability and beyond.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia Multipolarity, Ukraine, Security.

Maryana Khan is an undergraduate student in the Department of International Relations at Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan. Hailing from Mardan, she has a keen interest in global politics, diplomacy, and international affairs. Through her studies, Maryana is building a strong foundation in understanding global challenges, such as conflicts, foreign policy, and governance in an interconnected world. She is particularly passionate about the role of diplomacy in resolving conflicts and fostering international cooperation. Maryana aspires to contribute meaningfully to international relations by bridging the gap between theory and practice. With her dedication to learning and commitment to addressing global challenges, she envisions a future where her work positively impacts the field of diplomacy and international affairs.



Izhar Ahmad Bacha holds an M.Phil in International Relations from Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan and is currently pursuing a PhD in International Relations at the University of Peshawar. For the past four and a half years, he has been teaching core International Relations subjects at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. With a strong research background, he has authored/co-authored six research papers published in HEC-recognized journals. His primary research interests lie in US-China politics and the future of global stability, with his PhD focusing on the impacts of revisionist politics by China and Russia on the international system's stability.



REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN

Abstract

Masooma Rasheed, Abdul Malik, Saif ur Rehman

The current study focuses on the developing dynamic forces of local and economical connectivity and creativity such as probability of mutual growth through trade, energy as well as infrastructural expansion between Pakistan and Russia. In history communal relations such as the Cold War have now progressed into a mutually beneficial alliance due to the similar objective of regional stability and economic cooperation. The main purpose of this research is to shed light on the main reasons of economic cooperation between two countries such as the perfect location of Pakistan in South and Central Asia as well as Russia's dominance as being a regional power with full of resources. It observes various projects including Pakistan stream gas line, energy segments, as well as multidimensional activities inside the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Importance is also given to how Pakistan's need of economical restoration and infrastructure is linked with its project of China-Pakistan Economical Corridor (CPEC), as well as Russia's objective for Eurasian connectivity. The methodology of this study is based on a qualitative review of the current literature, trade data analysis and professional interviews of skilled persons from both countries. some case studies of combined projects and its influence on both regional stability and economic growth is also included. This research also offers some recommendation about enhancing bilateral assistance through categorizing geopolitical pressures and economical differences This study provides the deeper understanding about how Russia and Pakistan might collaborate for sustainable development and regional integration to deal with common problems.

Keywords: Economy, Regional Connectivity, Energy, SCO, Pakistan, Russia

Masooma Rasheed is a dedicated Consultant Clinical Psychologist with over three years of experience in mental health. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D from National Research Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia. She practiced at various esteemed institutions, including Central City Hospital and Darul-Barkat Medicare Hospital, while also serving as a visiting child psychologist in Lahore and Sheikhpura, Pakistan. Masooma is actively involved in online psychological services and conducts workshops aimed at enhancing mental health awareness. With a strong academic background, she holds an MS in Clinical Psychology from Government College University, Lahore, where she conducted extensive clinical placements. Masooma is also a lecturer and placement supervisor for MS Clinical Psychology students at International Riphah University. Her expertise encompasses cognitive behavior therapy, psychological assessments, and individualized treatment planning. Masooma has published multiple research articles and received several accolades, including a national award from the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Committed to advancing mental health, she continuously seeks opportunities for professional development and community engagement.



Abdul Malik is currently an M-Phill Student at National Research Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia. He had presented poster in 2nd undergraduate poster conference held at Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC), Karachi. He had been an active volunteer in 1st and 2nd International Pakistani-Polish Conference held at IBA and Arts council of Pakistan respectively. He has been the part of Free thinkers society till the completion of his degree. He has also written articles for 1st E-magazine of the department of International Relations, FUUAST, Karachi named Politico Vista."



Saif Ur Rehman is currently an M-Phill Student at National Research Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia. He had presented poster in 2nd undergraduate poster conference held at Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC), Karachi. He had been an active volunteer in 1st and 2nd International Pakistani-Polish Conference held at IBA and Arts council of Pakistan respectively. He was the part of the Free thinkers society till the completion of his degree. He has written articles on Hamariweb.com.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA COUNTER-TERRORISM COLLABORATION: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL STABILITY

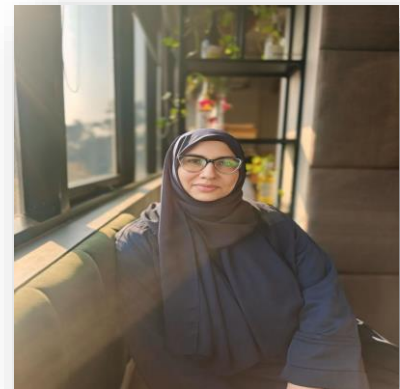
Abstract

Zubeda Anjum Niazi, Hassnain Hussain and Muqaddas Fatima

In the evolving matrix of global alliances, the Pakistan-Russia relationship presents a strategically significant yet unconventional narrative. From tentative diplomatic overtures in 1948 to multifaceted contemporary partnerships, this collaboration reflects a recalibration of national interests against a volatile geopolitical backdrop. Anchored in shared concerns over terrorism, regional instability, and transnational threats, it exemplifies the dynamic interplay of pragmatism and realpolitik in Eurasian geopolitics. This study examines the strategic underpinnings of Pakistan-Russia counter-terrorism collaboration, assessing operational frameworks, challenges, and implications for regional stability. Using a neorealist framework, it positions this partnership as a response to evolving power dynamics, particularly the Indo-Russian defense nexus and U.S. influence in South Asia. Through process tracing and qualitative methods, including content analysis of policy documents and expert interviews, the research explores the drivers and barriers shaping this alliance. The findings reveal dualities in the partnership: while addressing shared security challenges such as transnational terrorism and narco-trafficking, it faces constraints from historical mistrust, asymmetrical power capabilities, and divergent priorities. Russia's growing defense ties with India complicate its balancing act with Pakistan, while great power competition in Eurasia sees the two aligning to counter U.S. influence and advance a multipolar order. This research underscores the potential for this collaboration to stabilize South Asia and the broader Eurasian region, provided both nations transcend entrenched hesitations and mitigate external pressures. It contributes to the discourse on counter-terrorism alliances and regional security in an era of shifting global power structures.

Keywords: Counter-Terrorism, Regional Stability, Challenges, Implications, Russia, Pakistan

Zubeda Anjum Niazi is a security analyst with over six years of extensive experience. She has several publications in national and international journals, including the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs (Air University, USA). Zubeda has spearheaded the editorial board of The Diplomatic Insight (TDI), where she also curated their flagship fellowship program. Currently a Focus Group Member of BASIC's Emerging Voices Network (EVN) Policy Cycle 2024-2025, she specializes in nuclear strategy, non-traditional security, and maritime security. She is also pursuing an MS in International Relations and Security Studies from Air University, furthering her expertise in global security dynamics and policy innovation.



Hassnain Hassan is a Project Associate and Researcher at Momentum. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations and Security Studies. With a strong academic foundation in IR and Security Studies, Hassnain has a deep interest in public policy, governance, emerging technologies, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. He strives to leverage his expertise to contribute to impactful research and policy development in these areas.



Muqaddas Fatima is an MS scholar at Air University specializing in terrorism and counter-terrorism strategies in Asia, with a keen focus on addressing regional security issues through innovative approaches. She is passionate about local and international governance, geopolitics, and engaging in research work.



RETHINKING ALLIANCES: THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP IN THE AGE OF HYBRID THREATS AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Abstract

Mubeen Ashraf

The emergence of hybrid threats, cyber vulnerabilities, and rapid technological advancements has redefined global power dynamics, forcing states like Pakistan and Russia to recalibrate their strategic priorities. This qualitative research examines a) the hybrid threats and cyber vulnerabilities shaping Pakistan-Russia relations, b) the role of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, in fostering bilateral defence and economic ties, c) the potential of a “Digital Silk Road” to counter regional challenges and d) the impact of regional competition, particularly India’s role, on the evolving Pakistan-Russia partnership. Hybrid threats, including disinformation campaigns and digital propaganda, exacerbate regional tensions, particularly in South Asia, where India’s geopolitical manoeuvring affects Pakistan-Russia alignment. This study also highlights how technological synergies, and cyber diplomacy can mitigate these threats, offering Pakistan and Russia opportunities for greater collaboration under frameworks like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Employing Technological Determinism Theory and Neoclassical Realism, this research finds that emerging technologies are critical for addressing hybrid threats and fostering economic cooperation. Systemic factors like India’s influence challenge Pakistan-Russian defence and diplomatic collaboration. By leveraging cyber diplomacy and technology-driven innovation, this study concludes that a robust Pakistan-Russia alliance can counter hybrid threats and ensure regional stability in a multipolar global order.

Keywords: Hybrid Threats, Cyber Vulnerabilities, Emerging Technologies, Pakistan, Russia, Collaboration, SCO, EAEU.

Mubeen Ashraf holds an M.Phil. degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. She is a researcher at the Global Foundation for Cyber Studies and Research, USA (GF Cyber, USA) and a Visiting Lecturer at COMSATS. Additionally, she serves as the Assistant Editor at Cyber Insights Magazine. Her professional career includes experience as a journalist and author of various journal articles, magazines, and newspapers. She has moderated several panel discussions and presented her research at national and international conferences. Her research interests cover topics such as the gendered dimension of terrorism, international law, cyber warfare, nuclear issues, emerging technologies, and environmental warfare. Beyond academia, she is an avid reader and an advocate for animal rights.



BRICS: BUILDING A CASE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN

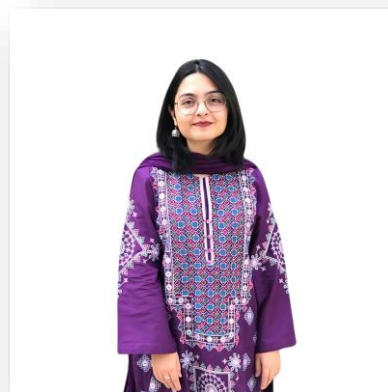
Abstract

Ayiza Salman, Syed Ghulam Raza

Pakistan has been improving its relations with Russia in recent years with many trade and defense agreements. Contrary to Pakistan's alliance with the Western-led bloc in the past, the country is broadening its foreign policy options and actively participating in multilateral forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Although Pakistan has not yet joined BRICS, it can immensely benefit from the bloc which is at the center of a global geopolitical realignment facilitating multipolarity in the Global South. While sufficient literature is available on the strategic relevance of BRICS for member states, Russia's recent support for Pakistan's inclusion into the bloc opens a gap in research for exploring the potential it has for establishing bilateral relations between Russia and Pakistan. Therefore, this paper will attempt to answer how Pakistan's BRICS membership, facilitated by Russia, can mutually benefit both nations and create a new regional reality. Using neo-functionalism theory that highlights the role of regional actors in promoting functional cooperation, the paper will argue that Russia can also benefit from its engagement with Pakistan on multilateral forums and bilateral terms. Where Pakistan can enjoy greater participation in regional politics and strengthen its economy, Russia can also leverage Pakistan's geostrategic location for access to energy routes, markets in the Gulf, and balance vis-à-vis China and India. The willingness of both countries to strengthen diplomatic relations makes this paper a timely contribution to the policy options they can adopt for building bilateral relations, especially by capitalizing on the prospects of BRICS.

Keywords: SCO, BRICS, Pakistan, Russia, Cooperation, Regional Politics, Economy.

Ayiza Salman is a final-year student majoring in Economics and International Relations with a minor in Media Studies at the Institute of Business Management's College of Economic and Social Development. She previously interned as a researcher and writer at the Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) and is currently working at Raftar, a local digital news and media house. Her research interests include the changing world order, the Global South's role in challenging Western imperialism, and decolonization.



Mr. Syed Ghulam Raza is an experienced professional with a proven record of research, administration, and teaching. Mr. Raza is working with PCFR as Executive Director since May 2022. Moreover, he has also been associated with the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), as a visiting faculty since September 2020. He teaches courses related with Social Sciences including International Relations, Strategic Studies, Energy Politics, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), Pakistan Studies, Conflicts Management and Negotiations Skills, and Public Policy Challenges of 21st century. Mr. Raza served as Research Associate at Centre for Peace, Security, and Developmental Studies (CPSD) Karachi from October 2018 to December 2019. In this role he contributed to policy research, publication, and administrative affairs. From August 2016 to September 2018, he worked as Research Associate and Editor at National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR) Bahria University Karachi. He contributed as editor of magazine “Maritime News Digest”, edited report of conference on “CEPC and Gwadar Port”, and written articles for Indian Ocean Naval Symposium on subjects related to Blue Economy and Maritime Security. His engagement with NCMPR enhanced his knowledge and understanding of Pakistan’s maritime sector and strategic dynamics of the Indian Ocean. Mr. Raza holds M.S/ M.Phil. in International Relations from SZABIST Karachi with thesis on “Strategic Dynamics of The Indian Ocean: Evolving Challenges and Choices for Pakistan”.



COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIVITY: THE PAKISTAN-RUSSIA NEXUS IN THE GLOBAL ORDER

Abstract

Rabia Nasir, Eraj Farooqui

This paper explores the evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship in the context of a shifting global order, characterized by multipolarity and geopolitical realignments. The research investigates how the two states have recalibrated their foreign policies to accommodate each other's strategic priorities, particularly in light of emerging economic corridors and the reconfiguration of alliances in South and Central Asia. Central to this study is the question: What are the implications of the evolving Pakistan-Russia partnership for regional stability and global power dynamics? Through a qualitative analysis of policy developments, official statements, and bilateral agreements, the paper argues that the Pakistan-Russia relationship, while still in its nascent stages, holds significant potential for reshaping regional geopolitics.

Keywords: Shifting Global Order, Multipolarity, Geopolitical Realignments, Russia, Pakistan.

Rabia Nasir is a dedicated student of International Relations with a strong passion for global politics and strategic studies. She has completed her BA (Hons) and MA in International Relations from the University of Karachi, during which she explored a wide range of subjects, including diplomacy, foreign policy analysis, and international law. Throughout her academic journey, Rabia has demonstrated active engagement in leadership and academic programs, such as the Aspire Leaders Program, affiliated with Harvard University, and has earned certifications in Conflict Analysis from UNITAR. Her participation in Model United Nations events, including MUNIK (IBA Karachi) and NUST-PNEC MUN, has honed her diplomatic and negotiation skills, showcasing her ability to excel in collaborative and challenging environments. As part of her master's program, Rabia further enriched her academic experience by authoring a research paper titled "US-China Rivalry: Realigning Pakistan's Foreign Policy Priorities." This work reflects her keen interest in analyzing contemporary global dynamics and their implications for Pakistan's foreign policy. Rabia is now preparing to pursue advanced academic opportunities in International Relations with the aspiration to contribute significantly to the field through research, analysis, and policy engagement.



Eraj Farooqui is a graduate of the University of Karachi, holding a Master’s degree in International Relations, and is currently pursuing her M. Phil. in the same field. With a deep interest in global politics and current affairs, she has developed a comprehensive understanding of theories, concepts, and frameworks through her academic journey as an International Relations student. This foundation enables her to analyze complex political dynamics while providing contextual insights into historical events, geopolitical factors, and cultural contexts. Her passion for international politics has driven her to enroll in several prestigious courses at international universities. These include Global Diplomacy from the University of London, After the Arab Spring: Democratic Aspirations and State Failure from the University of Copenhagen, and International Humanitarian Law: Theory and Practices from the University of Leiden. Her dedication to research is reflected in her master’s thesis, titled “US-China Rivalry Undermining the Quest for Lasting Peace Between India and Pakistan. In addition to her academic pursuits, Eraj recently published a research article in The Spine Times titled “China’s Rise and the Power Transition: Implications for Global Order and Sino-US Relations.” As a highly motivated and committed researcher, she continues to broaden her expertise in the field of International Relations with the aim of contributing meaningful insights to global political discourse.



EXPLORING INFLATION DETERMINANTS IN PAKISTAN: A DYNAMIC ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS USING ROLLING WINDOW BOUNDS TESTING APPROACH

Abstract

Rida Akbar, Dr. Mubasher Iqbal, Amina Irfan

Pakistan severely suffers from inflation, which has recently increased beyond 25%. So, we have selected economic growth, money supply, unemployment, exchange rate, and natural gas rent as critical determinants of inflation from 1970 to 2021. A rolling window bounds testing approach to analyze the impact of these determinants in different time windows contributes significantly to the economic literature. This technique helps in identifying the consistency of selected determinants in different time windows in determining dependent variable. Five windows are formed in analysis, i.e., 1970-2000, 1975-2005, 1980-2010, 1985-2015, and 1990-2020. It helps the policymakers formulate suitable and robust policies to tackle the alarming inflation situation in Pakistan. According to the overall estimated results, economic growth, money supply, exchange rate, and natural gas rent significantly contribute to inflation in Pakistan. Further, the existence of the Phillips curve is not validated as it reveals insignificant results. It is also validated that the selected determinants are responsible for determining inflation differently in each time window.

Keywords: Inflation, Economic growth, Money supply, Exchange rate, Natural gas rent, Rolling window bounds testing

Rida Akbar is a skilled academician and researcher with a Ph.D. specializing in quality and technology management. She has extensive teaching experience across leading institutions, a strong publication record in renowned journals, and active participation in international conferences. Known for her expertise in teaching and research, Rida is also a reviewer for prestigious journals, showcasing her dedication to advancing knowledge and fostering academic excellence.



Mubasher Iqbal is a Lecturer at UOL, and he did his Ph.D. in Economics from UMT Lahore. With 16 publications and significant citations, his research focuses on renewable energy, urban growth, and ecological impacts, contributing to reputable journals in environmental economics



Amina Irfan is a Ph.D. student at the University of Łódź, Poland, specializing in green marketing, sustainable consumer behavior, and environmental management. Her research includes publications on sustainable food marketing and spatial efficiency in urban planning.



ASPECTS OF INFORMATION SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

Abstract

Ermilov Andrey Dmitrievich

South Asia, which includes countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, is a region with a rapidly developing information infrastructure and a growing number of Internet users. However, this progress is also accompanied by new challenges and threats in the field of information security: cybercrime, cyber espionage, terrorism and extremism, data leaks and many others. Information security in South Asia is an important component of the national security and economic development of the region. Solving problems in this area requires joint efforts from States, business and society.

Keywords: Information Structure, Information Security, Internet Users, South Asia.

Ermilov Andrey Dmitrievich is an Assistant in the Department of International Relations, World Politics, and Diplomacy. With a focus on global political dynamics and diplomacy, he contributes to the academic environment by supporting the department's educational and research initiatives. His work is dedicated to advancing knowledge in international relations and fostering a deeper understanding of global political affairs.



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN

Abstract

Stanislav Mladenov

The comparative analysis of counterterrorism activities between Russia and Pakistan involves examining their respective strategies, approaches, challenges, and successes in combating terrorism. Both countries have faced significant terrorist threats and have developed unique methods to address them. Both of the countries face similar challenges in their fight against terrorism, including internal instability, radicalization, and external influences. However, they differ in their approaches and contexts. Russia relies heavily on its military and security services, while Pakistan combines military operations with comprehensive national plans and international collaboration. Russia and Pakistan have achieved notable successes in reducing terrorist activities, they continue to grapple with persistent challenges.

Keywords: Counter-Terrorism, Security Threats, Comparative Analysis, Russia, Pakistan.

Dr. Stanislav Mladenov is a Ph.D. scholar and educator at Kazan Federal University (KFU), with extensive experience in the fields of political science and international relations. A former radio host specializing in political programs, he has a talent for engaging audiences and dissecting complex political topics. Dr. Mladenov has also been a guest speaker at various events focused on political science and international relations, sharing his expertise in countries such as the USA, Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Indonesia. His diverse experiences and global perspective highlight his dedication to fostering dialogue and understanding in the realm of international affairs.

THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN PROMOTING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA

Abstract

Shazia Batool, Qurtuba Aslam

This research explores the role of cultural diplomacy in fostering regional connectivity between Pakistan and Russia. Both states shared limited engagement during the Cold War due to ideological differences and geopolitical rivalries. However, post-Cold War dynamics, shifting global alliances and recent shifts in global dynamics have paved the way for stronger cultural and bilateral collaborations. By examining shared cultural initiatives, the study investigates how bilateral relations can be strengthened through cultural exchanges, academic collaborations, and people-to-people interactions. Using a qualitative approach, it employs interviews, case studies, and content analysis to assess the potential of cultural connections in overcoming historical and political barriers. Furthermore, the research deeply discusses the impact of soft power strategies, aiming to demonstrate how cultural engagement can serve as a pivotal tool for enhancing regional connectivity, fostering economic cooperation, and promoting deeper mutual understanding between the two nations. This study contributes to the growing discourse on cultural diplomacy as an instrument of foreign policy and regional integration.

Keywords: Cultural Diplomacy, Regional Connectivity, Pakistan, Russia, Soft Power, Bilateral Relations.

Shazia Batool, an International Affairs student at FUUAST Islamabad, is an emerging researcher with a keen interest in climate change, policy research, and communication. She has significant experience as an Assistant Editor for Politico Vista Magazine, where she contributed to content development and layout design. Shazia recently completed an internship with the Centre for Climate Diplomacy as a Climate Ambassador, focusing on impactful climate initiatives. Currently, she is collaborating with the UK Centre for Climate Diplomacy on a project addressing Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk reduction in northern Pakistan. She is a Media Coordinator for IRSS FUUAST, where she brings a diverse skill set in research, writing, and leadership. Additionally, she is working as a Research Assistant at Asian Politico, furthering her expertise in academic research and analysis.



Qurtuba Aslam, a Master's student in Political Economics and Philosophy with a specialization in Public Policy in National Research University of Higher School of Economics, and concurrently serving as an Ambassador for the Youth Parliamentarian SAARC, my research interests lie at the intersection of youth engagement, democratic governance, and international cooperation. This paper builds upon my academic and professional experiences, drawing insights from my current internship at the University of Luxembourg (LCEL), to explore and learn research on the strategic focus On the European political agenda of a dual (digital and green) transition and topics related to European sovereignty.



RUSSIA'S PIVOT TO ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR PAKISTAN

Abstract

Sanjay Kumar, Taba Sagheer & Mubashir Naeem Siddiqui

Russia's "Pivot to Asia" represents a deliberate shift in its foreign, economic, and security policies toward the Asia-Pacific region, driven by global political realignments and the need to mitigate Western sanctions post-2014. This pivot offers Pakistan unique opportunities, such as energy cooperation, economic integration, and infrastructure development and collaboration in the regional initiatives. However, a gap exists in understanding how these opportunities can be effectively leveraged amidst persistent challenges, including geopolitical complexities, economic constraints, and historical mistrust. This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative analysis of secondary data, including historical and policy documents, with quantitative evaluation of trade volume statistics and economic indicators. The analysis is grounded in Realism, which emphasizes the role of power, state interests, and strategic alliances in international relations. This theoretical lens highlights how both states pursue their interests within a competitive and security-conscious regional environment. The study seeks to answer, how does Russia's "Pivot to Asia" influence its bilateral relations with Pakistan, and what opportunities and challenges arise from this strategic realignment? The findings reveal that while Russia-Pakistan relations hold transformative potential, their success depends on aligning strategic objectives, overcoming economic constraints, and managing geopolitical sensitivities in an increasingly multipolar world.

Keywords: Russia, Pakistan, Cooperation, Challenges and Opportunities, Regional Connectivity, Regional Geopolitics.

Sanjay Kumar, born in June 2003, is a resident of Mithi, Tharparkar District. He completed his primary education in Mithi and later moved to Karachi for university studies. Currently, he is pursuing a BS in International Relations with a specialization in Russia and Central Asian Region Studies at Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology, Karachi. Sanjay is an active member of the Freethinkers Society, promoting academic freedom, free speech, and gender equality. He also serves as Head of the Assistant Editor of the Politico Vista E-Magazine and has conducted workshops, organized events, and volunteered for various causes. He presented Four research presentations in national and international conferences. Additionally, Sanjay writes articles on national and international issues and conducts research on various topics.



Taba Sagheer is an undergraduate student of International Relations at FUUAST, Karachi, with a passion for global affairs, leadership, and human rights advocacy. Her academic journey has been enhanced through participation in leadership programs such as the Aspire Leadership Program, where she developed her strategic thinking and communication skills. Taba represented Lincoln Corner PACC at the Leadership Summit in Islamabad and presented her research on "The Revolution of 1905" at the 3rd Undergraduate Poster Conference, organized in collaboration with the Russian Science and Culture Center. She serves as the layout sub-editor for her university magazine, Politico Vista, and is dedicated to addressing global challenges and contributing to initiatives promoting sustainable development and human rights.



Mr. Mobashir Naeem Siddiqui possesses over twenty-five years of diverse experience in law, accountability, and strategic security within various esteemed government institutions. Currently, he holds the position of Director General at the Federal Insurance Ombudsman. A foreign-qualified mediator, his expertise in mediation and arbitration enables the efficient resolution of complaints. Joining the Federal Insurance Ombudsman during its formative stage, Mr. Siddiqui has contributed significantly to its evolution through his investigative skills and proactive approach. With postgraduate qualifications in Finance and International Relations, including an M.Phil. focused on Economic Terrorism, he is also a member of prestigious organizations such as the International Political Science Association and the Pakistan Mediators Association.



UNDERSTANDING PAKISTANI AND RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVES ON CYBERSPACE

Abstract

Fahad Nabeel

Little scholarly attention has been given to identifying the commonalities and divergences between perspectives of developing countries compared to major players in the cyber domain. Therefore, this paper attempts to explore aspects of the Pak-Russo relationship in cyberspace. The paper attempts to answer two questions. The first question attempts to situate whether Pakistan and Russia fall in the same grouping concerning several cyber-related issues. The exploration of any discrepancies in their perspectives will be covered as part of the second question. The type of research that will be conducted as part of this paper is qualitative in nature. The exploratory research design will be adopted for the paper. In terms of data collection, the author will conduct an extensive review of policy documents, expert interviews, and case studies. The paper will be divided into three sections. The first section will look at the attitudes of Pakistan and Russia towards global cyber affairs. In the second section, the bilateral relationships will be examined. The last section will focus on the cooperation of both countries on the global stage.

Keywords: Cyberspace, Cyber-related Issues, Cooperation, Pakistan, Russia.

Fahad Nabeel is a Co-Founder and Research Lead at Geopolitical Insights, an Islamabad-based research consultancy firm. He has served as a Lecturer at the Department of International Relations, National Defence University from 2022-2024 where he taught undergraduate courses on cyber security, terrorism, mass communication, international security, and intelligence studies. He is also a doctoral candidate in Strategic Studies at Air University, Pakistan. Fahad has significant experience examining South Asian geopolitical issues and militancy trends. His research interests include South Asia-based Islamist terror outfits, ethnonational militancy in Pakistan, security dimension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Hindutva-centric groups, privacy and data protection, cyberwarfare, disinformation and UN peacekeeping.



PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA IN THE SCO: EXPLORING COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Abstract

Anumta Noor, Dr. Syed Muhammad Farhan

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has come to be regarded as one of the cornerstones of multilateral diplomacy in Eurasia, providing a framework for its member states to cooperate on political, economic, and security issues. This research critically analyzes the evolving relationship between Pakistan and Russia within the SCO framework, emphasizing their shared interests, challenges, and prospects for deeper cooperation. This qualitative study, based on primary and secondary data sources, examines the historical context of Pakistan-Russia ties, their strategic alignment within the SCO, and their collective efforts to address regional issues, including counterterrorism, economic integration, and energy connectivity. Despite mutual interests, geopolitical constraints and structural barriers continue to impede optimal collaboration. This paper identifies actionable pathways for improving bilateral and multilateral engagements by highlighting the ways in which Pakistan and Russia can take advantage of the SCO to further the cause of regional stability, economic growth, and security. The results offer important insights into the dynamics of cooperation within the SCO and its implications for the wider Eurasian geopolitical order.

Keywords: SCO, Pakistan, Russia, Multilateral Engagements, Regional Stability, Economic Growth, Security.

Anumta Noor is an 8th-semester student of International Relations, specializing in Central Asia. She is currently working on a thesis titled "Role of Pakistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): Opportunities and Challenges." With a strong interest in climate change issues, she has collaborated with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society on various initiatives. Anumta participated in the Diplomacy Simulation Session on "Border Crisis and Preventive Diplomacy" at Lincoln Corner PACC and presented a poster on Russian culture at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Karachi. She interned for eight months at Lincoln Corner PACC as a Friend of the Corner (FOC) and completed a Russian language course there. Additionally, she earned a certificate from the University of Cambridge Judge Business School through the "Beyond the Classroom" workshop and attended the First Leadership Summit in Islamabad in July 2024, representing Lincoln Corner PACC.



Dr. Syed Muhammad Farhan is an accomplished academic and professional with a PhD in International Relations, earned in 2021. He also holds a diploma in Performing Arts from the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), completed in 2008. Dr. Farhan has a diverse professional background, including serving as a visiting lecturer at Federal Urdu University and as a member of the NAPA Repertory Theatre Company. With nine years of experience in theater as an actor and director, he has honed his creative and leadership skills. In addition to his academic pursuits, he has authored three research articles published in Y-category journals. His expertise extends to property valuation analysis and linguistic studies, with proficiency in multiple languages, including Russian, Spanish, and German at varying levels. Dr. Farhan's commitment to learning and adapting to technological advancements reflects his dedication to personal and professional growth, ensuring he meets the evolving demands of his field.



BEYOND DEFENSE: POTENTIAL OF EXPANDING THE PAKISTAN– RUSSIA RELATIONS

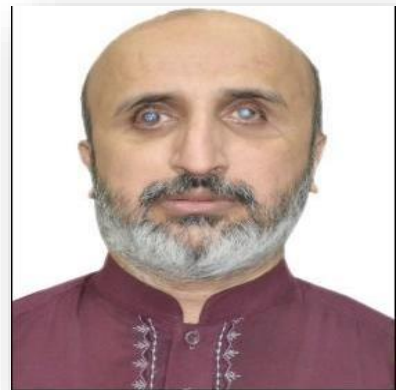
Abstract

Dr. Muhammad Shabbir

The rapidly shifting global geopolitical landscape has contributed to a gradual normalization of Pakistan–Russia relations. Since 2014, both states have made notable strides in improving ties, particularly in defense cooperation, as demonstrated by Russia’s lifting of its arms embargo on Pakistan, the subsequent defense agreements, shared concerns about Afghanistan, and joint military exercises. These initiatives underscore an emerging convergence of interests—most visibly in Defence and security domains—and signal a broader shift from historical antagonism to pragmatic collaboration. However, the current relationship remains predominantly security-centric, lacking robust economic interdependence or a comprehensive strategy to sustain long-term bilateral engagement. This narrow approach not only renders the partnership susceptible to external spoilers keen to undermine progress but also hinders the realization of its full potential. Against this backdrop, adopting a qualitative research design, this study integrates content analysis of official documents, policy statements, and media reports with semi-structured interviews of policymakers and analysts. Through triangulation of these data sources, the research offers a nuanced understanding of both the explicit and implicit drivers shaping Pakistan–Russia relations. The analysis is grounded in a hybrid theoretical model that combines elements of neorealism and liberal institutionalism. While the neorealist lens helps explain the security imperatives driving short-term cooperation, liberal institutionalism underscores the importance of building institutional linkages and interdependencies beyond the defense domain. By situating the bilateral relationship within this dual framework, the paper demonstrates how a balanced emphasis on security and non-security dimensions—economic, political, and sociocultural—can more sustainably reinforce Pakistan–Russia ties. The study concludes that comprehensive engagement across these sectors can not only bolster bilateral resilience but also contribute significantly to regional stability and peace.

Key Words: Pakistan, Russia, Defence, Geopolitics, South Asia, Eurasia, neorealism, liberal institutionalism.

Dr. Muhammad Shabbir is international relations expert, recognized for his strategic insights and policy research. As a Research Fellow at Institute for Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis, of National Defence University Islamabad, he focuses on global policy analysis, digital accessibility, and regional politics. Dr. Shabbir’s expertise bridges international relations with advocacy for inclusive technology and global collaboration.



PERSPECTIVES FOR RUSSIAN-PAKISTAN CONOMIC RELATIONS: A VIEW FROM RUSSIA

Abstract

Prof. Dr. Evgeniya V. Makhmutova

Russian-Pakistani relations have been experiencing a renaissance in their economic relations. The driver of this growth is the mutual interest of the parties in entering new markets, expanding and diversifying transport and logistics projects, and developing energy routes. Pakistan's population and economy are growing, which certainly requires additional markets for its products, external investments in infrastructure facilities, and incentives for cooperation within multilateral organizations. Taking into account the anti-Russian sanctions policy of Western countries and the new opportunities on both investment and energy tracks, the expansion of contacts with Pakistan is of great interest to Russia. In 2024, several mutual visits of representatives of the authorities of our countries took place, and a wide range of issues of trade, economic and investment cooperation were discussed. Russia and Pakistan are actively converging within the framework of multilateral organizations, including the flagship economic project in the post-Soviet space, the Eurasian Economic Union. Yes, today the integration of Pakistan and the EAEU may be complicated by the lack of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Armenia, but certain steps are being taken towards rapprochement with this structure. For example, back in 2015, Pakistan indicated its interest in concluding a free trade area agreement with the EAEU. We can observe the growing mutual interest of the parties in each other in terms of expanding bilateral economic and energy cooperation. The current foreign policy agenda contributes to the creation of a positive dialogue and is aimed at expanding those reserves in the economy that previously were not involved in bilateral cooperation.

Key Words: Pakistan, Russia, Economic Relation, EAU, Integration.

Dr. Evgeniya V. Makhmutova is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Mass Communications, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation. She specializes in world politics, international relations, Russian foreign policy, and political and economic cooperation between Russia and post-Soviet countries. A graduate of the Russian State University for the Humanities, Dr. Makhmutova earned her PhD with a dissertation titled “Political Mechanisms and Technologies for Providing Energy Resources to Modern States in Central Asia.” Currently, she leads the educational program “Global Politics” at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Mass Communications. Dr. Makhmutova is also affiliated as an expert with the Russian Council on International Affairs and the A.M. Gorchakov Foundation for Support of Public Diplomacy. She actively participates in conferences and sessions that focus on Russia’s political and economic objectives in the post-Soviet space and Asian countries, demonstrating her expertise in global geopolitics.



RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN: CONFLUENCE OF STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Abstract

Prof Dr. Evgeny F. Troitskiy

With the recent shifts in the global order and the South Asian, Central Asian and East Asian regional systems Russia and Pakistan find themselves in the situation where their interest in Central Asia increasingly coincide. In particular, Moscow and Islamabad share the following interests:

- *Maintaining stability in Central Asia so that destabilization would not bring in greater US and (or) Indian involvement or the strengthening of the Taliban's influence in southern Central Asian states. For Pakistan, this interest is particularly manifest with regard to the situations in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.*
- *As India becomes more aligned with the US, putting brakes on New Delhi's Central Asian aspirations becomes a shared interest of Pakistan and Russia.*
- *Development of trans-Afghan transport corridors, in particular of the Kabul Corridor linking Uzbekistan with Pakistan, Turkmenistan – Afghanistan railway with extension to Pakistan. For Russia, these projects offer an opportunity both to hinder the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route which is dominated by Turkey and supported by the EU and to open new ways for Russia's trade with South Asian countries. Russia has also expressed support for and interest in the TAPI pipeline.*

This confluence of interests creates a window of opportunity for Russia – Pakistan cooperation in Central Asia as well as for Pakistan assuming a greater role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and in its participation in selected EAEU projects.

Key words: Pakistan, Russian, Strategic Interest, Central Asia.

Evgeny F. Troitskiy is Professor at the Department of World Politics, Tomsk State University (TSU). He holds MA in International Relations and Ph.D. and Doctor of Sciences Degrees in World History from TSU. He was Assistant Lecturer at the Department of World Politics from 2003 to 2005, Associate Professor from 2005 to 2012 and Professor and Senior Researcher at TSU Center for Eurasian Studies since 2012 and 2018 respectively. Dr. Troitskiy's major area of research is the international politics of the post-Soviet space, in particular in the Central Asian region. He has authored more than 80 academic publications and held grants and fellowships from the Russian Science Foundation, the European Commission, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Washington D.C., the Kennan Institute, EU's Erasmus Mundus Program, Carnegie Endowment, Rockefeller Foundation, the Foundation for the Furtherance of Swedish – Russian Relations, Gerda Henkel Foundation and Central European University.



RUSSIA AND PAKISTAN NON-TRADITIONAL COOPERATION: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN EVOLVING WORLD ORDER

Abstract

Umair Pervez Khan and Najam Ul Hassan Naqvi

As global geopolitical structure drifts towards multipolarity, it has created nascent openings for Pakistan and Russia to increasingly explore cooperation beyond traditional strategic and security realm. This study investigates the largely untapped potential of socio-economic and cultural cooperation, focusing on people-to-people ties as a cornerstone for sustainable bilateral relations. By analyzing areas such as education, tourism, and cultural exchanges, the study demonstrates how grassroots interactions can foster mutual trust and institutionalize enduring partnerships. The analysis identifies promising avenues including the expansion of student exchange programs, promotion of mountain and cultural tourism, and fostering literary and artistic connections to bridge societal gaps. It also identifies challenges, including visa barriers, limited public awareness, and bureaucratic hurdles, which hinder the full realization of this potential. The study argues that socio-economic and cultural cooperation can reshape national identities and mitigate historical distrust, particularly in the context of Russia's Cold War alignment with India. It also finds that strengthening people-to-people connections can serve as a catalyst for regional stability and contribute to a more inclusive global order. Finally, it recommends practical steps such as a Joint Cultural Council, streamlined visa processes, and digital platforms for societal engagement, to diversify Pakistan-Russia ties.

Keywords: Non-traditional Cooperation, evolving world order, Pakistan Russia relations

Umair Pervez Khan is currently working as lecturer at department of International Relations, National Defence University, Islamabad and is also attached as General Secretary with Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS), Pakistan. He is also pursuing PhD, International Relations, from Selcuk University, Türkiye. Holding an MPhil degree in International Relations, has worked with Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate of Pakistan. Khan has number of research publications to his name and has been guest speaker at different national and international conferences. He is a regular commentator on electronic media on the topics of his expertise including Russian geopolitics, South Asian Security, Indian Strategic Culture, Hindutva, Nationalism-Populism, Democracy, and Kashmir conflict.



Najam Ul Hassan Naqvi is a researcher associated with the Pakistan-based Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS). His research focuses on the Asia-Pacific region particularly Russian Affairs, exploring the intersections of emerging technologies, climate change, and extremism. He is particularly interested in utilizing diverse research methodologies, including text-as-data techniques, to address complex social science questions.



THE INCLUSION OF PAKISTAN INTO THE INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Abstract

Pavel Iamanov

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is an ambitious infrastructure project aimed at taking advantage of the untapped potential of trade between Russia and South Asian region. Although the corridor was originally conceived as a venture between Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran and India, in recent years there has been a lot of discussions about the inclusion of Central Asian countries as well as Pakistan into INSTC. The integration of Pakistan into INSTC could bring a lot of benefits to the parties involved in this multimodal transport scheme. However, there is still a number of political as well as technical issues that need to be solved before practical implementation of this strategic initiative.

Key words: Russia, INSTC, Pakistan, Central Asia.

Pavel Iamanov is a diplomat currently serving as the Third Secretary at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Karachi. He previously held the position of Attaché at the same consulate from 2020 to 2024. He earned his Bachelor's degree in International Relations from MGIMO University in 2018, specializing in South Asian Studies and Urdu language, with his thesis titled "*Denuclearization Issues in the South Asian Region.*" He later completed his Master's degree in Regional Studies at MGIMO University in 2020, focusing on the International North-South Transport Corridor, with a thesis titled "*Opportunities and Challenges of the International North-South Transport Corridor.*" Mr. Iamanov is fluent in English, Urdu, and Hindi, reflecting his strong regional expertise. His diplomatic experience and academic background contribute to his deep understanding of South Asian affairs and Russia's engagement in the region.



THE EVOLVING PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

Concept Note of the Panel

In recent years, the global geopolitical landscape has undergone significant transformations, driven by shifts in economic power, strategic alliances, and emerging multipolarity. Amidst these changes, the relationship between Pakistan and Russia has evolved from historic misunderstandings to a partnership marked by pragmatic cooperation in areas such as defense, energy, and regional stability. This emerging dynamic holds profound implications not only for bilateral relations but also for the broader global order. Despite having a limited interaction in the past, the changing regional dynamics, mutual interests in regional connectivity, and shared aspirations for economic interdependence have created opportunities for a more constructive engagement. The evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship offers a unique opportunity to reimagine bilateral and regional cooperation in a multipolar world. Therefore, it is imperative to seek and explore the opportunities and challenges in this evolving bilateral relationship, particularly within the context of a world in flux.

Keywords: Bilateral relations, Pakistan, Russia, Defence, Regional Stability

Prof. Dr. Fakhr-ul-Islam (Session Chair)

Panelists

1. Welcome Note - **Ambassfor (r) Syed Abrar Hussain** (Vice Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad)
2. **Prof. Dr. Adam Saud** (Bahria University, Islamabad)- Keynote Address
3. **Dr. Tughral Yamin** (Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad)
4. **Dr. Saira Nawaz Abbasi** (Bahria University, Islamabad)
5. **Mr. Taimoor Fahad** (Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad)

Brigadier (R) Dr. Tughral Yamin is a distinguished academic and seasoned military professional specializing in international relations and regional security. With decades of experience in the Pakistan Army and an impressive academic background, he has authored several books and research articles on peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and strategic stability in South Asia. As an expert on nuclear deterrence, geopolitics, and peacebuilding, Dr. Yamin has contributed to think tanks and academic institutions globally. He holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies and actively participates in international conferences, sharing insights on contemporary security challenges and fostering dialogue on regional peace initiatives.



Dr. Saira Nawaz Abbasi is currently serving as a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad. She holds a PhD in International Relations from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and has completed a prestigious fellowship in Nuclear Security from the University of Tennessee, USA. Her academic contributions include publications in renowned national and international journals, showcasing her expertise and research prowess. Dr. Abbasi is also a recognized voice in media, frequently providing analysis on national television. Her primary areas of study encompass traditional & non-traditional security, Russian foreign policy, and the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East and South Asia.



Mr. Taimoor Fahad Khan is a Research Associate at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), specializing in Russian and European foreign policies. He is a graduate of Bahria University Islamabad (BUI) and National Defence University (NDU). He earned his Bachelor's in Social Sciences (Honours) degree (majoring in International Relations), magna cum laude in 2016, and his M. Phil (International Relations) in 2018, summa cum laude. His research also focuses on Foreign Policy Analysis and Non-Traditional Security Challenges. Mr. Khan is the first Pakistani to become MGIMO Russia's InteRussia Fellow and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences. With a keen interest in fostering Pakistan's global partnerships, he regularly contributes to international forums and publications.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER: SHARED REGIONAL INTEREST AND EFFORTS FOR COLLABORATIONS

Abstract

Kazma Orangzeb

The modern bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia undergo continuous developments through evolving political environments and jointly pursue important national interests. The diplomatic agreement was signed on May 1, 1948, leading to the agreement in New York. This agreement was amidst the Pakistan foreign minister Zfarullah Khan and USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs Andrei A. Gromyko and commenced the embassies of Russia and Pakistan in Moscow and Karachi. Back then, Russia had established its significant strides in global and regional affairs. Since the Cold War period, both Pakistan and Russia have built their relationship through progressive sector expansion, which led to the replacement of long-standing distrust by pragmatic diplomatic ties. This research paper critically examines the nexus between the two countries, analyzes the drivers of their growing partnership, and assesses future prospects within the evolving global order. Key drivers of this bilateral cooperation are: counterterrorism and security agreements, energy programs, education collaboration, health sector cooperation, trade and industrial development, military and defense initiatives, and regional connectivity projects. This paper argues that, besides its growing influence, there are various challenges that Pakistan and Russia may face in their regional interactions, like external geopolitical pressure, different foreign policy priorities, security concerns and logistical hurdles. The 9th inter-governmental commission (IGC) meeting held recently from December 2 to 4 between Pakistan and Russia marks a remarkable milestone in the bilateral ties between two countries. This meeting will play a pivotal role in combating future challenges as well as serving as a step forward towards mutual benefits. This paper also assesses this meeting's key takeaways regarding future prospects. This paper also finds out some reasonable facts in the context of regional interests mutually and aims to shed light on these inquiries: What are the key initiatives Pakistan and Russia are taking to advance their shared regional goals? What are the principal mechanisms of cooperation that facilitate convergence of Pakistan's and Russia's regional agendas? How does the strengthening of Pakistan-Russia ties impact the regional balance of power and economic dynamics? What are the implications of Pakistan-Russia cooperations for regional security and economic integration, particularly in the context of Afghanistan and Central Asia?.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, regional cooperation, challenges, mutual benefits, significant.

Kazma Orangzeb is an academic and researcher currently pursuing a PhD in International Relations at the University of Karachi, where she previously earned her MPhil in European Studies and a Master's degree in International Relations. She is a visiting lecturer in the History Department at the University of Karachi and has also taught at Bahria College, NORE 1. Her research expertise has led to the publication of several articles in HEC-Y category journals, and she has actively contributed to international conferences, expanding her academic engagement. Beyond academia, she has earned certifications in Climate Change Management in Pakistan and Digital Marketing from NED University, further enhancing her interdisciplinary skill set.



PAKISTAN-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Abstract

Prof Dr. Tahir Usman

The evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship presents new opportunities for collaboration in various sectors, including livestock production. Livestock plays a crucial role in both economies, contributing significantly to agricultural GDP and rural livelihoods. While Pakistan is a leading producer of dairy and halal meat, it faces challenges related to low genetic potential, disease outbreaks, and feed shortages. Russia, on the other hand, has advanced breeding technologies, disease control mechanisms, and expertise in livestock feed production. This study explores potential areas of cooperation, including genetic improvement, disease control, feed and nutrition enhancement, dairy processing, and halal meat trade. It highlights how joint research initiatives, exchange of superior breeds, and technology transfer can enhance livestock productivity and sustainability in both countries. Additionally, academic partnerships and investment opportunities in the livestock sector can further strengthen bilateral ties. Despite challenges such as policy barriers, logistical constraints, and regulatory differences, a structured framework for collaboration supported by government initiatives and private sector engagement can facilitate knowledge sharing and technological advancements. Strengthening Pakistan-Russia cooperation in livestock production will not only enhance food security but also contribute to economic development in both nations.

Keywords: Livestock, Trade, Dairy, Beef, Halal Meat

Dr. Tahir Usman is working as a Chairman and Associate Professor (tenured), College of Veterinary Sciences at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. Dr. Usman got his PhD degree from China Agriculture University under a Chinese Government Scholarship and a Post Doctorate from Germany under a German Government Scholarships. Dr. Tahir Usman has published more than 70 research articles in international peer-reviewed journals and got a couple of national & international awards including a presidential award in China back in 2014. He has supervised over 30 M.Phil. and PhD research students.



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- Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, Pakistan
- Air University, Islamabad.
- Arizona State University, USA.
- Bahria University, Islamabad
- Bahria University, Karachi, Pakistan
- CISSS
- Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS), Pakistan
- COMSATS, Islamabad
- Dev Trio Consultants
- Education Department KPK
- Federal Urdu University for Arts Science and Technology, Islamabad
- Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Karachi
- Financial University, Russia
- Foundation University, Islamabad
- GC University Lahore
- Institute of Business Management (IoBM)
- Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad,
- International Islamic University Islamabad.
- Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad
- Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia
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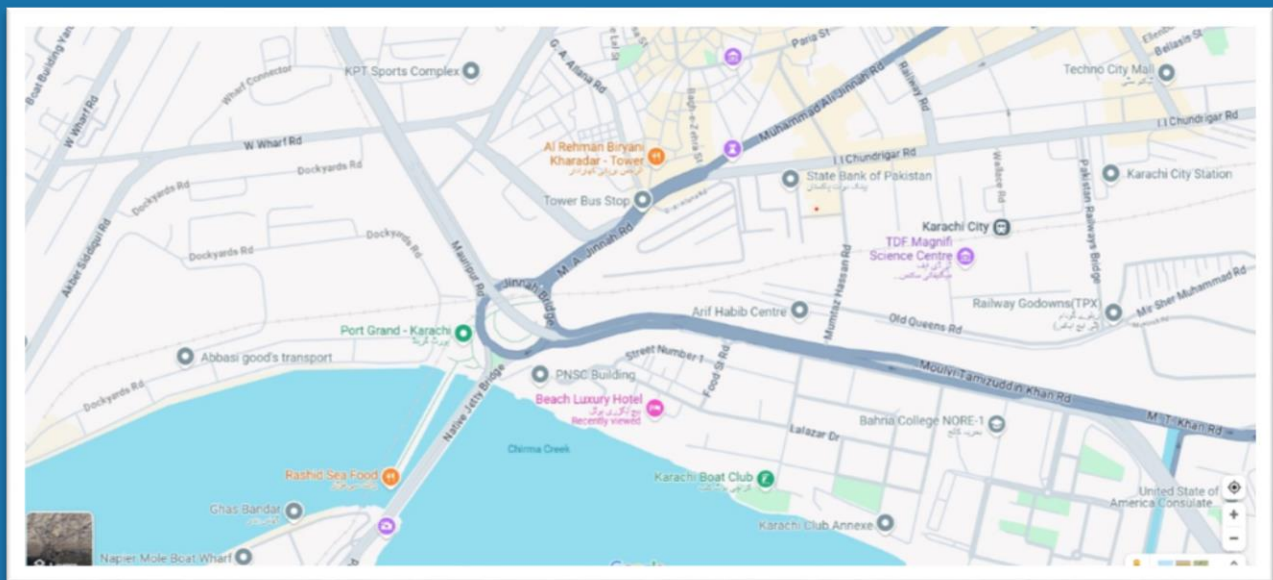
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- National Institute of Maritime Affairs
- National Research Tomsk State University, Russia
- National Research University of Higher school of Economics, Russia

- University of Peshawar
- University of Sargodha
- University of Sindh Jamshoro

LOCATION

BEACH LUXURY HOTEL, KARACHI (Map)

 Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan Road Lalazar Karachi, Karachi City, Sindh 74000



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