

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF DEFENSE AGREEMENTS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, STRATEGIC ALLIANCES, AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY ON PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA, TURKEY, CHINA, AND IRAN

Waqas Anwar¹, Shah Muhammad Kamran², Imran Naseem³, Muhammad Bahar Khan⁴,
Muhammad Moinuddin Qazi Abro⁵, Khalid Zaman^{*6}

¹Department of Pakistan Studies and International Relations, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Abbottabad, 22620, Pakistan, Department of Research, The Sherwan Institute of Online Education (SIOE), Abbottabad KPK 22062, Pakistan.

²Institute of Science, Technology and Development, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro 76062, Sindh, Pakistan.

^{3,4}Department of Pakistan Studies and International Relations, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Abbottabad, 22620, Pakistan.

⁵Department of Production and Systems Engineering, Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná (UTFPR), Pato Branco Campus, Brazil.

^{*6}Department of Economics, The University of Haripur, Haripur Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 22620, Pakistan

²kamran.shah@faculty.muett.edu.pk, ³drimran.naseem@aust.edu.pk, ⁵muhammadabro@utfpr.edu.br,
^{*6}khalid_zaman786@yahoo.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15043727>

Keywords

Pakistan's foreign policy; Defense agreements; Economic cooperation; Strategic alliances; Cultural diplomacy; National security; Economic resilience.

Article History

Received on 11 February 2025

Accepted on 11 March 2025

Published on 18 March 2025

Copyright @Author

Corresponding Author: *

Abstract

The study examines Pakistan's evolving foreign policy towards Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China and their effects on the economy and national security. The research aims to fill gaps in knowledge in the following areas: the function of cultural diplomacy in bridging cultural divides, the relationship between strategic alliances and Pakistan's political objectives, the impact of economic cooperation on Pakistan, and the impact of defense agreements on Pakistan's national security. The study collected data from university professors, postgraduate researchers, administrative professionals, and others who understand Pakistan's international affairs. Mixed-method research employed quantitative survey data with qualitative data from crucial open-ended questions. According to the primary outcomes, economic and defense agreements with Russia, Turkey, Iran, and China were overwhelmingly favorable. Strategic ties were uneven, while cultural diplomacy was praised. A quantitative study also revealed Pakistan's evolving foreign policy towards Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran. These include respondents' gender, age, educational theme areas, strategic relationships, joint military exercises, and cultural diplomacy. The study advises governments to use cultural diplomacy, economic cooperation, and defense deals to manage strategic alliances. The execution of this comprehensive approach would enhance Pakistan's standing both nationally and globally.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan has always negotiated difficult diplomatic situations (Bolsinger, 2024). It maintained some defense relations with Russia throughout the Cold War but sided with the US against the Soviet Union (Khan, 2019). Strong ties with Turkey, a vociferous backer of Kashmir, were established by a shared Islamic background (ORF, 2023). China became a close ally, offering substantial military and economic assistance. Although cultural ties persisted, relations with Iran were strained due to regional competition (Raza, 2019). There has been a trend toward diversification in recent years. Pakistan is looking for alliances outside its traditional allies, especially the US, because of the shifting global conditions (Masood, 2023). Although possible US-China tensions present a concern, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is still crucial. Pakistan is seeking tighter connections with Russia, particularly investigating energy cooperation, due to the US exit from Afghanistan and strained relations. Pakistan's changing foreign policy in this new period by looking at alliances, regional politics, global dynamics, economic growth, and defense aid with each important nation is needed for building strong ties (Ali et al., 2021).

Pakistan's "multi-vector" foreign policy approach, which emphasizes diversification, substantially impacts the country's alliances and regional dynamics. Shared concerns strengthen Turkey's relationship, although the struggle for influence in Central Asia still exists (The Diplomat, 2024). Although managing US-China relations is vital, maintaining the "all-weather friendship" with China is still essential. Although there are obstacles because of sectarian tensions, closer connections with Iran provide economic prospects and counterbalance Saudi Arabia. In crises like the Yemen War, when Saudi Arabia and Iran are on opposite sides, Pakistan's delicate balancing act becomes even more critical. Closer defense connections with China and Russia could lead to an arms race with India. However, engagement with these countries could also have an impact on the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Amid these realignments, maintaining peace and security requires effective diplomacy and regional cooperation (Aydin, 2004). Pakistan's balancing act could impact its standing in

international institutions. Effective diplomacy can handle these issues, even as stronger connections with China and Russia can jeopardize US-led projects. Pakistan may use its position to promote multilateral collaboration on global security, climate change, and heal divisions (Farooq et al., 2020).

The emphasis on diversification has advantages and disadvantages (Fathollah-Nejad, 2021). CPEC can benefit from closer connections with China, but managing US-China tensions is essential. Russia presents opportunities for enhanced economic and energy cooperation. Although increasing trade with Iran and Turkey opens up new markets, there are hazards associated with sanctions and regional instability. Attracting investment and cultivating a stable business environment is critical to Pakistan's development (Gurjar, 2023). Careful diplomacy is needed to balance foreign policy and economic objectives. Investments may result from aligning with powerful nations, but long-term economic growth still depends on maintaining regional peace (The Diplomat, 2024). Pakistan's foreign policy changes present a chance to diversify partnerships and boost economic growth. However, navigating major power rivalries and fostering regional stability remains crucial for achieving its economic development goals and securing a stable position in the evolving global economy (Ikramullah & Ahmed, 2020).

Pakistan's foreign policy realignments significantly affect its defense partnerships and regional security dynamics. Tighter relations with Russia could lead to new military equipment suppliers but might also strain ties with long-standing US suppliers (Ali & Anwar, 2023). Pakistan's defense sector can benefit from cooperation with China, but managing US worries over China's military buildup is essential (Abbasi, 2023). Turkey shares geopolitical concerns and might provide some defense cooperation, but it is unlikely to be a significant defense partner (Bakir, 2023). Increased collaboration with Iran may result from security concerns, although there are obstacles due to trust issues and regional instability (Güneylioğlu, 2023). Pakistan's emphasis on diversification may result in a wider variety of armaments and technologies, lowering dependency on a single supplier. However, this could complicate maintenance and interoperability (Hanif & Sultan,

2024). The change may also impact current military alliances; particularly, the US-Pakistan relationship may be stressed, requiring careful handling (Ahmed et al., 2024). Pakistan's balancing act shapes the dynamics of regional security. Improved relations with China and Russia may have an impact on Afghanistan's circumstances and provide some counterbalance to US influence (Zulfqar, 2024). These alignments might also heighten regional tensions and spark worries about an arms race with India. Stability throughout these realignments must be promoted through efficient diplomacy and regional collaboration (Jahangir & Ahmed, 2023).

Pakistan's foreign policy developments have created opportunities to diversify defense links and enhance its military (Roushan et al., 2023). Major power rivalry, alliance management, and regional stability are essential for long-term security (Weyar, 2023). The study examines Pakistan's foreign policy dynamics and their effects on internal and regional stability. The study focuses on Pakistan's changing foreign policy towards Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China. This research examines Pakistan's defensive attitude and strategic stability to determine how military agreements affect national security. The study explores how strategic relationships affect Pakistan's political and geopolitical goals. The research investigates how diplomatic efforts and cultural exchanges foster mutual understanding and cooperation to understand cultural diplomacy's role in bilateral relations.

The geographical and historical factors influencing Pakistan's ties with its neighbors and other international powers have dominated foreign policy studies (Ali & Peng, 2024; Hussain et al., 2024). However, these studies often overlook cultural, economic, and defense aspects when assessing policy outcomes. Pakistan-China relations studies have primarily concentrated on economics, notably the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and have overlooked cultural diplomacy's role in building confidence (Rasool et al., 2024; Li, 2023). Most studies on Russia and Pakistan have concentrated on Cold War enmity, neglecting the reality that the two nations have lately collaborated on security and economic concerns (Ahmed et al., 2023; Khalid & Munir, 2023). Due to these exclusions, it is impossible to determine if Pakistan's political and

security aims match its strategic connections with growing powers like Russia. Pakistan-Iran relations literature seldom discusses cultural diplomacy's ability to heal sectarian scars and settle border problems (Ahmedani et al., 2021). This study analyses Pakistan's foreign policy, using cultural diplomacy, economic cooperation, strategic alliances, and defence agreements to bridge gaps. It critically analyses past research and expands the study to better understand Pakistan's international relations.

2. Literature Review

This literature review examines contemporary international relations and foreign policy on Pakistan's strategic alliances with China, Iran, Turkey, and Russia. The study analyzes how cultural diplomacy, economic collaboration, and defense agreements affect Pakistan's stability and security across numerous academic sectors. Hussain et al. (2023) use qualitative research to assess Pakistan's foreign policy possibilities. Their study emphasizes the relevance of understanding these links in light of current geopolitical developments. Rasool and Bhatti (2023) examine how Cold War alliances and cooperation between Russia and Pakistan affected their counterterrorism and security strategies. Recent military and counterterrorism cooperation accomplishments have improved bilateral ties despite prior ups and downs. According to Ibrahim and Rauf (2022), the Iran-Saudi Arabia geopolitical competition has affected Pakistan's foreign policy. Their analysis shows that Islamabad has handled these conflicts to protect its national interests while minimizing the Riyadh-Tehran rivalry, disproving the premise that sectarian strife drives Pakistan's regional policy. Awan and Tariq (2023) focus on Pakistan-Turkey military cooperation. Their study demonstrates that international relations have altered substantially in the 20 years after 9/11, and one response has been to expand strategic and security cooperation. Nitza-Makowska (2022) emphasizes cultural exchange and higher education in her appraisal of China's soft power growth in Pakistan via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Degong et al. (2023) analyze how corruption and currency rates impact CPEC-related FDI flows from China to Pakistan. Khan and Aziz (2023) discuss media and foreign policy in Pakistan

and how media coverage affects public opinion and government decision-making. Botah and Kipo-Sunehzi (2023) argue that Pakistan's geopolitical location makes it a crucial ally of the US, notwithstanding occasional disputes. Zaidi and Nirmal (2022) analyze how regional geopolitical realignments affect Pakistan's foreign policy by critically examining how shifting alliances and regional conflicts affect Islamabad. Ismail and Kasim (2023) examine cultural variables and bilateral links in economic partnerships, whereas Surahio et al. (2022) examine how CPEC and security challenges have influenced Pakistan's regional stature. From an ecological and economic standpoint, Naseer (2022) emphasizes maritime ecosystems' importance to international trade and the economy. The study found that maritime tourism and transportation generate \$1.5 trillion annually. Pakistan's maritime interests make this backdrop essential for understanding its foreign policy's economic context. Azam (2022) investigates how national ideology and party devotion affect foreign policy in India under Narendra Modi. The study investigates how Hindu nationalism has altered India's foreign policy towards Pakistan. How Pakistan's nationalist ideology affects its foreign policy depends on regional power relations. Chen et al. (2022) examine Pakistan's schools' integrated learning. The study emphasizes that technological infrastructure and resources help in blended learning preparation. It assists in explaining human capital development-related foreign policy concerns, institutional capacities, and educational successes. Cheng (2022) examines how US foreign policy affects Indo-Pacific security. This study illuminates how global strategic trends affect Pakistan's foreign policy and regional partnerships. Tasheva and Nielsen (2022) examine global dynamic managerial competence in company strategy. Global asset orchestration revealed managerial cognitions and international human capital boost corporate performance. This model may help understand how multinational strategy and economic links affect Pakistan's foreign policy and diplomacy. Wambrauw et al. (2024) examine the social, economic, and political effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Their study illuminates how regional conflicts affect geopolitical strategy and Pakistan's foreign policy. Nelson (2022) discusses the Pacific Alliance's impacts

on member states and neoliberal reforms. This study evaluates regional economic objectives and domestic policies using strategic relational methods to understand Pakistan's economic and strategic policy decisions. Fusillo et al. (2022) examine how environmental rules advance green technologies. It examines technological collaborations and environmental restrictions for Pakistan's sustainable growth and international alliances. Kickbusch and Liu (2022) examine global health diplomacy in light of the COVID-19 epidemic and other geopolitical shifts. Pakistan's foreign policy and global health problems must be understood from its viewpoint, as health policy is becoming more significant in international relations. Wenham et al. (2023) show how global health governance politics have transitioned from infectious diseases to health system challenges. This study gives historical background for how global health crises affect international relations and Pakistan. Zainab and Reza (2022) examine Gwadar Port's strategic importance in the light of constantly shifting geopolitical and international power dynamics. Their study reveals that economic and security factors affect Pakistan's diplomacy and ties with big nations like Russia. Khan et al. (2023) examine Pakistan's strategic culture's history and present. They extensively study Pakistani strategic issues, preferences, and trends to help understand the country's geopolitical significance. This study employs content analysis, case studies, and historical research to illustrate how regional and global changes—like the Cold War's end, the War on Terror, and geopolitical shifts—have altered Pakistan's strategic decision-making. This extensive analysis clarifies Pakistan's strategic culture and evolving international stance. Shah et al. (2023) cover the complicated geopolitical tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran and their influence on Pakistan's foreign policy. This research uses historical analysis theory to examine Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan's complex economic, geopolitical, and political issues. It examines and reveals how power conflicts and regional competition affect Pakistan's Middle Eastern strategy and policy. Despite abundant information about Pakistan's foreign policy, the literature frequently fails to assess the various factors affecting its dynamics objectively. Many studies ignore defense agreements and cultural

diplomacy in favor of bilateral economic or religious ties like Pakistan-China or Pakistan-Turkey (Jahanzaib, 2024; Shah & Xiaolin, 2024). CPEC research has concentrated on the project's financial implications but not on how it may affect Pakistan's geopolitical stature and connections. Studies of Pakistan-Turkey relations tend to concentrate on religious and historical issues rather than how regional politics have affected the two nations' defense cooperation and strategic agreements (Ahmad & Naseeb, 2023; Mason, 2023). Economic cooperation and cultural diplomacy have been neglected in Pakistan-Iran literature, focusing on border security and sectarian tensions. Pakistan-Russia relations are still debated. Much of the literature discusses the Cold War's lingering impacts, while bilateral defense deals and energy cooperation are neglected (Ali & Javed, 2024; Khan et al., 2023). This research examines Pakistan's foreign policy towards major regional nations via defense agreements, economic cooperation, strategic alliances, and cultural diplomacy. The study fills critical literature gaps by including these ignored factors. This critique puts the study's results in context and emphasizes the necessity of examining Pakistan's international relations from several perspectives.

2.1. Research Gaps and Contribution of the Study

Much of the literature is on Pakistan's foreign policy, yet gaps still need to be found. First, more studies must be conducted on Pakistan's evolving relations with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran. Price (2024) and Khan et al. (2024) illuminate Pakistan's geopolitical conflicts and strategic culture, but they overlook other crucial actors. Little is known about how these links influence economic resilience and national security. Current research concentrates on strategic and economic factors, overlooking cultural diplomacy and its influence on bilateral relations. Imran Rafiq (2024) and Pathak & Mushahary (2024) prioritize economic cooperation and military accords but neglect cultural diplomacy's impact on policy outcomes. There are few studies on how geopolitical shifts like regional power realignments affect military and economic cooperation (Aziz, 2024; Abb, 2023). This research fills these gaps by examining how these factors affect Pakistan's foreign policy.

This study makes significant contributions to foreign policy and international affairs analysis. First, it analyzes Pakistan's foreign policy with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran, from military to economic to cultural diplomacy. This study examines all the linked elements that impact Pakistan's economic resilience and national security, filling a vacuum in the literature. Second, the research adopts a mixed-method approach to combine quantitative data with qualitative insights from surveys and expert interviews to understand complex diplomatic contacts better. Methodological rigor gives a deeper grasp of the processes and strengthens the results. This study illuminates cultural diplomacy and strategic relationships in Pakistan's foreign policy. The study analyzes these connections on internal and international fronts to illuminate Pakistan's strategic orientation and its effects on regional and global geopolitics. Academics, practitioners, and politicians will benefit from the study's findings on Pakistan's foreign policy's complex geopolitical context.

2.2. Theoretical Framework

2.2.1. Identity Theory

The theory suggests that brain states and mental experiences are physically equivalent. In the 1950s and 1960s, David Armstrong's contention that all mental states are physically comparable strengthened philosophical arguments (Brandt, 1967). Identity theorists identify with 'physicalism' rather than 'materialism', although some believe experiences include non-physical aspects (qualia) (Simmons, 2013). Stryker's hierarchy of salience (Stryker & Serpe, 1994) shows that identity salience affects work prioritization. Pakistan's decentralization, with local rulers holding to power via tribal and feudal traditions, makes Muslim nationalism harder to create (Kalin & Siddiqui, 2020). Foucault's concept of power—pervasive and essential to social norms—can illuminate Pakistan's dynamics. Foucault called power a panopticon that changes us and what we know via invisible processes (Sumitro et al. 2020). The Bengali ethnic group's biased experiences illustrate how language and political representation are power dynamics that marginalize them (Agnihotri, 2021). These dynamics are further exacerbated by federalism, state structure, and

neoliberal economic and political power (Gamble, 2021).

2.2.2. Postcolonial Theory and Neoliberalism

Postcolonial Theory examines how European colonization affected world politics, economy, and culture. Cooper (2020) believes that colonial rule must be understood in order to understand global challenges. This argument claims that cultural and historical forces shape postcolonial governments and identities (Benjamin, 2024). According to Ahmed and Tamoor (2021), Pakistan's mixed political and institutional structures, established by colonialism and division, undermine governance and aggravate political collapse. Given this, power interactions must be examined via colonial and postcolonial legacies. Neoliberalism promotes capitalism above public scrutiny, and education is one example. Al-Haija et al. (2021) advocate an efficiency-driven, knowledge-based economy that considers education a commodity. Neoliberal assessments of Pakistan ignore its complex political, economic, and labor market situation. Neoliberalism affects the media and government, which promotes national hierarchies and fosters national identity rhetoric, according to Shahin (2023) and Chouhy (2020).

3. Methodology

This study examines Pakistan's connections with Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China to help understand geopolitics in the region. The study collected data from Pakistan's academia, political science, associated students, university instructors, and postgraduate international studies scholars. Given their education and expertise, the sample should shed light on Pakistan's developing diplomatic and strategic relations with these key nations. It assures a thorough geopolitical analysis based on theory and facts. COMSATS University Islamabad, University of Haripur, and Abbottabad University of Science

and Technology (AUST) are participating in this study. Stratified random sampling is used to choose samples from all university employees, academics, and other stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives. This diversity makes the study more thorough and representative, allowing for a multifaceted assessment of Pakistan's foreign policy. A mixed-method approach is used to gather data via online questionnaires and in-person interviews. In-depth in-person interviews supplement these surveys to obtain additional qualitative data. This approach reveals participants' views on Pakistan's foreign policy by combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Opinions and viewpoints were further quantified using a 5-point Likert scale. Combining in-depth subjective insights with rigorous statistical analysis provided more accurate and detailed findings. These questions seek extensive, contextually rich answers that complete the subject picture. Questions are given below.

1. How do you perceive Pakistan's current foreign policy towards Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran?
2. What are the primary benefits and challenges of Pakistan's relationships with these countries?
3. In your opinion, how has the evolving foreign policy impacted Pakistan's economic and security landscape?
4. What role do you think domestic politics play in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy towards these countries?
5. How do you foresee the future of Pakistan's diplomatic relationships with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran evolving?

Further, quantitative aspect of the study is further examined through structured questionnaires, based on 5-point Likert scale, i.e., 1 shows strongly disagree and 5 shows strongly agree. Table 1 shows the list of variables for ready reference.

Table 1: List of Variables

Variable Type	Variable	Description
Dependent Variable	Perceived Impact on National Security	Assesses how participants perceive the influence of Pakistan's foreign policy on national security.
Independent Variables	Economic Benefits	Examines the impact of economic exchanges, such as trade deals and investments, on perceptions of Pakistan's foreign policy.

	Political Alignment	Explores how diplomatic ties with other countries affect opinions about Pakistan's political position and geopolitical goals.
	Cultural Exchange	Investigates how cultural interactions, such as educational exchanges and cultural events, influence perceptions of Pakistan's foreign policy.
	Strategic Partnerships	Evaluates how strategic alliances with specific countries shape views on Pakistan's regional influence and foreign policy objectives.

Multivariate regression analysis is directed to analyze Pakistan's complex foreign policy with Iran, Turkey, China, and Russia. It explores how numerous independent variables affect national security perspectives. Economic growth, political alignment, cultural understanding, and strategic collaborations are used in this study for empirical analysis. Commercial and strategic benefits of trade deals and alliances may affect public opinion on national security agreements with China and other states. Multivariate regression analysis isolates each independent variable's influence on national security to understand their interdependent implications better. Diplomatic relations may distort foreign policy perceptions, while political alignment and strategic alliances can affect national security perspectives. The study's conclusions are strengthened by showing Pakistan's foreign policy's influence on national security. Lawmakers, analysts, and researchers interested in Pakistan's foreign policy and attitude may easily understand its influence on national security.

4.Results and Discussion

4.1. Qualitative Aspect

According to the research, University Professors, Postgraduate scholars, key stakeholders, and administrators at Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST), the University of Haripur, and COMSATS University Islamabad campuses had varying opinions. This diverse panel, chosen for its worldwide expertise and passion, illuminated Pakistan's diplomatic orientations toward Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China. Their academic and practical knowledge revealed the complicated diplomatic environment. The following questions were asked from the studied sample, and varied, diversified responses were found, i.e.,

I. How do you perceive Pakistan's current foreign policy towards Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran?

Most respondents emphasized Pakistan's strategic and multi-pronged foreign strategy toward Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China. The importance of China as an economic partner, notably via projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which drives economic development, was generally recognized. Many respondents praised Pakistan's relations with Turkey, citing political and cultural reasons. This approach underlines cultural and political goals that improve the two nations' relationship. Russia-related opinions were more varied. Some saw Russia as a possible friend in energy and military, while others feared its influence. These differing views show Russia's complexity in Pakistan's geopolitical strategy. Participants supported Pakistan's diverse foreign relationships to improve economic growth and national security.

II. What are the primary benefits and challenges of Pakistan's relationships with these countries?

Respondents listed many major positives when asked to rate the pros and cons of these transnational relationships. Political relations strengthened, military accords boosted national security, and commerce and infrastructure projects drove economic growth. However, the issues were obvious. Concerns were raised about growing overly dependent on one economic partner, particularly China. Geopolitical concerns were also difficult to negotiate, especially with Iran, owing to its close relationships with regional actors. The responses stressed the necessity for a balanced and organized strategy to maximize benefits and avoid drawbacks. This sophisticated approach emphasizes diplomatic precision and strategic planning in international interactions.

III. In your opinion, how has the evolving foreign policy impacted Pakistan's economic and security landscape?

Participants said Pakistan's economy and security had suffered from shifting foreign policies. They said CPEC has transformed the economy with massive investments, infrastructure, and employment. Improved commercial links with Turkey and Iran have strengthened the economy. Strategic alliances and defense pacts strengthened Pakistan's military and regional stability. Despite these benefits, several respondents were concerned about increasing debt and needing expert diplomacy to manage complex international dynamics. Understanding the costs and rewards of forceful foreign policy informs this balanced view.

IV. What role do you think domestic politics play in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy towards these countries?

Another alluring subject was how Pakistan's domestic politics affect its foreign policy. Many respondents underlined the significance of domestic political stability and government aims in establishing international alliances and diplomatic approaches. Political leaders employ foreign policy to advance

economic growth, national security, and regional influence based on domestic priorities. Public opinion and political forces may impact leaders as they address domestic and global challenges. Domestic politics and strategic aims create difficult international policies.

V. How do you foresee the future of Pakistan's diplomatic relationships with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran evolving?

Delegates were positive about Pakistan's diplomatic relations with Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China. Investments and joint partnerships would undoubtedly strengthen their economic connections with China. More military cooperation and shared political and cultural values were expected to strengthen ties with Turkey. Engaging with Iran for regional stability and economic cooperation outweighed the perceived hurdles. Increased energy and military cooperation with Russia was also welcomed. Many anticipated that Pakistan would gain regional and global prominence with a stronger and more diverse diplomatic landscape. This perspective highlights Pakistan's potential for foreign policy growth and influence. Table 2 shows the main survey results for ready reference.

Table 2: Main Survey Results

Theme	Key Findings
Pakistan's current foreign policy towards Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran?	Participants perceive Pakistan's current foreign policy towards Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran as strategic and multifaceted, aimed at enhancing national security and economic growth.
Primary benefits and challenges of Pakistan's relationships with these countries	The primary benefits identified include economic growth and enhanced security, while challenges revolve around geopolitical tensions and dependency risks.
Evolving foreign policy impacted Pakistan's economic and security landscape?	The evolving foreign policy has significantly boosted Pakistan's economic and security landscapes through investments and strategic partnerships.
Domestic politics play in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy towards these countries.	Domestic politics are crucial in shaping foreign policy, influenced by political stability, leadership priorities, and public opinion.
Foresee the future of Pakistan's diplomatic relationships with	Participants foresee a continued strengthening and expansion of diplomatic relationships with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran, positioning Pakistan as a key regional and global player.

Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran evolving.

4.2. Quantitative Aspect

Figure 1 shows the demographic survey of the study. The research included 55 males and 45 females, a balanced gender ratio. The participants were mostly

20-25 and 31-35 years old. The age distribution shows a mix of young people fresh to academic or professional fields and older people with extensive knowledge and skills.

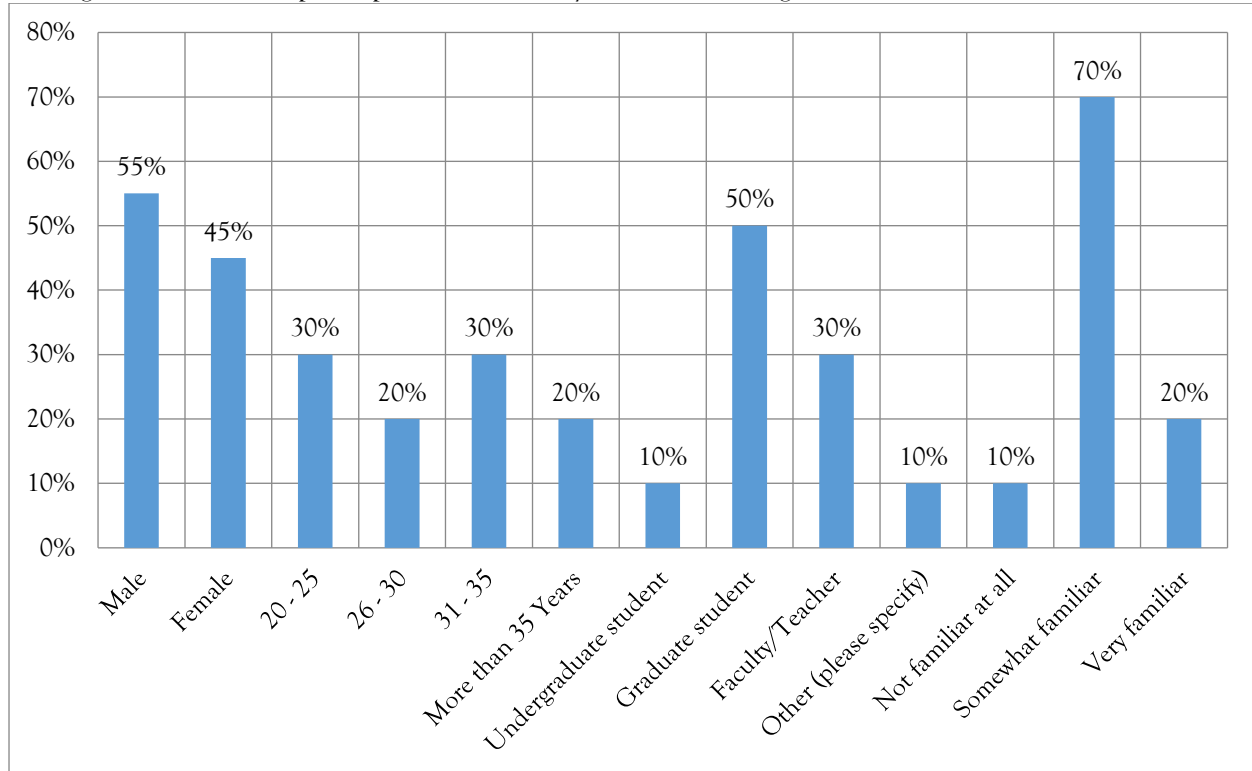


Figure 1: Demographic Survey of the Study

Source: Author’s survey.

Graduate students comprised 50% of the sample, Professors 30%, and undergraduates 10%. The sample's intellectual makeup indicates a high degree of knowledge and understanding of complex issues like international relations and geopolitics. 70% of respondents were knowledgeable about Pakistan's foreign policies regarding China, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. This high awareness suggests a knowledgeable

sample that may lighten the study's questions. However, 10% of those who reported unfamiliarity showed the need for targeted efforts to improve their understanding of key disciplines. The study's results benefit from well-informed judgments due to the broad range of familiarity. Figure 2 shows the variables’ descriptive statistics for ready reference.

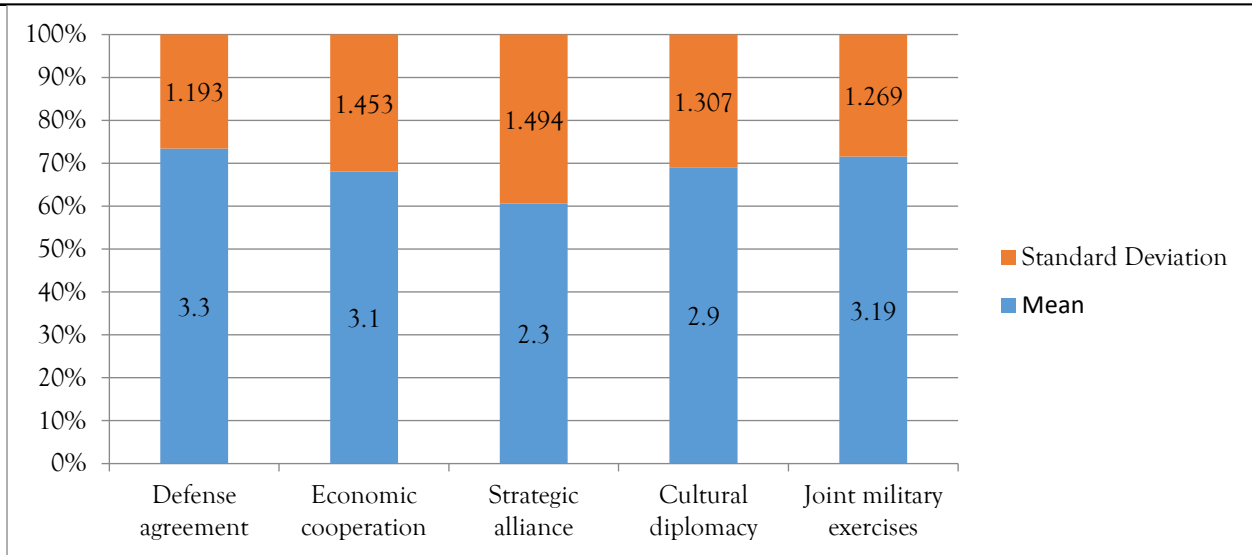


Figure 2: Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Source: Author’s estimate.

The variables' descriptive statistics reflect engaging participant perception tendencies. Most students strongly agree that the Pakistan-China military accord has improved Pakistan's national security. Most students agreed strongly with the second variable, economic cooperation with Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran, which has increased Pakistan's economic resilience, suggesting an agreement on its economic benefits. However, most answers to the third category, strategic alliance with these countries

aligned with Pakistan's political interest, were "neutral," showing ambivalence or disagreement over the political consequences of these cooperation. Cultural diplomacy between these nations has a mean value of 2.9 and a standard deviation of 1.307 for the fourth variable, which remains high dispersion in the responses with the disagreement side. Table 3 shows the multivariate regression analysis.

Table 3: Multivariate Regression Estimates

Variables	Standardized β value	t-value	Prob. value
Demographic Variables			
Gender	-0.990	-1.707	0.090
Age	0.452	3.822	0.000
Educational Background	0.427	2.973	0.004
Familiarity with Topic	-0.088	-1.147	0.254
Independent Variables			
Economic cooperation	-0.610	0.321	0.749
Strategic alliance	-0.562	-5.818	0.000
Cultural diplomacy	0.307	1.978	0.089
Joint military exercises	0.433	4.886	0.000
Statistical Tests			
R ²	0.963		

Adjusted R ²	0.960
F-statistics	299.342
F-prob.value	0.000

The results show that gender influences Pakistan's foreign policy perceptions. Cultural contact, economic benefit, and national security concerns may have been gendered. Given this gap, foreign policymakers should consider gender when creating and communicating. Understanding these disparities in opinion would help to address individual needs and support global objectives. Feminist and postcolonial theory provides a unique perspective on Pakistan's foreign policy in an area where neo-realism and conventional realism have had a significant impact. Bastos (2021) suggests that this viewpoint on international relations may illuminate how national identity and foreign policy affect militarism in South Asia and beyond. Age groupings have different foreign policy views. Based on their exposure and interests, 31-35-year-olds and 20-25-year-olds may have different geopolitical views. Older people may value security and strategy, whereas younger people value cultural exchanges and economic potential. Understanding age preferences may help make foreign policy more appealing to different populations. Research suggests that age-related perception and belief changes may affect individuals' behavior and interaction (Beck & Trebbe, 2021; Sathar et al., 2016).

Education affects foreign policy views. International relations teachers, graduate students, and undergraduates provide new perspectives due to their diverse experiences and education. Faculty may prioritize theoretical and long-term strategy, whereas graduate students prioritize short-term profits and practical implications. Undergrads may be persuaded by their first classroom exposure to global issues. Talks targeted at various educational ideas may lead to a more informed and engaged discourse on foreign policy. Value similarity and cultural congruence regularly influence support for foreign help and cooperation (Sinkkonen, 2013).

Due to strategic relations, Pakistan's political goals coincide with those of Russia, Turkey, China, and Iran. These alliances boost regional stability, international status, and mutual aid for Pakistan. All parties recognize the importance of these coalitions in achieving political and security objectives.

Maintaining and improving these links is crucial to Pakistan's strategic goals. Given shifting geopolitics, Pakistan must evaluate its relationships with Russia and the US to preserve stable and balanced foreign policy aims (Alam, 2004; Raza, 2019).

Cultural diplomacy is thought to improve foreign policy perceptions. Participants value cultural diplomacy's influence on Pakistan's soft power and relationship growth. This positive vision shows how cultural diplomacy enhances diplomatic and strategic objectives, enabling a more comprehensive and multifaceted foreign policy. According to research (Maina, 2021; Kalin, 2011; Trunkos, 2013), cultural diplomacy may improve international relations and economic development.

Joint military exercises impact many people's perceptions of Pakistan's diplomacy. Studies have shown that these exercises boost public views of national security and international cooperation (Hussain et al., 2024; Javid & Ali, 2024). Participants expressed that joint military drills with Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China demonstrate unity and support and strengthen military capabilities. Further, participants picked national security as the primary benefit. Joint military exercises may improve defense readiness and operations. These exercises help the Pakistani military acquire cutting-edge tactics, procedures, and technology from international peers. This increased preparation and capability boosts safety and trust in the nation's ability to safeguard its residents. Participants say joint military exercises show global solidarity and show the seriousness of their bilateral and international relations. Joint military drills under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor boost Pakistan-China relations (Hameed et al., 2018). Interactions with Russia and Iran promote regional stability, while exercises with Turkey demonstrate shared political and cultural values. Visibility and transparency can improve public perception of joint military drills. Official statements and media coverage support these exercises. Participants said seeing home military train with foreign forces enhances their self-esteem. Due to this openness, military action seems to promote peace and stability (Gregory & Revill, 2018).

The results illuminate Pakistan's complicated foreign policy changes. The research found that economic cooperation, notably with Turkey and China, has enhanced Pakistan's trade volume and infrastructural development. Defense treaties with Iran and Russia have also improved national security by bridging military gaps. These findings show that economic stability underpins security and defense relationships. Cultural diplomacy helped strengthen ties with all four nations, overcome cultural gaps, and build confidence. These interdependencies show that Pakistan's strategic relationships are a network of mutually beneficial partnerships. The study clarifies these linkages and emphasizes the necessity for a coordinated economic, defense, and cultural strategy to boost Pakistan's geopolitical position and diplomatic efficacy.

5. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

This study examined Pakistan's changing foreign policy' effects on economic resilience and national security. Iran, Turkey, Russia, China, and Russia were examined. The study has many objectives. These questions included how cultural diplomacy connects people from different backgrounds, whether strategic alliances help Pakistan achieve its political goals, how these countries view the impact of defense agreements on national security, and how much capital they stand to gain from collaborating with these countries. The most crucial result was that coordinated military training made people feel safer. Most participants, especially military and international relations experts, feel that joint drills with Turkey, Russia, Iran, and China will strengthen Pakistan's defense. These coordinated drills must demonstrate global support for peace and increase operational preparedness. According to respondents, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and other projects showed how these two nations can cooperate economically. Pakistan's economy has grown due to trade diversification and infrastructural development with Iran, Turkey, and Russia. Survey respondents had different views on strategic alliances. Some believed these relationships would help Pakistan accomplish its political aims, while others did not. Cultural diplomacy was widely praised. Cultural activities, educational exchanges, and personal contacts were thought to strengthen

cultural links and promote goodwill. This policy improved Pakistan's soft power and developed long-term ties overseas, strengthening its image abroad. Gender differences existed in how people felt about cultural exchanges, economic rewards, and national security. Younger people valued cultural links and economic opportunities, while older ones valued security and strategy. Pakistan's leaders should use strategic relationships and economic, cultural, and military diplomacy to boost internal and geopolitical stature. This comprehensive strategy may help the country benefit from a balanced foreign policy. Open and honest communication is needed to improve public knowledge and support of foreign policy immediately. Resolving the country's security concerns requires improving our defense treaties, especially with China. Iran, China, Russia, and Turkish cultural diplomacy may promote understanding and cooperation. Long-term diversification of economic links with these nations may increase economic resilience and reduce dependence on one country. Addressing internal concerns and utilizing smart diplomacy may match strategic alliances with political aims. Funding capacity-building efforts that teach public officials and diplomats about international relations is equally crucial. Maintaining and improving diplomatic relations with Iran, Turkey, Russia, and China is crucial for long-term security. Long-term development requires sustainable economic efforts, including infrastructural improvements and technological partnerships. Institutionalized cultural diplomacy may help build durable international relationships. This suggestion is a call to action for Pakistan to create a credible and successful foreign policy. A comprehensive approach that considers local and international elements is required. This would strengthen Pakistan's geopolitical position and give economic and security benefits.

Ethics declarations

- Ethical approval

The Ethics Committee of the Department of Research, The Sherwan Institute of Online Education, Pakistan, has granted approval for this study on June 15, 2024 (Ref. No. SIOE1260/2024). All survey procedures were conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Written informed

consent for participation was obtained from all participants

- **Consent for publication:** Not applicable.

- **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

- **Funding:** N/A

- **Availability of data and material:** Primary data is collected in the study. Data is available on request.

Acknowledgements: N/A

REFERENCES

- Abb, P. (2023). All geopolitics is local: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor amidst overlapping centre-periphery relations. *Third World Quarterly*, 44(1), 76-95.
- Abbasi, R. (2023). Global Power Shift and Foreign Policy Choices for Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 43(1), 1-21.
- Agnihotri, R.K. (2021). Linguistic Diversity and Marginality in South Asia. In: Sarangapani, P.M., Pappu, R. (eds) *Handbook of Education Systems in South Asia*. Global Education Systems. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-0032-9_32
- Ahmad, M., & Naseeb, Z. (2023). Pakistan Turkey Economic and Strategic Relations under Erdogan's Administration. *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, 4(3), 515-527.
- Ahmed, A., Baloch, J. A., & Abbas, A. (2023). Exploring the Diplomatic, Social, and Cultural Nexus between Pakistan and Russia in Global Geopolitics. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 11(4), 4281-4289.
- Ahmed, A., Rehman, M. M. U., & Umer, M. A. (2024). US-Pakistan Relations: Assessing Pakistan's Role in US Strategy for South Asia. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 8(2), 543-553.
- Ahmed, R. Q., & Tamoor, M. (2021). State formation and the postcolonial decay in Pakistan. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 49(1), 9-15.
- Ahmedani, M. M., Fatima, G., & Noonari, H. B. (2021). Pakistan-Iran relations in a regional perspective. *International Research Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 2(3), 24-28.
- Alam, S. (2004). Iran-Pakistan relations: Political and strategic dimensions. *Strategic Analysis*, 28(4), 526-545.
- Al-Haija, Y. A., & Mahamid, H. (2021). Trends in Higher Education under Neoliberalism: Between Traditional Education and the Culture of Globalization. *Educational Research and Reviews*, 16(2), 16-26.
- Ali, G., & Peng, N. (2024). Geography: The Geopolitics of China-Pakistan Relations. *Pacific Focus*, 39(3), 646-669.
- Ali, H., Muhammadi, M., Masood, Y., & Ali, S. (2021). The grand strategy of China towards Central Asia: An assessment of Chinese new regionalism strategy and its geopolitical implications for US in the post-9/11 Era. *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 9(3), 225-233.
- Ali, I., & Anwar, M. F. (2023). Pak-US Relations: An Overview in Historical Perspective (1947-2021). *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 11(4), 4659-4673.
- Ali, U., & Javed, T. (2024). Pakistan-Russia Emerging Cooperation: Opportunities And Challenges. *Margalla Papers*, 28(1), 141-160.
- Awan, A. M., & Tariq, R. (2023). From The Perspective Of Two States One Nation; An Analysis Of Turkey-Pakistan Relations In The Context Of The Defense Industry (2001-2021). *SDE Akademi Dergisi*, 3(2), 155-1
- Aydin, M. (2004). Turkish foreign policy: framework and analysis, Center for Strategic Research Ankara. Online available at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mustafa-Aydin-11/publication/45666576_Turkish_Foreign_Policy_Framework_and_Analysis/links/556d930c08aeccd7773c1881/Turkish-Foreign-Policy-Framework-and-Analysis.pdf (accessed on 11th June, 2024).
- Azam, A. (2022). Indian Foreign Policy towards Pakistan during Modi Era: Assessing the Role of Ideology-Hindu Nationalism. *BTTN Journal*, 1(1), 17-35.
- Aziz, A. (2024). Strategic Dimensions: CPEC's Influence on Pakistan's New Geo-economics Narrative. *Jahan-e-Tahqeeq*, 7(1), 136-146.

- Bakir, A. (2023). Turkey's security role in the Gulf region: exploring the case of a newcomer. *Turkish Studies*, 24(5), 809-831.
- Bastos, M. (2021). *Foreign Policy of Pakistan: a Critical Approach* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Westminster).
- Beck, K., & Trebbe, J. (2021). *Exposure to News & Current Affairs on Private TV Channels & Political Socialization among Young, Urban Pakistanis* (Doctoral dissertation). Online available at: <https://refubium.fub-berlin.de/handle/fub188/29971> (accessed on 23rd July, 2024).
- Benjamin, K. T. (2024). French Colonial Policies in West Africa: Power Dynamics, Cultural Impositions and Economic Legacies. *International Journal of Advances in Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3(1), 8-17.
- Bolsinger, D. I. (2024). Deception and Manipulation in an Intelligence Liaison Relationship: US-Pakistani Negotiations and the 1980s Afghan Program. *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter Intelligence*, 37(1), 49-70.
- Botah, E. B., & Kipo-Sunyezi, D. D. (2023). The Role Of Small States In Large States' foreign Policy: Analysis Of Pakistan-US Relations. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 6(2), 37-44.
- Brandt, R., & Kim, J. (1967). The logic of the identity theory. *The Journal of Philosophy*, 64(17), 515-537.
- Chen, X., Khaskheli, A., Raza, S. A., Hakim, F., & Khan, K. A. (2022). Factors affecting readiness to diffuse blended learning in Pakistani higher education institutions. *International Journal of Educational Management*, 36(6), 1080-1095.
- Cheng, M. (2022). AUKUS: The changing dynamic and its regional implications. *European Journal of Development Studies*, 2(1), 1-7.
- Chouhy, G. (2020). Rethinking neoliberalism, rethinking social movements. *Social Movement Studies*, 19(4), 426-446.
- Cooper, F. (2020). Postcolonial studies and the study of history. In *The new imperial histories reader* (pp. 75-91). Routledge.
- Degong, M., Ullah, F., Ullah, R., & Arif, M. (2023). An empirical nexus between exchange rate and China's outward foreign direct investment: Implications for Pakistan under the China Pakistan economic corridor project. *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 87, 224-234.
- Farooq, H., Khan, M. K., & Khan, S. (2020). The 21st Century World Order And Pakistan. *Journal of Contemporary Studies*, 9(II), 19-41.
- Fathollah-Nejad, A. (2021). *Iran's International Relations in the Face of Imperial Interpolarity: The "Look to the East" Policy and Multifaceted Impact of Sanctions*. In: *Iran in an Emerging New World Order. Studies in Iranian Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-6074-3_7
- Fusillo, F., Quatraro, F., & Usai, S. (2022). Going green: the dynamics of green technological alliances. *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, 31(5), 362-386.
- Gamble, A. (2021). *The Free Economy and the Strong State*. In *After Brexit and other essays* (pp. 91-112). Bristol University Press.
- Gregory, S., & Revill, J. (2008). The role of the military in the cohesion and stability of Pakistan. *Contemporary South Asia*, 16(1), 39-61.
- Güneylioğlu, M. (2023). The Russia-Iran Alignment in the Middle East: The Main Dynamics and Limits of the Bilateral Security Cooperation. *Akdeniz İİBF Dergisi*, 23(1), 50-62.
- Gurjar, S. (2023). The Iran Challenge: Unraveling India's Foreign Policy Dilemma. *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, 6(5), 47.
- Hameed, M. (2018). The politics of the China—Pakistan economic corridor. *Palgrave Communications*, 4(1), 64.
- Hanif, R. A., & Sultan, I. (2024). The Economic Dependency of Pakistan: Reasons, Challenges and Prospects. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences*, 44(2), 251-260.

- Hussain, M., & Ali Naqvi, S. I. (2024). Indo-Pakistan rivalry and integrated ring balancing: prospects and challenges to regional stability in South Asia. *Asian Journal of Political Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02185377.2024.2386663>.
- Hussain, M., Jamali, A. B., Nisar, R. D., & Omar, A. (2024). The China–Iran strategic deal and CPEC: Navigating the influence of pragmatic balancing in China's relations with Iran and Pakistan. *Politics & Policy*, 52(1), 227-244.
- Hussain, M., Yousafzai, A. U. R., & Naseem, F. (2023). Challenges and Opportunities to the Foreign Policy of Pakistan in the Contemporary Era. *Annals of Human and Social Sciences*, 4(1), 56-65.
- Ibrahim, Z., & Rauf, S. (2022). Saudi-Iran Rivalry: Pakistan's Role from Neutrality to Mediator. *Global Foreign Policies Review*, 3, 1-13.
- Ikramullah, M., & Ahmed, M. (2020). Revisionist Powers in Middle East: Implications for Pakistan. *Middle East Review*, 2, 1-24.
- Imran Rafiq, M. (2024). A Deepening Political Crisis, Military Involvement and Economic Woes: Evidence From Pakistan. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096241230496>
- Ismail, M., & KASIM, M. (2023). Pakistan-Turkey Bilateral Relations: Challenges and Opportunities. *Central European Management Journal*, 31(2), 1306-1312.
- Jahangir, J., & Ahmed, S. (2023). Embryonic World Order: Implications For Pakistan's Foreign Policy, Geopolitical Agendas And Foreign Affairs. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 7(5), 958-971.
- Jahanzaib, M. (2024). Central Asian Republics-Pakistan Relations in a Shifting World: A Neoliberal Perspective. *Journal of Politics and International Studies*, 10(1), 109-127.
- Javid, I., & Ali, M. (2024). Historical Evolution of Military Cooperation between China and Pakistan: From Strategic Partnerships to All-Weather Friendship. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 12(1), 771-776.
- Kalin, İ. (2011). Soft power and public diplomacy in Turkey. *Perceptions: Journal of International Affairs*, 16(3), 5-23.
- Kalin, M., & Siddiqui, N. (2020). National identity, religious tolerance, and group conflict: Insights from a survey experiment in Pakistan. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 37(1), 58-82.
- Khalid, I., & Munir, K. (2023). The Evolution of Russia-Pakistan Relations (1998-2023): From Strained Relations to Geo-Strategic Engagement. *Global Foreign Policies Review*, 6, 11-21.
- Khan, M. A., Dashti, A. A., & Siraj, U. (2023). Pakistan And Russia: Past And Present Shift In Regional Dynamics. *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 7(2), 639-648.
- Khan, M. F., Khan, M. A., Ibrar, M., Hanif, B., Javaid, M. Q., & Marri, S. A. (2023). Shifting Sands: Pakistan's Strategic Culture Amidst Regional And Global Flux. *Russian Law Journal*, 11(12S), 436-452.
- Khan, M. S., Kamran, S., & Jamal, F. (2024). Geo-Political Dimension and CPEC: Implications for South Asia. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 8(1), 128-138.
- Khan, M. T. F. (2018). Pakistan's Growing Relations with Russia. *Strategic Studies*, 38(2), 87-103.
- Khan, M. T. F. (2019). Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia: New directions. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). <https://issi.org.pk/category/foreign-policy/>
- Kickbusch, I., & Liu, A. (2022). Global health diplomacy—reconstructing power and governance. *The Lancet*, 399(10341), 2156-2166.

- Li, D. (2023). Research on the Relationship between Pakistan's Institutional Risks and China's Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan from the Perspective of Bilateral Political Relations. In *The Political Economy of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor* (pp. 77-105). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Maina, K. W. (2021). Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Promoting Economic Development in Africa. A Case Study of Kenya (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).
- Mason, R. (2023). India and Pakistan: Shifting tides of interaction and dependency. In *Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates* (pp. 226-246). Manchester University Press.
- Masood, M. K. (2023). Pakistan's evolving relations with China, Russia, and Central Asia. Hokkaido University, online available at: https://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/coe21/publish/no16_1_ses/11_rahman.pdf (accessed on 7th May, 2024)
- Naseer, A. (2022). Blue diplomacy as foreign policy instrument: challenges and prospects for Pakistan (2002-2020). M.Phil. Dissertation, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Pakistan. .
- Nelson, M. (2022). The Pacific Alliance: regional integration as neoliberal discipline. In *The Reconfiguration of Twenty-first Century Latin American Regionalism* (pp. 53-68). Routledge.
- Nitza-Makowska, A. (2022). Can the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor help Beijing Win Pakistanis' hearts and minds? Reviewing higher education as an instrument of Chinese soft power in Pakistan. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 28(3), 274-289.
- ORF (2023). Can a China-Russia-Pakistan-Turkey-Iran arrangement counter the Quad? Observer Research Foundation, online available at: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/can-a-china-russia-pakistan-turkey-iran-arrangement-counter-the-quad> (accessed on 10th May, 2024).
- Pathak, M., & Mushahary, J. (2024). India Pakistan Relations: A Political Analysis Of Conflicts And Prospects For Peace. *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(5), 11651-11658.
- Price, M. (2024). The Politics of State Recognition: Norms, Geopolitics, and the East Pakistan Crisis. *Global Studies Quarterly*, 4(2), ksae043.
- Rasool, G., Mangi, S. N., Ahmed, A., & Charan, F. (2024). Examining the Odyssey of China Pakistan Economic Corridor: A Historical Perspective. *ZhongguoKuangyeDaxueXuebao*, 29(3), 117-129.
- Rasool, M., & Bhatti, G. (2023). The Pakistan-Russia strategic alliance: a new geopolitical paradigm in south Asia. *International Journal of Multicultural Education*, 25(2), 815-827.
- Raza, F. (2019). Prospects for Pakistan-China-Iran Trilateral Cooperation. *Strategic Studies*, 39(3), 37-52.
- Roushan, V., Sharma, N., & Kaushiki, N. (2023). Tracing the Structures and Factors Influencing Iranian Foreign Policy. *International Journal of Research in all Subjects in Multi Languages*, 11(1), 1-7
- Sathar, Z., Kamran, I., Sadiq, M., & Hussain, S. (2016). Youth in Pakistan: Priorities, realities and policy responses. Online available at: https://knowledgecommons.popcouncil.org/departments_sbsr-pgy/572/ (accessed on 23rd July 2024).
- Shah, R., & Xiaolin, M. (2024). The impact of Pakistan-Turkey maritime cooperation on regional peace. *Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/18366503.2024.2343194>
- Shah, S. A. A., Abbas, A., Mushtaq, M., Madni, A., Rathore, M., & Hussain, R. (2023). The Dynamics Of China's Engagement With Saudi Arabia And Iran: Implications For Pakistan's Geopolitical Landscape. *Journal of Namibian Studies: History Politics Culture*, 34, 2413-2430.

- Shahin, S. (2023). News, nations, and power relations: how neoliberal media reproduce a hierarchical world order. *Critical sociology*, 49(2), 201-216.
- Simmons, N. K. (2013). *Why Sensations Must be Neurological Properties: A Defense of the Identity Theory* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Kansas).
- Sinkkonen, E. (2013). Nationalism, patriotism and foreign policy attitudes among Chinese university students. *The China Quarterly*, 216, 1045-1063.
- Stryker, S., & Serpe, R. T. (1994). Identity salience and psychological centrality: Equivalent, overlapping, or complementary concepts?. *Social psychology quarterly*, 57, 16-35.
- Sumitro, S., Yuliadi, I., Kurniawansyah, E., Najamudin, N., & Umanailo, M. C. B. (2020). Reflection the concept of power foucault's. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Dubai, UAE, March 10-12, 2020*
- Surahio, M. K., Gu, S., Mahesar, H. A., & Soomro, M. M. (2022). China-Pakistan economic corridor: macro environmental factors and security challenges. *SAGE Open*, 12(1), 21582440221079821.
- Tasheva, S., & Nielsen, B. B. (2022). The role of global dynamic managerial capability in the pursuit of international strategy and superior performance. *Journal of International Business Studies*, 53(4), 689-708.
- The Diplomat. (2024). Pakistan's balancing act: Between the US, China, and Russia. Online available at: <https://thecradle.co/articles-id/2173> (accessed on 10th June, 2024).
- Trunkos, J. (2013). *What is soft power capability and how does it impact foreign policy*. PhD Student-prospectus proposal, University of South Carolina).
- Wambrauw, M. S., De Fretes, D. R., Niam, M. F., Fitria, A., & Marzuki, M. (2024). In-Depth Analysis Of The Dynamics Post-Israel-Palestine Conflict 2023: Political, Economic, And Social Implications For The Future Of Israel. *International Journal Of Society Reviews*, 2(1), 223-236.
- Wenham, C., Busby, J. W., Youde, J., & Herten-Crabb, A. (2023). From imperialism to the "golden age" to the great lockdown: the politics of global health governance. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 26(1), 431-450.
- Weyar, N. A. (2023). *The place of Pakistan in American foreign policy after the Cold War (1990-2009)* (Master's thesis, İstanbul Gelişim Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü).
- Zaidi, S. M. S., & Nirmal. (2022). Regional political paradigm shift: Challenges and opportunities for Pakistan. *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 7(4), 772-789.
- Zainab, A., & Reza, M. H. (2022). Place And Role Of Pakistan In Global And Regional Affairs. *Восточная аналитика*, 13(4), 86-98.
- Zulfqar, S. (2024). Changing US Priorities in South Asia: Challenge for Pakistan's Foreign Policy. *Pakistan Horizon*, 77(1), 57-74.