

Muhammad Waqar \*

Muhammad Shahid Pervaiz †

Muqarrab Akbar ‡

**Corresponding Author:** Muqarrab Akbar (Professor, Department of Political Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: [muqarrabakbar@bzu.edu.pk](mailto:muqarrabakbar@bzu.edu.pk))**Vol. VI, No. II** (Spring 2023)**Pages:** 87 – 97**DOI:** 10.31703/gfpr.2023(VI-II).08**Citation:** Waqar, M., Pervaiz, M. S., & Akbar, M. (2023). Pak-Afghan Relations and Taliban Factor. *Global Foreign Policies Review*, VI(II), 87-97. [https://doi.org/10.31703/gfpr.2023\(VI-II\).08](https://doi.org/10.31703/gfpr.2023(VI-II).08)

**Abstract:** *Pakistan and Afghanistan both are states that have not enjoyed cordial relations with each other but both have common characteristics in their culture, religious affinity and geopolitics. There has been a perception of Afghans about Pakistan that it is the only country that paved the way for foreign powers to militarize Afghan territory. On the other hand, Pakistan always remains distrustful of Afghanistan over its pro-Indian policies leading to unrest in Baluchistan and FATA. Hence the situation of both countries has reached such a level that they can't afford any type of hostility, misadventure and mistrust. This paper analyzes how these factors of distrust between both countries will drive the relations after the reemergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The paper also aims to how Pakistan has responded to the reemergence of the Taliban after the withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan.*

**Key Words:** Pakistan, Afghanistan, FATA, Baluchistan, Regional power, Taliban, Kabul

## Introduction

The two countries Pakistan and Afghanistan having the longest shared border suffered turmoil in domestic politics, economy and international system throughout their history. Peace has never remained intact in Afghanistan as various warrior groups have attacked Afghanistan due to its geo-strategic location which is considered the entry point of the subcontinent or the "Gateway of Asia".

Pakistan having nuclear capability is an important neighbour of Afghanistan. Both

have many similarities, not only in their culture, politics and religious belief but also have a common enemy since 9/11. Pakistan has always wanted to develop its warm relations with Afghanistan for that purpose it has helped Afghanistan on many occasions. For example, whenever Afghanistan needs food and various necessities, Pakistan always came forward to help out the Afghan people. Pakistan has also opened the Afghan transit trade with India.

The internal stability of Pakistan is badly affected by the grim situation in

\* Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Punjab, Pakistan.

† Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Punjab, Pakistan.

‡ Professor, Department of Political Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Punjab, Pakistan.

Afghanistan and in return of it, Pakistan has started to influence in internal politics of Afghanistan. The internal society of Afghanistan is fragmented into various groups. As Pakistan shifts its support to one of these groups the other group shows resistance against Pakistan. The main reason behind this, all the groups in Afghanistan are backed by a foreign power in terms of politics and the economy of the state. So it becomes very difficult for Pakistan to calculate the common interest of both these states and Pakistan continuously engage with one of the neighbouring Afghan group (Akhter, 2008).

Pakistan has been playing a crucial role in the politics of Afghanistan since the military invasion of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Pakistan had trained Afghan *mujahidin* to fight against the Marxist invasion of Kabul, in order to remove the Soviet occupation (Akhter, 2008). Pakistan has done this for the sake of domestic concern as well as security because of the long perforated shared border between them. Domestically, the govt. of military dictators was not popular and highly pressurized by the local political leader to transfer the power to an elected government. So the invasion of the soviet gave an opportunity to military dictators to get support internally and externally by cashing the Afghan security situation. Externally Zia wanted to change the illegitimate status of his government and internally his concept of the Islamization of the society of Pakistan which is highly appreciated by the local religious clergy.

The sudden fall of Najibullah in 1992 made the situation for Pakistan more difficult and various factors of domestic and international politics had shaped its response over the political and military situation in Afghanistan. That was considered the turning point in the political history of Pakistan and Afghanistan as well.

The ten years of military siege by Soviet forces have devastated Afghanistan structurally and politically. Soviet departure has produced a sign of hope among the young Afghans for the rebuilding of the country economically and structurally. But the society of Afghanistan is divided into various groups and no one has the capacity to lead Afghanistan. So the division in society and the vulnerable economy that is exhausted by the ten years of long war Afghans are not able to fight with any other new force that creates a power vacuum in the country and the Taliban appeared on the scene with religious zeal and zest. All the above vulnerabilities of the country played a vital role in the popularity of the Taliban.

Pakistan is considered an important player in Afghanistan's power politics. So, the chaotic situation in Afghanistan will directly affect the border security and internal politics of Pakistan. By foreseeing the upcoming security crisis, Pakistan had started to back the Taliban and also fostered the idea of power sharing among stakeholders like the Pashtun factions and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

By doing so, Pakistan faced a greater resentment not only in domestic politics but internationally as well. Mostly Afghan groups also showed some furious sentiments over Pakistan's backing of the Taliban. The backing of Pakistan is explicit that the Taliban had the ability to handle the chaotic situation in Afghanistan which is very important for the security and politics of Pakistan.

It is very hard for Pakistan to get out from adopting the pro-Taliban policy regardless of the severe criticism of Pakistan at the international level. Such conduct of Pakistan could only be changed as Al-Qaida has been involved in the attack of the 9/11 on Pentagon and the world trade centre. This adventure has not only changed the phenomenon of world politics but Pakistani politics as well. The inclination toward

Pakistan toward the Taliban had faced harsh criticism on domestic and international foreign policy engagement.

Pakistan has taken its position in support of the US in the so-called War against Terror that has produced anti-Pakistani sentiments in various groups of Afghanistan such as many Islamic fundamentalists and Al-Qaida. Due to these sentiments, it has been observed that Pakistan has faced terrorism in all *Pakhtunkhwa*. In the war against terrorism, Pakistan didn't want to set the politics of Afghanistan unchecked which was developing pro-Indian policies. At the same time, Pakistan's military establishment had established covert links with the Taliban (Landale, 2021). These links were translated in terms of economic and logistic support to the Taliban. On these grounds, the orchestrator of the war against terror persistently chants the voice to do more against Pakistan's conduct.

Moreover, Pakistan has many stakes in the politics of Afghanistan that's why it does not want to leave the Afghanistan government free. So the reemergence of the Taliban is not surprising to Pakistan as it is the country which is the most suffered nation in the war against terror. Continuous bombardment from the Afghan border had produced instability in adjacent regions of Pakistan. There has been erupted Afghan refugee crisis in Pakistan. So, Pakistan wanted the Taliban to act in a firm way to find out some solutions to these concerns. After the recapturing of Kabul by the Taliban, Imran Khan, the Pakistani prime Minister declared the group was "Breaking the chains of slavery" (Landale, 2021).

### **Pakistan and the Emergence of Taliban in 1996**

The devastating show of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan came to an end after ten years of fight. With the patronage of the *mujahidin*, backed by Pakistan military

intelligence and the American CIA, the USSR troops were pushed back. The popularity of the communist regime in Afghanistan got declined. Afghanistan is divided into various groups of warlords and religious tribes. There has created a vacuum of ruling power. So, in the meanwhile former fighter in Kandahar province vowed for the security of Afghanistan and brought many dejected groups on the same page of concerns for nations. Later this group, which was getting popularity in Afghanistan because of its security concern and religious affinity, turned into a movement designated as the Taliban. They were rushed to power in 1996 and in 1998 two-thirds of the territory of Afghanistan came under the control of the Taliban (Halima-Ahmad, 2020).

Pakistan's backed *mujahidin* against the Soviets started to welcome the Taliban. It is believed that Pakistan had created the Taliban in Afghanistan to foster a regime in Afghanistan that was favourable to Pakistan. Stability in Afghanistan will ensure stability in the adjacent areas of Pakistan. Because of the Taliban's religious affinity, the strict interpretation of Sharia law and its imposition in Afghanistan got popular in Pakistan (Basit, 2020).

The main role in pushing back the Soviets was played by the military dictator Zia. He prepared the *mujahidin* with the economic support of the US. Mr Nawaz Sharif, the renowned political figure, remained very close to Zia. He also supported the *mujahidin* in Afghanistan and paid a visit to Afghanistan just after the declaration of the *mujahidin* victory in Kabul in 1992 (Azmi, 2014). Due to his visit, which was the first and only visit by a world leader, Nawaz was considered accused by many in Afghanistan of dismantling Afghanistan's security forces and bringing Kabul under the influence of Pakistan (Azmi, 2014). October 1993 elections in Pakistan witnessed of chanting the

catchphrase, by Nawaz and his party PMLN, "You gave Dhaka, we took Kabul" (Azmi, 2014) against rival PPP. In other words, its meaning was Bangladesh emerged in the reign of the PPP and Pakistan installed a Pakistani-based mujahidin government in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, there was the Benazir regime when the Taliban entered the politics of Afghanistan. But it was the Nawaz Sharif reign when the status of the legitimate government of the Taliban gave by Pakistan (Azmi, 2014).

As Pakistan established diplomatic relations with the Taliban, it had become the only country in the world that recognized the Taliban. And no other state wanted to pursue its relationship with the Taliban. Even Pakistan had also persuaded Saudi Arabia and UAE to recognize the Taliban regime (Leonardo Jacopo, 2023). But they had not established their relations with the Taliban. So, Pakistan was the only friend of the Taliban. Pakistan was supporting the Taliban in establishing Islamic rule in Afghanistan (Ahmad, 2012). In doing so Nawaz Sharif had also attempted to impose sharia law in Pakistan as supreme law which was not passed in 1998 (Ahmad, 2012). The decision of recognizing the Taliban came under severe criticism from world political leaders. World organizations such as United Nations, ECO and OIC had not accepted the regime of the Taliban because of its harsh policies and breach of human rights. In other words, if we said that Pakistan had not become successful in persuading the world of the legitimacy of the Taliban rule then, it would not be wrong (Ahmad, 2012).

Taliban were also supported by Pakistan's military. From the US's point of view, they believed Pakistan was the godfather of the Taliban (Barbara Elias, 2007). Taliban were getting financial, military and moral support from the territory of Pakistan. Moreover, they were also obtaining some military training from

Pakistan (Waldman, 2010). It has been clear from the statement of Musharraf that many of the Taliban leaders are living in the lawless areas of Pakistan and they were directly supported by Islamabad. Musharraf also claimed that we had very close relations with the Taliban in order to counter the Indian threat. In an interview, he said that "if I have any enemy then I would use someone to counter that enemy". He saw the Taliban as a pro-Pakistan counter weighed against the Indian threat (Beehner, 2006). But Pakistan was continuously arguing that it was not supporting the Taliban regime regardless of some support in terms of humanitarian grounds (Beehner, 2006). Taliban was gaining power in the whole of Afghanistan after that Musharraf said once in March 2000 he had persuaded Clinton to recognize the Taliban regime which the US refused to give the legitimate status of the Taliban government (Akhgar, 2020).

### **Pakistan's Role in the War Against Terror**

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Pakistan was the first and only supporter of the Taliban. It has supported them out of the way in order to establish a stable government in Afghanistan so that the instability in Pakistan remained intact. But Pakistan has to revoke its support in the wake of the brutal event of September 11, 2001. The beginning of the twenty-first century witnessed four planes being hijacked in the US on Tuesday morning of September 11. These planes were used to hit the Twin Towers of the world trade centre and the Pentagon.

The next morning, a phone call from the US Secretary of State, General Colin Powell received in Islamabad. He addressed the Mr President of Pakistan. He was quite blunt "You are either with us or against us" (Musharraf, 2006). And posted the following seven demands from Pakistan: -

- Pakistan should have frozen all the assets of the Taliban in Pakistan.

- Pakistan should have cut down all diplomatic relations with the Taliban.
- All the organizations in Pakistan should be banned from having connections with the Taliban.
- Complete support had been urged from Pakistan by the US in War against Terror.
- Pakistan would open its airspace to the US military for the sake fight against terrorism.
- Provide complete help to US intelligence in conductance of surveillance activities.
- Impart all other supports to the US other than these conditions.

Pakistan had taken it seriously as it had not been in the capacity to confront the US. Its economy and military strength were too vulnerable Pakistan had to state in favour of the United States. Musharraf stated, "We are against any type of terrorism and in that horrible time we stood firmly with America in the fight against terrorism" (Musharraf, 2006). In the wake of the 9/11, attacks the US deputy secretary of state, Richard Armitage, also added what Powell said to him that Pakistan had to decide whether they are with terrorists or with America, if they still supporting the terrorist then Pakistan should have to ready for the furry of US that will take it to the stone age (Musharraf, 2006). The most undiplomatic statement ever made by the US.

Pakistan was the only state that had assisted in the rise of the Taliban post-withdrawal of the Soviets and maintained very warm relations with the Taliban. Mullah Omer was the leader of the Taliban and the world did not know the biography of Omer. So, in the wake of the 9/11 and undiplomatic communication by Powell with Musharraf and later by Richard Armitage with DG ISI in Washington, Pakistan had to decide the fate of its relations with the Taliban regime.

It was very tough for Pakistan to revoke its support to the Taliban regime, never

wanting a new enemy on the Western border. Rescind of support would erupt a vacuum for the Northern Alliance which was anti-Pakistan and supported by Russia, India and Iran (Musharraf, 2006). Regardless of these menaces, Pakistan has decided to detach itself from the Taliban as stated on national TV by the President of Pakistan, "we are strongly condemned this cowardly act. We are against any type of terrorist act and stood with America in this horrible adventure" (Musharraf, 2006).

Pakistan had plunged into a war against terror and showed greater commitment to nipping terrorism from the bud (Sajjad Ahmad, 2021). Various numbers of the terrorist, which were on the hit list of the US, were arrested by Pakistani security officials including Muhammad Khalid in March 2002 (Sajjad Ahmad, 2021), the key terrorist, involved in the hijacking and blowing of planes in the US and most wanted terrorist in the hit list of FBI. US President Bush appreciated the efforts of Pakistan in squeezing terrorism (Sajjad Ahmad, 2021). The smashing efforts of Pakistan against terrorists had set Pakistan as a front-line state in the US war on terrorism.

Pakistan was not only combating terrorism physically but also assisting foreign troops. There were large numbers of foreign troops in Afghanistan like "NATO-led International Security Assistance Force as well as U.S.-led coalition forces (Synovitz, 2008)". All the supplies to these foreign troops, including military equipment, food, fuel and other assistance from the west, came to Karachi port by ship and then loaded on trucks and travelled a hundred miles to Peshawar. Then these trucks entered Afghanistan through Khyber Pass (Synovitz, 2008).

Pakistan had cooperative relations with NATO. In the wake of the colossal earthquake in 2005, both started a dialogue of cooperation to deal with the disaster. Pakistan was serving with routes for NATO

supply and in return training and educational courses were offered by NATO (Khan, [2021](#)). Due to all this cooperation, Pakistan was the only country, outside the Euro-Atlantic region, to have the status of "partner across the globe".

Throughout the adventure of war against terror, Pakistan had given full patronage to the foreign invader but this resulted in creating instability in adjacent regions of Pakistan. Where it had taken assistance from the US, it had also suffered collateral damages and precious human lives. Suicide bombing also became a hard pain for Pakistan which can be considered the outcome of Pakistan's support to foreign invaders in the war against terror. Moreover, the economic assistance that Pakistan was obtaining was a drop in the ocean.

### **Pakistan and the Re-emergence of Taliban in 2021**

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An agreement, between the US and the leadership of the Taliban, has been reached at Doha. The core of the agreement was the withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan on the surety of the Taliban that Afghanistan again will never be heaven for the terrorist. Nine rounds of negotiations and discussions broke into a peace deal in February 2020. Following four issues were addressed-truce, withdrawal of American troops, intra-Afghan talks and counterterrorism (Maizland, [2020](#)).

The brutal experience of twenty years of "war against terror" came to an end after the US announcement of withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. The withdrawal of the US military presence from Afghanistan had produced various issues like the danger of the civil war in Afghanistan as well as the refugee crisis. The US military persons packing for home via Islamabad also resulted in the reemergence of the Taliban. Taliban who were operating

from their hides started to gain control of major cities of the country.

There had been a stalemate in a war nearly for six years, despite a shift in US policy to continue the combat mission in 2017. In the following, the small number of US troops increases in Afghanistan. The reason behind the increment of US troops in Afghanistan was explicit in targeting the Taliban's revenue sources (Khan, [2021](#)). Moreover, the air strike against the production site of drugs and Opium was also included in the military strategy of the United States.

An announcement had come from Washington in April 2021 that the US would evacuate Afghanistan by 11 September 2021 following the Obama decision to reduce the military in Afghanistan. The rising of the Taliban in the country had made the situation worsened in terms of Afghanistan security. Obama had initiated the informal dialogue with the Taliban for the sake of brokering the peace deal to end the war. His successor President Trump was also very eager to leave Afghanistan completely. He was also engaged in formal negotiations with the Taliban which resulted in fostering the Doha agreement in February 2020. In this agreement, the Taliban showed commitment not to allow the terrorist organization to operate from Afghanistan and in return the US-led NATO forces will evacuate Afghanistan (Mustazashvili, [2022](#)).

It was pledged by the US in the Doha peace talk that all military arsenals would be evacuated within the fourteenth month and in return, the Taliban will start the dialogue with the Afghan legitimate government for a peaceful settlement. But the dialogue was not started as the Afghan government was reluctant in releasing the Taliban prisoners (O'Donnell, [2020](#)), a condition upon which the Taliban participated in peace talks. The delay in the initiation of the peace talk ignited the violence across Afghanistan which continued in 2020 and 2021 (Afzal,

2022). Taliban were targeted by the US by launching air strikes and raids in return Taliban started to attack the Afghan government and ANDSF and gained significant territorial gains (Afzal, 2022). As US troops pulled back their support with Afghan security and defence forces, the Taliban started to capture the various cities and districts of Afghanistan.

Regarding the situation of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the circumstances of the Taliban and the US are not different as was seen in Russian post-withdrawal in the mid-90s. Pakistan, as a neighbour, has clear apprehension regarding the "continuing conflict" in Kabul (Abbasi, 2021). Pakistan had a greater influence on the Taliban and this should have been used to convince them to act in a responsible way such as "freeing the Russian aircrew" and protecting basic Human rights (Abbasi, 2021).

Pakistan is not going to make any decision in haste concerning the situation in Kabul. It will wait, until or unless a peaceful transition in Afghanistan would be completed and a large consensus government would not take control of Kabul before Pakistan officially recognize the comeback of the Taliban in the Afghan government. Officials of Pakistan are saying that Pakistan has persistent contacts with regional countries which have direct stakes in Afghanistan and monitoring the Taliban's conduct regarding basic Human rights especially women's rights before taking any decision.

The reemergence of the Taliban in Afghan's political government is now become a reality. Pakistan has started its diplomatic efforts so that besides the Taliban every stakeholder of Afghanistan would have a due share in the upcoming political setup. It is explicit that Pakistan wanted peace and stability in Kabul as various influential Afghan leaders are living in Pakistan. Moreover, various Afghan leaders visited Pakistan including speaker Wolesi

Jirga Mir Rehman Rehmani, Khalid Noor, Ahmad Zia Massoud, Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, Ahmad Wali Massoud, Ustad Mohammad Karim Khalili, Abdul Latif Pedram, Salahud din Rabbani (Miraj, 2021). These Afghan people belong to the faction once known as Northern Alliance.

As the return of the Taliban is progressing, Pakistan started to engage these Afghan leaders and stated that the only setup in Afghanistan will be supported by Pakistan which has a representation of all the stakeholders. Communication between the Taliban and Pakistan has been seen and the Taliban should have to make sure that they do not keep these leaders out of power (Miraj, 2021). The broad-based government, having the representation of all the key ethnic Afghan leaders, will bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. The only way for a peaceful Afghanistan is to divide the power among various factions and Pakistan should have to play a vital role to bring all stakeholders at one point.

Pakistan is monitoring the border situation very consciously as there has been fear that TTP fighters hiding in Afghanistan may get strengthened and try to return back to Pakistan and reorganize. In response to this alarming situation in Pakistan, the Taliban has given a statement that they would not pay support to Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and its pertinent elements (Sayed, 2021). Similarly, regional powers China and Russia also have got promised by the Taliban that militant organizations like the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan have no permission to operate their activities from their bases in Afghanistan (Miraj, 2021).

The first thing, which is very important for the Taliban, is international acknowledgement. There are many hardships in the way of getting international legitimate status such as the resurging of the TTP and involvement in terrorist activities. It is evident that the reorganizing of the TTP is creating room for the regrouping of the

East Turkistan Islamic Movement and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (Rana, 2022). Central Asian states and China have real apprehension upon regrouping of these organizations. Moreover, the resurging of these groups will make it harder for the Taliban to get international legitimate status.

Along, with getting international recognition there are a number of other challenges which the new rulers of Afghanistan have to face ahead some of them are bridling of economic crisis, unfreezing the international assets, and sticky to their commitment which they have vowed to the international community, maintenance of indigenous situation in order and produce unity and harmony among various Afghan factions, getting international economic assistance for the running of the country's affairs and make sure to mitigate the internal and regional security threats (Miakhel, 2021).

The foreign minister of China stated, in his speech at the 77<sup>th</sup> procession at UN General Assembly held on 13 September 2022, that the turmoil situation in Afghanistan is turning to order gradually and wishes the world community would come forward to help Afghanistan (Miakhel, 2021). Similar statements have also been recorded from Russia and its neighbours that would uplift the morale of the Taliban in this chaotic situation in Afghanistan. But the Taliban are suspicious of the role of Pakistan, that it supports the Taliban or stands with the West or US (Miakhel, 2021).

It has been considered that the new rulers of Afghanistan are pro-Islamabad but the Taliban are persistently denying accepting the Durand line as an international border. Upon this refusal, various clashes between their security forces have been seen provoking enmity and distrust between Islamabad and Kabul. The mounting unpopularity of Pakistan in Afghanistan has made the Taliban vigilant about keeping them away from seeing

Islamabad's puppet. The hatred of Afghan people about Pakistan can be seen in a cricket match, which is held in September 2022. Afghanistan's defeat by Pakistan flared up Afghan spectators and Chairs were tossing upon their counterparts by them and abusing each other.

The bilateral ties between the two countries are effecting by increasing the level of distrust and bitterness. Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto has stated while giving an interview with *France24* that the Taliban has not remained sticky to their commitment which they have vowed to the international community (Perelman, 2022). He further added that the Taliban has not respected the girls' right to education by cessation of secondary girls' schools (Perelman, 2022). Moreover, while addressing to think tank in Washington on 21 December, he said, "I'm disappointed by the decision that was taken today" (Siddiqui, 2022) to proscribe women's education in universities.

The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan has not become fruitful for Pakistan. While supporting the Taliban Pakistan has not achieved much more regarding its key interest such as the security of the Durand line, routes for trade with Central Asian states and the blocking of terrorist organizations (Rana, 2022). Policymakers in Islamabad have not lost hope they are still believing once the Taliban overcome their economic issues and humanitarian crisis they will prove themselves as the best ally. These are baseless claims but some evidences are present to hold these claims. On the other hand, the Taliban has established economic deals with other countries like Iran, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia, Qatar, UAE, China and many others apart from Pakistan. But these economic activities are not enough to govern the state affairs.

The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan changed the picture of politics not only at the regional level but global level. The



behaviour of India toward Afghanistan has changed altogether as in Afghanistan there has taken place a transition from a pro-Indian regime to pro-Pakistan. While India invested in Afghanistan not only in human resources but in demographic structure as well. Pakistan considers it as strategic depth and is pleased that an anti-Indian perspective has prevailed in Afghanistan. Having good relations with the Taliban, Pakistan finds itself in a better position to negotiate with the Taliban. China has also been pleased to see the departure of the US from Afghanistan and feels free to negotiate with Afghan people in the establishment of a trade route with the help of Pakistan.

During the war on terror, the US was spending much more in Afghanistan but as its departure took place and the Taliban reemerged, opened opportunities for the world to invest in Afghanistan. Taliban need foreign funding to drive state affairs. But on the other hand, after a fight of twenty years, the roots of terrorism have not settled.

With the reemergence of the Taliban, Pakistan is again facing terrorist attacks. It was claimed that the rise of the Taliban has emboldened the factions that involve in attacks and some of the leaders of these factions have taken refuge in Afghanistan (Hussain, [2022](#)). As the Hunt for Kabul by the Taliban is over, the various groups of TTPs are pushing back to Pakistan. These developments have exacerbated the intensity of the attacks in Pakistan.

## **Conclusion**

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Pakistan, which was trying to maintain its relations with Afghanistan in a friendly manner since its inception, is facing a rift in relations with the new rulers of Afghanistan. They have been enjoying cordial relations with each other as the Taliban are getting control of Afghanistan, the popularity of Pakistan is started declining among the people of Afghanistan on the ground of border fencing and supporting the US by giving bases for drone attacks against Afghanistan. Taliban started to act as not being the puppets of Islamabad and the idea, that the Taliban are the darling of Islamabad, is vanished. The clashes between the border security forces of both countries and the resurgence of TTP in the adjacent region of Pakistan further worsened the relations between both states. It can be seen that the new regime of Afghanistan is trying to deal with various countries of the region in different fields apart from Pakistan. It is also explicit in abandoning cross-border trade and the movement of people. Being a Muslim country Pakistan has apprehension over the Taliban's not respecting human rights such as the right to education of women by banning school and university education. Both neighbours should have to cooperate. Without cooperation, the security situation would be perilous not only for both states but also for the region

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