

Pakistan Turkey Cordial Entente (1947-2013): A Diachronic Review



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Abstract: Relations between Turkey and Pakistan always remained decent and friendly. The mutual sympathies between both countries cannot be described in any other way except the cultural heritage. Both countries have helped each other whenever they needed it in the field of foreign policy. It has cooperated between Ankara and Islamabad that they may raise a hand of cooperation in different affairs like foreign policy and security. They have supported each other as well as defended each other's interests, most specifically in the international arena. Since the time of the cold war, both countries, Pakistan and Turkey, have shared their approach, especially on Cyprus and Kashmir issues. In this document, an attempt was made to discuss the political and economic relations between Turkey and Pakistan and the nature of relations from 1947 to 2013. Suggestions for improving relations between the two Islamic republics were also made.

Key Words: Political Relations, Economic Relations, Project Trial Chapter, Bilateral Relations

Introduction

It is a deep-rooted fact in history that the Pakistani nation has feelings of brotherhood towards the Turkish nation. There are multiple linguistic, historical, cultural and religious relations between both countries. They share a history of friendship that spans over more than a century. Similarly, the institution of the caliphate owes special importance to Islamic history. When the Turkish *Khilafat* was defeated in the first world war, then Indian Muslims struggled for the spiritual and territorial power of *Khalifa*. Although Indian Muslims were struggling for their tranquillity against the British but their feelings about *Khilafat* were tender. Indian Muslims launched the *Khilafat* movement in 1919 as a result of the reservation of *Khalifa*. Quaid-i-Azam gave distinctive instructions to Malik Feroz Khan Noon during his visit to Turkey on December 12, 1947, and said:

Pakistan admires the glorious past of Turkey and its administrative achievements and organizational abilities in the past and present times. Pakistan is now only two months old, and in the near future, both brother countries are going to establish close cultural, commercial and political relations.

The new happy era will emerge for both countries_ (Yar 2017).

The Quaid-e-Azam said at the time of the appointment of the first Turkish ambassador Yahya Kemal to Pakistan on March 4, 1947:

Turkey has impressed us with the courage of the Turkish people. The way in which the statesmen and their leader fought and fought almost alone in Central Europe for their freedom and their sovereignty, which is worth mentioning. I can really assure your Excellency that the Muslims of Pakistan will harbor feelings of affection and respect for their country. Now Turkey and Pakistan are two free, sovereign and independent countries that can strengthen their ties more and more for the benefit of both countries_ (J. U. Ahmad 1964).

Cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey depends on the following main sectors: geography, culture, traditions, economic and political prospects, comparative strategic thinking, defense cooperation, expanding political, diplomatic and moral support for the struggle for independence for Kashmir and Cyprus, the consolidation of interests involved, to

create a new international economic order in regional and world politics, religious forms are also a solid foundation for Pakistan-Turkey relations. However, it will be easy to understand that due to the above-mentioned common factors, the two countries have maintained over the past six decades.

The truth is that Pakistan-Turkey relations are very complex. The notion that their existence is constantly threatened challenges, but the same idea also made them very nervous and overwhelmed their relations time and time again, e.g. Afghanistan, Israel, proliferation and democracy. In March-April 2000, Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit visited India and said without mentioning the Kashmir issue that India and Turkey are facing similar cross border terrorism without mentioning Kashmir issue and like Delhi's struggle in the shape of a proposal for a global agreement in terrorism regard. It was a time when interests and perceptions were diverged for some time between both countries (April 3,2000).

Political Relations

Yahya Kamal was the first ambassador of Turkey in Pakistan and Mian Bashir Ahmed from Pakistan in Turkey. Turkey opened its first residence embassy in Karachi in 1947, and the embassy moved from Karachi to Rawalpindi in 1967 and in 1972 from Rawalpindi to Islamabad (www. Islamabad. Emb.mfa.gov.tr, n.d.). The first friendly and cooperative agreement between Pakistan and Turkey was signed on July 26, 1951. The western countries who were in power keenly wanted to save Europe, that's why the Middle East Defense Organization was founded in March 1953. At that time, Egyptian leader Naseer opposed above-mentioned organization. Other Arab countries were not enthusiastic except Pakistan, Iraq and Turkey.

Turkey and Pakistan delivered a joint declaration on February 19, 1954. Both countries decided to promote efforts in cultural, political and economic spheres. They also decided to promote struggle in security and peace spheres. Both countries intention was in the favor of all peace-loving countries. Pakistan and Turkey joined the Baghdad pact in 1955. Security and defence were major sectors in which Pact had to provide help among member countries. It was designed to counter the longstanding policy of Russia about expansion towards southwards. Black sea, Central Asia and Caspian were major areas. Britain, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were major member countries. America has not signed an agreement

officially. The USA joined its work on different occasions.

Iraq resigned from the Baghdad pact in 1959; then, its name was changed. Its new name was CENTO (Central Treaty Organization)_(Burke and Lawrence Ziring 1990). CENTO developed understanding, friendship and interest among member countries. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey had also been united by the bonds of culture, common religion and geography. These countries formed RCD in 1964. The Foundation cause was to make good use of assets and to concrete relationships. On the occasion of the 1965 war, RCD member countries responded positively, but the remaining CENTO countries failed, including the USA. Ankara issued a statement of deep concern about India's hostilities outside the disputed region to Kashmir. Turkish government sent Turkish made weapons and ammunition worth \$5 million. A trade deal was existing; this amount will have to charge from that. Pakistan appealed to Turkey for Jets, but Turkey failed to fulfil the request. Its cause was the USA because the USA opposed to providing related materials.

Turkey used all national capability to help Pakistan. Turkey provided weapons and ammunition on a large scale. Many Turkish volunteers and many nurses travelled to Pakistan to fight and serve. That's why Ayub Khan visited Turkey in December 1965 and expressed his deep gratitude for the moral and material support. Similarly, when India attacked Bengal in 1971, the Turkish government forced India to the instant withdraw of forces from East Pakistan. ECO was established in 1985. RCD members were core members at first, and later in 1991, central Asian countries and Afghanistan took membership. Ashkhabad summit was held in May 1992, which was a special initiative of Turkmenistan's president. Turkish ambassador Murat Niyazov, who, in fact, became the first who conduct an extended ECO session.

Leaders and participants intended to that member states can exploit. In May 1992, the leaders of the Central Asian republics, as well as the original members of ECO Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, met in Ashkhabad on the special initiative of the President of Turkmenistan, Ambassador Murat Niyazov, who, in fact, became the first to conduct an extended ECO session. Leaders the participants expressed their determination to unite efforts to exploit their resources and raw materials for the progress and

prosperity of Member States. The summit discussed a wide range of economic and political issues related to economic development, as well as peace and stability. The most important outcome of the Ashkhabad summit was the agreement to build a new railway connecting all member states, a highway project and a gas pipeline_(Amin 1994).

In November 1985 Turkish president came to visit Pakistan, and on the same visit, it was mutually signed an agreement between the two countries that the implementation of double taxation would be abolished in future between Turkey and Pakistan_(Yar 2017). The main achievement from the government of Pakistan is associated with Zia-ul-Haq, who caused to improve the mutual understanding between the two countries and brought them closer mainly in defence system_(Yar 2017). Another pivotal step was taken by president Musharraf where the bilateral relations took a boost in November 1999. Former president of Pakistan Mr. Musharraf was an admirer of Kemal Ata Turk, who is considered to be the founder of modern Turkey. At the same time, he was admired as a model statesman as well.

In the same era, there are a series of continuous visits from the high ranking authorizes of both countries that is the biggest evidence of a growing relationship between both countries. In the same year, when President Musharraf took the leadership of Pakistan, he visited Turkey and exchanged his ideology and ideas with the Turkish government about the changing political state in Pakistan and to gain the confidence of the Turkish government with a view to improving the bilateral relationships between both countries. Since then, there have occurred so many bilateral visits from the part of both governments to form a unanimous opinion on different issues of regional and international interests. Moreover, the Turkish foreign minister Ismail Cem also visited Pakistan after two years of Musharraf's leadership in December 2001. He stayed in Islamabad on his way to Afghanistan, where he discussed so many common issues of international interests having the common importance of both countries_(Sattar 2010).

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan also visited Pakistan in 2003, and during his visit to Pakistan, he discussed so many issues relating to security, improvement of regional issues and increasing the economic relations between both countries. He met his counterpart Meer Zafrullah Jamali and president of Pakistan Mr. Musharraf, and dealt with all these

common issues of both governments. During his meeting with the authorities, he pointed out that the foundation of both countries is on an ideology that is common for both Pakistan and Turkey. Pakistan and Turkey are politically and ideologically the same, and, in this regard, there is an acute need to strengthen economic ties.

President Musharraf also visited Turkey in the next year, 2004, and the importance of this visit is still considered to be very pivotal in the history of both countries. In all key sectors of both countries, there was a need to have a union of both countries. Musharraf, the president of Pakistan, has the honor to be the first Pakistani president who addressed the Turkish parliament. It was decided in that visit that both countries will help each other and enhance their cooperation to resolve the problem of terrorism, will enhance political relations, strengthen their economic and political relations as well as cooperate in defence mechanisms.

Moreover, the health and baking issues were also discussed in 2004 along with four agreements and a memorandum which were mutually signed between both countries_(Sattar 2010). Both sides stressed the enhancement of assistance, trade and economic development common to both countries and to enhance the aid in various fields with special importance to the defense of both countries. What remained the hot issues of these meetings was basically the economic and trade relations between Turkey and Pakistan. The purpose of this agreement was then announced by Musharraf, who said that the development of bilateral trade would be more than one Billion dollars by 2005.

Another visit of Musharraf occurred in April 2007 when the Turkish president invited Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan. This three-dimensional meeting was also a successful one where Karzai and Musharraf had a series of useful talks with Turkish president Ahrennet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Erdogan on regional and international issues. It was the occasion when the Ankara statement was issued. During the negotiations between the countries, on this occasion, it was decided that both countries would cooperate on all proposals common to each other, especially to enhance the trade and prosperity of the people of both countries_(Sattar 2010).

Moreover, it was also decided that both countries will continue their talks in the future to improve the condition of the region and ultimately the masses of

both countries. There is a need to build confidence in each other, and even there is a need to develop separate issues, and there should be a mechanism to solve these issues between the both. A group was established named JWG (joint working group) with the participation of high-level representatives (affairs, 2007).

After President Musharraf, the visits were continued by President Zardari, who visited Turkey in 2009 to attend Third Tripartite Summit on March 31, 2009. During this meeting, it was mutually decided that both countries will stop the other countries from letting them exploit their resources and raw material that will be further used for the progress of their own countries. This meeting between the presidents was also meant to enhance peace and stability in the region along with the issues like economic development. It was named as Ashgabat summit that emphasized building a railway connection among the member countries of the Ashgabat summit. There was also decided to develop a highway connection and a gas pipeline among the member countries.

There was issued a statement from the Pakistani foreign minister approving the decisions of the Turkish presidential office. It was declared by Abdullah Gul that there would be an exchange of ideas relating to security, regional prosperity, stability and other issues like defense. Turkish prime minister visited Islamabad for Three days on October 25, 2009. Both countries decided to enhance their partnership and strengthen their political ties. They also decided to develop joint strategies relating to terrorism. Turkish Prime Minister also discussed the volume of trade between both countries and revealed an expectation that it will be increased in the next few years. He announced that the present volume of trade between both countries is 741 million dollars that are expected to increase to the level of two billion dollars in the next few years.

Pakistani Prime Minister Gillani said that the Turkish Private sector could play a very important role to develop the infrastructure for both countries. He presented a four points strategy to improve trade between both countries and stressed strengthening economic and development links between both countries. He also pointed towards the various similarities between the neighboring countries and stressed to enhance cooperation in various areas of life. He also said, "Let's make trade and investment the mainstay of this cooperation" (Yar 2017). He moreover said that the trade between the countries is

not commensurate with their potentials. He pointed out that by the proper use of bilateral agreements and their early implementation the regional trade can be enhanced in the region.

Erdogan, the Turkish president, took Pakistan into confidence that it would stay with Pakistan through thick and thin. He also declared that Turkey would extend its cooperation with Pakistan in almost all pressing areas. In a joint session of parliament, it was said by the Turkish Prime Minister that he is not only the person in a campaign launched against terrorism. He was the fourth head of the state who spoke in a joint session of parliament and a second leader after President Kenan Irfan, who addressed the joint session of parliament in 1985 (I. Ahmad 2014). He also showed his expectancy to enhance his trade to more than two billion dollars in future. Arjun met with Asif Ali Zardari in 2012, where the critical issues instead of mutual relations were discussed.

Moreover, the economic issues and improvement of the partnership were hot debates of this meeting. President Zardari praised the steps taken by the Turkish government to develop joint Asian policy and to strengthen Pakistan's relations with Central Asian countries. This was the moment when the Turkish Prime Minister was awarded Nishan e Pakistan, a civilian grand prize by the president in Islamabad. Zardari attended the tripartite summit in 2010, which was held in Istanbul, and along with other hot issues of time, one was to discuss the Afghan issue. Zardari also visited Turkey in 2011 and announced both countries as brother countries having unparalleled brotherly affiliations. Zardari also paid his gratitude to president Gul for honoring him with the venerable Dawlat Nishan. Expressing his deep feelings for Turkey, he stated that it is a great prestige and a symbol of the ideal relationship between Pakistan and Turkey (Hizlan 2012).

The president of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and the Turkish Prime Minister vowed to launch a strategic partnership to enhance the economic footings between both countries and to deepen the political ties between the both. Turkish Prime Minister addressed the joint session of Pakistani parliament for the second time in May 21, 2011. He became the first international leader who addressed the Pakistani parliament twice. He also promised to help Pakistan and stay with it through thick and thin. He showed a great deal of happiness in addressing the parliament twice. He addressed the speaker of the national assembly with gratitude. He

pointed towards the growing need for bilateral trade to enhance economic richness between both countries.

Prime minister Nawaz Sharif also paid a visit to Ankara for three days on September 16, 2013. During this visit, various issues of great importance were discussed with the Turkish leader. At this moment, Mr. Sharif was awarded the highest Turkish award, the order of democracy. After this award, he expressed his gratitude with the following words, "It is a great honor for me to receive the Medal of Democracy for your distinction. ([Hossain, K., & Hasan, M. 2012](#))" He also delivered a speech on the business forum and also signed some important agreements between both countries. Moreover, both Erdogon and Nawaz Sharif signed a joint statement of the third High-Level cooperation council.

Economic Relations

It was the 26th of July in 1951 when the first cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Turkey was signed. In this agreement, cooperation in the fields of politics and economics were kept at the forefront between Karachi and Ankara. Moreover, it was also mutually agreed that there will be made sincere efforts between the both to enhance the cultural understanding as well as to develop peace and prosperity. Security was another issue that was also agreed to be enhanced, and it was also decided that not only the personal benefits would be secured but also the benefits of peace-loving nations. In 1954 Turkish Pakistani government signed a statement based on economic cooperation between them. In the middle of 1950, Pakistan took the initiative to launch small trade between both countries that was extended in early 1960 where both countries started looking at the ways to expand the trade. ([Omer 1990](#)).

A trade team from Turkey came in 1959 and visited Karachi with the announcement that there were developing prospectuses for the trade for both countries. It was also stated that in the near future, there are also some prospectuses of the positive results for enhancement of trade. On this occasion, the Pakistani minister of commerce expressed his regret that the trade between both countries should have been started early as Pakistan was benefited more than two billion rupees. ([Safder 2000](#)). Moreover, RCD has promoted the atmosphere of cooperation between the countries. After the formation of the Constitutional Democratic Rally, this relationship reached its peak when Turkish president Covedet said that from now

onward, the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey has become more than alliances. To strengthen the sense of cooperation between both countries, it was mutually decided in October 1964 that they would abolish visas between them.

They also decided to launch shipping lines for the RCD, where Iran was also included in this decision and became a part of it. ([Aslam 1992](#)). During this time there was mutually decided that Pakistan would share fifty percent, Iran thirty-five percent, and Turkey will share fifteen percent on these projects, especially for the shipping lines. The freight services resulting from the RCD started working in May 1966, and in the subsequent year 1967 RCD banknote printing joint venture that was opened in Karachi. ([Herbert 1972](#)). This project was the very first step and was an initiation of the RCD countries for participation and cooperation. There was a new plant that was supported by the Pakistan security printing agency. This agreement was based on the UCD for the Multilateral Payments Agreement. One of the interesting factors of this agreement was that it enhanced a friendly atmosphere between the countries for intra-regional trade.

Tehran expressed satisfaction with this progressive step on November 27, 1969, which was signed among those states included in RCD. ([I. Ahmad 2014](#)). Even there was estimated a progressive change especially in trade in the fields of chemicals and pro-chemical industries and in this way the agreement proved to be a positive change in the history of the region. In joint oil exploration, there also occurred progress. In Izmir, during 1970, it was noted that a beneficial performance had been noticed, and there is a great deal of promotion in social and economic development among the countries included in RCD. In 1970 there occurred a serious setback to Pakistani exports, especially of jute and its relating products, as eastern Pakistani province left Pakistani. In a nutshell, it is not out of place that ever since the creation of Pakistan, there was a need to industrialize Turkish trade with Pakistan.

Similarly, both countries have made so many sincere efforts to enhance the joint cooperation in trade in almost all the sectors ranging from agriculture, industry, science and technology. There is a need for closer cooperation between both countries in the fields of aviation, and it was signed by the representatives of airlines of both countries in the meeting held in Tehran on January 16, 1978. ([cheema](#)

2006). In the same meeting between the representatives of the airlines of countries, it was decided to improve the trade of cargo business as well as international roads. On the other hand, it was also decided to give a benefit and a special discount of almost 50 percent to the students from three provinces that travel in the region. This cooperation is regarded to be the best and pivotal in the history of both countries as it gave rise to the free trade, movement of goods and people in the region. The total amount of volume that was expected and announced to be 301 million rupees in 1977 - 78 fell to the level of 242 million rupees.

Furthermore, in almost next five years between 1983-84, the figure became almost double that rose to 453 million rupees. Even during the first reign of Nawaz Sharif, the volume rose to the level of the united states 130 million dollars. In 1993 there were awarded some contracts to Turkish companies to enhance the trade between both countries, and in these contracts, there were road construction contracts which were given to the Turkish company STFA_(Safder 2000). With this company, the total commitment was 597 million dollars. In the next year, 1998 there were implemented five other contracts with Turkey, including the prestigious Indus highway project in Pakistan. During this time, the second-largest investment company in Pakistan was a Turkish company named STFA. At Jinnah Marin complex, there were spent more than 138 million dollars and almost 100 million dollars for the Lahore diversion project and 42 million dollars for Indus express project. All these projects, along with other small-scale projects like the Ormara water supply projects, were completed with the collaboration of Turkey.

In 1993 the project of Islamabad and Peshawar highway was awarded to another Turkish company named Messieurs Byinder. This company was to construct the highway having a length of 189 km, and total expenses were estimated at 16 million dollars for this project_(Khan 2009). In this project, there was a partial fund given to Pakistan that was almost 60 percent with its financing and a 40 percent loan was awarded to the Pakistani government for the completion of the project. In the next year, 1994, there was a joint venture signed between the governments of Pakistan and turkey that belonged to Yasar Group that was the largest trading house project launched by Turkey in Pakistan and to develop a Pakistan loyalty bank for the further establishment of a

global commercial bank in Lahore. The Yasar Group approved capital of almost 500 million, and an agreement was signed to support one another in and to enhance the agricultural cooperation. A Turkish company won the tender of the project of Ghazi Botha Dam in Pakistan.

Ahmet Cavusoglu, who was the president of Ankara chamber of commerce, stated in newspaper Dawn, "the low volume of trade showed that their governments and businessmen were unable to translate the enormous goodwill that exists between countries into concrete action." After this, the Turkish Foreign Minister Visited Pakistan in April 1998 and admitted that the volume of trade with Pakistan as compared to the rest of the world is 100 billion dollars, but it is sorry that it could not exceed 150 million dollars that is a very small amount when compared with actual expectations.

On January 22, 2004, both countries again met to reconsider the trading strategies and to meet their expectations_(Baring 2012). They signed and agreed to start a joint investment company. The initial capital of the Investment Company was expected to be 25 million dollars where Pakistan decided to collect this capital from the public sector, but turkey was given an option whether to involve the private sector or the public. The company, as decided in the agreement, will establish its offices in Karachi and Istanbul. It was also mutually decided that the company would highlight its projects in both countries for better investment and trade.

In 2005 the prime minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, paid a visit to Turkey at the request of the Turkish government. At his visit to Turkey, it was decided to start air traffic of four flights per week which were likely to increase in future from four flights to seven and then direct from Karachi to Istanbul and vice versa_(Sattar 2010). There was mutually agreed an agreement to start a path of free trade between both countries, and it was expected to expand the trade between the both from the current state to 2 billion dollars by the end of 2012. On October 15, 2009, both countries reached the two-day session of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Ministerial Committee, which was held in Islamabad on the 13th of two days Pak-Turkish joint ministerial commission was conducted in Islamabad.

Project Trial Chapter

Yousaf Raza Gillani, the Prime Minister of Pakistan,

presented his views on the inauguration of the pilot class project on August 14, 2009. In this review of Prime Minister, it was also agreed to start a train service that will lead to the integration of track. He added that the first train will travel 6500 kilometres in two weeks, where it will have twenty containers in which fourteen are specified for Iran, and six are for Turkey. Gillani Conjured the Transit Trade Framework Agreement signed on March 15, 2009, in Islamabad between the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization requires the promotion of the competent movement of goods and passengers in order to improve transit traffic.(Yar 2017).

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Federal Minister Ghulam Ahmad stated that government officials and the chamber of commerce are expected to work together to create an effective and friendly environment for the improvement and prosperity of the region and trade. He also elaborated that the first step of container service is successfully completed, and there is an acute need to launch a passenger service to boost the tourism industry. According to this agreement, there was launched a train service covering 6506 kilometres that will lead to Istanbul via Tehran. On the other hand, it was also estimated that the train would complete its journey within 15 days. The train went to Istanbul and reached on August 28, 2009, at night, where it was warmly welcomed. On the other hand, the train reached Tehran on 23 august and spent four more days in Turkey. The length of this track, as said earlier, is 6506 kilometres, where almost it is 2570 kilometres in Pakistan, 1990 in Tehran and rest of 2006 kilometres in Turkey.

Turkish company Zorlu has installed Pakistan's first wind power project in Jhimpir that provides Karachi with more than 500 megawatts of power. The Turkish Federation of Chambers and Exchanges (TOBB) and Lahore industrial district has approved a contract that will pave the way for the investment of Turkey in Pakistani regions.(Yar 2017). There was an

exchange of almost 1 billion currencies between the state bank of Pakistan and the central bank of Turkey in November 2011. There was signed an agreement between the governor state bank and the central bank of Turkey to foster bilateral trade in the next three years from 2011 onward. It was announced by the central bank of Turkey that the agreement between the state bank of Pakistan and the central bank of Turkey was nothing less than a historical fact and deal.

Both countries, on this occasion, signed an agreement on financial closing documents for the construction of the first 56.4 MW wind power project that was likely to start producing electricity for the country in December 2012,(Yar 2017). The first rapid transit bus project was launched in Lahore in February 2013 that was inaugurated by the presence of the chief minister of Punjab, Mian Shahbaz Sharif, and also Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bahir Bozdagh was at the inauguration ceremony. The Turkish government has cooperated with the Pakistani government to build Metro Bus lines and to facilitate almost 1100 passengers in Lahore.

Conclusion

Pak-Turkish relations have deep roots and have a century in an age before the creation of Pakistan. Although all the Muslims are tied in a brotherly bond, history showed special relations between Turkey and Muslims of the subcontinent. Nothing changes occurred. Pakistani Muslims have the same feelings for Turkish brothers. The Muslim world is facing hard times, and pan Islam can help to tackle these hardships. Jews are trying to undermine. Unfortunately, they succeeded many times just because of Muslims fault. Turkey and Pakistan are the only nations that can lead the Muslim Ummah to cope with Jewish war pulling. Pak-Turkish friendship will continue in Inshallah, and the train project will provide an opportunity to strengthen relations more stable.

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