



## **Factors of Pakistan's Foreign Policy**

The guiding principles of Pakistan's Foreign Policy are rooted in the country's Islamic ideology, its rich cultural heritage and historical experience. As an Islamic and non-aligned country, Pakistan supports Islamic values and firmly upholds the above mentioned principles, which hold out the promotion of a just and unbiased world order in which nations can live in peace and security

Guiding Principles of Pakistan's Foreign Policy are as follows

- a. Protection of freedom and sovereignty
- b. Cordial Relations with Muslim Countries
- c. Non Interference in Internal Affairs of Other countries
- d. Implementation of U.N. Charter
- e. Promotion of World Peace
- f. Support for Self-Determination and Condemnation of Racial Discrimination

### **Important Factors of Foreign policy**

Important Factors of Foreign policy include internal and external factors, which are as under

- i. Internal factors included
  - a. Geographical location
  - b. Size of the State
  - c. Natural capacity
- ii. External factors included
  - a. Alliances
  - b. Power structure
  - c. World opinion

## **Current Focusing Points**

The major focus of Pakistan's foreign policy is security against external and internal challenges to its national identity, territorial integrity and independence. Another foreign policy interest is the cultivation of close and brotherly relations with the Muslim states. Pakistan highlights sovereign equality of states, bilateralism, mutuality of interests, and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs as the cardinal features of its foreign policy. Pakistan firmly believes that it has to work within the norms and institutions of the international system but it supports their restructuring for bringing them in line with the realities currently obtaining in the International system.

Pakistan also identifies with the political and economic concerns of the developing countries. Pakistan, therefore, maintains a strong faith in the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter and takes an active part in the deliberations of the UN and other International and regional organizations. Other leading foreign policy goals include support to the right of self-determination for the subjugated nations, oppositions to colonialism, peaceful resolution of inter-state disputes, arms control and nuclear non-proliferation, and promotion of peace and stability through international and regional cooperation.

Pakistan is the second largest Muslim country in terms of percentage of population (after Indonesia), and its status as a declared nuclear power, being the only Islamic nation to have that status, plays a part in its international role. Pakistan has a violent independent foreign policy, especially when it comes to issues such as development of nuclear weapons, construction of nuclear reactors, foreign military purchases and other issues that are vital to its national interests. Pakistan has a strategic geo-political location at the corridor of world major maritime oil supply lines, and has close proximity to the resource and oil rich central Asian countries.

Pakistan is an important member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), a major non-NATO ally in the war against terrorism, and has a highly disciplined military, which is the world's eighth-largest standing military force.

Historically, Pakistan's foreign policy has encompassed difficult relations with the Republic of India; especially on the core-issue of Kashmir, over which it has fought three wars. However it has had long-standing close relations with its other neighbors Afghanistan, Iran

and China, extensive security and economic interests in the Persian Gulf and wide-range bilateral relations with the United States and other Western countries. Due to intention of Soviet expansion, Pakistan has strong relations with the People's Republic of China during much of the Cold War and good relations with the United States of America. Today, the People's Republic of China remains Pakistan's closest ally.

### **Major Alliance**

Pakistan has historically maintained brotherly and friendly relations with all the Arab and Muslim countries under the banner of OIC. Apart from friendly relations with Muslim countries, China and USA are also seen as major partners.

### **Major Revelries**

Pakistan and India have fought 3 wars in the past. The continuing dispute over the status of Kashmir inflames opinion in both nations and makes friendly relations difficult. Moreover, Pakistan and Israel maintain no diplomatic relations.

### **International Organization & Foreign Policy**

Pakistan is an active member of the United Nations. It was a member of the CENTO and SEATO military alliances. Its alliance with the United States was especially close after the Soviets invaded the neighboring country of Afghanistan. In 1964, Pakistan signed the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) Pact with Turkey and Iran, when all three countries were closely allied with the U.S., and as neighbors of the Soviet Union, worried about the expansionist policy of the USSR.

To this day, Pakistan has close relations with Turkey. RCD became obsolete after the Iranian Revolution, and a Pakistani-Turkish initiative led to the founding of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in 1985. Pakistan is the leading member of the Club which opposes Indian membership in the United Nations Security Council. Pakistan began with an independent foreign policy in 1947. However, it tilted towards the West in a period of 7 years due to serious economic and security pressures. It pursued independently to non-aligned foreign policy from mid-60s to the end of the 1970s and assigned a great importance to its interaction with the Muslim states and the issues and problems of the developing world. It

maintained a policy of close interaction in the security and economic fields with the West in general and the U.S. in particular in the mid and late 1950s, the 1980s, and in the post 9/11.

Pakistan is currently an active player in the global efforts for combating religious extremism and terrorism with a policy that extremism and terrorism pose serious threats to global security as well as to Pakistan's internal peace, stability and economic development. Pakistan has made some difficult decisions in pursuing counter terrorism and for ensuring peace and stability in the immediate neighborhood in order to boost its image at the international level, restore international confidence in the ability of the Pakistani state and government to put their socio-economic house in order, and shape up as a democratically oriented, modern and enlightened Muslim state that does not allow its territory to be used by extremist groups.

### **Different Phases of Pakistan's Foreign Policy**

After independence there were Indian threat on the Eastern borders. Pakistan opted non-aligned and independent foreign policy. At that time other Muslim countries were not strong enough to extend any military help. It was cold war era and the big power's rivalry made the country territorially unprotected. However Pakistani political leaders visited the US in search of ties to have guarantees of borders but in vain. Pakistan lived on developing with meager resources till 1955 and 1959 when Pakistan entered into a multilateral alliance system initiated by USA to contain communism. They were South-East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO-1955) and Central Treaty Organization (CENTO-1959). Pakistan felt secure because one of the clauses of both the agreements was "attack on one will be considered attack on all". These agreements turned out to be useless when Pakistan-India clashed in 1965 and 1971. No country came to Pakistan's rescue. After its defeat in 1971 Pakistan instead of depending on any other world power began a massive venture of arms purchase. Due to this defense policy, expenditure raised and socio-economic needs of the country suffered. The nuclear and missile system program was started to maintain the balance of power in the region.

Pak-China relations were promoted due to unsafe borders and to counter the power imbalance of South-Asia. During the past three decades the Afghanistan issue, Kashmir struggle for freedom and Pakistan's nuclear policy has made the borders of the country more porous for cross border infiltration in and out of the country. Recent development in the world has put

the country in the hot waters. Due to continue political disturbance and wars in Afghanistan has created serious socio-economic issues for Pakistan. Pakistan has been over burdened by unnecessary foreign aid which turned out to be useless for socio economic needs of common men. Consequently, Pakistan is included among the poor countries of the world therefore the country still requires to design its foreign policy to fulfill its economic needs and to ensure stable economy and cultivate capabilities by which the country comes out of the unkind clutches of loans.

## **Conclusion**

The guiding principles of Pakistan's Foreign Policy are rooted in the country's Islamic ideology, its rich cultural heritage and historical experience. As an Islamic and non-aligned country, Pakistan supports Islamic causes and firmly upholds the above mentioned principles, which hold out the promise of a just and equitable world order in which nations can live in peace and security.