



A Global Politics Publication & Knowledge Hub For
Students, Emerging Writers, & CSS Aspirants

A Conversation with SP Amna Baig

Paradigm Shift

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Will Huawei Be Able to Hold Out Against the US's Sanctions?

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Is TikTok China's Weapon for Intellectual Warfare?

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Pakistan-India Adversarial Relations: Instability for South Asia

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A Guide to Choosing CSS Optional Subjects

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The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century

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Waning US Hegemony, De-Dollarization, & the Incoming War with China

Sarmad Ishfaq

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Foreword

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Paradigm Shift e-magazine. Since starting Paradigm Shift (www.ParadigmShift.com.pk) on **August 14th, 2020**, we have come a long way.

With over **200,000 monthly visits**, and over **50,000 followers** on social media, we are now able to serve a wider percentage of the Pakistani youth. All our pieces are sent in by brilliant writers and researchers, and our gifted editors constantly ensure the quality of our content.

We aim for, and work towards three major goals:

1. To become a comprehensive library with high-quality content on **international relations, current affairs, global politics, and Pakistan**.
2. To provide a **free medium** where individuals can access research from across the globe, and can send in their own work to share their voice with the world.
3. To **showcase Pakistan** in a **positive and factual manner** through our 'Pakistan Unveiled' section.

We have handpicked **13 special pieces** from our website for this edition, and we hope that you gain some insights from them. For more content on a variety of topics from across the world, please visit www.ParadigmShift.com.pk

This edition of the magazine also features the guidelines for our **All-Pakistan Writing Contest** titled **"The Writer's Paradigm"**, which we are hosting in collaboration with **Air University!**

Submissions **close on the 7th of May** - so make sure you participate if you are eligible. Big cash prizes await!

We hope that you consider sharing our website and social media with your friends and family so that we can effectively increase our reach. Thank you again for all your support through the years.



Waning US Hegemony, De-Dollarization, & the Incoming War with China

About the Author



Sarmad Ishfaq is an independent researcher and writer whose work has been published by Harvard Kennedy School Review, the Diplomat, and Open Democracy to name a few. He has also been published by several international peer-reviewed journals such as Taylor and Francis' Social Identities. Before becoming an independent writer, he worked as a research fellow for LCPR. He has a master's degree in IR from the UoWD where he was recognized as the 'Top Graduate'.





Introduction

The international world order as it currently stands is in a state of flux. In this impetuous environment, a clash between the US, an aging giant desperately holding on, and China, an emergent power hopeful for its coronation, is indeed imminent. This is what history has taught us as has nature. In the aftermath of this forthcoming great conflict, a new king will be crowned and a new world order brought forth.

I state two important facets that explain why the world is headed towards such a conflict. The first is how American hegemony is waning. This section discusses the political, military, and societal failures of the US as well as Chinese inroads. The other facet is a recent one specifically deliberating on the China-Russia-led de-dollarization project which is undermining the global reserve currency, the dollar. The last section explains why the environment created due to these facets will lead to the collapse of the US and the rise of China, thus bringing a new world order.

Waning American Hegemony

The American empire has not only peaked but is on the descendancy. This is best reflected by how different countries are behaving with the superpower or behaving with its opponents. The US's failures in Iraq and Afghanistan, societal dichotomies, and the rise of China have shown that the once ineluctable shadow of US hegemony is rapidly dissipating.

Internal Rifts

In the last few years, the US's domestic issues have left the world in perennial consternation. The [George Floyd](#) murder and riots displayed to the world that US racial fractures are still abundant; the plethora of gun violence and lone gunmen shootings reflect poor American policies and safety; neo-Nazi militias juxtaposed to all-black militias mirror something from a dystopian third-world country while the Capitol Hill insurrection is indicative that perhaps the US is now just a house of cards.

Most of these domestic quandaries and others such as student debt, abortion, and universal health care can be boiled down to the raucous left vs right divide. Things became so volatile during and after Trump's presidency that it was commonplace to find articles or videos on a brewing [US civil war](#) – shades of which the world has witnessed.

Unfortunately, these fissures in American society and the people's psyche endure even after Joe Biden's election win – and will remain due to their deep-rootedness. The most recent polls indicate that [57% of Americans disapprove of him](#) and many of his supporters would not want him re-elected. While he was an insipid Democratic candidate during the elections, the left rallied behind him simply because of their animosity towards Trump, not due to any redeeming quality of his.

Juxtaposed to the left, Trump's supporter base, i.e., conservative Christians and Evangelicals, remain vocal and even frantic for his triumphant return to the presidency which they feel he was robbed out of (alleging electoral fraud). Trump's recent arrest will provide further impetus to his supporters and his anti-deep state narrative; he will be a serious contender for the 2024 elections if freed.

Military Failures & Foreign Relations

Apart from internal strife, American influence amongst other nations has also plummeted. For example, in the Middle East and South Asia, mistrust of the US is at an all-time high. The atrocious and prodigal invasion of Afghanistan cost around 2 trillion dollars and more importantly, led to the deaths of an estimated [70,418 civilian deaths](#) (in Pakistan and Afghanistan).

The harrowing optics of the severely handicapped Taliban breaking the US Goliath's back showed that American omnipotence is merely illusionary. Pakistan, a formerly key US ally, has also seen the error of its ways. Joining the War on Terror led Pakistan into the flames of insurgency that had to be put out by many sacrifices.

The ignominious war in Iraq, founded on false pretenses, not only destroyed a relatively stable country but also created an incubator for the menace of ISIS. Around 300,000 people in Iraq died due to the US, its allies, or the Iraqi security forces from 2003 until March 2023. While Putin is made out to be the next Hitler by the media, Bush and Obama, the latter winning a Nobel Peace Prize, were never even tried for war crimes – exposing American hypocrisy.

The post-9/11 wars have been lethal for the Middle East and South Asian region with almost a million people dying including [387,000 civilians](#). Syria, Yemen, and Libya have all suffered due to American interference and proxy wars. Furthermore, American submission to Israel is palpable and exhibited by the absence of any inimical action against Israeli transgressions. Instead, the world is subjected to selective American outrage and hackneyed pontification vis-à-vis Chinese wrongdoings in Xinjiang and Russian violations in Ukraine.

Even robust allies such as Saudi Arabia have realized that anyone is dispensable to American interests – save Israel. Hassan Awad, a US-based expert on the Middle East states that the US allowing “...a [close ally like](#) Hosni Mubarak to fall [in 2011] was a shock to leaders in Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, and elsewhere...,”.

The China Factor

China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and its massive exportation of goods have created an economic dependency on the country for most. While countries like Russia and Iran, which are vehemently anti-US, are proudly in the Chinese camp, other countries have expressed their commitment to non-alignment.

Countries such as Japan and India who have had historically frosty relations with China cannot isolate themselves from the rising power. Japan, for example, has committed to the BRI even if done cautiously. India which has long-standing border disputes with China, which have worsened in recent years, is engaging with the country as much as it can including via BRICS. While the BRI has had its fair share of ups and downs, studies show that it has vastly improved China’s soft power.

For the first time ever, more people in developing countries prefer China over the US. This is especially true for the BRI-supported countries where almost two-thirds of inhabitants hold a favorable view of the country. This is symptomatic of how the BRI is not only an economic endeavor but has been skillfully leveraged by the Chinese as a diplomatic and political tool.



The extent of China's influence was highlighted in the Saudi-Iran détente which completely blindsided the US.

With respect to trade too, China is an indefatigable juggernaut. It is the leading trade partner of over 120 countries. Its trade in Africa, for example, stands at around \$261 billion – four times more than the US's. Chinese trade with other integral US allies such as Saudi Arabia has completely dwarfed US-Saudi trade as well.

According to a Brookings Institute policy brief, "The new non-aligned countries in South Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Africa repeatedly say they do not want to have to choose between the United States and China." Even reliable US allies like Germany, have been unable to decouple from China as much as the US has wanted.

A caveat here is important: this "non-alignment" does not mean that such countries have become absolutely pro-China and abhor America but instead remaining non-aligned bodes better for nations. However, even this much is a huge defeat for the US and signals its ongoing diplomatic downfall.

China, Russia, and the De-Dollarization Endeavour

The Russia-Ukraine war and impetuous Western sanctions on Russia have had ill-fated consequences on the US and its European allies. It has catalyzed the process of subverting the once ubiquitous US dollar – also known as de-dollarization. The West's pressure and a supercilious crackdown on Russia – from removing the country from SWIFT to freezing its dollar assets – has allowed the China-Russia alliance to bolster further, economically and otherwise.

In Russia, the yuan has now become the [most traded currency](#). Trade between both countries reached a record high of [\\$190 billion last year](#) with most of these payments made in their respective currencies. Furthermore, China and India became the two biggest importers of cheap Russian hydrocarbons after the war started which has kept Russia afloat. In his recent meeting with President Xi, Putin exclaimed that he is in favor of using the yuan for settlements between Russia and countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Due to the US's iniquitous weaponization of the dollar, witnessed with Russia and previously in the unilateral sanctions placed on [Iran under Trump](#), many countries are following China and Russia's lead. China and Europe are in the process of building an alternative to the SWIFT system while India is using non-dollar currencies to settle oil purchases from Russia. Saudi Arabia is also flirting with the idea of the petroyuan in contrast to the default petrodollar.

On April 1, 2023, India and Malaysia also agreed to settle trade in Indian rupees while UAE and India are in talks of using the Indian rupee to [settle non-oil trade](#). Furthermore, Malaysia has revived a decades-old plan to introduce an IMF alternative called the Asian Monetary Fund. The Malaysian PM has said that [there is no reason for the country to continue depending](#) on the dollar, with China welcoming this move.

Most ambitiously, however, has been BRICS's desire of introducing a new currency altogether. [Alexander Babakov](#), deputy chairman of Russia's State Duma explained that the nations were in process of introducing a currency backed by gold and other rare-earth materials. This would be a drastic change as no country in the world today uses the gold standard. Furthermore, the rise of cryptocurrencies, being explored by many countries including China, has decreased dependency on traditional fiat currencies.

All the above factors combined have led to the contraction of dollars in global central bank reserves which has dropped from around 70% 20 years back to [less than 60% today](#) – and continues to descend steadily. In America itself, the economy is not the bulwark that it once was. Three banks recently collapsed and furthermore, the growing cost of [food and fuel](#), due to the Ukraine war, might signal that the worst is yet to come. While the dollar has had its share of vicissitudes in the past, it has perhaps never been challenged this much, especially exogenously.

The Order-Changing War

"While the United States remains a global political, economic, and military giant, it no longer enjoys an unassailable position versus state competitors," as aptly stated by a [2017 study published by the US Army War College](#). Concurrently, if left to its economic machinations, China will overtake the US in all spheres, including militarily. This is the capricious global abyss that the world is currently peering into – one which will eventually force a catastrophic US-China conflict that will change the established world order.

This is what billionaire Ray Dalio also explains in his [meticulously researched book](#) – abridged in this [video](#). He states that all empires have a rise, a peak, and a decline (America being in the latter). The decline is marked by a financial burst and internal economic weakness which leads to more printing of money. It is also marked by internal strife between the rich and the poor as well as costly external fighting or both (sounds very familiar). This he says leads to a revolution in that superpower (usually of a violent nature) that aims to redistribute wealth.

This domestic chaos makes the empire weaker and susceptible to a new rising power, in this case, China. Eventually, a major conflict will ensue between China and the US which in its wake would establish a new great power and a new world order. This explains Mr. Dalio has happened with many empires throughout history including the Dutch and British – WWII being the latter’s last conflict as king.

The US recognizes that it could be yet another victim of history and great cycles. However, there is no perceivable way that it will ride peacefully into the sunset and let China or any other competing power fill the void.

Perhaps this is a case of a self-fulfilling prophecy. “Something’s gotta give,” as they say. The recent budget request pushed by the Pentagon to Congress, amounting to a whopping \$842 billion, is, according to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, “...driven by the seriousness of our



strategic competition with the People’s Republic of China,”.

In simpler terms, the US perceives that a conflict with China or a China-Russia-led bloc is imminent. While the US is persistent in propagating that it is the Chinese that want war with the US, their own actions seem contrary to this. For example, the indignant [and irresponsible decision to send Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan](#) appeared to be an instigation – perhaps the US wanted its other archnemesis to be stuck in a war as well. This move has led to more Chinese naval ships and military [drills near Taiwan](#) and a greater chance for a direct showdown between [Chinese and American war vessels](#).

Similarly, the world is one wrong move away from NATO including the US getting directly involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Finland has joined NATO while Putin has been threatening nuclear retaliation if the crisis escalates. This is why the famed Doomsday Clock is currently set at [90 seconds to midnight](#) – the closest it has ever come to global catastrophe.

Final Thoughts

Sooner rather than later, the global powers will engage in a quest for supremacy. Whether this is WWII or something else is uncertain but in my opinion, American hegemony will conclude. In fact, it is quite probable that while engaged in the aforementioned conflict, the current fault lines in American society rupture leading to internal conflict or a civil war.

Akin to how the Ottomans lost their territory after WWI, or how the British lost its colonies after WWII (both faced internal and external conflict simultaneously), the states within the United States will become bereft.

If you want to submit your articles, research papers, and book reviews, please check the [Submissions](#) page.

The views and opinions expressed in this article/paper are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of Paradigm Shift.

You may also like: [The United States of America - The Superpower of War Crimes, Terrorism, & Hypocrisy](#)



The Writer's Paradigm!

Our First All-Pakistan Writing Contest!



The Writer's Paradigm: Rules & Guidelines

Paradigm Shift proudly presents to you, **The Writer's Paradigm** – our **All-Pakistan** writing contest. The contest this year is in collaboration with the prestigious Air University. The guidelines are [available on the website](#), and **submissions will be open till the 7th of May!**

We would STRONGLY ADVISE you to read **ALL** the guidelines to ensure your submission is **NOT** rejected and that you have a real chance of **winning!**

100% Free

There is no registration or registration fee. The contest is free.

Age Limit

Contestants must be between the **ages of 18-35**. If you are shortlisted, we might require a picture of your CNIC.

Word Limit

We are looking for a **2000-2500** word article. Details on what kind of article will be explained below.

Judgment Criteria

The article will be judged based on the following:

1. Language and vocabulary
2. Adherence to the word limit
3. The originality/creativity of the submission
4. The quality of the analysis
5. The references and sources used

Judgment Method

Pieces sent to The Writer's Paradigm will be initially judged and shortlisted by our editorial team. The shortlisted pieces will then be sent to a panel of **expert judges** who will grade the articles based on the aforementioned criteria. Three winners from Pakistan will be selected based on their ratings.

Judges Panel

The esteemed judges of The Writer's Paradigm for this year are:

1. Mr. Ali Shahab, CSS Instructor & Mentor
2. Former Ambassador Mr. Irfan Yusuf Shami
3. Ms. Amna Baig, Superintendent Police
4. Mr. Michael Kugelman, Deputy Director of the Asia Program and Senior Associate for South Asia at the Wilson Center
5. Mr. Sarmad Ishfaq, CEO Paradigm Shift

Timeline

You can send in your articles until 7th May 2023. We will not entertain any contest submissions sent to us after **11:59 PM** on May 7th, 2023. Results will be announced in the second half of May.

Winners of The Writer's Paradigm

1st place: **Rs 50,000**

2nd Place: **Rs. 30,000**

3rd Place: **Rs. 10,000**



All winners will also:

- Receive a **Digital Certificate of Excellence**.
- Get their **article published on the website and the monthly PDF magazine**.
- Be celebrated on **our website** (around 200,000 visits per month) as well as our **social media** platforms (50,000+ people).

What Kind of Articles Are We Looking For?

Entrants have the choice to write their piece on **any one of the six themes** (mentioned after this section).

Articles must be **analytical** and **NOT** simply state current or historical events. We want you to dig deeper and use creative arguments to captivate the audience. In other words, we are looking for pieces that go beyond the surface level and delve deeper by **providing a research-backed analysis**.

For example: Do **NOT** write an article titled “Pakistan’s Economic Crisis” and then simply discuss what our current GDP and external debt is. That’s boring! Instead, you could write an article titled “How Pakistan can save itself from economic peril”. In such an article, the writer should briefly mention the terrible economic scenario in the country **but the main research and argument** should focus on policies the country needs to adopt to rid itself of this crisis. Facts, statistics, and certain arguments should be backed by research and cited via [hyperlinks](#) in the body of the article.

All articles will undergo a strict plagiarism check. **Plagiarism should not exceed 10%.**

All articles will also undergo an **AI check**. We will **NOT** tolerate the use of any AI software/website such as Chat GPT. This will result in an instant **blacklisting of the author**.

For more examples of the kind of articles we are looking for, check the following examples:

1. [Sultan Mehmed II's Ottoman Empire Compared to Atatürk's Secular Turkey](#)
2. [Reality Check: Economic Crisis in Pakistan](#)
3. [Explainer: Mini-Budget 2023 of Pakistan](#)
4. ["Gold Russ-h": The Russian Ruble vs USD](#)
5. [Russian Influence Operations: Disinformation Campaigns](#)

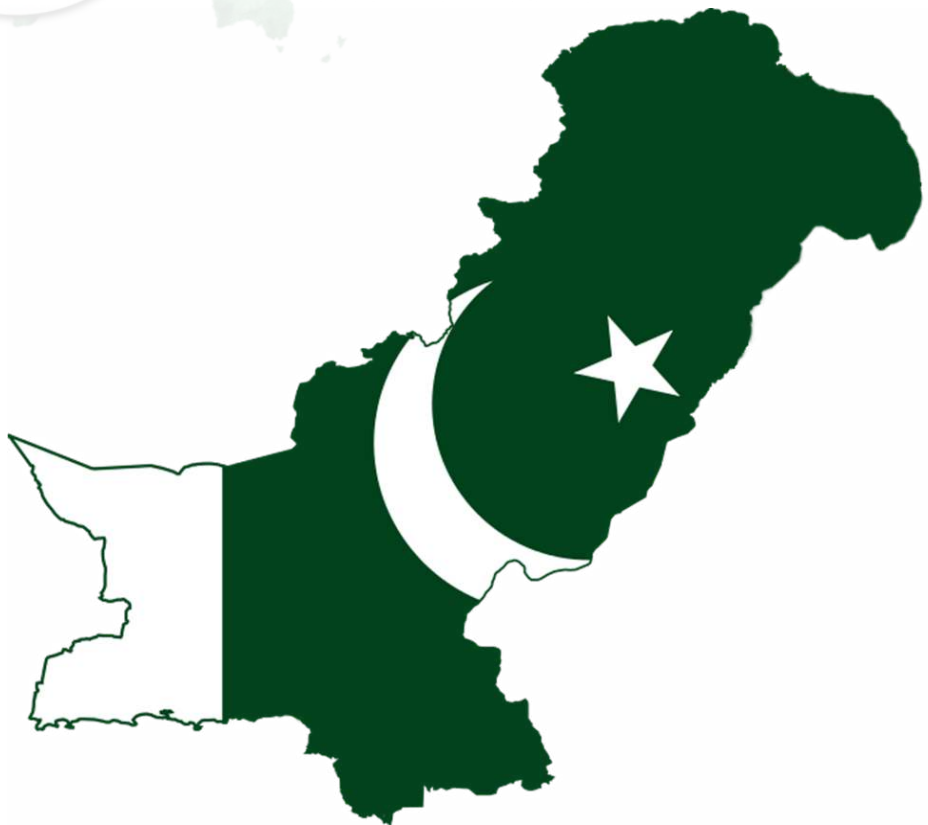
Themes

Your article sent to The Writer's Paradigm **MUST** be based on **one** of the following **6 themes**. Under each theme are several examples that are there to stimulate your thinking. It is completely **up to you** if you want to use these examples, modify them, or completely devise your **own specific topic** as long as it aligns with the general theme that you have chosen.

1. Pakistan's Current Economic Crisis

Examples:

- Design an economic policy that can help Pakistan avert this crisis.
- Comparing Pakistan's economic collapse to another country's (lessons to be learned).
- Is IMF a tangible solution or an economic hitman for Pakistan?



2. What is the Future of the Russia-Ukraine War?

Examples:

- Russia's win is assured and NATO's influence will decrease in the region.
- Ukraine and the West will prevail and Putin will be overthrown.
- The global impact of the Russia-Ukraine war (economic, food supply, etcetera)
- The importance of propaganda in this war and who is actually winning it.

3. Which Bloc Will Dominate in 2023 and Beyond?

Examples:

- Which bloc do you see dominating the global markets and why?
- The West's influence is stagnating due to a new Chinese-Russian-led bloc.
- Will BRICS become the next big thing?
- Is the world multipolar or still in the shadow of America?

4. Energy Crisis in Pakistan

Examples:

- Why does Pakistan have an energy crisis and how do we solve it?
- Hydro solutions to Pakistan's energy problems.
- Lessons for Pakistan from countries that overcame their energy issues.
- How CPEC can change Pakistan's energy network.
- Will an investment in clean energy be beneficial to Pakistan?



5. Enabling Education in Pakistan

Examples:

- Can online education drive academic research in Pakistan?
- Frame a curriculum that would replace the SNC.
- Is the SNC is a suitable/unsuitable curriculum for Pakistan? Why?
- What educational reforms are needed in Pakistan?
- Comparing Pakistan's education system to another country's (lessons).

6. Pakistan's Digital Roadmap

Examples:

- What is needed for Pakistan to have its own Silicon Valley?
- Can digitalization make way for greater trade relations with other countries?
- How can Pakistan replace India as a global freelance juggernaut?


How to Submit?

Submissions will be open till the **7th of May 2023**. A Google form link is available on the website ([here](#)) so you can submit your piece! Keep following our social media for regular updates.

Good Luck!



Article



A Guide to Choosing CSS Optional Subjects

About the Author



Torchbearer CSS Academy – TBA Karachi ignites aspirations and transforms them into valuable knowledge and enthusiasm. They magnify talents and carve abilities to achieve dedicated success, by providing quality education for competitive exam aspirants who believe in themselves and their goals.



Typical Blunders



Following Random YouTube Videos

Many CSS aspirants make the mistake of watching random YouTube videos without a clear understanding of the subject they want to choose. This can lead to incomplete knowledge and a lack of understanding of the CSS optional subjects, resulting in lower scores or even failure in the exam. To avoid this mistake, it is crucial to learn from past experiences and have a structured study plan in place.

Relying on Readymade Notes

Relying on ready-made notes is a shortcut that some students take when [preparing for the CSS exam](#). However, this approach may not result in the highest scores because critical thinking and analysis are essential to meet the examiner's requirements. According to the examiner report, many candidates failed to use logical reasoning and analysis in their answers. Instead, they simply narrated the information without providing a thorough analytical explanation.

The Right Way of Choosing Optional Subjects

In order to select optional subjects for the CSS examination, candidates must choose from the list of 7 groups provided by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), which offer subjects of either 100 or 200 marks. While all subjects have their own merits, candidates should consider the following tips while choosing their subjects.

Academic Background

Firstly, mark the subjects from the group list that you have studied or have had some understanding of during your academic journey. For example, if you have a bachelor's or master's degree in social sciences or political science, choose subjects from those areas, such as International Relations, Political Science, and International Law. Always remember that the key is to ensure a strong command of the subject.

Interests

When choosing your subjects, it is important to consider your interests. If you have a passion for history, regional languages, or governance policies, it is recommended to opt for subjects like Indo-Pakistan History, European History, British History, Sindhi, Punjabi, Public Administration, or Business Administration. Having a natural interest in a particular subject can make it easier for you to prepare for it, keeping in mind the overlapping of the subjects.

Seeking Guidance from Mentors

It is important to discuss your doubts about a particular subject with your mentor. If you have some understanding of the subject or aim to get higher marks, share your concerns with your mentor. They can guide you and provide you with the prerequisites for the subject.

Teachers can help you understand how one subject overlaps with another subject in terms of reading or preparing notes. However, each subject has its own requirements that students may not analyze without the guidance of a teacher. Seeking guidance from your teacher will improve your overall aggregate in the Detailed Marks Certificate (DMC), and your teacher can counsel you better.

Searching for Quality Study Material

Finding quality material is crucial in preparing for any subject. It is recommended to avoid using generic or pre-made material as it can negatively impact your preparation. Instead, look for research articles, recommended books, and other reliable sources to gain knowledge about the subject. You can also seek guidance from subject specialists to learn about attempting techniques and strategies for answering different types of questions.

It is important to analyze the information you find and learn to present it in a clear and organized manner, including the use of graphical representations when necessary. By following these guidelines, you can ensure that you are well-prepared for your exams. Finding quality material is crucial in preparing for any subject.



It is recommended to avoid using generic or pre-made material as it can negatively impact your preparation. Instead, look for research articles, recommended books, and other reliable sources to gain knowledge about the subject. You can also seek guidance from subject specialists to learn about attempting techniques and strategies for answering different types of questions. By following these guidelines, you can ensure that you are well-prepared for your exams.

Solving Past Papers

It is important to go through past papers as part of your exam preparation, but it should be done only after you have thoroughly studied the syllabus. You need to have a good understanding of the subject before attempting past papers. Select the subject of your choice and fulfill its requirements before starting to solve past papers. Practicing past papers can help you become proficient in answering questions within the given time frame without feeling anxious or uncertain.

Lastly, candidates should be mentally stable and relaxed and should not rush or burden themselves while preparing for the subjects. They should enjoy the journey, give their best to each subject at a particular time, and avoid panic attacks. Thus, by following these practical tips, candidates can avoid common mistakes while selecting optional subjects and achieve success in the CSS exam.

If you want to submit your articles, research papers, and book reviews, please check the [Submissions](#) page.

The views and opinions expressed in this article/paper are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of Paradigm Shift.

You may also like: [Mastering the CSS Exam - Effective Tips and Tricks](#)

Also related: [Information about CSS in Pakistan - Examination, Grades, Groups & Pay Scales](#)





Nationalism in International Relations: Tracing the Roots of Xenophobia

About the Author



Mahrukh Khalid Siddiqui graduated with a degree in Social Sciences with a major in Development Studies from Bahria University Islamabad. She is currently working as a Technical Associate in the Government Affairs Department of Siemens Pakistan.



What is Nationalism?

In its simplest form, nationalism is to show loyalty and pride for one's nation. It is the sense of unity between the residents of a nation based on common norms, values, religion, language, customs and traditions. However, nationalism in international relations also [differentiates one nation from another](#).



Where Did Nationalism Come From?

In today's time, a person's identity is determined by their nationality. However, this wasn't always the case. In the past, the concept of vast empires and kingdoms existed and so people introduced themselves based on the town or village they belonged to. As these entities were

large in size, this meant that there was a diverse range of people living under a single kingdom or empire. Thus despite the social and cultural differences, everyone lived together.

Nationalists prefer to isolate themselves from the rest of the world for reasons like fear of contaminating their unique culture and identity or because of a sense of superiority. Although this may seem like a peaceful separation, nationalism in its extreme and political form can lead to fascism where on the pretense of protecting their nation and identity, uncivilized methods and militarism may be used.

The main reason for this was the absolute power that the king or, more specifically, the religious authorities held so if they decided that the subjects would cohabit then no one could retaliate against them.

The land was conquered for reasons like economic expansion, power and glorification and more diverse ethnicities as a result became a part of the kingdom or empire.

Nationalism initially began to branch out when the Protestants because of conflicting beliefs separated themselves from the Catholic Church during the 16th century. However, the first official signs of nationalism in international relations came about when the concept of nation-states was introduced in the Treaty of Westphalia in 1658. When this treaty was signed, the 30 Years' War (1618-1648) between the Holy Roman Empire and various German groups came to an end.

The [Age of Enlightenment also started in the 17th and 18th centuries alongside the French Revolution](#) and so power was no longer absolute, as concepts like religion and traditions lost focus and the world shifted towards industrialization. Capitalism came to rise and economic differences were emphasized which lead to the competition to reach the top. In order for a nation to develop, it needed to do better than other nations and so [rivalry led to fear and animosity](#).

As a result, nationalism created xenophobia. Another possible reason for the rise in xenophobia pointed out by historians was the dark colonial past of the nations. This left them scarred and so fear turned into hatred for foreigners, and people likened them to their past colonial rulers, who would [steal their resources, identity and freedom](#).

Growing Xenophobia and Racism

Although the pre-constructed stereotypes and prejudices are slowly being extinguished with the help of globalization and media, they still exist in some forms around the world. Immigrants in particular are victims of discrimination and abuse by society. Afghans in Pakistan and Mexicans in the United States are two major examples. Although these minority groups are provided rights, [anti-immigrant politics over these communities still exist today](#).

It even took quite some time for the Pakistan government to officially issue identification cards to Afghan immigrants. Politically speaking, America being a democratic government provides rights and freedoms to those who gain American nationality, but it is the opinion of the majority group which is given more importance while the minority groups like immigrants or ethnic groups are overlooked.



Latinos and many other minorities in America have shared their experiences of being [discriminated against at school and the workplace](#) for simply being different. Mexicans were also accused by Donald Trump of [increasing crime rates and disrupting the peace of America](#).

Police officers of today carry out extra inspections when it comes to black people in fear that they may commit a crime. The [murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter Movement \(BLM\)](#) are two key examples of this phenomenon. Similarly, with the spread of COVID-19 in America, [Asian hate crimes rose by 76%](#), according to the FBI.

As a sub-category of xenophobia and nationalism, Islamophobia is also prevalent based on the myth that all Muslims are terrorists. Such discrimination has led to violent incidents like the 2019 Christchurch mosque shooting in New Zealand. In the eyes of nationalists, such actions are necessary in order to protect their country and keep their fellow residents safe. While the victims find it unjustified, [some residents deem them as heroes](#).

Nationalism in a Globalized World

One might say that the entrance of globalization and international relations should've diffused the effects of nationalism by connecting countries all over the world through mediums like the internet and media. Unfortunately, [media has played a great role in constructing prejudice and propaganda](#) against other nations and communities.

Brexit is proof of this stance. After the decision was made official, political instability was instigated in the United Kingdom through media thus dividing the population. This imposed the concept of otherness. Each side considered itself correct and so spoke against the other. Racism and xenophobia also came to rise as the [debate on left-wing and right-wing parties](#) came about post-Brexit and so crime rates escalated.

Moving forward, developing global cooperation is a must for survival. With the outbreak of Covid-19, countries had no choice but to ask for or provide help. Universal concerns like the deteriorating global climate also require the involvement and cooperation of all countries. Thus, nationalist governments should be wary of their actions and work to exterminate pre-constructed views through positive media messages and advocacy.

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BIGGEST COMPANIES IN THE WORLD

(BY MARKET CAP)

APPLE

Market Cap: \$2.640 trillion
Exchange: NASDAQ
Ticker: AAPL



COUNTRY:
USA 

COUNTRY:
 USA



MICROSOFT

Market Cap: \$2.278 trillion
Exchange: NASDAQ
Ticker: MSFT

SAUDI ARAMCO

Market Cap: \$2.077 trillion
Exchange: TADAWUL
Ticker: 2222



COUNTRY:
KSA 

COUNTRY:
 USA



ALPHABET (GOOGLE)

Market Cap: \$1.329 trillion
Exchange: NASDAQ
Ticker: GOOGL

AMAZON

Market Cap: \$1.067 trillion
Exchange: NASDAQ
Ticker: AMZN



COUNTRY:
USA 

HISTORY OF THE Crusades



The Crusades were a series of religious wars initiated, supported, & sometimes directed by the Latin Church in the medieval period. The best known of these military expeditions are those to the Holy Land in the period between 1095 and 1291 that were intended to conquer Jerusalem and its surrounding area from Muslim rule.

1096-1099

THE FIRST CRUSADE
Crusader Victory

The First Crusade was initiated, supported, & at times directed by the Latin Church in the medieval period. The objective was the recovery of the Holy Land from Islamic rule.

A response to the fall of the County of Edessa in 1144 to the forces of Zengi. Ironically, the county was the first Crusader state to be founded, & it was also the first to fall.

1145-1149

THE SECOND CRUSADE
Muslim Victory

1189-1192

THE THIRD CRUSADE
Crusader Victory

Led by 3 European monarchs of Western Christianity to reconquer the Holy Land - following the capture of Jerusalem by the Ayyubid Sultan Saladin in 1187. However, Jerusalem was not captured.

1202-1204

THE FOURTH CRUSADE

Muslim Victory

Innocent III launched the Crusade to regain Jerusalem and Holy Land by conquering Egypt. Despite initially capturing Damietta, they ultimately failed & had to retreat.

Instigated by Pope Innocent III who intended to recapture Jerusalem. Instead, there was an irrevocable blow to the Byzantine/Roman Empire, which contributed to its decline and fall.

1217-1221

THE FIFTH CRUSADE

Muslim Victory

1227-1229

THE SIXTH CRUSADE

Diplomatic Crusader Victory

Led by Louis IX of France to reclaim the Holy Land by attacking Egypt, but ended in defeat and capture of the king & most of his armies.

Led by Frederick II, aimed to recapture the Holy Land with little fighting. Diplomatic negotiations allowed Jerusalem to be under Christian rule for 15 years.

1248-1254

THE SEVENTH CRUSADE

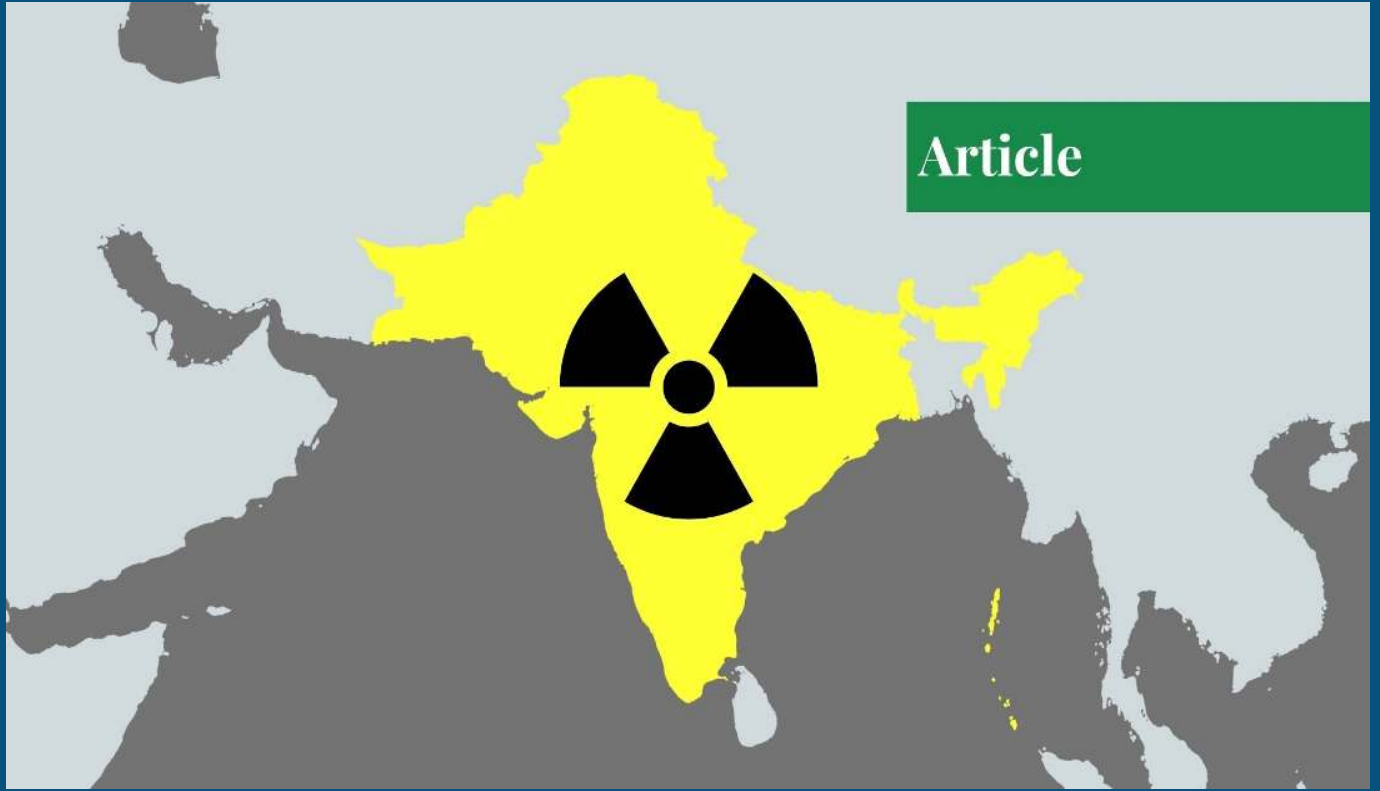
Muslim Victory

1270

THE EIGHTH CRUSADE

Undecided Victory

The Eighth Crusade, led by Louis IX, targeted the Hafsid dynasty in Tunisia in 1270. Louis died of dysentery shortly after reaching Tunisia, & the crusade only led to a few commercial activities.



Pakistan–India Adversarial Relations: Instability for South Asia

About the Author



Brigadier Syed Mushtaq Ahmed (Retd) has extensive experience in areas of national security, intelligence and strategic issues. He has worked as a Senior Research Analyst in a strategic organisation and has a niche for writing research articles and analytical assessments, specializing in counterintelligence, counter-terrorism and nuclear security.



Historical Perspective

The relationship between Pakistan and India in South Asia has historically been at a stalemate. While there is an acceptability issue (of Pakistan) from the Indian side, it is an issue of survival from Pakistan's side. This paradox defines the nature of the relationship between the two states.



The rocky relationship has seen extreme highs and lows over the last 75 years – ever since the partition took place in 1947. While there have been brief periods of warmth/détente like the Nehru-Liaquat Pact (Delhi Pact 1950), Zia cricket diplomacy (Ajmer 1987), Nawaz-Vajpayee embrace (Lahore Declaration 1999), and

Musharraf-Singh handshake (Agra Summit 2001). (giving many people hope for long-term peace).

The above periods were almost immediately transformed into conflicts, spurred by compulsive military adventures (Kashmir liberation war of 1948, Operation Gibraltar / Grandslam of 1965, and the Kargil-1999), covert war, false flag operations (as a pretext for cross-border punitive actions), destabilization through grey zone wars, and the obstinacy of India's political leadership, driven by militant expedient ideology to browbeat its arch-rival (Pakistan).

The perpetual state of an estranged relationship between the two arch-rivals is hence there to stay – at least for the foreseeable future. This negatively affects regional security and stability continually. Whether or not it will lead to a fourth round (of a war-like scenario) is an inquisition that interests the policymakers and the public alike.

Futility of Conflict

Pakistan and India have already fought three and a half wars (1948, 1965, 1971, and the 1999 Kargil conflict), have engaged in many border skirmishes, and even experienced military stand-offs.

While the first three are considered major conventional wars, the fourth was limited in scale, content, and intensity – restricted to a war zone only – primarily because of the nuclear overhang. The Pakistan-India conflict hence invalidated the aphorism that nuclear powers don't go to war with one another. Kargil dented the assumption that the [nuclearization of South Asia](#) (1998) will lead to the possibility of a full-scale war.

Where advocating for the use of nuclear weapons is considered a taboo, and is despised and rejected by the international community (no matter the justification), it nonetheless inversely encourages the aggressor to undertake a limited conflict. Be that as it may, the possibility of a limited conflict notwithstanding, the mere futility of the inconclusive outcome of such conflicts, makes these the least preferred option. But, then this option, too, has almost been foreclosed, because of the introduction of the Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs) instituting a Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD) regime.

However, the robustness of the deterrence remains shaky, given Indian political and military leaders' cavalier approach of fancying military adventurism, regardless of the existence of Pakistan's nuclear capability. The linear geography of Pakistan, with major cities, industries, communication arteries (railway tracks and highways), and the infrastructure (dams, powerhouses, bridges, etc.) situated/running close to the international border, lowers the nuclear threshold.

Any major damage, destruction, loss of crucial territory, or major operational reversal will surely invoke the risk of operationalization of nuclear weapons. The nuclear dynamic has hence changed the adversarial tone and context of relationships in South Asia.

South Asian Incompatible Strategic Thought

The conflicting South Asian strategic thought is influenced by varying ideologies. Indian thinking has transformed from Nehruvian influence to the Hindutva ideology of exclusivity and hawkishness. The former (Nehruvian) has internal bearings advocating Hindu-ness to the exclusion of all other segments, and the latter (Hindutva) has an external expansive orientation, underscored by Ajit Doval's Defensive Offense Doctrine and the adaptation of offensive military strategies i.e. *Land-Warfare Doctrine (LWD) 2018*, *hybrid warfare*, and *surgical strike options*.

LWD is aimed at fighting a two-front war (i.e. with Pakistan and China). While it entails securing the frontier through deterrence along the China border, it is arrayed heavily against Pakistan to destroy its Centre of Gravity (CoG) and [achieve spacial gains](#). Indian leadership's military jingoism and expansionist designs are at variance with the behavior of a responsible Nuclear Weapon State (NWS).

Their sinister war-mongering and Pakistan fixation make them more Pakistan-centric than Pakistan is 'India focused'. Indian doctrinal transition from being 'strategic defensive' to 'strategic offensive' is an outcome of its grandiose global aspirations and the Indo-US strategic embrace that enabled it to undertake an ambitious modernization of its armed forces.



The geo-strategic compulsions and imperatives of the West propping up India as a counterweight to China have tilted the South Asian security balance with transcending effects on the unilateral arms race. India's military spending spiked from \$71.1 billion in 2019 to \$79.9 billion in 2022, while Pakistan's defense budget rose from \$10.3 billion to \$12 billion during the same period.

The resultant effect is an add-on offensive punch and a stark aggressive orientation in its military thought process – the trans-border strikes and proxies in Pakistan are its vivid expressions.

The size of India's conventional military strength, its economic prowess, and cutting-edge technological advancement also incite dynamism in Pakistan's strategic thought process in exploring innovative or asymmetric response options. Pakistan's perspective of Indian hegemonic expansionist designs weighs heavily in the mind of its analysts/policymakers who are working towards transforming it into a security state.

The abiding adversarial relationship is characterized by situational, perceptual, and physical asymmetries, which are further exacerbated by the Indian leadership's disdain and propensity of resorting to a conflictual course in a bid to exploit space for conflict within the prevailing strategic equation.

The notional paradox wherein Pakistan's belief that their nuclear weapons have curtailed Indian military options, and the Indian belief that despite Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, a limited conventional conflict can be fought and won, is thus fraught with risks.

Regional Dynamics

A socially and economically weak, and fragmented nuclear Pakistan, with abiding threats to its security, stability, and the continual technology denial by the West will further push it eventually into the Chinese/Russian camp, despite Western efforts to keep it shackled through International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

India's vulnerability to the Terrorism redux (threat posed by AQIS, IM* among others), and its weak response capability due to the intrinsic security structure weaknesses, fissiparous regional tendencies, ongoing raging insurgencies in more than half of its union territories, and the endemic poverty among the teeming millions, impels it to put Pakistan in the spot.

The Indian policy of Pakistan bashing and sneering at Pakistan for sponsoring terror is used as a political ploy to gel its fractured polity/union. Recent China-India border clashes with some significant Indian military reverses in the Ladakh (2020) and Arunachal Pradesh (2022) regions have exposed its military response capability.

Despite Indian efforts to improve its military posture in the disputed regions, it is no match to the Chinese juggernaut, making its inability to stop the potential Chinese threat obvious.



Notwithstanding the burgeoning Indo-US strategic partnership, India's reticence in fully committing to any anti-China security alliance despite the QUAD membership is evidenced by its unwillingness to fully commit to the anti-China bidding by the US. This is the same as India's reluctance to align completely with US/EU on the Ukrainian issue. New Delhi's non-alignment impulse keeps it away from completely supporting the West on any multilateral forum and pushes it into such groupings as the SCO and BRICS. The Indian proverbial neutrality hence puts its reliability and trustworthiness in question.

The resurgence of terrorism is back with a vengeance in Pakistan as a result of the exploitation of its weak inner front by NDS and RAW, finding its devastating expression recently in the settled areas of Pakistan. The back-to-back recent spate of terrorist attacks in a Police Mosque in Peshawar (KPK), a Police Station in Mianwali (Punjab), and Karachi (Sindh) Police Headquarters within weeks is indicative of terrorist regeneration and outreach.

While Pakistan's armed forces have the capacity and capability to root this menace out once again – the Indians may be found wanting in response to the incidence, considering that, *"India is one of the most terror-prone countries with death toll only second to Iraq"*, according to a report published by Counter Terrorism Centre in Washington.

The terror continuum needs therefore to be tackled jointly than as an adversarial policy implement against each other. The American interest to free India from 'Pakistan worries' by goading Pakistan into a servile status vis-à-vis India, and the bolstering of Indian efforts to build strength and muscle as a 'China counterweight' induces chasm and imbalance in the security calculus of South Asia.

Effects of an Unstable Pakistan

A weak, unstable, and fragmented Pakistan has an adversarial effect on regional stability. Pakistan's stability is crucial for the region, and for much of the World. Historically, the North-West sub-continental region (today's Pakistan) has acted as a buffer to the Indian landmass from successive invaders.

Pakistan's geo-strategic location not only insulates the sub-continent from restive Afghanistan, a troubled Iran, and the turbulent Middle East region, it allows transnational connectivity and much-needed diplomatic linkages with all countries in the region, making it an important regional arbiter. Efforts for an Iran-Saudi Arabia détente, successful US-Taliban parleys, and later safe extrication of US/NATO forces from Afghanistan are but a few feats to its recent credit.

Contrarily, Pakistan's instability would let the expanding arc of terrorism go unchecked from within and without. The ongoing politico-economic turbulence in the country adds to the stability woes and prevents the present dispensation to wrest neither the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) resurgence nor the multitude of pressing socio-economic challenges. Launching a meaningful diplomatic initiative with its immediate neighbors in the East and West (India and Afghanistan) seems too far off.

Amid the prevailing internal uncertainty and regional instability, the Pakistan armed forces remain the only force that stands as a bulwark against the terrorist threat – and as a stabilizing force to the emerging regional challenges.

Any attempt at weakening this force is tantamount to unleashing the terrorist conglomerate (AQ, ISIS, ISK, ETIM, IMU, TTP, and affiliates) operating with impunity in the Middle East, the West, Central Asia, and the subcontinent.

Pakistan's pivotal geo-political role in South Asian calculus and its effective leverage over Afghanistan necessitates a stable politico-military dispensation. Pakistan's lien over its western neighbor will have a sobering effect on an alienated Afghanistan, currently having little or no interface/acceptability with the outside World. Pakistan may turn out to be an Indian Vietnam, in case it is drawn into a protracted war aimed at its breakup and destruction.

The indomitable resilience of its nationalist population, a battle-hardened military, functional nukes, intrinsic strength, and the resolve of a 220 million-strong nation to unify in face of a looming threat with deep-seated anti-US-Indian-Israel sentiment as a force multiplier, makes it a tough nut to crack. Even if the nukes are neutralized, there would still be some left to give the aggressor the taste of its own medicine.

Pakistan Response Options

Pakistan's defensive effort has been security driven with no intention or the capability to challenge the US or its allies. Pakistan's strategic capability is entirely South Asia specific driven by the 3-Rs: Rationality, Restraint, and Responsibility to build a Full Spectrum Deterrence (FSD) affording the due dividends of:-

- Compensating for the conventional asymmetry.
- Giving much-needed flexibility to pursue the internal fight against terrorism without pulls/pressures from the Eastern front and;
- Enhancing political stature and respect, but most of all;
- Not only foreclosing the option of a fourth round but precluding the space for limited conflict too.

The centrality of Pakistan's nuclear capability, therefore, lies at the core of Pakistan's security paradigm and is a guarantor of its security and survival – vis-à-vis India. To institute a credible deterrence regime some of the key considerations are:-



- A preparedness to initiate the first use of nuclear weapons to dissuade any aggressor from initiating a conflict. As Nasarisation of the battlefield has compelled the Indians to revisit its strategy of [Cold Start Doctrine \(CSD\)](#) / Proactive operations (PAO), it should also force it to reevaluate its willingness to use nuclear weapons – if it comes to that, since deterrence and nuclear war-fighting are mutually exclusive and interchangeable.
- Empirical evidence suggests that keeping the nuclear policy ambiguous has served well in attaining a strategic capability, despite heavy odds and invasiveness, and hence its efficacy on that count.
- However, any ambiguity in the nuclear policy of using nuclear weapons encourages the aggressor to fancy adventurism – a policy prone to risks – therefore the options available are:
 - Mix and match the notions of “declaratory use and ambiguity” – affording greater flexibility to attend to both regional and international needs & dictates.
 - Instead of responding to India's enduring aggression, as part of an action-reaction syndrome, Pakistan may have to take charge of Indians indicating the willingness to affect a MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) regime in case of any military transgression.
 - And absolute imperative need for defining zero intolerance to aggression across LoC/international borders to strengthen/reinforce the value of deterrence.

Considerations and the Way Forward

With no letup in the Ukraine crises, the European and the US economies are already in recession. The escalating living cost, soaring fuel, and energy prices, rising unemployment, and food (grain) shortages (due to the Ukrainian food basket devastation) are all taking a toll on war sustenance. Further deterioration will not only take Europe into one of the worst recessions of the century but has the potential to suck it deep into an inextricable war. While the global North is up in flames, can the world afford another conflagration in the global South – already an area of a restive neighborhood?

A conflict over Kashmir, which has the potential to quickly transform into a nuclear Armageddon given the bent-up hatred and deep-seated animosities, is, therefore, an absolute non-starter. Even if there is no conflict, the 'no war, no peace' situation is a zero-sum game, which fosters grey zone wars, shuns connectivity, blocks trade, and retards the potential of an Indian market (with a population of one billion).

A thriving economy is stifled because of the lack of connectivity to the resource-rich Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics. Forced to take a circuitous route through Chahbahar (Iran) – a straight route through Pakistan would see Indian trucks leaving Amritsar (India) in the morning, arriving midday in Kabul (Afghanistan), and returning in the evening. The trans-regional economic connectivity is hence premised on a peaceful South Asia.

The US, UK, and the EU need to emulate the Chinese example of shifting from geo-politics to geo-economics by way of soft power initiatives through trans-continental connectivity, constructing perceptual bridges between communities/blocs, building trade corridors on the lines of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and create an economic commonwealth of regions.

The US has to start 'walking the talk' on the offers made by the past Presidents (Bill Clinton, and



Trump) of mediating dialogue between the two South Asian rivals and lead the rapprochement in the sub-continent. The US policy to prevent conflict in the subcontinent can be effective only if the Pakistan-India peace process is kick-started through a piece-by-piece approach of addressing solvable lingering issues within a temporal frame, before

taking on the big-ticket difficult issues of Kashmir and terrorism, etcetera.

After all some of the smaller issues (Siachin, Sir Creek, and bilateral trade) on which the consensus exists, only require a stamp of agreement, which could prove to be the first drop of the rain, transforming the atmospherics in their hitherto cold relations. Pakistan's stability is a *sin qua non* for regional stability.

The US will do a lot of good to itself and the region if it retracts from a confrontationist approach and the machinations of regime changes etc., and instead genuinely starts working on a perceptual change.

1. An inclusive approach of assistance/cooperation to stabilize Pakistan's flood-wrecked economy through socio-economic assistance (not loans) as an essential first step. After all, Pakistan paid a heavy price in the US war on terror with blood and money, incurring a loss of half a million lives and a loss of over \$150 billion to its fragile economy.
2. Following on its heels, impress upon Pakistan to bring in the much-needed internal order and stability, as a precursor and prerequisite for reinitiating a peace process with India.

3. The resolution of the intractable political issues through Western facilitation should be followed up in earnest thereafter, which will undoubtedly improve the image of the superpower and may even counterbalance the Pak-China equation. The Indus Water Treaty, facilitated by the World Bank (1960), and the Tashkent Agreement (1966) by the erstwhile Soviet Union, are the abiding testaments.
4. As security and economic stability are closely intertwined – the said peace initiatives will help in the resolution of issues between Pakistan and India, which means that the countries could then spare and invest their resources on the socio-economic uplift of their respective countries, rather than on arms race dictated by the need for defense and security.

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Opinion

Neutrality in Politics is a Sin

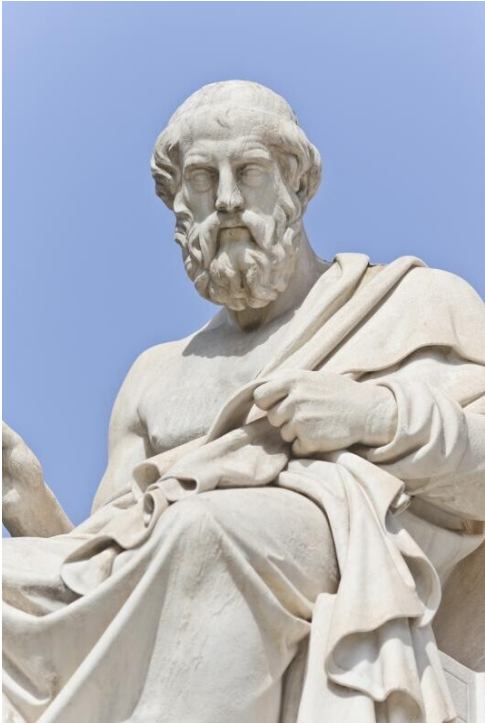
About the Author



Bilal Ahmed is a graduate of English Literature from the University of Sindh.



“The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”



The quotation of Plato, mentioned above, aptly summarizes a major cause of the miseries which Pakistan is going through. During most of the years of its history, Pakistan has witnessed the reign of corrupt, unscrupulous, debauched, and profligate politicians, the moral degradation of who was so high that Machiavelli himself would have been ashamed of it. These politicians have had but one ambition: to accomplish their selfish ends by means of depriving the poor masses.

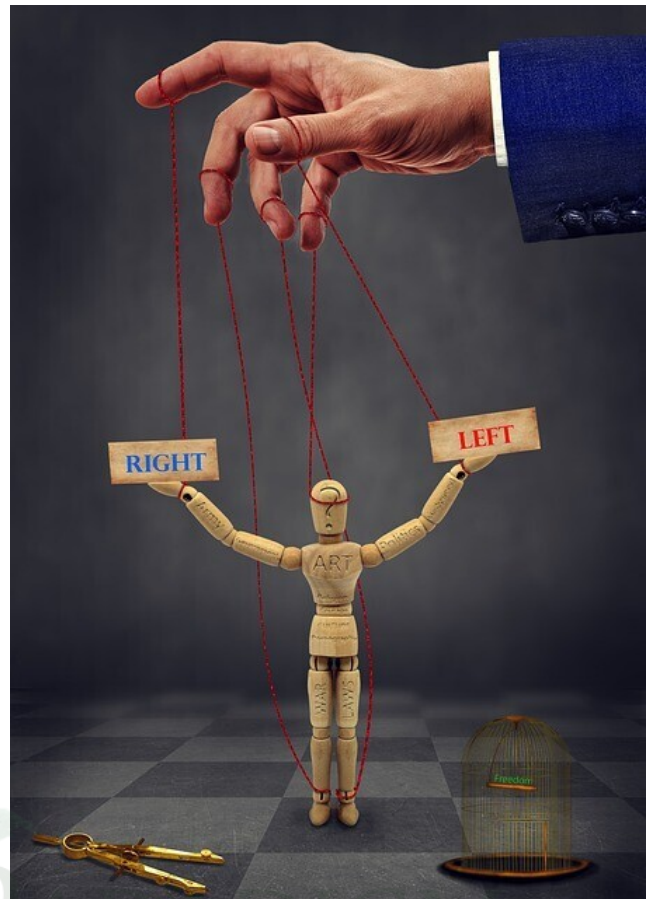
One wonders, then: what has gone wrong? Where does the fault lie? Why and how have such immoral politicians made their way to the top in a democracy? The answer to all these questions lies in the quotation of Plato. Yes, Pakistan has paid the price of its indifference to political matters. The price, however, has been too high—higher than what could have been expected.

Year after year, term after term, mendacious and corrupt politicians involved in money laundering and having off-shore properties and businesses have risen to supreme power, claiming to ameliorate the plight of those struggling to earn bread for a single day. Amidst this miserable milieu, the most bitter and the most painful fact, however, is that we—as a nation—are at least as guilty as those unscrupulous politicians, if not more.

Our nation, especially the youngsters, in the pursuit of their professions, have abandoned politics under the pretext that ‘politics is a game of liars’, or ‘it is the realm of the most unprincipled people’, or simply because of a preposterous reason that ‘politics is not an interesting subject’.

Unfortunately, lack of interest in politics and political matters has become a 'new cool' for the young generation. This has also been manifested by a recent poll conducted by Ipsos, which has found that about 94% of Pakistanis are unaware of basic terms such as GDP growth. This negligence towards the matters of the state has cost us dearly.

Now, imagine for a while, the fate of the French Revolution of 1789 if the revolutionaries had decided to remain aloof from politics. How would history have unfolded if the 13 British colonies had not gathered in Philadelphia in 1776 to declare their independence and create the United States of America? Certainly, the Muslim struggle would not have carved out a separate state out of the subcontinent if the leaders of the movement had said, "We are not interested in politics at all."



All the great revolutions in history, whether scientific, social, or economic, have been materialized by wedding these aspects to politics. Britain would not have become a hegemon in the 16th and 17th centuries had its sailors ventured across the globe only for the sake of economic gains. The United States of America would not have become a superpower if it had kept on following the Monroe Doctrine.

Also, women in 19th-century Europe would not have gotten their fundamental right of suffrage had they decided to mourn over their misery while displaying neutrality in politics. Therefore, it is only by being cognizant of political matters can nations influence the course of their futures and bring about a change in their lives.

It is only by taking an interest in politics that people can know their rights and their obligations towards their state. It is only with politics that people can hold their representatives accountable for not delivering, participate in matters of national importance, and, thus, convert a rudimentary and inchoate democracy into a lively and vibrating one.

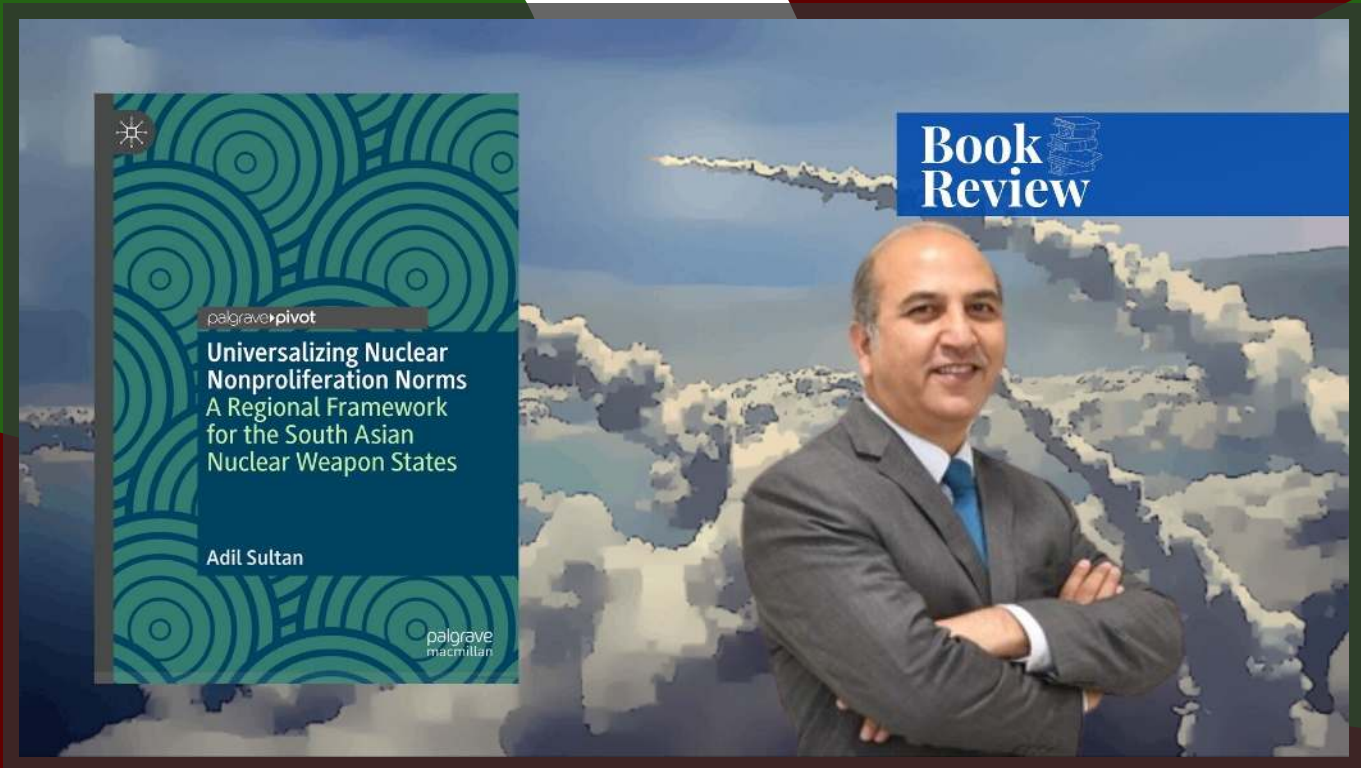
Hence, we, Pakistanis, should learn the lessons before it's too late. Supporting one political party or another, backing one politician or another, and siding with one view or another, are never the problems. The problem is being neutral and indifferent to politics and not responding to the call of circumstances. The problem is being negligent and oblivious towards the state when the state needs you. The problem is forsaking politics and not realizing the fact that neutrality in politics is a sin.

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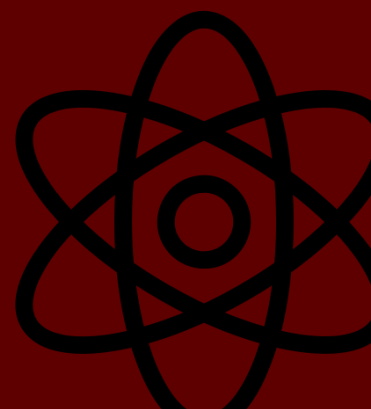


Universalizing Nuclear Nonproliferation Norms: A Regional Framework for the South Asian Nuclear Weapon States

About the Author



Warisha Rashid is a Ph.D. Scholar at the Department of Strategic Studies (DSS), Air University Islamabad.



The book authored by Dr. Adil Sultan titled "*Universalizing Nuclear Nonproliferation Norms: A Regional Framework for the South Asian Nuclear Weapon States*" explains that nuclear weapons as having a disastrous capacity which has made this technology certainly a cause of concern for the nuclear as well as non-nuclear weapons states.



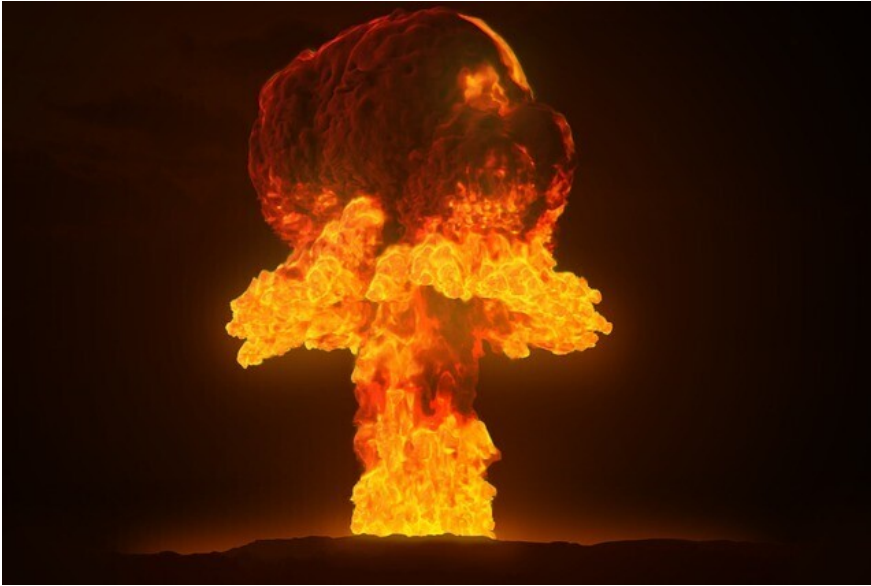
Universalizing Nuclear Nonproliferation Norms depicts challenges that the NPT is facing due to its non-international nature, the reasons why states go nuclear, the approach of India and Pakistan towards disarmament and nonproliferation, the illustration of other technology control regimes, nuclear confidence-building measures, and the regional non-proliferation regime in the South

Asian context.

While South Asian states hold that the reason behind India's acquisition of nuclear weapons was because of its conflict with China in 1962, Dr. Adil Sultan illustrates that India began its dual-track nuclear program during the 1950s when it had absolutely no threats from the neighboring states. Moreover, in the post-Indo-China conflict of 1962, it took India almost ten years to conduct its nuclear tests during 1974 which was labeled as Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE). This demonstrates that India acquired nuclear weapons initially for prestige and later for domestic politics and security.

Universalizing Nuclear Nonproliferation Norms gives a very comprehensive view of the NPT and other non-proliferation regimes. It highlights the discriminatory nature of the NPT i.e. those states who have tested their nuclear weapons before 1st Jan 1967 are recognized as nuclear-weapon states while those who acquired or tested after 1967 are considered to be non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS).

The Director General of IAEA, Mr. Elbaradei, has stated that the NPT does not legitimize or delegitimize the status of nuclear or non-nuclear weapons status of the states, keeping the testing by Pakistan and India after the cutoff date of NPT in view. Furthermore, the biased and



discriminatory nature of NPT also includes the two categories of haves and have-nots, as well as structural deficiencies to address the issues of implementation, accountability, or compliance.

The author has also stipulated that challenges faced by NPT include the non-universal nature of the NPT

which could not bring states like Israel, Pakistan, and India under its crease which provides incentives to all NNWs to acquire nuclear weaponry. Secondly, the issue of internal non-compliance considering the cases of North Korea and Iran.

It also highlights the double standards of NPT obligatory articles such as Article I (obligates states not to acquire NW technology) and Article II (NPT states to honor the safeguards of IAEA) overlapping with Article IV (that gives the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes). Due to such overlapping and conflicting obligations, NPT has failed to bring out sincere efforts towards disarmament.

Dr. Sultan, however, also stresses the positive role of the NPT as it prevented the world from becoming a nuclear world as predicted by President Kennedy as well as helping in dismantling the nuclear program of Libya and Iraq. Another accreditation of NPT is that if Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus had not willingly returned their nuclear arsenals to Russia, they would have declared themselves as nuclear-weapon states (NWS) in contemporary times and would have created a disastrous outcome in the current scenario.

It has been emphasized that South Asian countries that possess nuclear weapons actively participate in all nuclear-related discussions. Both India and Pakistan had their justifications for rejecting the CTBT and the NPT, as well as several additional considerations that contributed to their opposition to the CTBT. While Pakistan was more focused on preventing NNWS from acquiring nuclear weapons and envisioned the NPT as a milestone in history, India was outspoken against NPT and was in favor of having a balanced and non-discriminatory approach towards NWS and NNWS by NPT.

The author further explains the export control regimes that assist the trade in WMDs and nuclear weapons. These regimes which cover the transfer of sensitive material associated with nuclear technology include the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), The Australian Group (AG), and Multilateral Nuclear Approaches (MNAs), but they have been advancing the interests of major world powers for some time now.

The second last part of the book highlights the confidence-building measures by South Asian states, particularly India and Pakistan. Interestingly, Pakistan has been trying to convince the regional as well as global community towards declaring South Asia as a nuclear weapons-free zone through different initiatives from 1978 to 1994 but has failed as India could not comply with the proposal put forth by Pakistan. Pakistan also offered India to join NPT, but India refused as it would join the NPT only with the status of NWS and not NNWS.

Furthermore, the author has crafted out the controversies that have emerged from the nuclear doctrine of India i.e. using the term “credible deterrence” instead of credible minimum deterrence. Similarly, India’s threat of massive retaliation entails a retaliation with nuclear weapons in response to biological or chemical weapons, even if nuclear weapons are not used; such posturing nullifies the NFU commitment of India.

Lastly, the author has suggested a Regional Nonproliferation Regime (RNR) in place of the NPT to encourage India and Pakistan to demonstrate their support towards nonproliferation and



disarmament. The author has very keenly integrated the proposed RNR structure with that of the NPT articles.

Dr. Sultan also has pointed out the obstacles towards the materializing of the RNR, which includes the willingness of both states to improve bilateral relations that have been stunted since 2012. India

believes it already enjoys the same benefits as the NPT's NWS. Moreover, India is reluctant to engage in any sort of bilateral arrangement with Pakistan due to various factors.

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Article

Will Huawei Be Able to Hold Out Against the US's Sanctions?

About the Author



Fatima Haider is pursuing an MPhil degree in International Relations from National Defence University Islamabad.



The US vs. Huawei

One of the world's leading makers of smartphones and telecom equipment, Huawei is still a subject of debate in several nations including the United States. The Chinese firm has been under concentrated inspection in recent years after the US practically banned the use of its phones and certain European nations forbade the use of its technology in their 5G networks.

Biden administration in the US has continued its campaign against Huawei, which is still listed in a catalog of foreign technology corporations whose services and products represent a threat to the national security of the US. The company reported a decline in terms of revenue everywhere outside China. In fact, the fourth quarter of 2020 saw a 41.1% year-over-year decline in [Huawei's phone](#) sales.

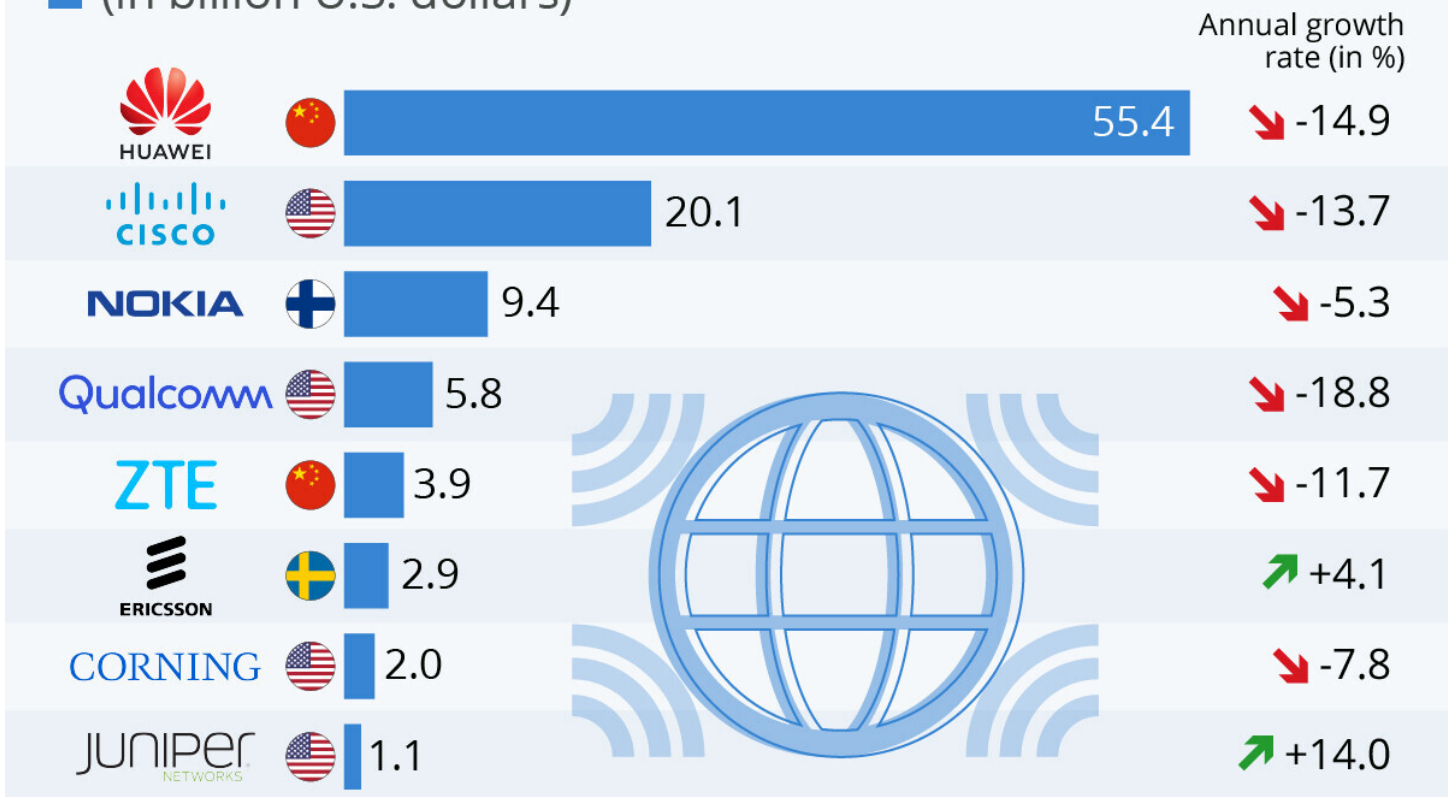
Huawei's networking equipment was effectively prohibited from US communications networks by an executive order issued by then-President Donald Trump in 2012, and the business was even



added to the Bureau of Industry and Security Entity List of the US Department of Commerce in May 2019. The sanctions have not been lifted by the Biden administration since Trump prolonged the decree to 2021.

The Companies Connecting the World

Top 8 telecom infrastructure companies by brand value
(in billion U.S. dollars)*



* As of Feb 2021

Source: Brand Finance



statista

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Under Biden, American pressure on Huawei has even increased in significant ways. The State Department, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Commerce Department of the US are just a few of the departments that have joined this battle against Huawei technology.

There are many signs, including the Biden administration's emphasis on diplomacy, which show that the current White House is taking a more comprehensive approach to the issues raised by foreign technology and the risks it can pose to national security. However, much of it builds on initiatives and plans started under the Trump administration. In particular, this modification might put the US federal government in a better position for future supply chain security policies. It also depends on how well Europe gets along with the United States, a relationship that has recently grown more and more problematic.

The America First stance of the Trump administration prevents stronger digital cooperation. The US and China are already embroiled in a protracted and structural battle that is affecting European countries. The US sees China as a strategic rival and an enemy in terms of economic, geopolitical, and security challenges. However, if the EU's relations with the US continue to remain tense, the continent runs the risk of always finding itself between a rock and a hard place and having to contend with a disjointed digital world dominated by Chinese companies or US technological companies.

Huawei in Europe

The [US campaign to oppose the use of Huawei technology](#) in Europe serves as a preview of potential future conflicts. However, when it comes to controlling and expanding the digital sphere, the United States, the EU, and its member states have more in common than any of them do with China, not least because they both have democratic institutions and principles. China's internet engagement is motivated by factors other than only economic ones. Additionally, it is essentially related to systemic rivalry and China's disagreements with the ideals of a liberal market economy, free trade, and liberal democracy.

Beginning in 2021, [Huawei's lobbyists in Brussels were still confident that Europe's](#) need for quick, inexpensive 5G installations would triumph over security worries. Even sessions in the European Parliament were scheduled to present their case.

These sessions were postponed after Putin began his full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The risk-benefit analysis involving Huawei has abruptly changed for many people in Europe.

As key economies in the EU signal a policy change with new limitations on telecom market access, analysts say, [Chinese technology giant Huawei](#)—which has been included in the US Entity List—is entering a crucial period for returning to Europe. The UK government declared that it will postpone by six months the removal of Huawei equipment from its mobile networks. The initial target date for reducing the proportion of Huawei telecom network equipment to 35 percent was established for January 2023.

The UK government announced measures limiting Huawei's access to its market in 2020, including a [stake ceiling of 35 percent](#) and a commitment to remove all Huawei equipment from its 5G networks by 2027. The UK government is reportedly not changing the 2027 deadline, according to [The Telegraph's weekend story](#).

According to industry observers, many European governments are currently focused on a variety of topics, from economic recovery to resolving the Ukraine situation. In reality, major European economies recently demonstrated a U-turn in their positions on trade with China.

Pakistan and Huawei

The need for practical cooperation with China is being pushed by more nations. The prime minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, made a public statement encouraging further collaboration with Huawei's information technology growth in Pakistan. Since it first started conducting business in the area in 1998, Huawei in particular has been a significant contributor to the growth of Pakistan's ICT talent ecosystem.

Pakistan presently exports software services and related [goods worth US\\$1.5 billion yearly](#), and this sector is anticipated to continue expanding quickly. 40,000 students across Pakistan receive ICT training from [Huawei's 93 ICT academies](#).

Additionally, the Federal Ministry of Information and Telecommunications (MoITT) and Huawei launched a program in [May 2021 that trained 1,000 government officials](#) in ICT. This program was overseen by the president of Pakistan.

It is impossible to emphasize how important Huawei is to the way that Pakistan is currently developing, particularly in light of the establishment and widespread deployment of Special Economic Zones. The reason Huawei is such a significant player in this quickly developing game is because of its demonstrated commitment to the cause of long-term projects that will advance public-private partnerships across Pakistan.

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Opinion

Violence and Video Games: Separating Fact from Fiction

About the Author



Muhammad Malahim Zuberi is a student of law.



The 1970s was when the newest of the for-leisure blessings of emerging technology, video games, appeared in the markets for the first time, and those with displays of violent behavior came around a few years later, towards the middle of the decade. With time, of course, there came more video games for the public had found an interest in them and despite some resistance, they naturally started becoming more extreme to appease the engorging market.

Stronger resistance followed in the 1990s and further in the form of the filing of lawsuits and passing of laws aimed at preventing the wide and unregulated availability of violent video games to the youth. This resistance, at least in the US, was a direct result of the rising number of incidents of mass shootings perpetrated by the youth.

To this day, resistance to displays of violent behavior in media and especially in video games marketed for young audiences continues, as do the incidents of gun violence perpetrated by the youth, with the US having by far the largest number of such incidents each year.

The debate between psychologists on whether violence displayed in media does inspire violent behavior in the human mind had existed long before mainstream video games did. The scientific literature on the



subject is quite murky with each side muddling the other's position.

Those of the position that violent video games do in fact inspire violent behavior in their consumers are met with criticism for adopting weak methodology and producing results that are not simple or straightforward enough.

They prove in their work that unrealistic or even cartoonish displays of violence inspire aggressive behavior, programming youth to expect more satisfactory outcomes from violent actions rather than non-violent actions.

Further, routine exposure of youth to displays of violent behavior creates a readily accessible violent manual on how to respond to situations that undermine the likelihood of non-violent



responses produced by them.

Another adverse effect is that such exposure to displays of unrealistic violence desensitizes and numbs the youth at an early age to scenes of conflict or violence, diminishing the ability of their brains to

produce a normally-expected negative emotional response when faced with similar situations in real life.

Scholars opposed to the aforementioned pose the question that if violent video games do inspire violent behavioral tendencies in youth, why then is the rate of violent crimes committed not increasing? Their queries are answered through some rather basic facts: the youth is [not the sole perpetrator](#) of violent crimes committed worldwide, and exposure to violence in video games is not the sole and neither the most significant factor in inspiring violent behavior in the youth.

The establishment of the last fact then makes room for a discussion that pertains to the other contributors to the problem in the discussion. It has also been established from the view of psychology that things learnt and taught during the early years of life do provide an individual with an understanding of how to act even later in life. That mandates an examination of the conditions and traditional practices around the raising of the youth.

Encouragement provided to projections of violent behavioral tendencies in boys is not hard to find in most cultures and families. Boys are trained to be bad and are even celebrated for how bad they can be. Boys are taught that if they stand to gain any respect in this society, then they must become unfeeling and unyielding men, and assume the only acceptable guise of masculinity, a



distant and explosive one. It does then teach the youth, including those who are not boys, to believe that in order to have any power in this society, one must adopt this toxic model of masculinity.

Power in Pakistani society is greatly but not equally divided amongst the many groups that it comprises. This inherently unequal access to areas of society does act as a deciding factor in things learnt by and taught to the youth. Those granted access to better educational opportunities are exposed to ideas in different ways to be dissimilar to what they may encounter around them, which affords them the opportunity to understand and determine on their own the right and wrong behavioral tendencies.

Moreover, those granted access to better economic opportunities find the choices afforded to them widened, making much space for exposure to different ways of being. A series of violent crimes perpetrated by the youth in Pakistan has not only been linked to but has been called a direct cause of violent video games and their dangerously addictive nature. This is not novel, and it has rather become a go-to practice on the part of the law enforcement authorities and others whenever there is an apparent link, even a meaningless one as it may pertain to the criminal case, between the perpetrator and a violent video game.

Several calls have been made by these authorities and others to ban video games that inspire violent behavior.

The placement of the sole responsibility in inspiring violent behavior in youth on video games is, as proved here in a scientific fashion, unjustified. This misplacement results in a distraction for the relevant authorities as well as everyone else from the more significant causes of violent behavior in youth.

Is addiction then to be considered the sole factor leading to the execution of an undesirable act? And if the addictive agent is removed: would the act not have been executed or would a different agent take its place? That seems to invite a philosophical consideration about the extent or even existence of the free will of humankind.

The failure on the part of those responsible for governing to rightly locate the most significant causes of violent behavior in youth so that they may work towards eliminating these causes is lazy and shameful, not to mention disastrous for the present and future of this nation.

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Is TikTok China's Weapon for Intellectual Warfare?

About the Author



Maryam Jilani is a student of Sociology who passionately believes in the advocacy of human rights and women empowerment.



China

China makes up around one-fourth of the Earth's surface area and takes up roughly the whole East Asian landmass. Moreover, it is almost as big as all of Europe and is the largest nation in the world, with a history dating back more than 4,000 years. In addition, China is exceptional among countries in its durability and tenacity as a distinct politico-cultural entity, despite the repeated political and social upheavals that have wrecked the country.

With the primary exception of the arrival of Buddhism from India, much of China's cultural evolution has occurred with little to no outside influence. Even when "barbarian" people like the Manchu infiltrated the nation, these nations were quickly substantially assimilated into Han Chinese civilization.

TikTok's History



TikTok is a social networking platform for making, editing, and distributing short films that last between 15 and three minutes. Users may add songs, noises, filters, and additional effects to their videos using TikTok. They may also post videos to it using their own smartphones. Moreover, anyone may access this platform in the majority of international locations and the same fundamental functionality is available in the Chinese version, known as Douyin, which also provides material relevant to the Chinese population.

Thanks to Vine, an app that permitted users to produce and distribute six-second-long films, short-form videos first gained popularity in 2013. The next year, Musical.ly, a Chinese social networking platform that permitted lengthier videos, made its debut (from 15 seconds to one minute). With thousands of songs available, users could create fun lip-synching and dancing films at first, which was its main emphasis.

After a few years, Musical.ly had tens of millions of users, notably among American adolescents who used it often.

Musical.ly was purchased by the Chinese business ByteDance for \$800 million towards the end of 2017. In the summer of 2018, TikTok and Musical.ly's user accounts and content were combined by ByteDance.

Is TikTok a Possible Threat?

According to military records from China that have been deciphered, the focus of combat is moving from [killing people to mind manipulation and paralysis](#). The Biden administration's demand that the Chinese owners of TikTok sell their shares in the app or risk a US ban is only the beginning of a drawn-out game of whac-a-mole in a larger plan to fight [data breach and cyber security](#) concerns as well as cognitive warfare, with the battlefield being the human mind.

An outright ban on TikTok may eliminate the initial and fattest mole, but it will not address the broader transition to intellectual warfare, which is currently the sixth realm of military operations. This includes Chinese influence campaigns on TikTok, a massive collection of private and biometric data from American citizens, and the race to build weapons that could one day directly challenge or restrict human minds.

The Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk Information and Communications Technology (RESTRICT) Act would allow the commerce department to assess foreign-sourced technology for the White House. Depending on the results of any study, the commerce department may subsequently try to prohibit certain technology or attempt to force their sale. The idea would need to pass both legislative houses and be signed by the president to become law, as is the case with all such measures.

The RESTRICT Act has garnered support from all sides of the political spectrum in the Senate, where Democrats and the Independents who caucus with them hold a 51-49 lead. There is a modest numerical advantage for Republicans in the House of Representatives.



Cognitive Warfare

A project manager at the NATO Act Innovation Center named François du Cluzel published a paper titled Cognitive Warfare in November 2020 that identified the human realm as the area where countries are rushing to weaponize neuroscience. The Chinese institutions and businesses that the US government suspects of developing risky “biotechnology procedures to assist Chinese military end use,” such as “purported brain-control weaponry,” have been placed on a “blacklist.”

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is making significant investments in cognitive domain operations, including AI research into hardware, software, and judgment that is inspired by the human brain. This constitutes an entire “evolution in warfare, moving from the natural and material realms – land, naval, air, and electromagnetic – into the realm of the human mind,” according to Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga, a China specialist at the Rand Corporation. He claims that the PLA seeks to “influence or even dominate the thinking ability and judgment of the opponent.”

Platforms like TikTok are excellent examples of cognitive impact since they shape the opinions and preferences of their large user base while gathering information and creating psychogenic profiles of them. The algorithm behind TikTok can influence public perception and use user data to influence preferences, prejudices, and opinions. Users unknowingly provide face recognition data using TikTok’s filters and games, which leads to an increase in the gathering of biometric data from Americans by foreign governments.

Nevertheless, we shouldn’t let the present attention on TikTok distract us from the fact that China is also collecting critical biometric data through other technology it has used in the United States. One such is the Flowtime gadget, a neurotechnology headset made by the Chinese business Hangzhou Enter Electronic Technology Co, Ltd (“Entertech”) that is utilized by many Americans for meditation, gaming, and other uses.



The State Grid Corporation of China, a state-owned electric utility company in China, purchased tens of thousands of helmets with EEG sensors from Entertech so it could monitor the brainwave activity and tiredness levels of its employees in real-time while they were working. Millions of raw EEG data records from people all around the world have been gathered by Entertech, coupled with data on people's personal information, devices, and app activity.

The emergence of brain control weapons is the most concerning part of cognitive combat. Researchers supported by the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation have encouraged China to fund military brain science (MBS), which focuses on the creation of infrasound and brainwave interference devices as well as research into the effects of different weapons on brain tissue. They contend that the brain serves as the "headquarters' of the human body" and that precisely assaulting the brain with weaponry would soon rank among the most successful ways to win or lose on the battleground.

Although the US intelligence agency has ruled out the likelihood that a foreign foe was to blame for the Havana Syndrome, the US military has been experimenting with pulsed energy on animals to mimic the symptoms of the syndrome. Although having nothing to do with TikTok, US concerns about Chinese government spying grew when American fighter aircraft downed a Chinese spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina on 4th February.

Conclusion

Beyond just prohibiting applications like TikTok, combating cognitive warfare necessitates a diverse strategy. To ensure that people have the right to cognitive liberty, as well as the right to mental privacy, freedom of thinking, and self-determination over our brains and mental experiences, the US must act rapidly to establish global rights and standards.

Providing the public with specific information about the hazards to individuals and national security must also increase public awareness of the dangers posed by digital platforms and neurotechnology gadgets.

Users will be better equipped to choose their internet presence and the gadgets they use if consumers are informed about possible risks.

Moreover, a thorough, long-term approach that integrates rights, legislation, technology, education, and global collaboration is necessary to win the battle for minds. Fostering trust and facilitating communal awareness of the struggle for minds will be made possible by encouraging open communication and openness between governments, the corporate sector, and citizens.

Furthermore, by taking immediate action, it may provide the groundwork for future generations to enjoy the freedom to think for themselves by constructing a strong defense against challenges to our cognitive liberty and integrity.

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PPC 106

Right of private defence against deadly assault when there is risk of harm to innocent person:

If in the exercise of the right of private defence against an assault which reasonably causes the apprehension of death, the defender be so situated that he cannot effectually exercise that right without risk of harm to an innocent person, his right of private defence extends to the running of that risk.

Article

Of the right of Private Defence

Search

PPC 96

Things done in private defence:

Nothing is an offence which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence.

The Law of Self-Defence in Pakistan

About the Author



Muhammad Samar Shahzad is studying law at Punjab University Law College, Lahore.



Introduction

Self-defence is defined in [Black's Law Dictionary](#) as “a use of force to protect oneself, one's family or one's property from a real or threatened attack”. Section 96 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) states that nothing is an offence which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence.

Burden of Proof

It is a well-established principle of law that the onus of proof lies on the prosecution in criminal cases. However, an exception is made to this general rule when an accused takes the plea of insanity, alibi or self-defence. It means that the accused himself will have to prove that he acted in self-defence and the burden of proof is relieved from the prosecution.

In *Muhammad Dilbar alias Muhammad Boota vs. The State (2002 SCMR 1425)*, it was held that when a specific plea of right of self-defence is raised, the onus to prove such a plea lies upon the party claiming the same.

Rule of Proportionality

The rule of proportionality is a basic principle of law which states that the punishment must fit the crime. Reaction to the crime must not be more intense than the crime itself. The rule of proportionality is laid down in section 99 of PPC as ‘the right of private defence in no case extends to the inflicting of more harm than it is necessary to inflict for the purpose of defence’.

However, the rule of proportionality is somewhat relaxed in the case of self-defence through a number of precedents. In a landmark judgement of *Mashal Khan vs. The State (1988 PLD 25 Supreme Court)*, the Supreme Court declared that in such a state of panic when the right of self-defence is being exercised, the action on the part of the person cannot be measured in golden scales, and this principle has been reiterated by this court on numerous occasions.

Essential Conditions for Self-Defence

One cannot exercise the right of self-defence arbitrarily. Courts from time to time have laid down the conditions necessary to exercise the right of private defence. In ***Mushtaq Hussain vs The State (2011 SCMR 45)***, the Supreme Court ordained the following conditions to be met for the lawful exercising of the right of self-defence:

- The accused was not responsible or at fault or on account of his act the occurrence took place.
- He/she honestly believed that his/her life was in immediate danger.
- He/she also believed that there was no reasonable cause available to escape or avoid the necessity.
- He/her had no intention to cause more harm than necessary for the purpose.

Right of Private Defence of Body

The right of private defence of the body is given in sections 100 and 101 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Section 100 deals with the right of private defence and extends to causing the death of the assailant if the offence apprehended is of the following descriptions:

- Such an assault as may reasonably cause the apprehension that death will otherwise be the consequence of such assault;
- Such an assault as may reasonably cause the apprehension that grievous hurt will otherwise be the consequence of such assault;
- An assault with the intention of committing rape;
- An assault with the intention of gratifying unnatural lust;
- An assault with the intention of kidnapping or abduction;
- An assault with the intention of wrongfully confining a person, under circumstances which may reasonably cause him to apprehend that he will be unable to have recourse to the public authorities for his release.

In addition to this, if the offence is not of any description mentioned in section 100, then the right of self-defence does not extend to causing voluntary death to the assailant. Whether the right of self-defence extends to causing death or not is a question of fact and is adjudged on the facts and circumstances of the case in the light of the judgements of the higher courts.

Right of Private Defence of Property

The right of private defence of property is discussed in sections 103 and 104 of PPC. It extends to causing the death of the offender if the imminent offence has the following descriptions:

- Robbery;
- House-breaking by night;
- Mischief by fire committed on any building, tent or vessel, which building, tent or vessel is used as a human dwelling or as a place for the custody of property;
- Theft, mischief, or house trespass, under such circumstances as may reasonably cause apprehension that death or grievous hurt will be the consequence if such right of private defence is not exercised.

If the circumstances are not of the nature mentioned above, then one cannot exercise the right of self-defence up to causing the death of the wrong-doer.

Limitations on Self-Defence

The right of self-defence is not absolute. It is subject to certain limitations laid down by law. There are certain instances in which one cannot exercise the right of private defence, such as:

- When there is time to have recourse to public authorities.
- When an act does not reasonably cause the apprehension of death or grievous hurt, if done, or attempted to be done, by the direction of a public servant.

In the *Mst. Shaheen Zari case (2022 YLR 1901 Peshawar High Court)*, the husband of the appellant had gone to Mingora to repair the vehicle. At night time, when the appellant was asleep with her children, at 3:00 hours someone opened the door of the room, so she woke up and saw that an unknown person had entered her room. She picked up her husband's pistol and fired at the unknown person due to which he died.

The court remarked that the very act of surreptitious entry by a stranger armed with a pistol at night time into the room of a young lady, and his murder by her in the exercise of her right of private defence is not only believable but the same is also inferrable from the attending circumstances of the case because she had no other option at that critical situation but to fire at the intruder. It was held by the honorable court that the conviction and sentence be set aside and hence she was acquitted of the charge levelled against her by the prosecution.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the law of self-defence in Pakistan provides people with the legal right to protect themselves, their property and the property of others from harm. However, this right is not absolute and is subject to certain conditions. The law of self-defence continues to evolve in Pakistan as new precedents are being set by the judiciary.

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Israel's Judicial Reforms: What You Need to Know

About the Author



Afifa Iqbal has a keen interest in identity politics, colonialism and post-colonial development. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at ITU while pursuing her postgraduate studies in Development, Technology and Policy. She is a Gold Medalist in Political Science from the University of Punjab.

Netanyahu's Re-election and Proposed Judicial Reforms

The judicial reforms in Israel are seen by many as an attempt by Netanyahu to defang the judiciary in an attempt to impact the proceedings of his corruption cases. In fact, in order to serve as a prime minister despite being on trial, Netanyahu had to sign a conflict of interest declaration that meant he could not be involved in judicial policy-making or propose judicial reforms.

While lambasting Prime Minister Netanyahu for ignoring the conflict of interest declaration, [Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara](#) stated in an open letter to him, "...as a prime minister accused of crimes, you must refrain from taking actions that give rise to a reasonable fear of the existence of a conflict of interest between your personal interests relating to the criminal proceedings and your role as prime minister."

The proposed judicial reform bills aim to overhaul the judicial system and tip the balance of power in favor of the Knesset. The Knesset would be able to overturn Supreme Court decisions that declare a law unconstitutional with a simple majority vote if the proposed bills are passed.

Additionally, under the proposed judicial reforms, the government would have authority over the appointment of judges, and ministers would not be legally required to comply with the advice of legal advisors who are under the purview of the Attorney General.

A law that has been passed already has taken away the power of the Attorney General to declare a sitting prime minister unfit for office. The passing of this law at a time when the sitting prime minister is facing a corruption trial has fueled allegations that it is designed to shield him from being declared unfit to hold office. Netanyahu, of course, denies such allegations and claims that the reform proposals aim to strengthen Israel's democracy by following in the footsteps of other democracies like the US where the legislature has a considerable say in judicial affairs and appointment.

The reform bills have drawn the ire of large swathes of the general populace as well as policy-makers. Soon after the government announced the reforms, protests erupted all across Jerusalem



and Tel Aviv. Tens of thousands of protestors hoisted Israeli flags, chanted different slogans supporting democracy, and called for an end to the proposed judicial reforms seen as a threat to the democratic values of Israel.

Amidst this, Netanyahu's decision to oust his defense minister for voicing concerns about the proposed judicial reforms added fuel to the protests. Critics have argued that the reforms would considerably weaken the courts and undermine the democratic values of the country. Many saw it as a form of a coup by the government to concentrate power within its own hands while decaying the judiciary that maintains constitutional balance within the system.

The attempt by Netanyahu to justify the proposed reforms as a step towards the democratic consolidation of Israel in line with other liberal democracies also came under fire. In an emergency conference organized by Israel Democracy Institute to highlight the problematic nature of the proposed reforms, President of Israel Democracy Institute, Yohanan Plesner, [argued](#); "... In order to justify this hostile takeover of our judiciary, proponents of the so-called 'reform' claim that they are merely implementing a process that exists in other liberal democracies. But most of the references to best practices in other countries, like the ones made by the Prime Minister on Thursday, when he cited Canada, the United States and Canada, are either deeply misleading or downright false."

However, this does not entail that the proposed reforms do not have dedicated supporters. Proponents, overwhelmingly ultranationalist right-wing factions in the government and civil society, argue that the reforms pose no harm to the democratic norms of the polity as ["there is nothing wrong with the public's representatives choosing the public's judges"](#).

In fact, thousands of supporters reportedly gathered in Jerusalem after National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for their support.

Impact on Palestinians

There is fear among the Palestinians that the reforms would provide a legal cover to the settler-colonial violence of the Israeli state. Due to the Knesset's historical tendency, as compared to other branches of the government, to be particularly brazen in its drive for the establishment of illegal settlements on Palestinian lands, it is not unwarranted for Palestinians to feel a sense of anxiety over the proposed reforms.

That the current Knesset, headed by the ultranationalist far-right coalition, has made no secret of its agenda to spearhead construction in all parts of Israel, including the West Bank, provides evidence that the judicial reforms would be devastating for the Palestinians. The [guiding principles](#), published by the current government, read; "The Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel. The government will promote and develop the settlement of all parts of the Land of Israel — in the Galilee, the Negev, the Golan and Judea and Samaria."

While the Supreme Court has hardly been a knight in shining armor for the Palestinians, a weakened Supreme Court would only embolden the ultranationalist who are determined to pursue their agenda of illegal settlements and annexation of Palestinian lands. The mainstream international media outlets, while quick to condemn civil rights violations in any other part of the world, have repeatedly [turned a blind eye](#) towards the plight of Palestinians. The current scenario is no different. For instance, the impact of strikes and protests on the freedom of movement of Palestinians was largely ignored.

According to [Tania Hary](#), executive director of Gisha, an Israeli NGO focused on protecting the freedom of movement of Palestinians-Erez Crossing and Allenby Crossing were closed due to general strikes.

The importance of Erez Crossing can be gauged from the [information](#) catalogued by Gisha; “Erez Crossing is the only land crossing for the movement of people between the Gaza Strip and Israel and the West Bank, as well as third countries when Rafah Crossing is closed. In recent years,



Israel permitted Palestinian residents to apply to cross Erez in narrow circumstances: for business and trade, medical treatment unavailable in the Strip, and other ‘humanitarian exceptions,’ that is, visiting a dying first-degree relative, or attending a wedding or a funeral of a first-degree relative.” In a land where Palestinians are consistently oppressed, surveilled, and brutalized, even the mere act of Israelis exercising their right to protest could spell disaster for Palestinians.

Delaying the Reforms

Following the heightening protests triggered by the removal of the defense minister, Netanyahu announced to delay reforms until May. He [stated](#); “[O]ut of national responsibility, out of a desire to prevent a rift in the nation, I have decided to suspend the second and third readings of the law in the current Knesset session in order to allow time to try and reach that broad consensus, ahead of legislation in the next Knesset session. One way or another, we will enact a reform that will restore the balance between the authorities that has been lost, by preserving – and I add, even by strengthening – individual rights.”

In his address, he adopted the tone of a concerned parent while in reality, he is anything but. His policies have wreaked havoc on Palestinians for decades. Even for Israelis who he claims to love and care about, his corruption and fraud charges tell a different tale.

Conclusion

The proposed judicial reforms in Israel have stirred up a significant amount of controversy, both domestically and internationally. While Netanyahu and his supporters argue that the reforms are necessary for strengthening democracy in [Israeli politics](#), critics argue that they will only serve to weaken the judiciary and concentrate power within the government's hands.

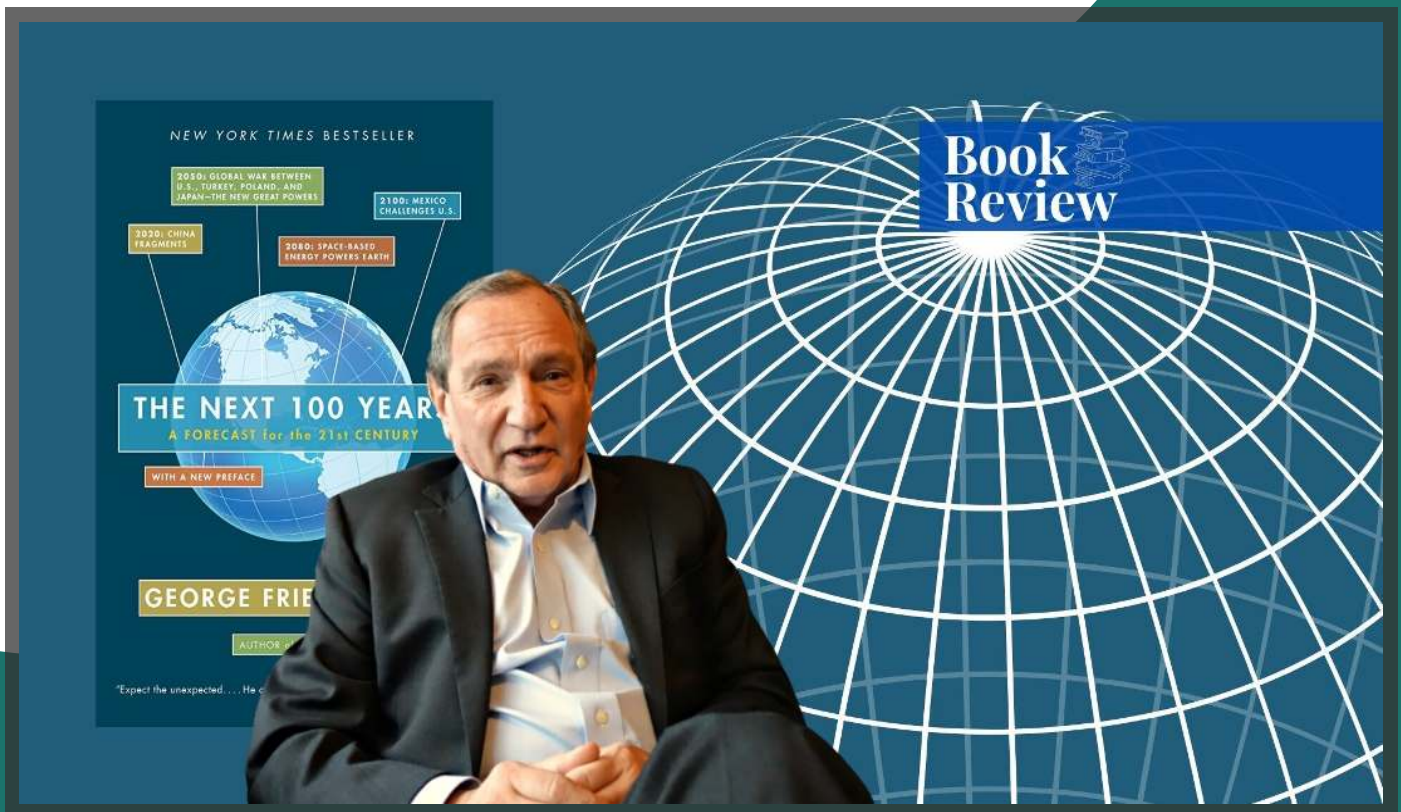
The protests and demonstrations indicate the Israelis will not accept the reforms lying down. While the decision by Netanyahu to press pause on the reforms has temporarily pacified the situation, the debate over judicial reforms in Israel is far from over. In any case, it remains to be seen how the situation will unfold come May,

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The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century

About the Author



M. Shehryar is currently pursuing his Bachelor's in International Relations at the University of Peshawar.

Introduction

We are seeing different trends emerge in the world that might not have been imaginable a century ago. The power structure from the last century has changed so rapidly that most of the states have tasted the protocol of having a powerful state and also have tasted the ferocity of destruction at the hands of other powerful states.

The 20th century is thought by many to be the most deadly century, in which two world wars were fought. Millions of people died, and millions were forced to evacuate their lands. The Cold War made the other half of the twentieth century the most suffocating, as both the powerful states (the US and the USSR) were about to experience a nuclear holocaust.

As the century turned from bipolar to unipolar, the war on terror started along with the looming, ferocious climate change. Many powerful states have emerged in different regions of the world, and these states are going to decide the coming decades of this century.

Overview

The author conducts an in-depth examination of historical trends and draws on contemporary geopolitical and geostrategic forecasting in order to identify potential trends and foresee the course of global politics. Friedman's analysis is based on an extensive study of history and geopolitics, despite the fact that some of his predictions may seem fanciful or unrealistic.

The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century makes a significant contribution to the ongoing debate over the future of the globe in the twenty-first century, whether or not his prediction is realized. He achieves an effective mix of giving comprehensive information and making his projections understandable to a wider audience.

Theme of the Book

Friedman begins *The Next 100 Years* by stating his core opinion that the international system is intrinsically unstable and that power transitions are a natural and repeating phenomenon in world history. He contends that the balance of power is continually shifting and that this dynamic will continue to impact international relations in the future.

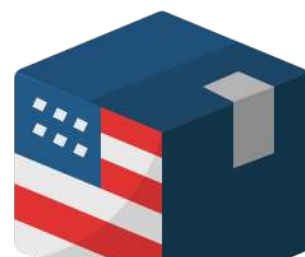
He then identifies four geopolitical zones as the most important players in the twenty-first century: the United States, Europe, Russia, and China. According to Friedman, each of these regions has distinct strengths and limitations, and the interplay between them will determine global politics in the future.

The Next 100 Years is structured into three major sections, each of which focuses on a distinct time period in the next 100 years. During these time periods, he outlines several features and power structures for the following decades. The first section looks at the bygone decade which was from 2010 to 2020. The second portion diagnoses the middle of the century, from 2020 to 2050, while the third part addresses the latter half of the century, from 2050 to 2100.

United States

One of Friedman's key topics in his book is the United States' relative fall as a worldwide superpower. According to Friedman, rising nations such as China, Russia, and India will pose greater threats to the United States. He claims that the United States will lose its global dominance due to a combination of economic, military, and demographic factors.

According to Friedman, one of the primary causes of this reduction is the United States' reliance on foreign oil. He claims that as domestic oil output drops, the US will become increasingly subject to energy shortages and price shocks. This, in turn, will lead to a greater reliance on imports, making the US more vulnerable to the policies of oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia and Russia.



Another factor that Friedman believes will contribute to the decline of the US is demographic change. He notes that the US is aging rapidly, with the baby boomer generation entering retirement and placing a strain on the country's social security and healthcare systems. At the same time, the birth rate in the US is declining, which means that the country will have a smaller workforce to support its aging population.

Friedman also believes that non-state entities such as terrorist groups and cybercriminals would pose greater difficulties and strains to the United States. He claims that these groups will be able to carry out attacks and weaken the country's security by exploiting the vulnerabilities of the US's open society and technical infrastructure.

Despite these problems, Friedman is hopeful about the United States' long-term prospects. He emphasizes the country's great legacy of innovations and entrepreneurship, which he believes will assist it in overcoming problems and maintaining its place as a worldwide leader. He also points out that the United States has significant military and geopolitical might, which he believes might help it maintain its place as a superpower.

Russia

After discussing the United States' geographic and economic advantages, Friedman contends that Russia's geopolitical situation is unique and that its future is defined by its past experience as a Eurasian power. He observes that Russia has always served as a buffer zone between Europe and Asia and that its location gives it the ability and allows it to influence events on both continents.

Friedman believes that Russia's history has molded its political culture, which prioritizes strong leadership and the centralization of power. He contends that Russia's current political system, led by President Vladimir Putin, is a continuation of this history and is unlikely to alter in the near future.



Russia's principal geopolitical goal, according to Friedman, is to maintain its dominance over its traditional sphere of influence, which encompasses Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. He observes that Russia's historical experience has made it apprehensive of foreign meddling in this region and that it will go to any length to prevent NATO and other Western organizations from expanding into this area.

Friedman believes that Russia's relationship with the US will remain strained in the future and that the two countries will struggle for dominance in Eurasia. He contends that the US would want to preserve its dominance in Europe and Asia, while Russia will seek to keep the US out of its area of influence.

Despite this competition, Friedman believes that there are areas of potential cooperation between Russia and the United States. He notes that both countries share a common interest in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in fighting terrorism. He also argues that Russia's energy resources could be a source of cooperation, as the United States seeks to reduce its dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

China

China, on the other hand, is a rising power with a rapidly growing economy during the last few decades. He observes that China's ascent is not a new event but rather a continuation of a trend that began in the late 1970s when the country began to open up to the outside world. According to Friedman, China's development is not necessarily a threat to the United States but rather a challenge that the United States must be prepared to face.

Friedman contends that China's ascent is not inevitable and that the country confronts a number of hurdles that could stymie its progress. China's population problem is one of the most serious challenges it faces. The country's one-child policy, which was implemented in 1979, has led to an aging population and a shrinking workforce. This demographic problem could lead to slower economic growth in the future, and could also strain China's social welfare system.



Another issue that China faces is a scarcity of natural resources. While the country has a large population and a growing economy, it has limited natural resources such as oil and gas. China has been trying hard to get energy resources from other countries, but this strategy may grow more challenging as other countries compete for those resources.

Friedman also argues that China confronts major political issues. The Communist Party's authoritarian political structure may limit the country's ability to innovate and adapt to new conditions. Control of the media and the internet by the government may also hinder the country's capacity to engage with the rest of the world and learn from other countries.

Despite these challenges, Friedman believes that China will continue to grow and become a major player on the global stage. He notes that China has a long history of civilization and that its people are resilient and adaptable. Friedman also believes that China will become more assertive on the international stage as it seeks to protect its interests and expand its influence. However, he argues that China is unlikely to become a hegemonic power and that the country will face significant challenges in maintaining its rise.

Why this Book

One of the major advantages of *The Next 100 Years* is Friedman's ability to synthesize complex geopolitical trends and distill them into clear and concise predictions about the future. His analysis of the four major regions is particularly insightful, and it provides a valuable framework for understanding the evolving dynamics of global politics.

Friedman's focus on the importance of power transfers and the inherent volatility of the international system serves as a valuable reminder that the world is continuously changing, with new problems and possibilities appearing all the time.

Another strength of the book is its broad scope. Rather than focusing on a specific issue or region, Friedman provides a comprehensive analysis of the major trends that will shape the 21st century.

This allows readers to develop a more nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between different factors, and to see how seemingly disparate issues are interconnected.

Conclusion

In conclusion, George Friedman's *The Next 100 Years* is a thought-provoking and fascinating read that challenges readers to think deeply about the future of our world. Through his insightful analysis and predictions, Friedman paints a vivid picture of the geopolitical landscape that awaits us in the coming century. While some of his predictions may be controversial or unsettling, they are nevertheless grounded in a deep understanding of history, human nature, and the forces that shape our world.

As such, *The Next 100 Years* offers valuable insights for anyone who wishes to better understand the complex and ever-changing world in which we live. Ultimately, this book reminds us that the future is always uncertain and that the choices we make today will have profound implications for generations to come.

It is a timely reminder that we must be thoughtful, proactive, and courageous in our efforts to shape the world in which we live. In short, *The Next 100 Years* is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of our planet, and the role that we all have to play in shaping it.

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Interview

A Conversation with SP Amna Baig

About the Author



This interview has been taken by an official staff member.

Hello, SP Amna Baig! Since many of our readers are CSS aspirants, could you first tell us what was it about CSS that got you interested?

I joined civil services 7 years ago, and the reason was that my father was a civil servant, and I saw him do a lot of good work by just being honest and doing his job. I saw the impact he made in people's lives, and growing up, I thought that was a great thing to do.

Another reason was that we did not have a lot of female role models while growing up. Women were generally not working in fields where the 'men were supposed to'. It was more of a gender



role thing where people believed 'women should do x' and 'men should do y'. But I always believed that I was good enough and that I was equally capable of doing what my father was doing. However, because there were not enough women in this field (and in these positions), it always felt like an impossible task.

After I grew up, I realized there was a way to go about these things, and that is that one just *has* to break the glass ceiling, and prove to people that women can do all that men are doing.

Who has been the biggest inspiration to SP Amna Baig, and why? And who has been the biggest source of support and motivation for you?

Motivation? Absolutely, other women. I saw so many women around me, who were so amazingly capable, but because of the gender roles and gender norms that we have in Pakistan, these women were usually confined to their houses and were working in a very limited capacity. And if they were given the opportunity, they would have done so much more with their lives.

So the motivation was that if I have a daughter, she doesn't grow up with the regret that her mother couldn't achieve her own larger goals in life, even though she was capable enough. So yeah, that was my main motivation. Other women around me, seeing them unable to realize their potential, that was it.

In terms of support, it was initially my immediate family, but now it is completely and totally my husband. To be honest, given the circumstances in this patriarchal society, he has been a source of great support with everything. I don't think I would have been able to do this without his support – emotional, and otherwise. So, kudos to him for not having a conventional mindset, and being a cool person, etcetera 😊

Why CSS?

To be honest, I come from a very conventional family. The social legitimacy that I experienced growing up (w.r.t. women's careers) was largely linked to them being either teachers, nurses, doctors, or civil servants. To be clear, I don't share the same viewpoint – I think women can excel in every field.

However, while growing up, I knew that my parents would probably only be comfortable with me doing a job, which was, you know, civil service. So that was the reason, the social legitimacy attached to the career, and my parents' acceptance of it as a career for women. Because the reality of it is that we live in a patriarchal society, and a lot of it depends on what the men decide in the household. So, I just wanted to make the most of the opportunity that I had.



What was your CSS journey like? (we would like a super-candid answer for our audience!)

My CSS journey was actually very tough, because I'm a very, very average student – extremely average student actually. I graduated with a 2.8 CGPA in my undergrad! I feel like that's the



reason I had to study a lot more than a lot of other people around me. I appeared in the civil service exam right after my undergrad, since I was very clear during the university tenure that I wanted to do CSS. So right after graduation, that's what I did.

I started preparing for them and then appeared in the exams. However, despite all the studying, I was unable to clear it on my first attempt. I did clear them in my second attempt, Alhamdulillah, but it was after lots and lots of effort. A preparation of almost eight months went into clearing the exams – and the stress, oh my God. It comes with a LOT of stress. My friends know how much stress I was under, and how I went down a hole full of uncertainty, the stress of not clearing it the first time, the studying – and so much more. So yeah, it was very very very tough.

Would you recommend CSS to our youth currently? Why?

I would definitely recommend civil services as a career, and I would recommend, especially to women! I think there is a huge gap that needs to be filled by women officers in the civil service because half of the country's population is women. They need to now come up and take these leadership positions, and break the notions that only men can do this stuff.

I think that it is an extremely rewarding profession. It does come with an opportunity cost in terms of your time. Moreover, you might not make a lot of money! However, despite all that, I think it's extremely rewarding in other ways which make it worth it.

Why did you choose PSP instead of DMG or Foreign Services?

My father was from DMG and I saw him do a lot of administrative work, and I never thought that was too interesting to be honest – to each his own! I think I've probably just binged on a lot of crime series growing up and I was so fascinated by investigating crimes and all the related stuff that I saw. I think a lot of us watched CID, that super popular crime show on the Indian TV channel, Sony – that really fascinated me.

Then when the internet became readily available, I think it was YouTube and Netflix, which had amazing content revolving around crime which fascinated me even more. And then again, of course, the stereotype that women can't do this and you know, only men can do policing, etc., that challenged me too.

I also feel that one of the reasons was that I wanted freedom and empowerment in ways that I thought that maybe only the police would be able to bring. But yeah, I think it was a combination of all these factors that really cemented my decision to join PSP.

What has your journey in the police been like?

It's honestly the best thing that ever happened to me. I mean it's so interesting, there are so many stories, and there's just so much there. I mean it's so rewarding that it compensates for the emotional toll it takes – and actually just makes you a strong person. I mean, it has its ups and downs, but it has changed me as a person, and the best thing is that it has enabled me to help a lot of people along the way.

It has been great so far, and I don't think I can ever give it up for anything else – and I won't, In Sha Allah. I've been lucky, I've had great bosses throughout, and I have not faced gender discrimination of any sort which I was actually expecting. I truly believe that it has been amazing, and as I mentioned previously, so so rewarding.

I appreciate it even more being as a woman in Pakistan, where women generally do not get the opportunity to experience the sort of things that I have experienced during my time in the police. I'm talking in terms of empowerment, in terms of being in a position to help a lot of people, in terms of freedom, and in terms of awareness.

One of the best things was the awareness that I got about my rights as a woman in this country. I got to learn about the help that's available to women in the country, about our legal rights, and about the equality that the constitution of this country assures. All of those things, which most of us women don't even know/realize while growing up.

Has being a female police officer hindered your growth in any way? How supportive have your colleagues been?

Honestly, I was expecting gender discrimination when I started off. I thought that my under-command officers or my seniors might not take me seriously because I'm a girl, but that's not how it works. I mean they all have been extremely welcoming. I think once you wear a uniform, there is no gender, you and your male counterparts are supposed to do an equal amount of work. You actually have the same responsibilities.

There is no difference between a male police officer and a female police officer once you start the job – or even while you're training for it. In fact, I always joke about this, that women end up doing more work than men in the police because generally, there are just one or two women in a district, and they end up handling the gender-based violence cases for their respective districts, in addition to their usual duties and responsibilities – which means more work.

I also think the world has changed in many ways. We have so many female police officers around us that the gender debate has almost gone away in some places. But, yeah, I think it's your competence that matters at the end of the day – basically how good you are at your work. You can be a man or a woman: if you're good at your job, seniors will appreciate you and juniors will be happy to be under your command.

SP Amna Baig, what has been your biggest achievement to date?



I think my biggest achievement to date has been that women who have seen me as a policewoman now know that this profession exists for them alongside men. They can now see that they have an equal opportunity to join the police too. When I walk in the streets or go to markets in uniform during my work hours, I see young girls looking at me in surprise. I can tell that they see new possibilities, that it is now a reality that they can grow up and decide to work as a policewoman.

So my achievement – just by joining this police service – is showing my fellow Pakistani women this reality, and setting an example for them, to help them realize that this is also one possible career option. I mean, there have been instances where I was wearing civil clothes, and other people introduced me as a policewoman to young girls, and they instantly reacted with a “oh that’s not possible! Women can’t be in the police, right?”, just because we have this notion ingrained in children’s minds that these are gendered roles, and these are things that women can’t do.

When I break these notions in the minds of young girls or young women, just by *being* in the police, it is maybe my biggest achievement so far.

What would you say is your biggest hiccup/failure?

I’m not sure, to be honest, I can’t think of any such thing off the top of my head – it’s just the fact that the work has been so rewarding that I don’t see the negatives as negatives. However, one of the things I would admit is that there is an opportunity cost that comes with the career. You do have less time on your hands, which means that you have less time for your family – especially for my husband, in my case. I haven’t been able to manage my work-life balance perfectly in the last four years, so maybe you could call that a hiccup.

Can you tell us something about the police force in Pakistan that most people don't know?

Yeah, every police station generally has a female police officer! She could be a constable, a head constable, a sub-inspector, a sub-divisional police officer, or even a station house officer (SHO)! This is a vital piece of information that I'd like to pass on through this interview because most of the time, women are very hesitant to even go to a police station just because they think that only men will be there.



If you go to a police station and request the officers to let you speak to a female police officer, they will arrange it for you. Since over half our population is female, 100 million+ women should know this!

What would you say, is the most interesting case that you have come across (if you're at liberty to share a few details of course!)

They have been many, *many* cases, but I think one of the most important ones that I have handled in my career was the Noor Muqaddam case. It changed me as a police officer, it changed my perspective on crime, it changed my perspective on gender-based violence, and it really just shook me as a person.

I really hope that we are able to get justice in this case as soon as possible. It was devastating. I can never forget the whole process of the investigation – from the beginning to the end, the media attention, the sympathy towards the victim, and the family, and feeling the immense responsibility of doing justice to the case.

If you hadn't done CSS, what would you have been doing?

If I had not taken the CSS exams, I would have definitely been a hairdresser. That has actually



been my life goal – actually it still is, and I still think that one day maybe I'll achieve it. Maybe one day I will have my own hair salon and be doing people's hair! I actually cut my husband's hair, and I'm very proud of it. I'm also hoping to hone my skills very soon.

What do you think is the biggest challenge for the youth of this country today, and what would your recommendations be to overcome it?

I think the biggest challenge for the youth is the uncertainty and the lack of clarity about what they want to do after they graduate. I think it starts right after their intermediate. Aside from the students who start working towards set career paths (like becoming engineers, or doctors), the others just jump into programs without thinking things through.

Most students these days have access to the internet, which means that they have a wide array of sources to research their potential career goals/career paths. I believe that they should use those sources and start researching what career they are aspiring for, what the potential of that career path is, what the demands are, and what undergraduate degree/post-graduate degree would help them achieve their eventual goals.

Doing research to select their programs is vital because I see so many students just getting enrolled into whatever degree they felt like at the time, with no idea what to do once they graduate. I did that as well! I made that mistake too by the way.

After I graduated with a degree in economics, I realized that was not the degree that I wanted. So, I ended up doing another undergraduate degree, which was an LLB and I thoroughly enjoyed it. And if I could go back in time, I'd go back and do the LLB. Back then, we were not very aware and did not have access to a lot of information, but I think now the youth should definitely focus on exploring different degrees and career paths.

And I strongly believe that CSS is not – and should not – be the end goal for everyone. Everybody is blessed with different skills and talents that God has given them, and they should definitely see what makes them happy. They should know what their talents and strengths are, and they should focus on honing and utilizing those. The world is open and they can achieve anything that they want. But of course, putting in the right amount of effort, researching where the world is headed, what the needs of the future are – and catching up with that – is extremely important.

What is your advice for the girls and women in this country, who have found a huge role model in you?

I would just try to tell them that I am EXACTLY like you. I studied in government schools. I come from a very traditional family. I was initially growing up believing that a woman's role is just to get married and have children. My story is exactly like yours. I am not from the outside, I am from within you.

I just want you to know that if somebody like me can make it, with a Matric and an F.A., anybody can. With the same dynamics in the house, with the same restrictions that women experience in our country (where men don't), I just want everyone to know that if an average student from a conventional background can do it, so can you.



What facet of society are you most passionate about making a difference to? What would you need to achieve your goals there?

I think a lot of things are interlinked with women's empowerment. The economy of the country, the social structure of the country, everything is linked to that. I do believe that if you empower the women in the country, it's for the benefit of all.

It's an ideological thing, changing ideologies takes time, it's a long, *long* struggle that we have in front of us, but I do hope that I can make some difference in some people's minds, in changing their perspective on what role women should take on in the society. I think that's what I'm trying to work towards, and I aim to do my part in that.

I'm sure the stress of your job negatively impacts your mental health. What keeps you going, and what do you do to relax & unwind?

I love to cook! I love to spend time with my husband and my dog. I love going out with my friends, and I love to socialize! All of these things combined. I also think cooking is therapeutic. I am a foodie at heart, so I love to cook and I love to eat. I love to clean as well. I am a very homely person. At times, just to relax, I start deep-cleaning my room (laughs).



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The super QUICK QUIZ



Test your general knowledge!



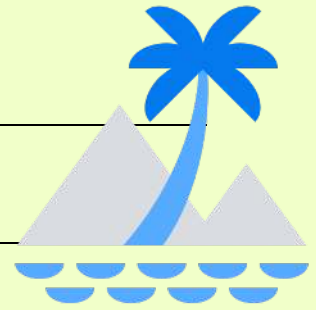
1. Which is the smallest ocean in the world?

A. Indian

B. Pacific

C. Atlantic

D. Arctic



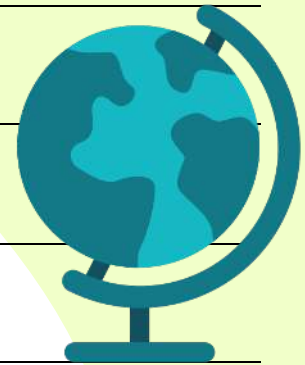
2. The Dead Sea is located between?

A. Jordan & Sudan

B. Jordan & Israel

C. Jordan & Syria

D. Israel & Egypt



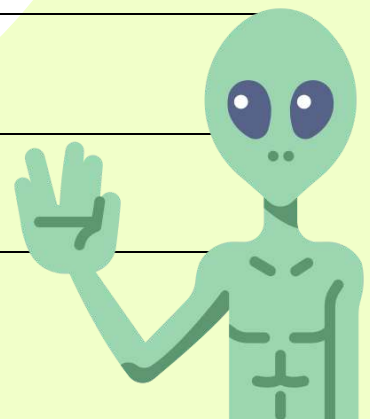
3. In which ocean is the Bermuda Triangle located?

A. Indian

B. Pacific

C. Arctic

D. Atlantic



4. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the US?

A. Mexico

B. France

C. England

D. Canada



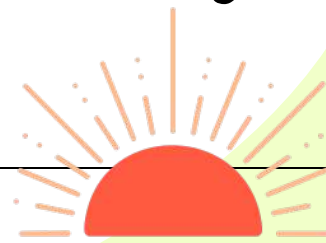
5. Which country is known as the 'land of the rising sun'?

A. Egypt

B. China

C. Japan

D. Vietnam



6. Which continent has the most countries?

A. Asia

B. North America

C. Africa

D. Europe



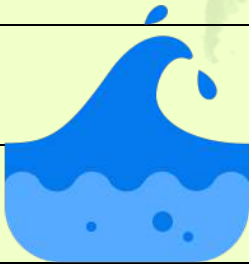
7. Biggest island in the world?

- A. Borneo
- B. Sumatra
- C. Finland
- D. Greenland



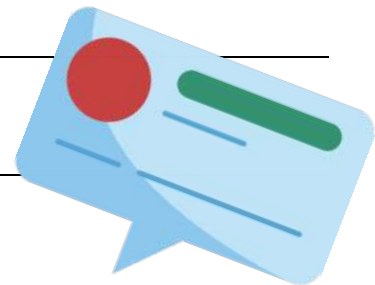
8. Which country is the 'land of a thousand lakes'?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Finland
- C. Scotland
- D. Cambodia



9. Formosa is the old name for?

- A. Taiwan
- B. Malaysia
- C. Cuba
- D. Spain



Answers!



1. D (Arctic)

The Arctic Ocean is the smallest ocean in the world. It is also considered as the coldest among all the oceans of the world.

2. B (Jordan & Israel)

The Dead Sea, also known by other names, is a salt lake bordered by Jordan to the east and the West Bank and Israel to the west. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary is the Jordan River.

3. D (Atlantic)

The Bermuda Triangle, also known as the Devil's Triangle, is an urban legend focused on a loosely defined region in the western part of the North Atlantic Ocean, where a number of aircraft and ships are said to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

4. B (France)

In 1865, Edouard de Laboulaye (a French political thinker, U.S. Constitution expert, and abolitionist) proposed that a monument be built as a gift from France to the United States in order to commemorate the perseverance of freedom and democracy in the United States and to honor the work of the late president Abraham Lincoln.

5. C (Japan)

In 645 AD, according to Japanese history, a palace coup led to the introduction of the Taika (meaning "great change") Reform. Intended to further centralize the government, the reform eliminated private ownership of lands and put them under the control of the centralized government – with the "people direct subjects of the throne." As part of this reform, Nippon, Nihon (both meaning "origin of the sun") and Dai Nippon (Great Japan) were used "in diplomatic documents and chronicles" in place of Wa (Wo) – Japan's original name.

6. C (Africa)

Asia is the largest and most populous continent, while Australia is the smallest and least populous. Africa has the most countries (54), and South America has the least number of countries (12).

7. D (Greenland)

Greenland is the largest island in the entire world. Although it's the biggest island, it technically belongs to a much smaller country, Denmark. Despite the size difference, Greenland has fewer people than Denmark with 56,000 people compared with Denmark's 5.8 million people.

8. B (Finland)

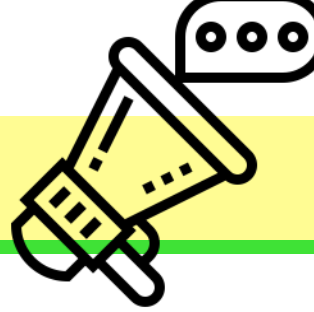
Finland is known as the land of a thousand lakes, yet there are actually more than 180,000 lakes in Finland. More than 10% of Finland's total area is covered by water.

9. A (Taiwan)

Various names for the island of Taiwan remain in use, each derived from explorers or rulers during a particular historical period. The name Formosa (福爾摩沙) dates back to 1542, when Portuguese sailors sighted an uncharted island and noted it on their maps as Ilha Formosa ("beautiful island"). Although Taiwan is still sometimes referred to as Formosa, and has been for centuries, it was only known as the Republic of Formosa for five short months.

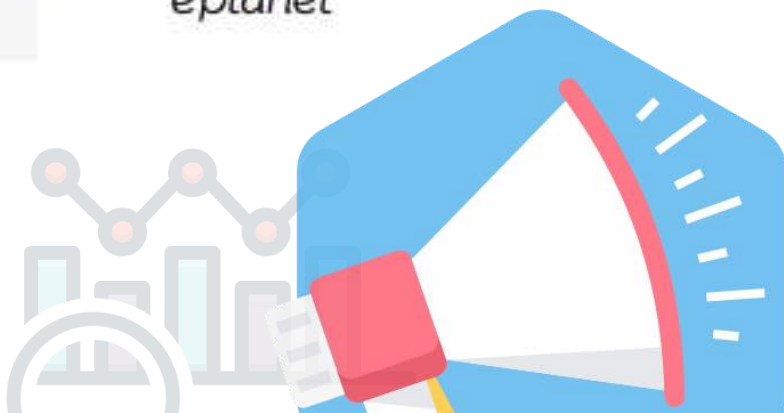


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