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# Unveiling the Legacy: How Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaped Pakistan's Foreign Policy

*Fatimah Naeem*

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# Foreword

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Paradigm Shift e-magazine. Since starting Paradigm Shift ([www.ParadigmShift.com.pk](http://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](http://www.ParadigmShift.com.pk)

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.

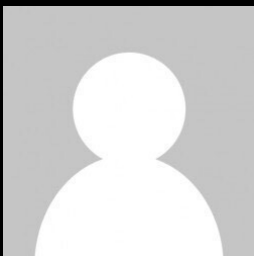




Article

# Unveiling the Legacy: How Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaped Pakistan's Foreign Policy

## About the Author



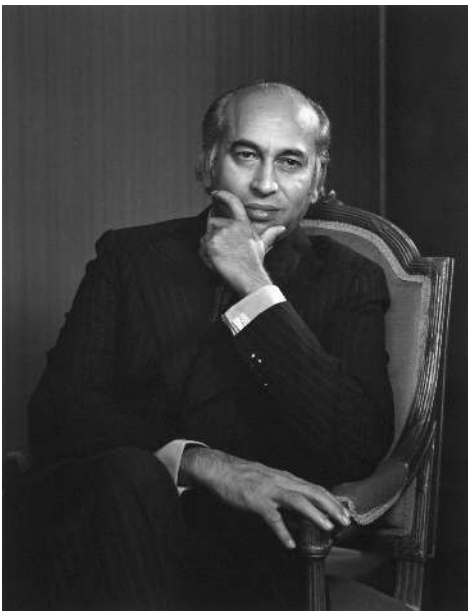
Fatimah Naeem is pursuing her Bachelor's in Peace and Conflict Studies from National Defence University Islamabad.



# Introduction

Foreign policies surely play an objectively vital role in the formulation of balanced relations between countries but the task of navigating through them is indeed a sophisticated one. Reputations, interests, and security are all important prospects in displaying a conducive result when it comes to dealing with international affairs.

Without a doubt, every artist needs his muse. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a distinguished leader and



founder of the [Pakistan People's Party \(PPP\)](#), found his muse in the chasms of diplomacy and the foreign policy of his country. He first began defining Pakistan's foreign policy as the country's minister of foreign affairs from 1963 to 1966, then as the president from 1971-1973, and finally as the state's prime minister from 1973-1977.

Pakistan's foreign trajectory, undoubtedly, was massively influenced by Bhutto's leadership. Prioritizing assertive diplomacy, regional cooperation, and the urgency of establishing a [nuclear program](#), he found himself attempting to nourish Pakistan's international standing while catering to its national interests and advocating for the aim of a more equitable world order.

Since its inception, Pakistan has always seen itself revolving on the brink of instability and anarchic circumstances. The change was of the utmost need during such conditions. By inculcating strength and reigniting dynamism in society, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto saved Pakistan from suffering futile consequences. His ambitions of modernizing Pakistan's military and establishing a unanimously agreed constitution paved the way for Pakistan to charter its course in the future. But it was in foreign policy that he made his lasting impression. His extensive grasp of history and acute awareness of the developing world's numerous issues enabled him to devise policies and strategies that yielded exceptional benefits for Pakistan.

# Embracing China's Unwavering Support

In October 1959, intense clashes took place between China and India on Ladakh soil. These clashes bore the seeds of Pakistan's strategic alliance with China. Along with being one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China, Pakistan has always presented itself as a trustful ally. The calculated [cooperation between Pakistan and China](#) has remained a useful instrument during times of crisis for both countries. These calm and tactical relations should be credited to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as his immense knowledge and valor were great qualities that assisted in traversing the journey of foreign policy with China.

Being a member of Ayub Khan's cabinet, Bhutto was passionately leading the Pakistan delegation at the prestigious committee of the [UN General Assembly in 1958](#). During that same time, sensing an ambiguity, he discouraged Ayub Khan from making an offer to India for joint defense forces and encouraged Pakistan's support for China's lawful representation in the UN. Bhutto's campaign was met with a positive response by the Ayub Khan cabinet and since then Pak-China relations have nothing but flourished.

Swift negotiations promoting aviation collaborations, massive trade agreements, and border issue facilitation were all important factors that were observed in proceeding with cordial relations between both states.

Being well-educated in subjects of politics and foreign affairs, Bhutto was able to assess and predict the future of Pakistan if support for China was reduced. Working in collaboration with the anti-communist Western bloc had already put Pakistan on a pedestal with China and further aggravating China was the last thing on Bhutto's mind. Bhutto's quick actions in supporting China had brought tensions in the Western circle but the prosperous future of Pakistan in fraternization with China was a much more enticing opportunity. Since then, the relations between the two countries have nothing but thrived.

# Challenging India's Hegemonic and Nuclear Ambitions

After facing a crushing defeat in the 1971 episode of Bangladesh's emergence, Pakistan had felt the colossal gap between its own and India's military indulgence and sought to increase its military deterrence against the massive Indian onslaught. Bhutto felt that the need of the hour was most likely a [nuclear obviation](#). Bhutto had become aware that no foreign alliances or international treaties were credible enough to look after the safety and security of Pakistan.



*Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (centre) shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Shimla on June 28, 1972, while his daughter Benazir Bhutto (second from right) and Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh (right) look on. | Punjab Express / AFP*

It was a detrimental prospect that Pakistan had to pursue nuclear ambitions if it were to challenge India's increasing regional autonomy. India took the liberty of conducting a nuclear test in 1974, namely "[Smiling Buddha](#)" which jolted the international community. After the unfolding of this particular event, Bhutto encouraged [Pakistan's nuclear capabilities](#) to be increased in order to bring a balance in the regional disparity of South Asia.



This pursuit had put Pakistan in a fragile situation, with many Western countries threatening to sanction Pakistan along with refusing military and economic aid.

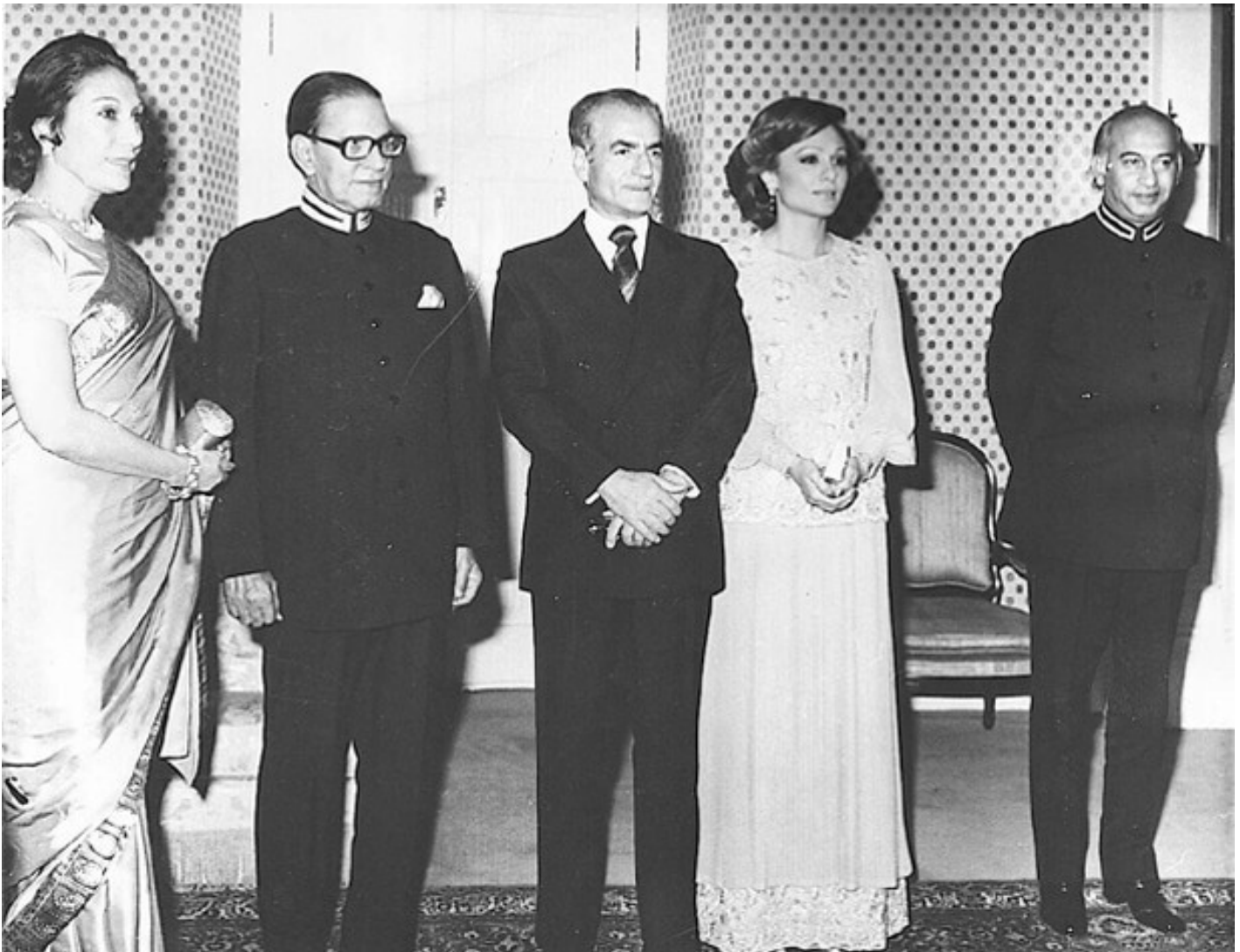
Accompanied by the adamant criticism and sanctions, also came immense support from the Muslim World. Bhutto's nuclear program sought not just to deter any Indian aggression, but also to boost Pakistan's stature on the global stage. Furthermore, bringing the spotlight on the Kashmir issue was a strong desire of Bhutto's in order to finally let the state, which had been under a tyranny of trying circumstances, anticipate peace in the foreseeable future. But India's opposition to resolving the matter posed a hindrance that Bhutto had tried on several occasions to tackle. Under his guidance, [Pakistan increased diplomatic efforts](#) to raise international awareness of human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir and gain support for the Kashmiri cause.

## Overriding Tensions with Neighboring Afghanistan

The relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have not been particularly pleasant. Both states have funded proxies against each other on numerous accounts jeopardizing each other's stability. Improvements surfaced in 1972 when Bhutto visited Afghanistan, which depicted a prominent signature of normalizing the ties. This action proved fruitful and Pakistan's insubstantial reputation in the Muslim world was finally seeing formidable favoritism. President Daoud's visit to Pakistan in 1976 was also considered to be a substantial catalyst in finally refining the connections.

A commendable accomplishment of Bhutto was the inauguration of the "[Afghan Cell](#)" within Pakistan's foreign office in order to seek openings that would strengthen ties between the two states.

The primary goal of covert funding was to ensure the state's profound interest in Afghanistan and avoid any hostile administration in Kabul that could endanger Pakistan. Lastly, relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan were based on active and passive support for each other until Bhutto's unfortunate ousting during the late 1970s.



*Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi of Iran (centre), with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (extreme right) and Begum Nusrat Bhutto (extreme left) in Rawalpindi. — Dawn Library*

## OIC Summit and Bonding with the Muslim World

Bhutto was an important figure in developing relations between the Muslim states. He actively promoted the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and even held its second summit in Lahore in 1974. The summit's main goal was to provide a platform where matters concerning cooperation ventures among Muslim nations could be discussed and acted thereupon, along with a special emphasis on the Palestinian issue. This granted Pakistan and Bhutto a much-needed reputation boost and made them a much-awaited appearance in the Muslim World. Growth in Pakistan's prominence was of utmost importance to Bhutto indeed.



He visited many Muslim countries with the intention of building direct and indirect links with them and amongst them. This ultimately led to Muslim nations depending on Pakistan to harvest cross-cultural benefits and engagements. The disposition of this solidarity manifested itself in terms of Arabic being made a language to be learned along with the commencement of construction of the infamous [Shah Faisal Mosque in Pakistan](#).

In a nutshell, Bhutto wished to establish a framework of political and economic cooperation among Islamic countries in order to foster Muslim unity. It was agreed by Muslim leaders to enhance their exports and Islamic solidarity funding. The major goal of Muslim countries' political and economic engineering was to construct a strong and sovereign visionary order for the Muslim world in particular, and developing countries in general.

## Extending Reconciliatory Efforts towards Soviet Leadership

After the tragic mishap of 1971, misconceptions arose amongst the delicate relations between Pakistan and USSR. Bhutto, being well versed on subjects of international relations and diplomacy, took to Moscow in 1972 and negotiated favorable conditions for enhancing the association between both states. Bhutto was able to persuade the Soviet leadership into investing in Pakistan to bring more economic stimulus to both countries which ultimately resulted in Pakistan's reduced reliance on the US.

The trade volume grew exponentially and at the same time, Pakistan decided to depart from CENTO and SEATO. This withdrawal was critical when it comes to describing the link between the two states. The key point of bilateral growth between Pakistan and the USSR was Bhutto's program of nationalization and tilt toward socialism. Numerous commercial agreements were inked between the two states in hopes of bringing mutual socioeconomic benefit and exchange of expertise in various developing departments of Pakistan.

## Attempts to Find Middle Ground with the US

Initially, pleasantries in the form of economic and military aid were exchanged between Pakistan and US, but Bhutto was quick to notice that the US would not, under any circumstances, withhold its backing for India. This hampered the [diplomatic ties between the two states](#) and Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear potential.



*Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto seen in Washington DC with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (left) during a visit in February 1975. Seen in the middle is Begum Nusrat Bhutto.*

President Jimmy Carter of the United States did not agree with Bhutto's socialist economic theories and intensified sanctions against Pakistan in 1976-77. Furthermore, the friendly foreign policy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto towards the USSR irritated the US when he was tasked with providing a bridge to the USSR for access to warm water, which the US never desired at any cost. When Pakistan sought normal relations with the USSR during the Cold War, the US calculated that it might have lost an ally.

Even after being threatened explicitly by the US against desiring nuclear power, hope for reconciliation was resumed when Bhutto visited Washington in 1975 and managed to negotiate the lifting of an embargo and the strict sanctions that had adhered to Pakistan. Once again, Bhutto's marvelous spectacle of diplomacy manifested itself diligently during a critical period.

## Conclusion

Through his foreign policy, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto aspired to give a better road map for Pakistan with a favorable face in the international community, as well as to convert the one-sided dependency with a broad level of diverse involvement across states from the Muslim and non-Muslim world. Emphasizing the global balance of power, he asserted that injustice breeds violence and is a major hindrance to peace.

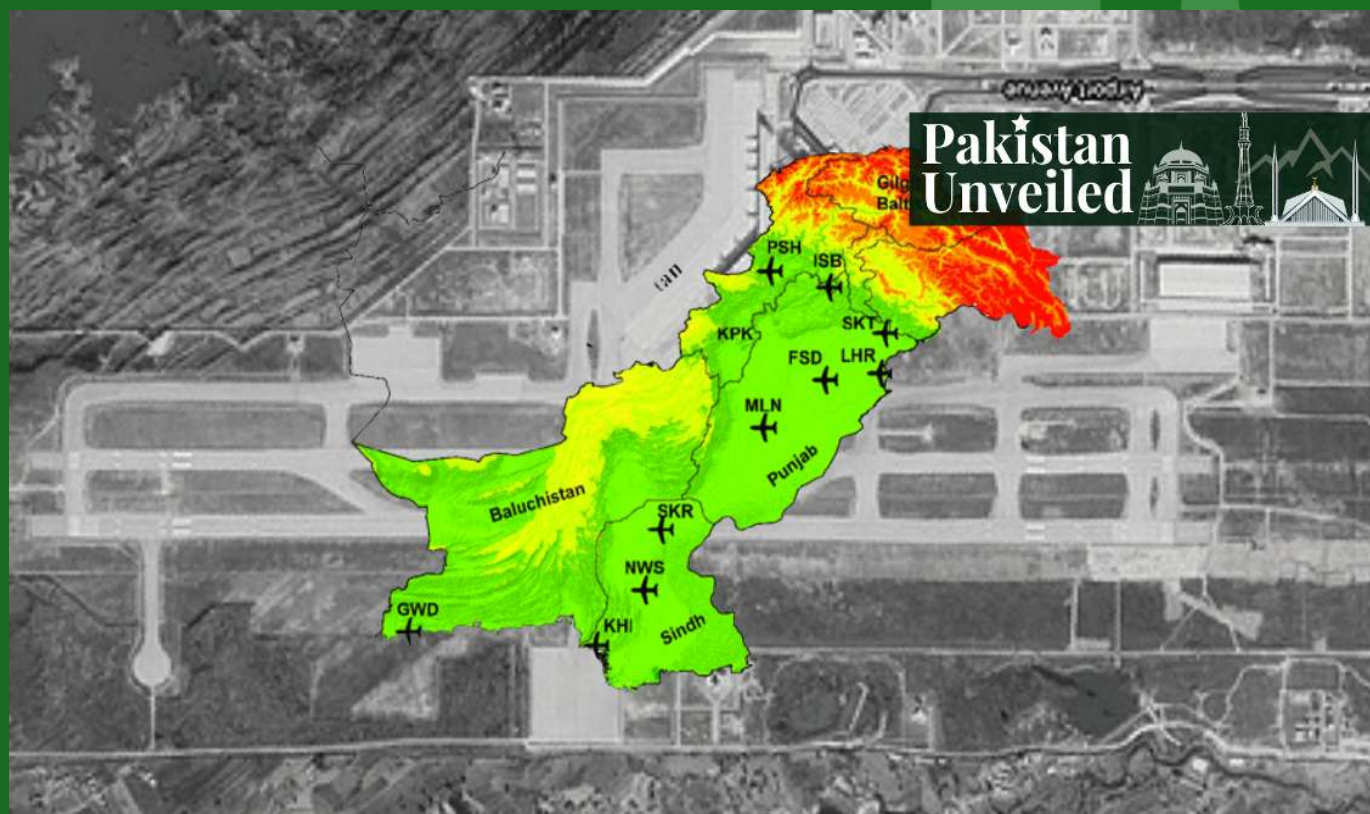
Unfortunately, the diverse nature of misunderstandings between the great powers, India's hegemonic behavior, and the biases of the West towards India did not allow him to handle his diplomatic channels and maintain a balanced futuristic perspective. Bhutto's efforts are commendable and the framework which he had portrayed significantly changed the orientation of Pakistan. Without a doubt, the paradigm shift during Bhutto's era was a prominent one.

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*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: [Pakistan Peoples Party - Zardari's New Survival Strategy](#)



# International Airports in Pakistan

## About the Author



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The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for the regulation of all airports in Pakistan, ensuring that all airports meet international standards of safety and security.

## Allama Iqbal International Airport

The Allama Iqbal International Airport is the second-largest civil airport in Pakistan after Karachi's Jinnah International Airport. It serves the city of Lahore, which is the capital of the province of Punjab, as well as a significant number of passengers who are travelling inside the province.



The airport was once called Lahore International Airport, but it was rechristened after Allama Iqbal, one of the forefathers who was instrumental in the establishment of Pakistan. At the moment, there are three terminals at this airport. These are the Allama Iqbal terminal, the Hajj terminal, and the cargo terminal.

Etihad Airways, which is the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, prepared a specialized aircraft line repair facility in Lahore in 2008.

The facility is outfitted with the most up-to-date technology and equipment, which is used for all of Etihad's day-to-day technical line maintenance, including structural and instrument checks, as well as hydraulic system inspections.

## Walton Airport: The Old Airport of Lahore

When Pakistan gained its independence, Walton Airport was the main airport that served the city of Lahore. When Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) bought its first Boeing 720, Walton was not ready to handle the weight of a jet plane. The Pakistani government then decided to build a brand-new airport, which opened in 1962. The airport had a runway and apron that were made to fit even the biggest planes, like the Boeing 747, making it possible for Lahore to welcome people from all over the world.

The old airport was handed over to the military when it was decided that all flights would be moved to the new airport. Later on, the government retook control of the airport from the military and transformed it into a terminal specifically for Hajj pilgrims.

## Islamabad International Airport

Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan and until 2018, Islamabad did not have a dedicated airport, a part of Chaklala Airbase had been used to provide travelling facilities to the residents of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and the surrounding Pottohar region.



As the number of domestic and international travellers rose, the small terminal became insufficient to handle the load. There was a need to either upgrade the city's existing Benazir

Bhutto International Airport or build a new one. A plan was then initiated to construct the new airport in Islamabad.



In 2007, the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Shaukat Aziz, laid the foundation stone of Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) and, in 2018, the airport was opened for domestic and international flights. The International Air Transport Association granted the code (ICAO: OPIS) to the new airport.

Islamabad International Airport covers 19 square kilometres and has 15 passenger boarding bridges, including capabilities for two double-deckers Airbus A380s, the world's biggest airliner, 15 remote bays, and 3 remote cargo bays. To prevent passenger mixing, the same number of lounges have been erected for each of the 15 bays. The airport has two 3600-meter-long runways.

Since it is an airport in the capital, it often hosts V-VIPs, VIPs, foreign delegations, and business communities. The airport has a passenger capacity of 9 million with seven check-in zones, a total of 112 check-in desks, five-level baggage security systems, a food court, a movie theatre, a children's play area, and parking for 2,200 automobiles. Aside from the public parking, an airport worker parking lot has been constructed. To help travellers, five conveyor belts for international arrivals and three for domestic arrivals have been built.

## Jinnah International Airport

Jinnah International Airport, commonly known as Karachi Airport, was developed in 1924 as per the official website of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). It is the most significant and first international airport in Pakistan.

Jinnah International Airport became the first commercial airport in South Asia in 1929 and was also used by US forces in World War II. This airport is named after the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It serves as a major hub for various airlines, including the flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and several private airlines.

With a capacity to handle over 12 million passengers annually, the airport plays a crucial role in facilitating regional air travel. Karachi Airport consists of four terminals: Terminals 1, 2, 3, and the iconic Jinnah Terminal.



The construction of Jinnah Terminal, completed in 1992, stands out as the most expensive civil project in Pakistan at that time, with a cost of US \$100

million. Familiarising yourself with these terminals can save you valuable time during your travels.

Jinnah International Airport provides excellent connectivity, allowing passengers to reach over 65 destinations worldwide through its extensive flight network. This airport proudly holds the title of being Pakistan's most significant and busiest, catering to approximately 12 million passengers annually. Every day, an impressive number of around 52,000 passengers, whether travelling domestically or internationally, pass through Karachi's aircraft.

Jinnah International Airport offers 29 domestic and 50 international counters to efficiently handle the high volume of passengers. Additionally, it provides four exclusive counters for CIP (Commercially Important Person) and PIA (Pakistan International Airlines) business class passengers.

For added convenience, the airport offers fast-track check-in facilities specifically designed for international travellers. Moreover, Jinnah International Airport serves as a significant hub for air cargo operations. It handles a substantial amount of cargo annually, totalling approximately 169,124 metric tons.

# Sialkot International Airport

Pakistan's Export Triangle, consisting of Gujrat, Sialkot, and Gujranwala, is renowned for its



production and export of sports goods, surgical instruments, and leather apparel. However, exporters in these cities faced significant logistical

challenges when shipping air cargo to major airports like Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi via Sambrial Dry Port. Security concerns and cautious overseas clients hindered the full export potential of these cities.

Consequently, there was a growing demand from traders, businessmen, exporters, and the general public, particularly overseas Pakistanis, for an airport in the Gujranwala Division. In 2001, the government of Pakistan approved a plan that involved the active participation of exporters with great determination and enthusiasm. Promoters from the private sector were invited to join this ambitious project, leading to the formation and registration of a public limited company called Sialkot International Airport Ltd. (SIAL).

The construction of an international airport in Sialkot was initiated on a Build, Own & Operate (BOO) basis, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of Defence through the Civil Aviation Authority. Following the acquisition of land, construction work began on the project in January 2003. The total cost of the International Airport amounted to approximately Rs. 4 billion.

On 30th November 2007, the operation of domestic and international flights commenced, marking a significant milestone for Sialkot International Airport. The chosen spot is 1034 acres and is 16 km west of Sialkot. It is also 40 minutes by car from the towns of Gujrat and Gujranwala.

The Collector of Customs has set up a full-fledged Air Freight Unit (AFU) at Sialkot Airport, and there is already a secured trucking service between Sialkot International Airport and the airports in Lahore, Islamabad, and Peshawar. With the permission of the Pakistani government, the ASF, Customs, Immigration, MET, and other free support services were set up at this airport.

Sialkot International Airport is a unique private sector project that may be the first of its kind in South East Asia. It has sped up the shipping of export cargo by air and made things easier for a lot of business people and Pakistanis living abroad in this area.

## Multan International Airport

Multan International Airport, on the outskirts of the City of Saints, has a long history that dates back to the British Empire. In 1919, the Royal Air Force (RAF) used the region's enormous expanse



to fly aircraft capable of landing on gravel and grass surfaces.

Imperial Airways began civil aircraft operations from Multan

airfield in 1934, recognizing the city's strategic importance within Punjab State. Multan Airport became an important aviation centre after Pakistan obtained independence. Pakistan Airways, the newly founded country's first airline, began operations from Multan Airport. In the same year, the Multan Flying Club relocated to the airport.



The runway was expanded in 1971, allowing it to accept larger planes and a greater number of passengers. The enlarged runway was 2,743 meters long by 30 meters wide. Following that, in 1977, the airport's terminal building was expanded to accommodate Boeing 720 aircraft.

Multan International Airport, operated by Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), has a single passenger terminal that handles both domestic and international departures and arrivals. The arrival hall can handle up to 135 passengers at once and is outfitted with kiosks and a conveyor



belt system. The departure hall, on the other hand, is noticeably larger and can accommodate up to 300 passengers. A mosque, bathrooms, and roughly 50 check-in counters for various airlines are also available in the departure area.

The construction of the Terminal building (Phase II) at Multan International Airport began in June 2010. During the same year, a new runway was constructed with a Cat-I AFL system and ILS/localizer system. In October 2010, the airport reached a new milestone with the launch of PIA's first direct Hajj flight. In January 2011, an ICAO Fire Category-9-compliant fire station consisting of eight garages was established. In July 2011, a new ramp was inaugurated that could accommodate up to four aircraft simultaneously.

By April 2012, the AFL had moved its operations to the new vault. In May 2012, development work at the ASF Staff Colony was concluded. In June 2013, a new ATC Tower was constructed, enhancing the airport's operational capabilities. In September 2013, a brand-new parking facility dedicated to Hujjaz was inaugurated, resulting in the closure of the Haji Camp. In October 2013, the DG Civil Aviation Authority laid the cornerstone for a Muslim prayer centre.

Important construction projects were completed by August 2014, including the CAA Colony, the CAA officers' and staff's mess, and a new cargo building. The delivery of an 11 KV electric supply connection to the airport in the 4th quarter of 2014 further improved its infrastructure. The most recent significant update was finished in March 2015. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani, and other high-ranking officials formally opened the new terminal.

All operations have now been transferred from the old to the new terminal, with flights increasing as more destinations and routes for Multan are added.

## Faisalabad International Airport

Faisalabad International Airport, located in Pakistan's Punjab province, is a vital aviation facility for the city and its neighbouring areas. The airport's origins can be traced back to the British Empire. The local government sanctioned the building of a 5000' by 100' bricked strip in 1942, which subsequently became obsolete as technology evolved.

In 1958, Pakistan International Airlines began domestic operations, growing the city's exports and



imports via numerous flights from Karachi. The airfield was reconstructed to meet requirements in 1965, with a bitumen surface and a 9000' by 100' runway length to handle bigger jet-fueled aircraft.

The improvements in 1966-1967 included the building of an airport terminal and an apron for prop aircraft such as the Fokker F-27

Friendship. Construction of a new parallel runway west of the existing runway in 1972, additional facilities such as a jet airport, taxiway B, an air traffic control building, met offices, a premium lounge, and its CAT-I, and the extension of the terminal building for international operations in 2000 were all added over the years.



In 2008, the whole terminal building was renovated, improving its overall infrastructure. The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority performed a thorough evaluation of the airport in 2015, showing plans for modifications to meet IATA and ICAO international standards.

Expansion of the passenger terminal with separate lounges for domestic and international operations, construction of a new cargo complex, extension and upgrade of the runway to handle larger aircraft, construction of a new taxiway, and renovation of aircraft stands and arrival/departure/business class lounges are among the planned upgrades. After this thorough evaluation, many changes and upgrades were made to improve the airport the latest update that was made is the newly reconstructed runway goes into operation on 31st May 2023, for further details on the [Faisalabad international airport](#) you can check the Facebook page

## Gwadar International Airport

The Gwadar International Airport has been around since the 1960s when the Pakistani government bought Gwadar from the Sultan of Muscat. The first flight took place in 1966. When



two weekly trips with Fokker F-27 planes from Karachi to Muscat went through Gwadar, the airport became international.

The main building opened in 1984, and the airport started out as a domestic airport. It is thought to be the biggest airport in Balochistan, which helps travellers, especially the people of Gwadar. In 2008, the new exit and VIP rooms opened.

The airport was expanded and improved greatly after China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was initiated in order to accommodate the increasing number of passengers and the introduction of foreign flights. The rise of the Gwadar Port, which is thought to be one of the most important ports in the area, depended on the building of the Gwadar airport.

The first design and development plan for the New Gwadar International Airport was unveiled in 2017. However, it wasn't until March 2019 that Prime Minister Imran Khan attended a high-profile groundbreaking event to lay the project's foundation. Construction on the project also began in October 2019. According to the Pakistan Ministry of Aviation's official website, the airport construction is part of the \$56 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a cornerstone of China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) program.

The Greenfield Airport, which would span 4,300 acres, will be one of the largest in Pakistan and the country's second airport capable of hosting A380 aircraft. It is anticipated to foster the development of the Gwadar peninsula and increase commerce between Pakistan and China in November 2023. The airport will be managed on an open-sky policy and built under the supervision of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA).

## Peshawar Bacha Khan International Airport

Bacha Khan International Airport, formerly known as Peshawar International Airport, is situated in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). It is the fourth busiest airport in the country. On January 27, 2012, the airport was renamed in honour of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Bacha Khan. He was a well-known British Indian freedom warrior who afterwards turned into a Pakistani Pashtun activist.

In comparison to other airports in Pakistan, this one also has a long history. Peshawar, being the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, provides international links for the majority of the country's northwest region and surrounding portions of Afghanistan. Afghanistan flights have



always been on the rise due to the province's sizable Afghan Pashtun minority residing within KPK, with families either visiting relatives over the border or seeking a better quality of life in Pakistan.

The airport dates back to 1927 when there was a small airstrip that served most of the British Empire and aircraft heading east

(e.g., to China and Malaya/Singapore) or west (e.g., to Europe and America). As a result, the city earned the moniker "Gateway to the East" since it bridged traditional oriental culture with modern Western norms. The airport only became significant after Pakistan got independence from the British Raj.

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the Pakistan Air Force began using the airfield jointly for both military and civil operations. There were several flights to and from Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, as well as other places within the newly constituted state. The airport gained international status in 1965, when the first flight from Kabul, Afghanistan, to Peshawar, took place.

The flight was flown by the national flag carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The airport expanded with additional flights and aircraft throughout time, and minor modifications were made on occasion. It wasn't until 1981 that the CAA expanded the terminal to accommodate projected passenger demand over the next decade.



The apron was fully constructed by 1986 when the airport could accommodate four wide-body planes and two tiny narrow-body planes at the same time. The provincial government met in January 2008 to address the expansion work required to increase the quality of the aircraft in terms of amenities, terminal modernisation, and cargo growth. Air Vice Marshal Sajid Habib, the CAA's Deputy Director General, stated in June 2008 that five billion rupees had been budgeted to build and enhance Peshawar airport.

## Quetta International Airport

The Quetta International Airport was initially a small airstrip and operated under the authority of the British Empire before the partition between Pakistan and India. After gaining independence, in 1954, the first domestic flight service connecting Karachi, Quetta, and Lahore was introduced, which led to the construction of a runway in 1958 by the Human French Company.

Over the subsequent years, the airport experienced growth. In 1964, Fokker commenced its F27 friendship flights from this airport, which necessitated the establishment of the Civil Fokker Apron in 1968 to accommodate the larger aircraft. Boeing also began operating domestic and international flights from the airport in later years.

The terminal building was constructed in 1982, followed by the construction of the control tower. Navigational aids, including the Doppler VHF omnidirectional range (DVOR), were installed in



1984, and the main concourse hall was opened in 2001. Currently, the Quetta International Airport serves as a

significant air travel hub in Balochistan province. It operates flights from various domestic and international airlines. The airport also functions as a military base for the Pakistan Air Force.

In March 2020, Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani inaugurated a new runway and lounge at the airport. The new runway can accommodate aircraft up to the size of a Boeing 777. Chief Minister Alyani praised the Pakistan International Airline (PIA), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and other national institutions for their progress in developing the airport. He also highlighted the contributions of PIA and the Pakistan Air Force in teaching other nations to fly and aiding in the establishment of their aviation industries.

Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan also spoke at the inauguration ceremony. He laid the foundation for a mega runway that will be able to accommodate even larger aircraft, such as the Airbus A380. Khan expressed the government's commitment to developing Balochistan's aviation sector and said that the new runway will help to boost economic activity in the province.

The development of Quetta International Airport is a significant milestone for Balochistan. The airport is now well-equipped to handle increased passenger traffic, and it will play an important role in the economic development of the province.

## Rahim Yar Khan – Shaikh Zayed International Airport

The royal dynasties of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have always had the most interest in Rahim Yar Khan. Owing to this, the region, as well as the city that bears its name and is the district's headquarters, has a significant relationship with the Arab nation, particularly Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Zayed International Airport is a noteworthy example of this relationship since it was named after Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a previous ruler of Abu Dhabi who was also the founding father of the UAE.

Sheikh Zayed International Airport is located approximately 5 kilometres southwest of the city. The airport has a rich history, with PIA scheduled flights operating from the old brick runway between March 1st, 1966, and July 1st, 1966. During the devastating 1973 flood, the airport played a crucial role in providing logistics support and transportation for the flood victims.

In 1990, a new runway was constructed, and a flight took place on February 10th of that year. The airport's growth continued, and operations from the new Terminal Building began on February 15th, 1998. To accommodate larger aircraft such as the B-747, the runway underwent upgrades in 2003, and the first B-747 flight was operated on December 15th, 2003.



Since 2003, the airport has been hosting the royal families of UAE Amiri flights annually. Recognizing its international significance, SZIAP was declared an international airport, with the first international flight operating to Abu Dhabi on April 4th, 2009. Additionally, SZIAP R.Y. Khan has successfully managed Hajj flight operations since 2009.

During the devastating 2010 flood, SZIAP served as a base camp for coordinating logistics and providing food and other supplies to the flood victims. In terms of commercial flights, Air Blue began its operations in Islamabad and Karachi, inaugurating its first flight on April 9th, 2013. However, Air Blue unexpectedly suspended its operations to and from SZIAP in September 2013 without providing any reasons. Nonetheless, SZIAP persevered, and Airblue resumed flight operations from the airport in July 2014.

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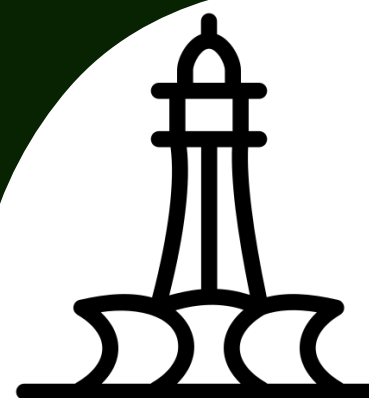
Article

# PMS vs CSS Exams in Pakistan: A Comprehensive Comparison

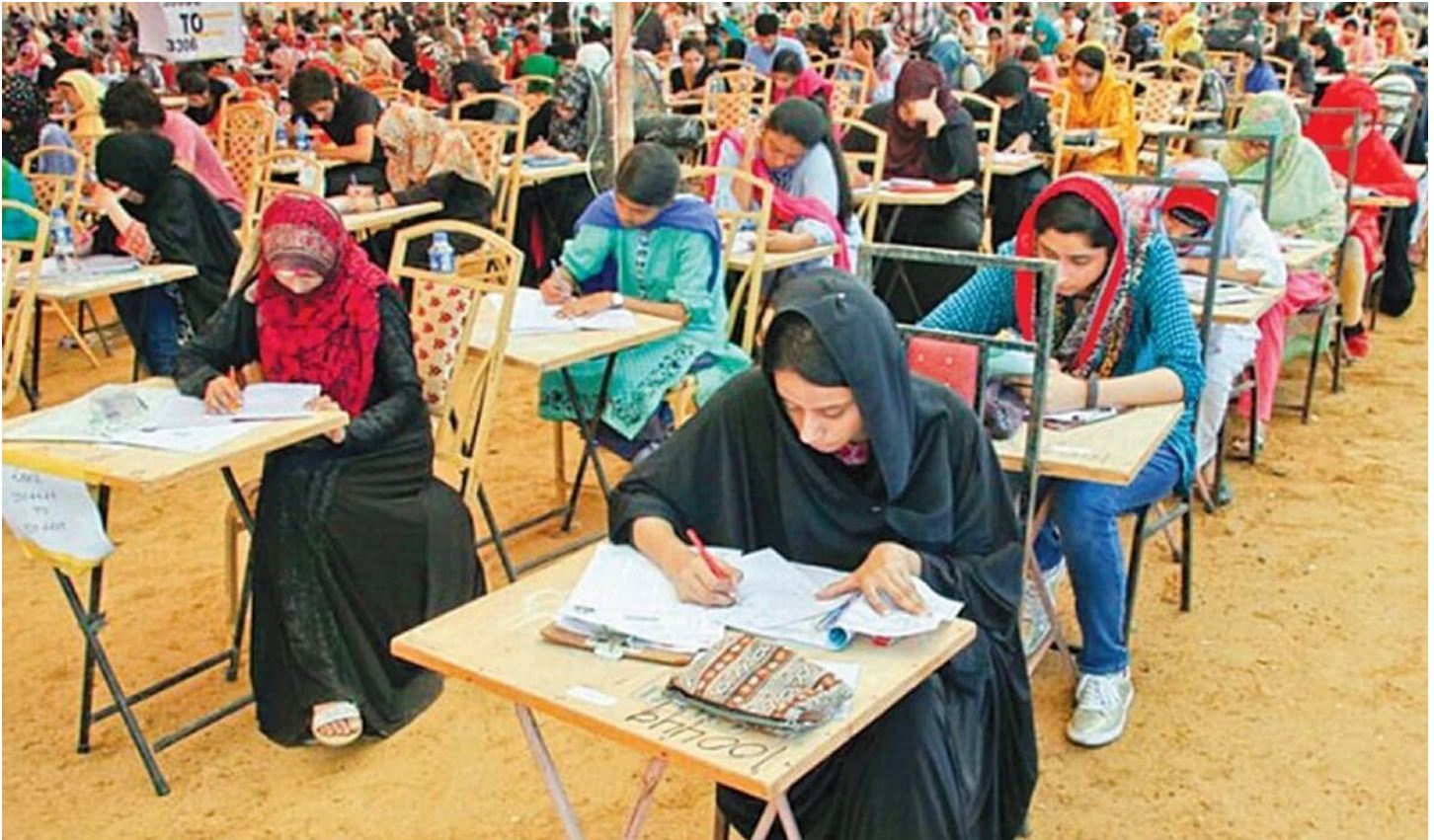
About the Author



Rida Naeem is a PMS Punjab 2018 and 2020 qualifier. She has been mentoring CSS aspirants for 5 years.



The Central Superior Services ([CSS](#)) examination and the Provincial Management Services (PMS) examination are widely recognized as two of the most prestigious civil service exams in Pakistan. These examinations have become highly coveted among the youth aspiring to pursue a career in the civil service. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) administers the CSS examination



to select candidates for various Occupational Groups and Services at the federal level, while Provincial Service Commissions primarily rely on the PMS examination to identify ideal candidates for provincial administration.

Provincial service commissions conduct their own PMS exams. There are a few similarities between CSS and PMS examinations as well as certain distinct differences.

Knowing the similarities and differences is crucial for civil service aspirants. In this way, aspirants can make an informed choice and adjust their [preparation strategy](#) accordingly.



# Commonalities of CSS and PMS Exams

It is important to first understand the common aspects of CSS and PMS examinations.

## Age Limit

The age limit for both CSS and PMS examinations is the same. A candidate must be above twenty-one years of age and below the age of thirty years on the cut-off date.

## Educational Qualifications

For both CSS and PMS educational qualification is a second-division or grade "C" bachelor's degree.

## Selection Process

The selection process for both the CSS and PMS examinations is also similar. It includes written examinations and interviews. After the written examinations, candidates qualify for the interview stage, which involves psychological assessments and final interviews.

## Syllabus and Subject Coverage



Both the CSS and PMS examinations include common compulsory subjects such as Pakistan affairs, English essays, English precis and composition, and Islamic studies. In [optional subjects](#), political science, public administration, sociology, psychology, and mass communication among others are common subjects, but their syllabus coverage may vary.

# Differences between CSS and PMS

Moving on to the differences between CSS and PMS examinations:

1. PMS Punjab includes a general knowledge MCQs paper as a compulsory subject, whereas CSS has a 200-mark screening MCQs paper known as the preliminary exam.
2. PMS Punjab does not include current affairs and general science and ability as compulsory subjects, unlike CSS, where these subjects are mandatory.
3. In PMS, candidates have to choose only three optional subjects of 200 marks each from various groups. In contrast, for CSS, candidates have to choose at least five subjects as optional, including one subject of 200 marks and others of 100 marks each.
4. CSS examinations have a fixed schedule and take place yearly in February. On the other hand, PMS examinations also take place yearly but do not have a fixed schedule.
5. CSS offers allocation to any one of the 12 occupational groups at the federal level. In contrast, PMS primarily allocates candidates within the provincial government, with positions such as assistant commissioner, section officer, and roles in excise and taxation departments.
6. The most significant difference lies in the nature of question papers and paper-attempting techniques. CSS has a [set pattern with 20 marks](#) for objective papers and 80 marks for subjective questions. PMS Punjab has fill-in-the-blank questions in the compulsory Pakistan Affairs paper and only subjective questions, 5 in total with 20 marks each, in the optional papers. Paper-attempting techniques also differ, with PMS requiring attention to answer length and visual presentation. However, both exams emphasize the use of the inverted funnel approach for answering questions, along with visual presentation techniques such as graphs and flowcharts. Practical application and the inclusion of Pakistan's perspective are also crucial aspects of answer attempts in both examinations.



Regardless of the examination, success in these exams requires diligent preparation, smart study, and persistent hard work. Aspirants should engage in a rigorous and consistent study schedule, encompassing a comprehensive understanding of the subjects and topics relevant to the chosen examination.

They should make use of available resources, and actively participate in mock exams and practice sessions to enhance their exam-taking skills. So, to all the aspirants out there, carefully formulate your study plans, make an informed decision, and embark on your preparation journey with passion and dedication. Believe in yourself, stay focused, and persevere, for [success in the CSS](#) and PMS examinations awaits those who are willing to put in the effort.

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*If you're interested in CSS or PMS examinations and want to learn more about them, sign up for Rida Naeem's mentorship classes [here](#).*

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# Exploring Micro Hydropower Projects as a Viable Solution to Pakistan's Energy Crisis

## About the Author



Daniyal Bin Tanveer is studying law with a minor in Economics from the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).



# Introduction to the Policy Problem

It was only 7 months ago, at the dawn of 2023, that Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb announced the formulation of a national emergency plan to deal with the nation's growing population, which could rise up to roughly 331 million by 2050 (Geo News, 2022).

In light of these rapid economic and demographic alterations, the need to increase energy sources



and production, among other similar commodities, is at an all-time high. Not only is it needed to sustain a larger population, but it is also mandatory if Pakistan wishes to step away from its overreliance on fossil fuels as a means of energy production.

To further illustrate the lack of energy, the current nationwide shortage stands at about 7500 Megawatts ('Pakistan to double Hydroelectric Output to meet power shortage', NDTV). While some of the issues can be resolved by reducing theft, line losses, and inefficiencies, more investment is still required to boost the capacity of energy production. Thus, owing to various reasons such as Pakistan's immense potential, relatively low-cost, and environmental friendliness, micro hydropower projects (MHPs) might just be the tool that pulls us out of potential turmoil.

## The Prevalent Market Dynamics

The market for the generation of energy in Pakistan has changed significantly in recent years. As the bulk of the nation's energy mix, which consists mostly of coal, gas, and oil, Pakistan is significantly dependent on fossil fuels. However, there has been a push recently towards sustainable energy sources like solar and wind energy.

Two significant state-owned businesses, Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), control the majority of the country's energy market. These two businesses are in charge of the nation's oil and gas production, exploration, and distribution.

The three main types of energy used to generate electricity in Pakistan are thermal power, hydropower, and renewable energy. The majority of Pakistan's electricity is produced by thermal power facilities that use natural gas and oil as fuel.

Although the development of renewable energy sources like wind and solar power is still in its infancy, the government has set ambitious goals to raise their proportion in the energy mix. The formation of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) are only two actions the Pakistani government has done to promote private participation in the energy industry. These organizations are in charge of encouraging the growth of independent energy projects across the nation.

The monopoly power of state-owned firms like the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and the Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) has been a key problem in the context of electricity production in Pakistan. These businesses have held a monopoly on the power market, which has hampered competition and raised consumer prices.



The circular debt problem has also had an impact on Pakistan's energy market's pricing patterns. The energy industry has suffered financial losses as a result of the buildup of unpaid bills between power producers and distributors, which has resulted in frequent power outages and shortages of electricity. Consumers have been negatively impacted as a result since they must pay more for electricity as a result of these inefficiencies.



# Methodology

I will use a variety of academic materials to help us understand the mechanisms, justification, and viability of micro hydropower projects (MHPs) in Pakistan. The work "Current and Future Prospects of Small Hydro Power in Pakistan: A Survey" by Uddin et al. helps us to comprehend their operation and to provide an understanding of the components utilized in MHPs.

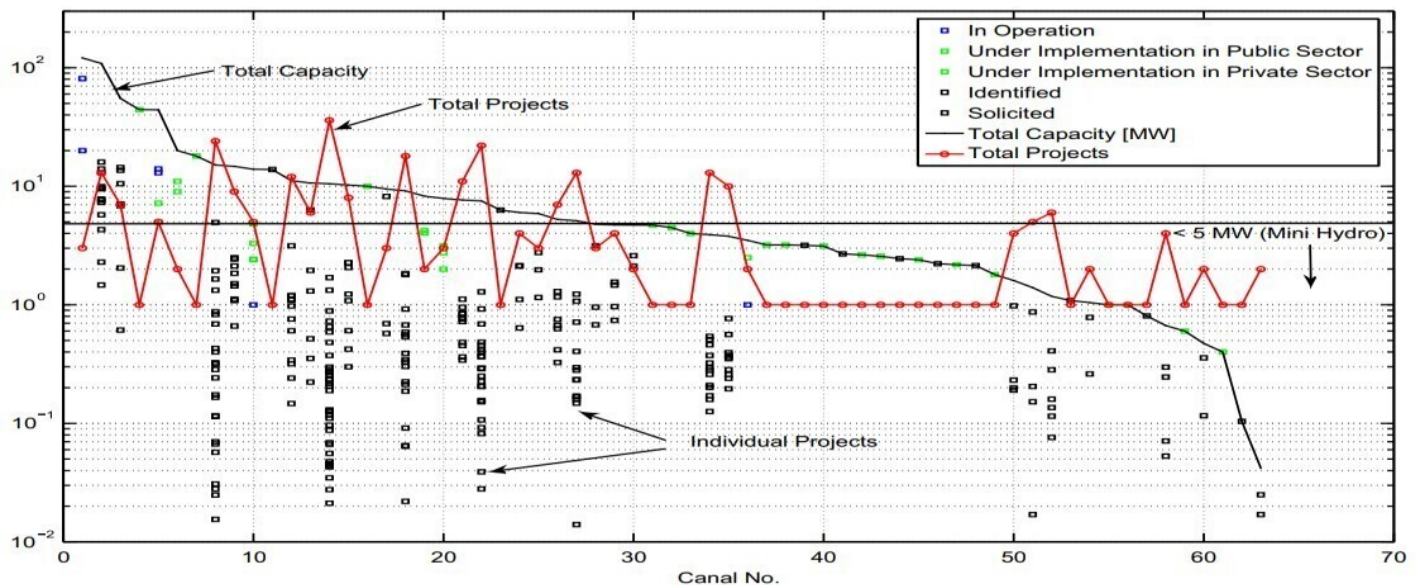
According to the authors' calculations, Pakistan may save about "120 million tonnes of coal and 83.3 billion liters of oil in a year" by using small and micro hydropower projects (Uddin et al., 2019, p. 173).



The author demonstrates that a single generator capable of producing 0.1 MW is adequate to house around 200 homes using SSP and MHPs.

I assess the viability of MHPs in India's irrigation sector and their effects thanks to Adhau et al's investigation. This research aids in our analysis of the viability of MHPs in Pakistan's northern areas and how they can benefit the irrigation industry. Reliance on this paper stems from the topographical, geographical, and economic similarities that Pakistan has with its neighbor.

In addition, the paper by Siddique et al. assists us in identifying specific regions around the Indus Basin that could be used as suitable sites for MHP installation to support the community. The Indus River is the first to inhabit 54 projects on it, followed by the Bola Das River, the Astore River, the Jhelum River, and so on (Siddiqi et al., 2012, p. 231). The majority of MHPs can be built alongside rivers on the canals that branch from the Indus River.



**Source: Siddiqi et al., 2012, p. 234**

The bulk of projects that are possible on canals fall into the category of MHPs, as shown in the figure above. The figure above also shows that although the canals possess significant potential for MHPs, only a small percentage of them are being harnessed, with the majority remaining untapped, posing a fantastic opportunity to cultivate energy production and by extension, the livelihood of people.

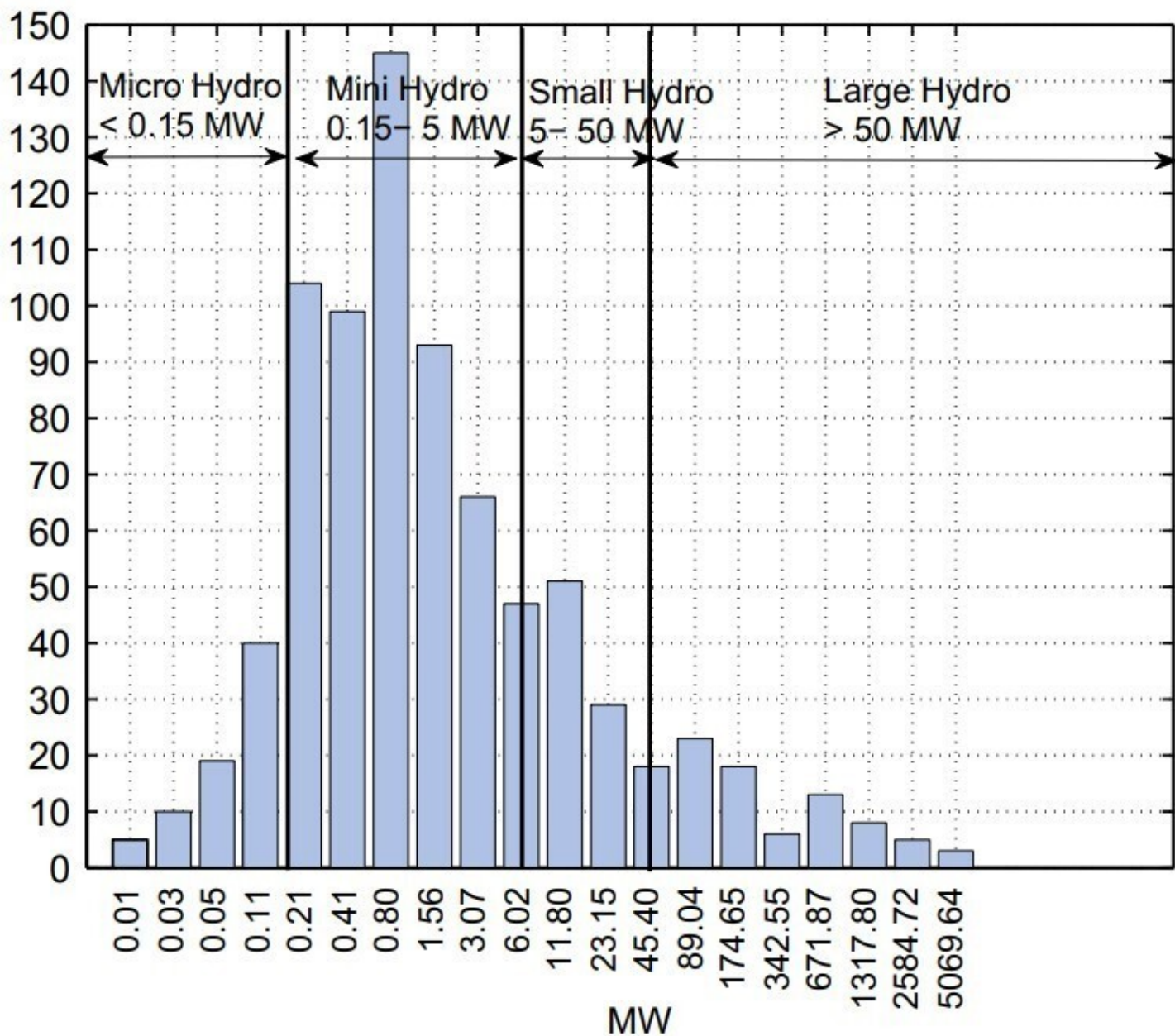
## Findings and Analysis

### Far from Full Capacity

It is significant to highlight that my article primarily focuses on micro hydropower plants (MHPs), which have an energy output of no more than 0.15 MW. There is currently only one hydroelectric power plant with a 0.1 MW installed capacity, according to the Pakistan Energy Yearbook 2020: in Changan, Azad Jammu Kashmir.

According to projections in the Energy Yearbook 2020, the country's entire hydropower potential is approximately 60,000 MW, although as was already indicated in this paper, only 8667.9 MW of installed capacity is found in the nation today. According to these numbers, the global hydro potential is significantly underutilized.

Furthermore, the figure below also demonstrates that the number of projects related to MHPs is considerably fewer than that of other hydropower plants, indicating space for progress.



**Source: Siddiqi et al., 2012, p. 231**

The inhabitants of certain villages create and manage the MHPs privately through committees that they designate to handle connection and invoicing (Ebrahim, 2018).



Many MHPs are not even on the record but are operating secretly due to the challenges encountered while installing MHPs due to rough terrain and geography.

However, there have been some promising developments in terms of growth and making use of



this unrealized potential. Private NGOs and international organizations have stepped up to work with the government on this project.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) called the Sarhad Rural Support Program has installed 353 micro hydropower units in the KPK

province so far, benefiting 927,495 people and producing 29 MW of energy ("Green and Alternate Energy Solutions," SRSP).

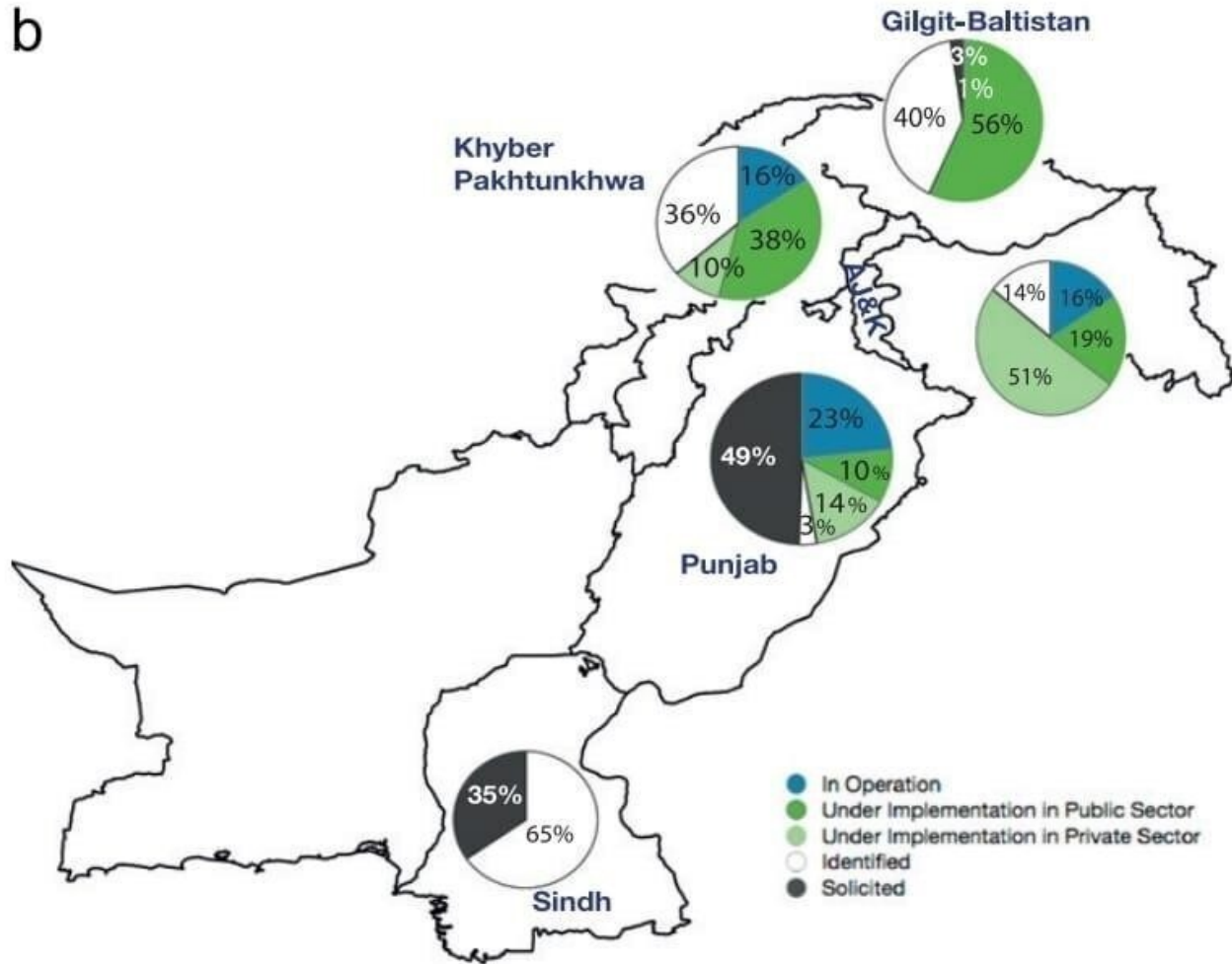
In addition, the KPK government intends to construct up to 1000 units capable of producing 100MW of energy in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (Hydropower Status Report 2017, 2017, p. 68).

## Scope for Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

Since micro hydropower projects are relatively simpler to set up and more financially feasible than larger projects in Pakistan, there is extensive space for IPPs to enter the market. For instance, according to Ebrahim (2018), the MHP set in SWAT Jukhtai costs PKR 8,152,154 (USD \$64275) and provides power to 315 families. When compared to the energy provided by WAPDA, the cost of power utilization for MHPs can be as low as PKR 100 per household each month, thus making it significantly cheaper (Uddin et al., 2019, p. 174).



b



**Source: Siddiqi et al., 2012, p. 235**

These minimal costs could attract investors because they would have substantial room to charge a markup and earn a return on their investment. The diagram above demonstrates that there are many places that have been earmarked for the construction of MHPs, and it also highlights the fact that there are currently very few private projects in the Northern Regions.

In Gilgit Baltistan, 40% of potential project locations have been identified, but just 1% of current projects are privately funded. In KPK and Kashmir, there are likely 36% and 14% of locations where new plants may be built, respectively. It's interesting to note that 51% of the projects in Kashmir are owned by the private sector. IPPs can be encouraged to purchase tenders to install and run MHPs in the designated sites using the aforementioned methods.

## Environmental Efficacy

Compared to its alternatives such as coal and fuel-powered energy, hydro power projects have been shown to be more environmentally friendly, as the table below demonstrates. Furthermore, a study also shows that hydroelectricity saves 120 million tonnes of coal or 83.3 billion liters of oil each year, or 0.42 kilograms of carbon emissions, (Uddin et al., 2019, p. 173).

Not only this, roughly 100 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide have been saved in the last 50 years by using hydropower as an alternative to fossil fuels, according to research by the International Hydropower Association (IHA).

Energy Sources	GHG emission CO <sub>2</sub> (g/kWh)SO <sub>2</sub> (g/kWh)NO <sub>x</sub> (g/kWh)		
Coal (NOx) and FGD	987	1.5	2.9
Coal (best practice)	955	11.8	4.3
Oil (best practice)	818	14.2	4.0
Diesel	772	1.6	12.3
Natural gas (CCGT)	430	–	0.5
Solar photovoltaic	98–167	0.2–0.34	0.18–0.30
Solar thermal electric	26–38	0.13–0.27	0.06–0.13
Energy crops – current practice	17–27	0.07–0.16	1.1–2.5
Energy crops-Likely to improve to	15–18	0.06–0.08	0.35–0.51
Small hydro	9	0.03	0.07
Wind	7–9	0.02–0.09	0.02–0.06
Geothermal	7–9	0.02	0.28
Large hydro	3.6–11.6	0.009–0.024	0.003–0.006

g/kWh: gram/kWh, FGD: Flue-gas desulfurization, CCGT: Combined Cycle Gas Turbines.

**Source: Uddin et al., 2019, p.173**

What is pertinent to note at this juncture is that MHPs exhibit a range of positive trickle-down environmental effects, which are not strictly limited to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. MHPs tend to prevent deforestation because the use of wood for energy subdues, as was the case in Gilgit Baltistan (Siddiqi et al., 2012, p. 235). Thus, the presented information vehemently highlights that micro hydropower projects (MHPs) are sustainable and eco-friendly for Pakistan.

Additionally, they are a cost-effective option for consumers, relative to the other operational alternatives. A business owner shared that he only spends 350 rupees monthly to power his shop and home using MHPs (Ebrahim, 2018). This is in contrast to the varying prices charged by WAPDA, the main power supplier in the country, for residential and commercial use. Since MHPs have a standardized rate, they are an affordable option for residents in rural areas.

## Policy Measures

### Quasi market system

My research revealed important information, including the fact that these facilities are run by locally elected committees, with government funding for the facility itself. A quasi-market scheme is what I wish to suggest. With this approach, the government serves as an overarching administrator. Since electricity is a need, this will ensure that no one can be prevented from using it because local committees might only represent wealthy individuals.

Additionally, the government can make sure that the chosen plant locations do not present any current or future spillway or flood hazards. MHPs are ostensibly inexpensive and accessible, although pricing varied significantly between locations. According to my view, government institutions can ensure price regulation by making prices uniform and free from discrimination.

### Access to Information

When researching, I discovered that there was a shortage of unified data and that I occasionally needed to go through various resources for distinct variables.

Therefore, there is a need for publicly accessible data to ensure that quality research may be done in this area, coupled with better monitoring and policy-making functions.

Given the critical role this can play in Pakistan's progress, as alluded to in Siddiqi et al., 2012, off-grid electricity production should be highlighted in a section of the energy yearbook since it helps meet the nation's energy needs and should be included among other sources to help with better policy-making. Additionally, a list of operational units and their ownership structure should also be made public, to facilitate transparency and accountability.

## Safeguarding and Inviting Private Investment

The investment made in MHPs is occasionally a one-time investment because villages often incur higher rehabilitation expenditures following natural disasters like flooding. Therefore, cognizant of the possibility that their investment could be lost owing to natural disasters, investors may be hesitant to set up these units. Thus, a proposal for a policy that safeguards investors must be made.

One method could be for the government to cover the cost of repairing these units or that there be insurance coverage for losses caused by natural disasters. I have addressed the opportunity for additional IPPs to enter this market; if local NGOs are taking over this function, appropriate energy-producing IPPs shall also be encouraged to invest. As a result, the government can concentrate on bigger initiatives like the Dassu Dam and Diamer Basha projects, while IPPs can take care of these modest rural requirements. It can be advantageous to use IPPs because there will be fewer debt commitments, since the required sum to set up a plant is incomparable to that of a dam.

## Economic Implications

If the suggested policy is implemented, the first benefit would be that there would be the provision of off-grid cheap electrification to the rural areas which do not have access to it.



Currently, the preferred source of electrification in rural north Pakistan is wood which can cause massive deforestation and is not environmentally friendly. Ensuring off-grid electrification will guarantee that areas that are left behind in terms of education and health can be connected with the rest of the country through the provision of internet and other such services.

Off-grid electrification can also end the dependency on the public sector electricity provider i.e. WAPDA. Local communities and bodies can govern and overlook the maintenance and functioning of these MHPs under the quasi-market model as suggested earlier. This will enable the empowering of communities at lower levels. Since some areas can be difficult due to terrain and geographical factors, these projects can reduce the burden on the public sector electric companies.

Considering the income levels of rural areas which is much lower than those of urban area, MHPs can provide cheap electricity which will not be a burden for the locals. The cost charged per household for electricity goes as down as Rs 100. (Uddin et al., 2019, p. 174). This is a much cheaper option as compared to the alternative of on-grid electricity provided by WAPDA not only for consumers but for the producers as well, since WAPDA will have to invest a much higher amount than the locals will have to provide on-grid electrification.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, exploring and developing alternative energy sources, such as micro hydropower projects (MHPs), is essential given Pakistan's natural resources and hydropower potential. Due to the difficult topography and lack of grid electricity in the northern highlands, MHPs offer a workable political solution to the problem of Pakistan's energy generation.

This essay has emphasized the current energy market dynamics as well as the financial effects of implementing MHPs. A network of MHPs can considerably contribute to the nation's energy mix, lowering dependency on fossil fuels and boosting energy security, with careful planning and implementation. As a result, it is advised that the government and key players prioritize MHP development as a long-term and environmentally responsible response to Pakistan's energy issue.

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# Assessing the Implications of Pakistan–Russia Cooperation for India

## About the Author



Ayesha Javaid is studying Psychology at Government College University, Lahore.





Trade ties between countries are essential for determining their geopolitical dynamics and economic growth. One such intriguing nexus exists between Pakistan and Russia, and its impact on India-Russia relations has garnered significant attention. Russia and India have maintained a long-standing partnership that is marked by cooperation in many diverse areas, including technology, energy, and defense. This alliance, built on trust and common goals, has been crucial in promoting trade between the two countries. On the other hand, despite historical ideological disparities and intricate geopolitical relationships, Pakistan and Russia have witnessed a gradual thaw in their relations in recent years, resulting in increased trade and cooperation.

## Historical Context

Although Pakistan and Russia have a complicated history together, neither nation has ever placed the other at the top of its foreign policy agenda. But in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Pakistan began reviewing its foreign policy and worked to strengthen ties with the Soviet Union. Pakistan provided a base for American intelligence gathering against the Soviet Union until 1970 and joined both the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) during the Cold War. Automatically, Russia harbored mistrust and hostility towards Islamabad. However, [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Moscow visit in 1974](#) marked the first official engagement between the two nations.

The [1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan](#) fundamentally altered the dynamics of the region. Pakistan sponsored anti-Soviet Afghan Mujahideen alongside the US. As a result, relations between Pakistan and the US improved while they soured with the Soviet Union. Following the fall of the USSR and the end of the Cold War, relations between Moscow and Islamabad entered a period of mutual caution as both nations turned their attention to other facets of their respective international portfolios.

[Mikhail Fradkov's visit to Pakistan in 2007](#) was of significant importance as it marked the first-ever visit by a Russian prime minister to Pakistan since the end of the Soviet Union 38 years ago.

After this, Russia started establishing deeper ties through trade with Pakistan, perhaps as part of the Kremlin's larger outreach to Eurasia and its worries about terrorism stemming from the situation in Afghanistan.

## Political and Geopolitical Considerations

Broader political ramifications of the developing trade relationship between Pakistan and Russia may indirectly affect the dynamics between India and Russia. Pakistan may try to improve its strategic standing concerning India while it develops its ties with Russia. More military cooperation, intelligence sharing, or joint drills could follow from this, raising concerns among India's security establishment.



Also, the fact that Moscow wants to "grow this connection further" with Pakistan is less likely to reassure India than it is to raise suspicions due to Pakistan's independence from India. Russia has to maintain cordial relations with Pakistan, since New Delhi has concerns over Pakistan, if it wishes to stop Indian tendencies that it considers undesirable.

## Economic Dimensions

The end of a four-decade trade dispute brought on by the collapse of the Soviet Union in November 2019 may have been the most obvious indication yet of a shared commitment to strengthening economic ties. Following the beginning of negotiations in 2016, [Pakistan eventually paid Russia US\\$93.5 million \(S\\$125 million\)](#), paving the way for new economic engagement. Shortly after this, a 64-member delegation led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry visited Pakistan in December 2019 to attend the 7th Inter-Governmental Commission. Russia proposed a comprehensive investment [package of \\$ 14 billion for Pakistan's energy sector](#). In 2020, the bilateral trade volume increased significantly [by more than 45% from 2019 to a record high of US\\$790 million \(S\\$1 billion\)](#).



2020's Russia-Pakistan Technical Committee conference came to an end, and both nations revisited the discussion of the North-South Gas Pipeline Project. The deal was initially signed in 2015, but because of Western sanctions, it was delayed. The undertaking is now known as the [Pak Stream Gas Pipeline Project \(PSGP\)](#). Liquefied natural gas (LNG) would be transported to Lahore by a 1,100-kilometer pipeline from refineries in Karachi and Gwadar.

The agreement, which was signed in July 2021, stated that Moscow handed Islamabad a 74% ownership part in the project and promised to provide Pakistan with finance and

technical assistance. The PSGP is one of the greatest Russian investments in Pakistan following the Soviet Union's assistance in developing the Oil and Gas Development Company and Pakistan Steel Mills in the 1960s and 1970s. In light of its goals to triple its LNG production capacity and expand LNG exports by 2035, Russia is ready to welcome Pakistan as a new energy customer. In addition to the PSGP, Russian businesses have submitted bids to supply Pakistan with extra LNG.

When Lavrov visited Islamabad in April 2021, he made a point of mentioning that Rosatom and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission are considering working together to use nuclear energy for industrial and medical uses. Given that he last visited Pakistan nine years ago, this visit signifies an improvement in relations between Moscow and Islamabad. Shafqat Ali Khan, the ambassador of Pakistan to Russia, said in a webcast before Lavrov's visit that both nations ["are marked by deepening trust and expanding win-win cooperation."](#)

## Impact on India

The lifting of the Russian arms embargo on Pakistan in 2014 has also opened up opportunities for defense trade between the two countries.

But defense sales have served as the foundation of Indo-Russian relations since the beginning and will continue to be a top priority for New Delhi shortly. For decades, India has made significant investments in Soviet and Russian technology. India desired to diversify its sources of munitions from a political standpoint, and the [Soviet Union was viewed as “reliable” in comparison to other potential suppliers.](#)

Recently, Dr. S. Jaishankar, the minister of external affairs, [stated that the bilateral trade target of USD 30 billion had been exceeded](#) far before the target year of 2025 and that the trade volume for the period of April 2022 to February 2023 was approximately USD 45 billion.

## Conclusion

While the growing trade links between Pakistan and Russia may bring some difficulties and concerns for relations between India and Russia, the overall effect is unlikely to be detrimental. The long-standing relationship between India and Russia, which is based on strategic trust and economic interdependence, provides a strong base on which exterior geopolitical developments can be withstood. India’s proactive involvement and diplomatic wrangling can further lessen any potential negative impacts, enabling the continuation of a profitable and resilient trading partnership between India and Russia.

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# TOP 10 COUNTRIES IN MILITARY SPENDING

As of 2022 in USD



Sourced From: Visual Capitalist

# Countries That Made Up The Soviet Union & Dates They Gained Independence

Russia 25/12/1991 	Georgia 25/12/1991 	Kyrgyzstan 31/08/1991 
Ukraine 25/12/1991 	Azerbaijan 25/12/1991 	Tajikistan 09/09/1991 
Belarus 25/12/1991 	Lithuania 11/03/1990 	Armenia 21/09/1991 
Uzbekistan 31/08/1991 	Moldova 27/08/1991 	Turkmenistan 27/10/1991 
Kazakhstan 16/12/1991 	Latvia 21/08/1991 	Estonia 20/08/1991 



Article

# The Geopolitics of China's Digital Silk Road

## About the Author



Fizza Batool is a student of International Relations from Kinnaird College for Women. She is particularly interested in geo-economics, geopolitics, area studies, diplomacy, conflict and peace, strategic and defense studies, political economy, and global politics of the environment.



# The Digital Silk Road

The Digital Silk Road is motivated by China's desire to improve its digital infrastructure and standards, open new markets for its IT (Information Technology) behemoths like Huawei, Alibaba, and Tencent, and establish a more Sino-centric global digital order. For recipient nations, the Digital Silk Road presents both advantages as well as challenges since they profit from China's technological aid and investment while also potentially running the danger of digital reliance, monitoring, and cyber-attacks.

The Digital Silk Road is a revolutionary method of funding technology that has significant implications for China's interactions with the rest of the world as well as its own technical advancement. China has inked Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with 30 nations, spanning from Laos to Peru, according to the Hinrich Foundation. One-third of the 138 BRI nations, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, are working together on the Digital Silk Road initiative.

## Features of the Digital Silk Road

The installation of [underwater cables](#) connecting China to other continents across the oceans is one of the key components of the Digital Silk Road. China has invested in or plans to invest in at least 16 submarine cable projects, totaling more than 80,000 kilometers and covering six oceans and regions. These cables are expected to enhance China's ability to connect to the internet globally, its data transfer capabilities, and its digital impact.

The development of [satellite networks](#), which offers underdeveloped nations and isolated regions internet access and navigational services, is another aspect of the Digital Silk Road. China intends to deploy several satellite constellations, including the StarNet Project, the Hongyun Project, and the [BeiDou](#) Navigation Satellite System (BDS). These satellites were designed to work with or against current systems like GPS, Galileo, and Starlink.



The spread of China's digital services and e-commerce platforms into other markets is another important Digital Silk Road. For instance, Chinese businesses such as Alibaba, Tencent, Huawei,



and others have created or acquired online marketplaces, payment systems, cloud computing services, artificial intelligence applications, and smart city solutions across several nations and regions. Cross-border trade, financial inclusion, technological innovation, and social governance are all goals of these services.

The Digital Silk Road is a strategic project which demonstrates China's ambition to dominate the digital economy and establish new standards for online behavior. It is confronted with challenges and criticism from other nations and stakeholders, however, there are concerns about its effects on data security, privacy protection, digital sovereignty, and geopolitical rivalry.

## Maritime Security

The Indo-Atlantic Ocean presents a significant problem for the Digital Silk Road in terms of [maritime security](#), as other regional and international entities are concerned about China's rising aggressiveness and presence there. The Indo-Atlantic Ocean serves as a crucial route for the flow of trade, energy, and information. It also serves as a strategic setting for geopolitical conflict and cooperation.

To secure the efficient operation and upkeep of its digital infrastructure, including underwater cables, satellites, and data centers, the Digital Silk Road depends on the security and stability of this maritime region. It, however, also poses a challenge to the current order and interests of other Indo-Atlantic Ocean partners, who view China's digital growth as a method of furthering its political, economic, and military goal.

To oppose China's influence and defend their own interests in the area, these stakeholders (the United States, India, Japan, Australia, France, and the European Union) have established numerous [alliances and initiatives](#). A few of these include the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the EU (European Union) Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision, and the [France-led Maritime Security Mission](#) in the Persian Gulf.

## Fostering Strategic Competition

The strategic competition in the Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and African Region is significantly impacted by the Digital Silk Road. For China's goals in business, geopolitics, and energy security, these sectors are crucial. They are, however, also opposed by other powerful nations, including the US, India, France, and the EU.

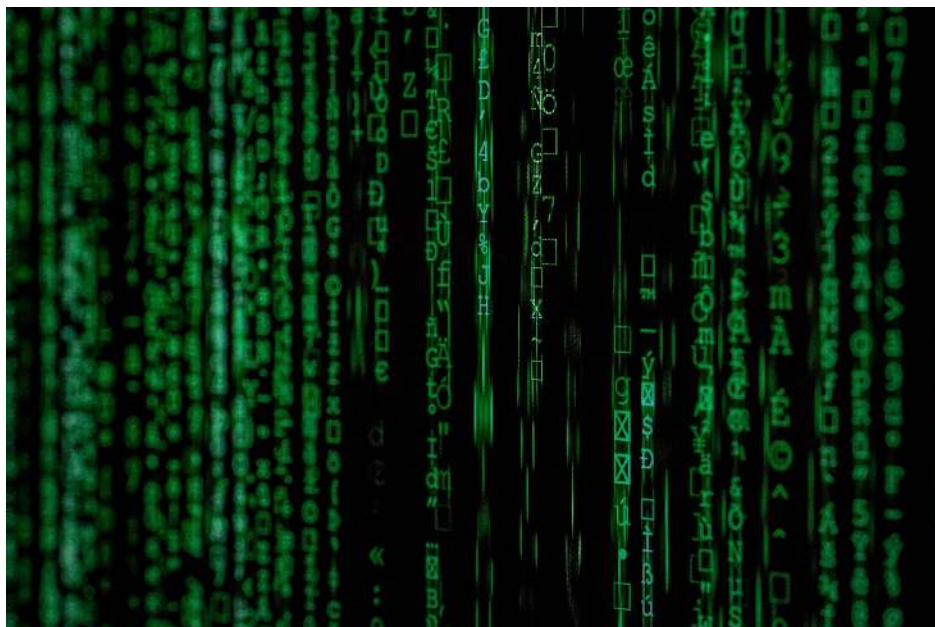
On one hand, by developing alternative digital standards, norms, and governance models, the Digital Silk Road may promote strategic competition while potentially undermining the US-led liberal order. It may also provide China access to confidential information, the ability to sway public opinion, and the ability to use digital dependencies for coercion.

On the other hand, it may also open doors for debate and collaboration on matters like data protection, digital inclusion, and innovation. To offset China's influence, the West may respond by increasing their own investments and collaboration in these regions' digital infrastructure and growth and improving their capacity for cyber defense and resilience to safeguard the digital assets and interests of both them and their allies.

## The Prospects of A Cyber Conflict

The Digital Silk Road also has the potential to trigger [tensions and distrust](#) between China and other nations, particularly the United States and its allies, which could lead to a cyber war in international relations. Potential sources of cyber conflict include:

**Cyber espionage:** China may utilize its digital infrastructure for data theft from other nations, including the stealing of intellectual property, military secrets, and personal data. This might jeopardize the targeted nations' [economic and national security](#) interests and lead to retaliation or responses.



**Cyber sabotage:** China may use its digital infrastructure to interfere with, harm, or otherwise interfere with the vital networks and systems of other nations, such as their power grids, transportation networks, or communication networks. Economic losses and [kinetic conflict](#) might result from this.

**Cyber influence:** China may use its digital infrastructure to sway public opinion and behavior in other nations, disseminate [propaganda](#) and false information, and more. This might undermine the targeted nations' beliefs and norms and interfere with their political systems and social stability.

## Conclusion

The Digital Silk Road has important repercussions for China's ties with a substantial portion of the world as well as for the nation's own [technical advancement](#). However, its nature and ramifications are frequently overlooked or misinterpreted. Economically, it makes use of China's private tech sector's skills in entrepreneurship to establish the country as a major player in the global digital ecosystem, particularly in developing nations where there is a need for accessible and dependable digital services and infrastructure.

With trade tensions on the rise and technology decoupling, the Digital Silk Road also assists China in expanding its market base and reducing its reliance on Western technology providers. Strategically, it enables China to exert its soft power and influence through initiatives in [digital diplomacy](#) and governance, such as promoting its idea of cyber sovereignty, providing capacity-building and training programs, and taking part in the creation of international standards and norms for digital technology.

By giving China more access to vital assets like data and spectrum and by giving it potential leverage over other nations through debt or reliance, the Digital Silk Road also advances China's hard power and security aims. Therefore, it must be carefully evaluated and managed by all parties concerned, since it will have significant effects on world politics, economy, and security in the twenty-first century.

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Article

# Riots Put France in Chaos

## About the Author



Fizza Batool is a student of International Relations from Kinnaird College for Women. She is particularly interested in geo-economics, geopolitics, area studies, diplomacy, conflict and peace, strategic and defense studies, political economy, and global politics of the environment.



# The Revolutionary French Heritage

Protests have a deep and vibrant history in France, going back to the 13th century. The French people have used protests to air their concerns, call for changes, overthrow the government, or stand up for their liberties and rights. Violence has frequently been used during protests, such as riots, conflicts, strikes, or insurrections in France. Additionally, political, religious, social, or economic considerations have motivated protests.

Some of the most significant demonstrations in French history include the Jacquerie (1358), the Maillotins (1378–1382), the Mad War (1485–1488), a noble uprising against Anne of Brittany, the Praguerie (1440), a noble insurrection against royal power, and the League of the Public Weal (1465), a noble collaboration against Louis XI.

More of these include the Protestant nobles' unsuccessful effort to overthrow the monarch known as the Amboise Conspiracy (1560), the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre (1572), a Catholic massacre of Protestants, and the Fronde (1648–1653), an armed conflict among nobility and monarchy.

Not to forget the revolutions, [the French Revolution \(1789–1799\)](#), a violent oust of the monarchy and creation of a republic, the July Revolution (1830), a popular revolt that displaced Charles X with Louis-Philippe, the French Wars of Religion (1562–1598), a string of disputes between the Paris Commune (1871), a socialist attempt that was put down by the government, the June Days Uprising (1848), a workers' rebellion against the Second Republic, and the Dreyfus Affair (1894–1906), an episode in politics that split France over the incorrect conviction of a Jewish soldier.

The left-wing coalition, the Popular Front, implemented social changes in 1936 but those were opposed by the right. Moreover, the Resistance was a secret organization that opposed Nazi occupation and cooperation between 1940 and 1944.

Additionally, the May 1968 events were a student-led uprising that called for the establishment to change. Later, a large-scale student movement challenged a new law on university reform during the 1986–1987 protests.

Throughout 1995, there were widespread strikes in opposition to pension and welfare reforms. The suburban riots of 2005 revealed socioeconomic and racial injustices through a series of violent disruptions in France. The Yellow Vests Movement, a grassroots protest over rising gasoline prices and living expenses, ran from 2018 to 2019. [Pension reforms in France](#) were again a reason for the protests that struck the country in 2023.

## Current Wave of Protests

The police shooting of a 17-year-old teen, who was of Algerian descent, in Nanterre on June 29, 2023, has served as the impetus for the present unrest in France. The officer claimed he shot the youngster because he was concerned the boy might run someone over with the automobile, but the video of the incident clearly showed no danger. The police officer has been detained in a preliminary capacity and is the subject of a criminal investigation for voluntary homicide.

The event provoked riots in Nanterre and neighboring places, as demonstrators sought justice for the victim while torching vehicles and structures and hurling rocks and fireworks at police in France.

The acts of the police were denounced as “inexplicable and unforgivable” by President Emmanuel Macron, who also called an urgent security conference to reestablish order. However, the turmoil has also brought to light more serious concerns like racial prejudice, economic hardship, and police brutality that affect many French suburbs. As a result, the demonstration fits into France’s long history of [civil disturbance](#), which has often reflected societal tensions and disputes.

To stop additional unrest, some towns, like Marseille and Lille, have banned public demonstrations or set curfews for unaccompanied youngsters. Including special forces, the police have deployed 45,000 personnel around the nation and have already made hundreds of arrests.

## Response by the Government and the Citizens

The protesters contend that the boy's human rights were violated and that the police used inappropriate force. Furthermore, given that the youngster belonged to a minority ethnic group, they charge the police with bigotry and prejudice. The administration has denounced the assassination and pledged to investigate the matter thoroughly.

President Macron has sent his sympathies to the boy's family and urged restraint and communication. Additionally, Macron has promised to address socioeconomic inequalities and marginalization that many young people in France experience as well as an overhaul of the police system.

## Discrimination and Fragile Politics in France

The event has brought to light the long-standing tensions in France between the police and underprivileged groups, particularly those with immigrant backgrounds. Many young people in these areas contend that the police, whom they see as harsh and abusive, are harassing and discriminating against them. On the other hand, the police assert that they encounter hostility and danger from radicals and criminals in certain districts. Conflicts and riots are widespread due to the lack of communication and trust between the two parties in France.

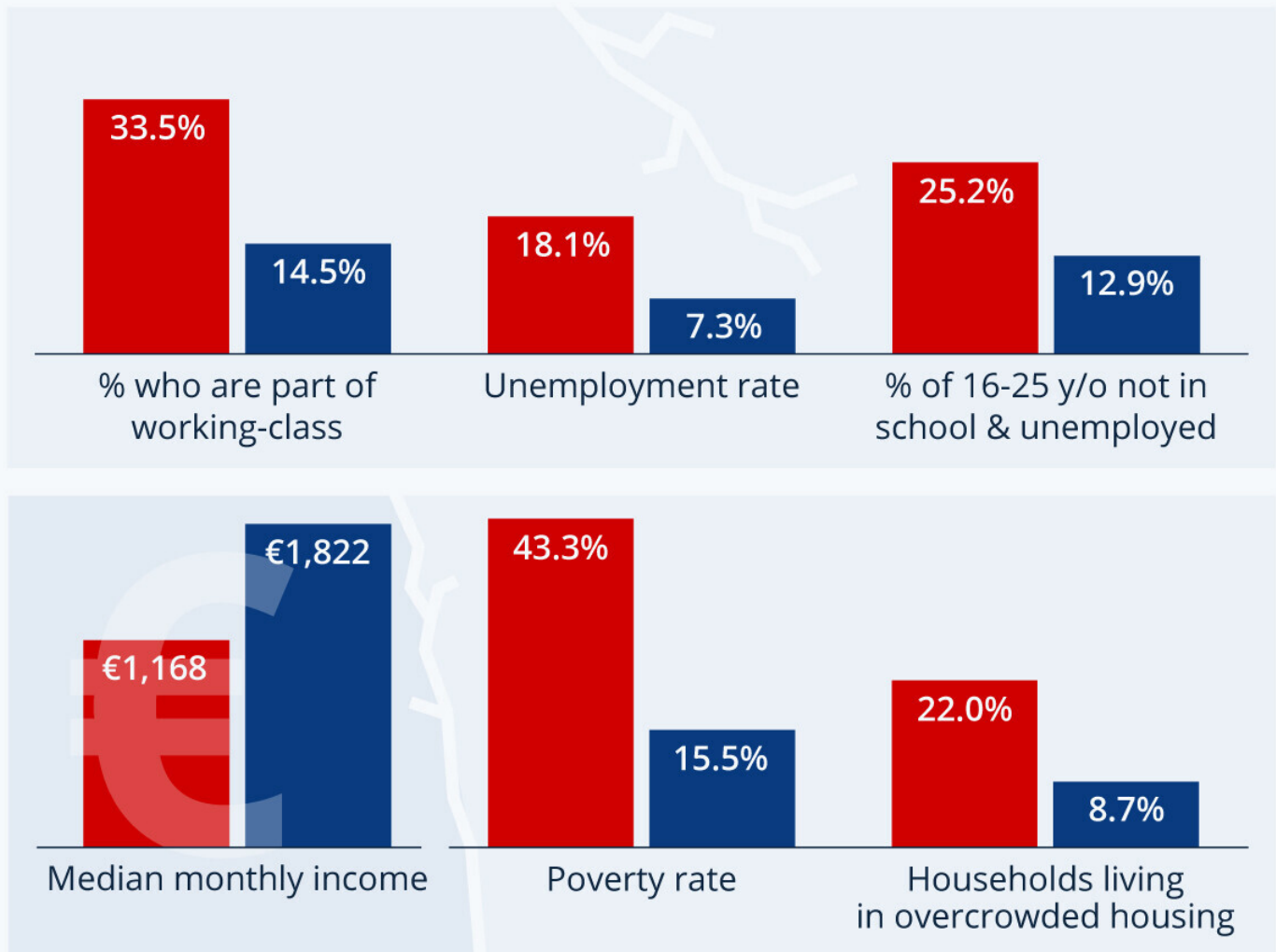
The nation's ethnic and religious diversity has been formed through colonization, immigration, and integration over a lengthy period. However, because of terrorism, secularism, and economic and social inequality, this variety has also served as a source of friction and conflict. People of color and members of ethnic minorities in France experience racial discrimination in many facets of their lives, including work, housing, health, and justice. They experience violence, harassment, and prejudice from both people and institutions.



# France's Social Divide

Comparison of socio-economic indicators between disadvantaged areas and France as a whole

■ Disadvantaged areas\* ■ Whole of France



\* Disadvantaged areas: Average per-capita income < €11,250/year. In 2022, 5.4M people (8% of the population) lived in 1,514 such areas in 859 municipalities. Latest available data: 2019/2020, except unemployment: 2022

Sources: Insee, ONPV, DARES, Observatoire des Inégalités



statista

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The term “fragile politics” describes the divisiveness and instability of the French political system, which has been characterized by the rise of populism, nationalism, and extremism. While the radical movements have taken advantage of the impoverished groups’ resentment and fury, the mainstream parties have failed to address their complaints and demands.

The protests in France are an outward sign of the cynicism and mistrust that many people harbor against the ruling class and the government. Additionally, they allow people to express their identity and sense of community. The demonstrations have been active and diversified, encompassing a range of participants, concerns, and strategies. The major reasons behind the demonstrations are social justice, climate change, democracy, and police brutality.



Several activists and human rights organizations have questioned the government’s dedication to accountability and change, pointing out that instances of police brutality of a similar nature in the past have seldom resulted in convictions or punishments for the officers involved. They

have also challenged the government’s stances on social justice, immigration, and security, alleging that these policies have led to the marginalization and exclusion of several French citizens.

## Racial Segregation in France

The current violence has been connected to the complicated and divisive topic of racial segregation in France. Nahel’s ethnic background is important to comprehend the circumstances and ramifications of his murder since it highlights the long-standing conflicts and discrimination that many French citizens of North African descent experience.

The event provoked demonstrations and riots all around France, revealing the pervasive social and economic injustices that particularly impact people of African and Arab origin. Separating individuals based on their race or ethnicity, whether via legislation or practice, is known as racial segregation. Racial segregation is not a state-sanctioned practice in France, but it is pervasive in many areas of society, including housing, school, work, justice, and health.

A 2018 study by the [French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies \(INSEE\)](#) found that immigrants were more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, live in underserved and crowded neighborhoods, attend lower-quality schools, suffer from chronic illnesses, and be overrepresented in prisons. Additionally, they have encouraged a feeling of exclusion and anger among various populations, particularly the youth who believe they are not part of or possess an opportunity in their nation. Racial segregation has several negative effects throughout France.

## Relevance to the George Floyd Incident in 2020

A distressed incident termed the George Floyd matter led to a widespread push for racial justice



and police accountability. George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man from Minneapolis, was detained by four police officers on May 25, 2020, for allegedly using counterfeit \$20 cash at a convenience shop. Derek Chauvin, one of the police officers, ignored Floyd's

persistent cries for help and knelt on his neck for more than nine minutes.

At a hospital, Floyd was declared deceased after losing consciousness. Bystanders who witnessed the event recorded it on film, which was widely shared on social media and led to significant demonstrations and civil disturbance both in the United States and abroad.



Recent demonstrations against racism and police violence in France have been compared to the George Floyd event in the United States, which gave rise to a worldwide movement for racial justice and accountability.

The fact that both events featured the killing of a black man at the hands of white police officers who used excessive and disproportionate force against them is one of the most striking similarities between them. Both assaults were documented on video and extensively shared on social media, generating indignation from the public and calls for justice. Both episodes brought to light the pervasive issues of systematic racism, discrimination, and violence that minority populations face not just in France and the US but also in other nations.

When comparing the two scenarios, there are significant distinctions that must also be considered. First, there are many differences between the historical contexts of racial relations in France and the US. Republican universalism, which prioritizes equality and citizenship over ethnic or religious identification, has a long history in France. On the other hand, the US's racial identity and politics have been formed by its history of slavery, segregation, and civil rights fights.

Second, there are significant differences between black people's social and economic circumstances in France and the US. While both groups encounter marginalization and prejudice, black Americans are more prone than **black French people** to experience poverty, unemployment, imprisonment, and health inequalities.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the horrific police attack on a teen in France is a blatant violation of human rights and an illustration of the country's pervasive bigotry. Four police officers assaulted and strangled the youngster, who was of Algerian heritage because he was resisting arrest. Like the George Floyd case in the US, when a black man was killed by a white police officer who knelt on his neck for more than nine minutes, the act provoked indignation and protests across France.



Both incidents highlight the critical need for police accountability and reform as well as the acknowledgment and respect for the individuality and variety of every person. France, a country that takes pride in upholding the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, cannot afford to ignore or tolerate such violent and unfair crimes against its inhabitants.

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You may also like: [How French Colonialism in Africa Never Ended](#)



# The Irgun and Lehi: Israel's Pre-independence Paramilitary Groups

## 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'.

# The Birth of Irgun and Lehi

Initially, the Haganah, a paramilitary group established between 1920 and 1948 to protect Jews from Arab attacks and rioting, operated with relative moderation and cooperation with British security forces. However, discontent within the group led to splintering and the formation of more violent factions like the Irgun (or Etzel) and Lehi (or Stern Gang).

The Irgun, founded by [Ze'ev Jabotinsky](#), a leader of Revisionist Zionism, underwent internal ideological conflicts, oscillating between self-restraint and advocating for active attacks on Arabs and the British. During the [Arab Revolt of 1936-1939](#), which erupted due to dissatisfaction with British governance, Zionist land acquisitions, dispossession, and debt, Irgun's self-restraint policy gradually eroded.

In July 1937, even Jabotinsky, who had initially opposed retaliatory actions, succumbed to the mounting pressure to attack Arabs. The Irgun launched a massive indiscriminate campaign known as Black Sunday on November 14, 1937, resulting in the deaths of numerous Arabs.

The British White Paper in 1939, which restricted Jewish migration to Palestine, further fueled the Irgun's animosity towards the British. World War II provided an opportunity for the Irgun to intensify its attacks against the British administration, with increased access to weaponry. However, disagreements within the organization led to another split, resulting in the formation of the Lehi in 1940.

Though smaller in numbers, Lehi's assassinations and terrorist attacks had a significant impact in Palestine and garnered international attention.

## Terrorist Activities of the Irgun and Lehi

The group employed a [range of tactics](#), including assassinations, attacks on transportation routes, shootings, and the use of explosive devices.

Among their most notorious actions was the infamous attack known as Black Sunday, in which the Irgun units around Jerusalem killed 10 Arabs and left many others wounded. The Irgun boldly proclaimed this day as “the Day of the Breaking of the Havlagah,” commemorating it with audacious pride.

The Irgun conducted over 60 attacks on Arabs during the Arab Revolt. In Haifa, an Irgun bomb detonated in a crowded Arab marketplace on June 19, 1938, causing the deaths of 18 Arabs, including women and children, and injuring 24 others. Another tragic incident occurred in July 1938, when a mine planted by the Irgun in a Haifa market claimed the lives of over [70 Arab individuals](#).

As the Irgun shifted its focus towards the British authorities in 1939, bombings targeting British installations and personnel became more frequent. In December 1945, a bombing at a British CID headquarters in Jerusalem resulted in the deaths of three British policemen and four Sotho soldiers.

One of the most infamous acts of terrorism committed by the Irgun was the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, the central office of the British Mandatory authority. The bomb, planted in the basement by Irgun members, killed over a [hundred people](#), including civilians of Arab, British, and Jewish descent. Similarly, the Lehi engaged in reprehensible attacks.

In November 1944, they assassinated Mr. Moyne, the [British Minister Resident in the Middle East](#), as a symbolic representation of Britain’s uncompromising stance. On January 4, 1948, the Lehi introduced the world to a new form of terror: the car bomb. Their attack on the Saraya building in Jaffa resulted in the deaths of [28 Arabs](#), including civilians, and injured hundreds more. The use of car bombs became prevalent not only in pre-independence Israel against Palestinians but also among other militant groups in the Middle East.



The most heinous act of terrorism perpetrated by the Irgun and Lehi was the Deir Yassin Massacre. In April 1948, approximately 120 fighters from both groups, along with cooperation from the Haganah, attacked the village of Deir Yassin, [massacring hundreds of Arab civilians](#), including women and children. While the condemnation of this atrocity was widespread, no one was ever held accountable for the tragedy, highlighting a lack of justice.

There were several other such incidents where villages were massacred such as in Saliha (70-80 killed), Lod (250 killed), and Abu Shusha (70 killed). Benny Morris stated that Ben Gurion silenced [these controversies](#) and he protected all people involved.

## Legacy of Terrorism

Labeling the Irgun and Lehi as terrorist organizations is not a controversial or exaggerated assertion. British leaders, the Jewish Agency, prominent [individuals like Albert Einstein](#), and, most importantly, the Palestinian Arabs viewed the members of these groups as nothing less than terrorists. Israel's gravest mistake lies in allowing these terrorists to transition seamlessly into soldiers of the new IDF and enabling the leaders of the Irgun and Lehi to venture into politics without being held accountable for their past actions.

Menachem Begin, an [Irgun leader in 1944](#), went on to found the Likud party and become Israel's 6th Prime Minister. Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Lehi in 1943, served in the Mossad and became Israel's 7th Prime Minister. Another Lehi member, Yaakov Heruti, known for pioneering car bombings, later founded right-wing political parties and played a role in facilitating settler activity in the occupied territories. This lack of accountability allowed the terrorist proclivities of the Irgun and Lehi to permeate Israel's political and security establishments.

This extremist legacy is evident in Israel's continuous perpetration of war crimes and human rights abuses against Palestinians. In the past four conflicts in Gaza, from 2008 to May 2021, Palestinian casualties far outnumber Israeli casualties, with [Palestinians constituting 92%](#) of the total casualties – around 18,992.

Recent incidents, such as the deliberate killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the IDF on May 11, 2022, further exemplify Israel's perpetuation of violence. Despite Israel's denial, independent investigations by organizations such as [CNN](#) and Forensic Architecture indicate otherwise, suggesting that Shireen was intentionally targeted for execution.

Violence in the occupied West Bank has also escalated, with Israel conducting near-daily raids and causing hundreds of Palestinian [deaths over the past year](#). The recent Huwara riots, where Jewish settlers in the West Bank wreaked havoc by torching buildings and cars, resulting in the death of a Palestinian and numerous injuries, shocked the world. Criticism has been directed towards the settlers, the IDF for its inaction, and ministers who advocated for the destruction of Huwara.

In conclusion, the Irgun and Lehi's history of terrorism cannot be ignored or downplayed. Their actions have had a lasting impact on Israel's political and security landscape, contributing to the country's ongoing disregard for international law and human rights. The cycle of violence and oppression against Palestinians continues, perpetuating a tragic legacy that must be acknowledged and addressed for the sake of peace and justice.

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You may also like: [Romancing Israel at Palestine's Expense](#)



Opinion

# Need for Political Wit in Pakistan

## About the Author



M. Hamza Tanvir graduated from COMSATS University. He has a keen interest in international relations and regional politics.

# The Public's Dying Trust

Pakistan's political ground has always been filled with turbulence and uncertainty but what happened on May 9<sup>th</sup> was unprecedented. Violent protests throughout the country put all political and business activities to a halt. It was the first time in the history of the country that followers of a political party committed violence to such a great extent and vandalized the military and government installations. This incident transformed the political landscape by 180 degrees. Attacks on the military installations depict the widened gulf between the people of the country and its military which imperils the sovereignty and security of the country.

Political polarization has reached an unprecedented level. All the state institutions including the judiciary and military have lost the trust of the people of Pakistan due to some past events and the unwitty policies of the state's political leaders.

Almost all the mainstream political leaders of the country have given incautious statements about the state institutions, especially the military. On the other hand, state institutions are also responsible for this lack of trust and confidence among the citizens of the country as they have been marked by controversy due to some of their actions.

The role of the military in politics and [judicial activism](#) has rendered the institutions questionable among the people. The judiciary, on its part, is known for having a tilt towards some specific political parties. It seems that all the judges in the country are affiliated with particular political parties. This has made the institution of the judiciary controversial among the people.

On the other hand, the former chief of army staff's [acceptance of political meddling by the army](#) has also affirmed the allegations of political leaders about the role of the military in politics. All this has led to a rift between the state institutions and the people of the country.



## War of Narratives

However, the blame does not only lay on the institutions but also on the unwitty and incautious statements by the political leaders for gaining political leverage through an anti-establishment narrative – which has always been popular in the country. PDM, on its part, has been accusing the judiciary, especially the office of the chief justice, of being partial in support of the PTI leadership. The latter also criticized CJP Umer Atta Bandial for taking [the suo moto notice](#) in support of the no-confidence motion.

Moreover, since his ouster from the office of prime minister, former PM Imran Khan has also been criticizing the military establishment for staying neutral and not supporting him against the PDM coalition. Astonishingly, his narrative was not in support of the political neutrality of the military establishment instead, he has been asking for its political support.

## A Page Out of the Middle East's Book

The youth of the country took to the streets and stood against their state. To them, it was a revolution against the establishment which resulted in the arrest of a host of the perpetrators of the 9<sup>th</sup> May incident.

It is regretful to see that most of the people who committed violence and are arrested in this incident due to their emotional and political affiliation belong to poor backgrounds. However, most of the PTI leadership which was part of inciting public sentiment against the establishment to such an extent has distanced itself from this incident and PTI as well. It is well-known that some of them were the main characters who led Imran Khan and PTI to this abyss.

Moreover, it is also heart-wrenching to say that both the PTI leadership and its followers forgot what happened in the Middle East due to similar uprisings against the state institutions and their leaders. Once known for its prosperity and mineral resources, the Middle East provides the image of shambles nowadays.

The devastation of the Middle Eastern region commenced at the start of the Arab Spring.

The region was mostly ruled by dictators and the people of the region stood against their leaders under the pretense of true democracy but today their plight is well-known. Dawn Leaks and the [Memogate scandal](#) also depict how desperate the political leadership of the country becomes when it comes to their government.

## Political Instability & State Economy

The [political instability](#) and the gulf between the people and state institutions have devastated the already weak economy of the country. Political and economic stability go hand in hand and are interdependent. Allegedly, political instability was also one of the hurdles in signing the IMF deal. Political instability in a country also endangers business growth. No country with political instability appropriates considerable foreign direct investment. Projects like [the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor \(CPEC\)](#) also get affected by political unrest in a country.

Unemployment is also among one of the [repercussions of this political instability](#) in the country. The recent boat incident in which more than [200 Pakistanis lost their lives](#) to flee the country illegally due to poverty also depicts the level of hopelessness and unemployment among the youth of the country.

## Conclusion

The situation calls for the need for political wit from all the stakeholders. The political leadership should adopt a prudent approach to decrease the rift between the people and the state institutions and should focus on uplifting the fortune of the country instead of using innocent minds for their own leverage. On the other hand, all institutions must act under their constitutional boundaries. It is incumbent on the chief justice of Pakistan to adopt a prudent approach to rebuild the confidence of the people in the judiciary.

On the other hand, the military establishment should also remain politically neutral. Furthermore, the state should try the civilians in the civilian courts and play a motherly role by showing them some mercy as most of them were influenced by the political leadership and do not hold anti-Pakistan sentiment at all. The political elite in Pakistan should also show some restraint and wit while building an anti-establishment narrative lest creating a threat to the sovereignty and stability of the country.

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# The Khunjerab Pass of Pakistan: Adventure and History Unite

## About the Author



Safarjee seeks to digitalize the tourism sector and create new business opportunities for existing and new vendors in the tourism sector.





## History

Khunjerab Pass holds historical and strategic significance, serving as a crucial gateway between Pakistan and China. The pass has a rich history, playing a vital role in the ancient Silk Road, connecting China, Central Asia, and South Asia. Today, it is an integral part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, promoting trade and connectivity.

## Weather



In terms of weather, Khunjerab Pass experiences extreme conditions due to its high altitude. Winters are extremely cold, while summers are milder with temperatures ranging from 10 to 20 degrees Celsius (50 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit).

## Best Season to Visit

The best time to visit is during the summer, from May to October when the pass is accessible and the landscapes are in full bloom.

Visitors can enjoy views of snow-capped peaks, glaciers, and alpine meadows. Khunjerab Pass offers thrilling activities like trekking and hiking in the surrounding mountains. It also acts as a



gateway to the picturesque Hunza Valley, known for its green fields, orchards, and historic forts.

## Summary

To ensure a seamless and memorable journey to Hunza and Khunjerab, [Safarjee](#), a

trusted travel company in Pakistan, is highly recommended. They have multiple travel agents onboard who offer multiple comprehensive packages and experienced guides who provide valuable insights into the local culture, history, and natural wonders.

In conclusion, Khunjerab Pass is a breathtaking destination that combines adventure and history in Pakistan. Its remarkable beauty and strategic importance make it a must-visit location. Safarjee can make your [tour of Gilgit-Baltistan's](#) Hunza and Khunjerab unforgettable and hassle-free.

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# Parallels between Palestine and Kashmir

## About the Author



Hafsa Ammar is a student of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National Defence University, Islamabad. Her areas of expertise are hybrid warfare, narrative building, and nuclear deterrence in South Asia.

# Timeline

The conflicts surrounding Kashmir and Palestine came to fruition around the same time in the mid-nineties. The partition of Pakistan and India took place in 1947 in the month of August. The British Raj came to an end with a final master stroke of geographical divisions. The division was



supposedly done after a careful perusal of the religious inclinations of the majority of people in each region or city. Muslim-populated areas leaned towards joining Pakistan and the Hindu majority with India.

Kashmir was a land of the Muslim majority and the people were willing to fall under the

government of Pakistan. However, Indian claims came forth about the Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir signing the 'Instrument of Accession' to join India despite the massive Muslim majority. Significant controversy surrounds the Act, and many researchers have had their requests to view the original document refused. Kashmiri locals deny the existence of such a document to this day. Pakistan and India went to war over Kashmir in 1948, which led to the issue being raised by India in the UN.

Similar to Kashmir, Palestine, too, saw the beginning of its demise in the same time period, specifically in 1947 when the mandate passed to formulate Israel from the Jewish societies present within Palestine. This led to a sharp escalation of violence and aggression between the Arabs and Jews. The Nakba, the literal meaning of which is 'catastrophe', is the nightmare that ravaged the livelihoods of the Palestinians in May of 1948. Around 700,000-750,000, Palestinians were evicted from their lands by the Zionists.



Such uprooting is common to this day as it could be seen in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in recent times as well. The Palestinians too faced conflict due to a document that did not have a local agreement tied into it, the Balfour Declaration signed by the British in 1917 gave fleeing Jews refuge in Palestine without the knowledge or permission of the Palestinians.

## Actors

The actors involved in both situations have similar characteristics which are reflected in the paralleled trajectory of the conflicts. First, there is an overarching colonial power, the British crown, which plundered and owned land over which it had no actual authority.

Then come the primary actors, both India and Israel, the perpetrators of aggression, are regional powers with global support and strong enough economic ties to back up their military and political suppression of the opposition. Both Kashmir and Palestine are being strong-armed into giving up their territorial rights and are being targeted over their identity as Muslim-majority regions.

## Geographical Significance

Both regions have hefty geographic importance. Palestine presents as a valuable crossroads between Africa and Asia. It is also religiously valuable to the major three monotheistic religions of the world: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Meanwhile, Kashmir is often referred to as the nuclear flashpoint in the region due to its significance to all three nuclear powers of Asia: China, India, and Pakistan. It also presents as a connecting bridge towards central Asia, an important trade route.

## Ground Realities

Far-right conservative governments are ruled by religious fanaticism on both sides. Right-wing politicians such as [Itamar Ben-Gvir](#) and Modi are constantly visible on television and social media promoting harmful narratives against the respective repressed Muslim populations.

# Human Rights Violations

Both regions have been torn asunder with gross human rights violations and war crimes from extrajudicial killings such as that of Javaid Ahmed Magray in Kashmir and police brutality of the



Israeli Defence Forces to full-fledged massacres. The Kunan-Poshpora Massacre of Kashmir occurred in February of 1991; mass rapes and acts of sexual violence were enacted by armed Indian troops. Victims and their families still long for justice to this day.

The [Deir Yassin Village massacre](#) still haunts the psyche of the Palestinians. Occurring in April of 1948, women, children, fathers, and brothers – all were shot down by Zionist forces in the small village. Such tragedies are just a small blip amongst thousands of others.

## Manipulation of Media

Gray and white propaganda has been used with a heavy hand to tarnish the freedom movements of both Palestine and Kashmir. A critical discourse analysis of TheTimesofIsrael media house shows words, phrases, and implications which are used to push forth the narrative that all Palestinians are terrorists and any statement that stands up against Zionism is anti-semitic.

The tragic murder of Shireen Abu Akleh was [reported](#) on 5th September 2022 as a 'probability' and an 'accident' by Israeli forces. The lack of accountability lessens the credibility of such media.

Kashmir is a target of black propaganda. Indian media focuses all its efforts on suppressing Kashmiri voices and blaming Pakistani agencies and forces for any disturbances or protests that take place in the occupied territory. Statements and press releases can flit between semi-truths and blatant lies.

Kashmir is not only suffering through a heavily militarized curfew but from a cutthroat [e-curfew](#) as well. An internet blockade in this day and age is crippling for any nation, more so for one that is already afflicted by such violence. Kashmiri journalists spoke up against this injustice as they said it made it difficult for them to not only report live incidents but also created a maelstrom of disinformation due to time gaps and inaccuracies.

## Lack of Recognition for Governmental Structure

After decades of struggle, both Kashmir and Palestine have displayed active resistance against the oppression. They have governmental structures which are unfortunately not given much, if



any, recognition at the international level. Any evidence of Kashmiri authority and special status was shattered once India revoked Article 370. While the Palestinian Authority is often

referred to as a puppet of the terror outfit Hamas, which it is not. Any sign of protest by the locals is deemed a terrorist act and dealt with so much aggression that most of the population lives in a constant traumatic state.

## Role of International Community

The forum of the United Nations is globally viewed as a platform for humanitarian causes, but when deconstructed, much of its resolutions and missions end up being useless. In 1948, the Kashmir issue was raised in front of the United Nations Security Council which came forth with [UNSC Resolution 47](#).

The UN intervention was based on informal mediation and attempts to secure a ceasefire between Pakistan and India and eventually assure some sort of a demilitarized zone. The resolution underlined the need for a referendum, to figure out the inclination of the Kashmiris however, it was never undertaken.

Similarly, many resolutions were put out in hopes of resolving the Palestinian conflict such as [Resolution 181 \(II\)](#) which brought out a plan of removing the 'Mandatory Power' – the UK from Palestine, leaving it to form a future government with a stable economic structure. It was essentially a two-state solution as it called for the partition of Palestine into two – an Arab and Jewish state along with an independent Jerusalem. Instead of abiding by the resolution, Israel waged its war of independence in 1948 and invaded a majority of what was supposed to be Palestine.

The above-mentioned are not the only United Nations resolutions proposed for the Kashmir and Palestinian conflict but they are succinct statements of international attention toward the conflict or lack thereof. Bilateral negotiations between the governing bodies of primary nations involved in the conflict are the ideal way out in such complex circumstances but the chances of that happening are almost negligible due to the massive inequality of status quo and power present between both Palestine-Israel and India-Kashmir.

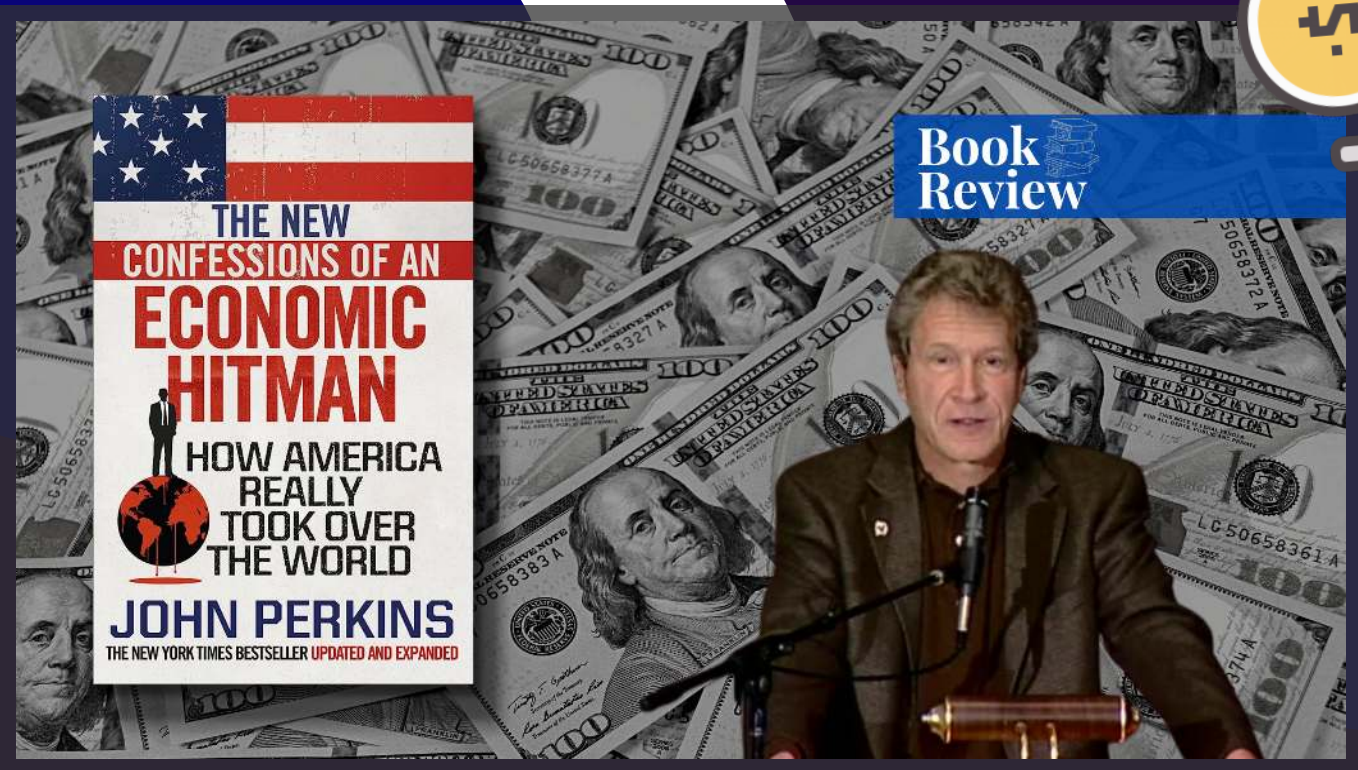
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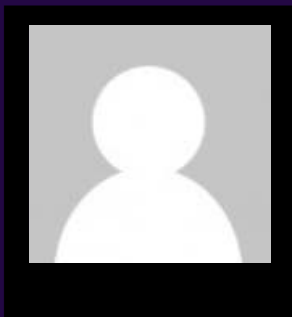
You may also like: [Women of Kashmir: Casualties of an Armed Conflict](#)





# The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman

## About the Author



Khawaja Arsalan is currently pursuing his Master's degree from NUST.



## But What Is an Economic Hitman?

In *The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman*, Perkins defines economic hitmen as highly paid individuals hired and trained by different undercover organizations. Their job is to convince the



leaders of third-world countries to bow down to the wish and will of the US by various means. Their tools or means include bribery, extortion, murder, rigged elections, and many other terrifying acts.

Perkins claims that he was trained as an economic hitman by an engineering consulting firm called Chas T Main. The

organization used to provide fraudulent and exaggerated feasibility reports of economic growth for underdeveloped countries if they agreed to take development loans from the IMF or World Bank for mega construction and engineering projects such as highways, dams, etcetera.

## The Cunning Hook to Bait Third-World Countries

The author mentions how international organizations such as USAID, IMF, and World Bank provide funds to the countries as bait, which turn into debt traps following countries' economic dependency on the US or these organizations controlled by the US. He further elaborates that loans given to these countries for developing infrastructure projects are directed to US firms or companies by awarding these contracts to them.

The money is never credited to these countries but to these US companies. Only a few local wealthy families (usually in power) of host countries benefit from such deals, and the rest of the country goes under huge unpayable debt at high-interest rates. Once these countries are unable to pay the debt in time, the US would ask for their "Pound of Flesh," as the writer calls it, which may include political support, access to natural resources, or military cooperation.

## The Author's Personal Experience

Perkins shares his experiences in different countries where he was sent as an economic hitman, mentioning his interactions with presidents and politicians in these countries. The most notable examples of these countries include Ecuador, Panama, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia. According to Perkins, these countries were targeted for the same motives, i.e., to increase US dominance and political influence.

The main target in Ecuador and Saudi Arabia was natural resources, specifically oil. In contrast, with Panama, the target was the construction of the Panama Canal, which would shorten the trade route and benefit the US. Lastly, in Indonesia, the target was multi-pronged, from exploiting oil and gas reserves to drawing it away from communism. Most importantly, they wanted to maintain a strategic presence in a vital region or trade route.

Explaining the terrifying dimensions of American political and economic imperialism, the author also mentions two presidents in his book who were executed for denying to bow down in front of the US: Panama's Omar Torrijos and Ecuador's Jaime Roldós Aguilera; both were killed in similar plane accidents in 1981 with a gap of a few months.

## Getting the Job Done

According to Perkins, the United States of America uses three main tools or weapons to promote its international influence, earn riches, and, most importantly, project global political and economic dominance. They include economic hitmen, as the writer himself was; CIA agents, who come into play if economic hitmen fail to promote their own country's narrative and cannot convince governments or leaders to bend down or align with the US; and finally, the military might of the US. Once the first two options fail to increase US dominance or political influence, that country is invaded.



# What Makes This Book Stand Out?

Apart from providing insight into international affairs and US involvement in economic



manipulation, one of the book's most compelling aspects is how the author's guilt-ridden moral conscience turned him into a whistleblower. The book's thought-provoking culmination intrigues the reader about his own life.

*The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman* provides an in-depth analysis based on detailed research and numerous examples, stories, and events from the writer's own life. Moreover, Perkins' writing style makes this book simple, easy, understandable, and engaging. It enables the reader to effortlessly comprehend complex economical imperialism, enlightened with different perspectives to observe international events and affairs.

## Limitations

The book misses the mark in providing comprehensive analysis based on counter-argument, factual data, and alternative points of view.



Although it enables the reader to increase knowledge, assists in the analysis, and familiarizes with events specifically in the 1970s and 1980s, *The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman* is based upon the personal points of view and the author's perspective. It is advisable to consider different sources to comprehensively understand geopolitics and economic activities.

Overall, the book is a must-read for all who wish to understand world politics, economics, and international affairs. It is pertinent to mention that the book received widespread attention around the globe after its release in 2004; it was the New York Times' best seller in the same year and remained so for over a year, which speaks of its popularity among readers and success as well.

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You may also like: [The Negative Impact of IMF's Policies on the Economy of Pakistan](#)



# A Conversation with Brig (R) Samson Simon Sharaf

## About the Author



Eman Nawab is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at National Defence University.

**Q. Brigadier Samson Simon Sharaf, can you tell us something about your role in the Pakistani nuclear policy-making team?**

When I was taken into the military operations directorate, they needed a high-profile officer who was qualified in nuclear strategy. My posting was ordered by the then Army Chief General Karamat sometime in April 1997, but my clearance took a long time, with the issue being my religion.



Sometime in November, General Karamat along with the DG MO called me to their office and said, "Simon, you know there is turmoil in India and the parliament is calling elections time and again. The trend is that BJP might win. My worry as COAS is that if BJP wins, they may become nuclear so I want you to write a study paper that if BJP comes to power will they go nuclear?" I agreed.

We asked for inputs from MI, ISI, and the Foreign Office, but we got almost no vital information. I told the COAS that I needed to study the Indian nuclear program deeply by buying books available in the international market. I also asked for high-speed internet which wasn't allowed in the GHQ.

Finally, I convinced them and got the internet in a building which was probably a store outside the MO Directorate. For the books, I went to Amina Syed, the boss of Oxford University Press, and gave her a list of approximately 200 books. I went to see the books she already had which were ordered by Benazir Bhutto in 1996 along with my colleague Colonel Osaf who retired as DG SPD. I was a colonel at that time too.

A book I would specifically like to mention is "Command and Control of Nuclear Assistance" which had 5 volumes, each volume having 5000 pages.

After all the research that I carried out, my conclusion was that if BJP comes to power, they will carry out five explosive tests in total describing the nature of the tests as well.

I gave my first presentation in December which was all Greek for everyone present. Then people from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were called and they were delighted that someone in the Army understood what they were doing.

We then looked for satellite photographs of Indian atomic explosions through a French satellite called Antech.

We used to observe the changes through those photographs. They were only four people who knew about this including me as this was too sensitive information to share with anyone. I had suggested we carry out six explosions as India was expected to be carrying out five. Later, India went nuclear by carrying out five explosions just as I had predicted. After that, we carried out our tests as well.

**Q. Do you think the conditions for Christians in the military were better back in your time or now?**

They are more or less the same. I feel the Air Force and Navy have better conditions as compared to the Army for us. It has been our tradition to produce competent officers in the Armed forces. My two brothers also served in the army. One of my nephews was also part of the army. I was a very successful officer as well. Two people from the Christian community have been promoted to the rank of General as well.

**Q. Keeping in mind your expertise in the military and then as a political economist, has the state ever contacted you to render your services in policymaking?**

No. Pakistan has this culture that whoever is sitting on the revolving chair is the mister who knows it. I would not say that the hindrances in my career were due to my religion. The reason was professional jealousies mostly.



Religion was just exploited in the process as it was a vulnerability. We have a very odd system, not in the military specifically but in Pakistan as a whole.

**Q. During the course of my research, I realized there were many points in the history of Pakistan where our fellow Christian citizens played a pivotal role in shaping things. For instance, how the 3 Christian votes decided the fate of Punjab or how SM Burke played a vital role in the Pakistan nuclear program. However, we as the public have never once heard of those services in the media, books, etc. What do you think led to this lack of recognition?**

First, I will talk about some of the Christian contributions. When Punjab elections were held in



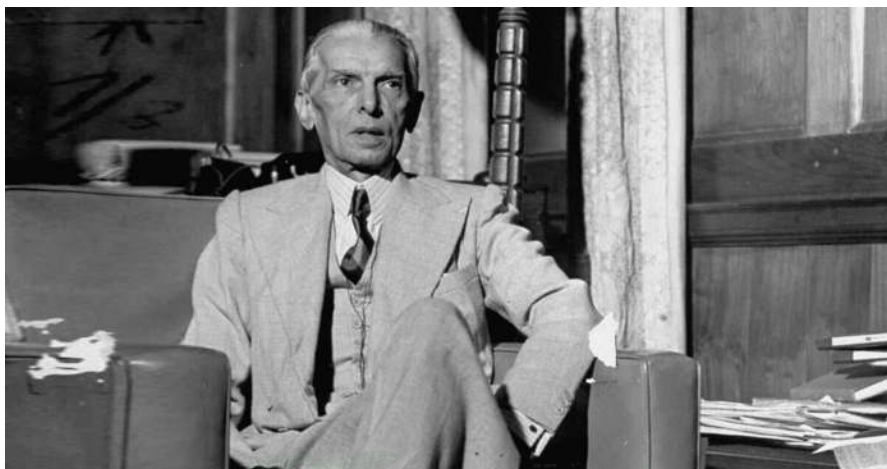
1945, Congress filed 17 petitions of rigging. Punjab's chief election commissioner was Samuel Martin Burke. He gave all 17 decisions against Congress and the Muslim League was allotted all those seats. Had this not happened, Pakistan would not have come into being.

Further, when he was Pakistan's ambassador to Canada, he was very keen that Pakistan should go nuclear. Pakistan was already planning to send a rocket into space. Just for your information, after the Soviet Union, the second country in the world to send a rocket into space was Pakistan. So, SM Burke bought nuclear reactors at minimal prices before sending them to Pakistan; that reactor is functioning to this day in Karachi.

Apart from that, there was a lady from Lahore, Miss Ralia who was a very close friend of Quaid-e-Azam. She had advised Quaid to take Christians on board in the Pakistan movement.

The first case presented in the UN on Kashmir (on whose basis the 1948 resolution was passed for plebiscite) which was in Pakistan's favor was fought by Mr CE Gibons. He was also a member of the National legislative assembly.

In 1948, the first two martyrs of the Pakistan Army in the Kashmir war were Christians. One of



them was a Naik, while the other was Major Sloam. Coming back to your question, the reason for the lack of recognition is that the Pakistan we live in is not the Pakistan envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam.

**Q. Talking about the contributions of Pakistani Christians, keeping aside the sacrifices they made in the struggle for Pakistan and keeping in mind the post-independence era, most of the contribution date back to the early years and gradually start decreasing especially after the 1980s. Is it the lack of acknowledgment by the state or does the new minority generation not have the same sense of patriotism? What else could be the factors according to you that have caused a major brain drain of religious minorities from Pakistan?**

If you carry out an analytical study all those people who performed for Pakistan (from the minorities) before its creation up to 1960 migrated to India, migrated abroad, or died mysteriously. Take the example of SP Singha. This problem of brain drain is not only faced by minorities but by Pakistani citizens in general.

Another very important reason is social inequality. It has two factors; one is that our society has a lot of fault lines based on religion. This was not the case in olden times. We used to coexist peacefully within the same neighborhoods irrespective of our religions.

People began looking at Christians as Kafir, not as the people of the book. Secondly, the foreign missionaries left Pakistan and the locals took over bringing in their cultural mindset. They weren't as devoted and focused.

**Q. What role can the state play in highlighting the contributions of our people or do you consider it satisfactory?**

Education and awareness are key players. Lack of education is what is attributed to this mindset. We have huge institutions but their sole purpose is earning money, not imparting quality education and producing intellectual mindsets. Even our Christian schools are not the same anymore. They are not able to groom young Christian minds. These institutes at one time polished all of my skills making me an all-rounder.

**Q. In the post-independence (till the late '70s & early '80s) Pakistan, what factors do you see that weakened the cohesiveness between the majority & minority religious communities, that even reached levels of attacking, lynching, and extreme discrimination of religious minorities (in cases like Shantinagar, Gojra, throwing of a young Christian couple in a burning brick kiln, etc) and what do you foresee in case of the reconstruction of a Hindu temple at the sight of Babri Mosque. Further, what do you think are the elements that catalyzed these problems?**

There is a story called Arcadia, which is an imaginary wonderland where there is humanity, equal opportunities, prosperity, and no crime. That dream of Arcadia is not present within the movers and shakers of Pakistan. I believe it's not just an issue of Christians but a collective issue for all Pakistanis.

Moreover, our state as a whole has never taken ownership of its people irrespective of who they are. The discrimination suffered by religious minorities is also the discrimination suffered by the poor people of Pakistan.

Their issues are the same. If Pakistani society had been formed on Islamic values in their true sense, the situation would have been entirely different. Religion is only given lip service, and there is no implementation of Islamic laws.

**Q. Could you please mention your literary works?**

I am the author of nearly 1000 articles. Some of them which are:

- How Pakistan went Nuclear – Pakistan’s political
- Forgotten Building Blocks – The Nation
- Karachi’s forgotten communities – The Nation
- Pakistan’s blitzkrieging diplomat – The Nation
- A tryst with Jinnah – The Nation
- Haunting Memories – The Nation
- ‘Sharaf Sargodhvi – Sharafs WordPress’Sharaf Sargodhvi – Sharafs WordPress
- Christian IDPs of Pakistan – Sharafs WordPress
- In the name of religion – The Nation

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# The super QUICK QUIZ



Test your general knowledge!



**Q1. Which of the following countries is NOT a part of NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?**

A. Estonia

B. Bulgaria

C. Turkey

D. Ukraine



**Q2. Which country does Kim Jong Un lead?**

A. North Korea

B. South Korea

C. Japan

D. China



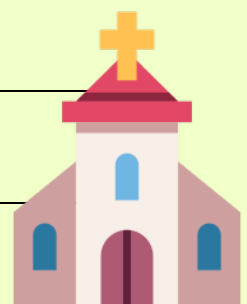
**Q3. Which of the following is the dominant religion in Latin America?**

A. Catholicism

B. Protestantism

C. Buddhism

D. Judaism



**Q4. Who is the current U.S. secretary of state?**



A. Mike Pompeo

---

B. Hillary Clinton

---

C. Antony Blinken

---

D. Merrick Garland

---

**Q5. What currency does this symbol (€) represent?**

A. Pound

---

B. Swiss Franc

---

C. Euro

---

D. Yen

---



**Q6. Who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in March 2022?**

A. Theresa May

---

B. Boris Johnson

---

C. Scott Morrison

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D. Liz Truss

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**Q7. Which of the following regions or provinces of China has the highest per capita population of Muslims?**

- A. Tibet
- B. Macau
- C. Xinjiang
- D. Guangdong



**Q8. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is a trade agreement that replaces which previous trade agreement?**

- A. AUKUS
- B. NAFTA
- C. IMF
- D. KORUS



**Q9. What country does this flag belong to?**



- A. France
- B. Italy
- C. Belgium
- D. Germany





# Answers!



## 1. D (Ukraine)

Ukraine is not a NATO member. Ukraine is a NATO partner country, which means that it cooperates closely with NATO but it is not covered by the security guarantee in the Alliance's founding treaty.

## 2. A (Kim Jong Un)

Kim Jong Un is a North Korean politician who has been Supreme Leader of North Korea since 2011 and the leader of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) since 2012. He is the third son of Kim Jong Il, who was North Korea's second supreme leader from 1994 to 2011.

## 3. A (Catholicism)

The majority of Latin Americans are Christians (90%), mostly Roman Catholics. Membership in Protestant denominations is increasing, particularly in Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Puerto Rico.

## 4. C (Antony Blinken)

Antony J. Blinken was sworn in as the 71st U.S. Secretary of State on January 26, 2021. The Secretary of State, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is the President's chief foreign affairs adviser.

## 5. C (Euro)

The symbol € is based on the Greek letter epsilon (€), with the first letter in the word "Europe" and with 2 parallel lines signifying stability. The ISO code for the euro is EUR. This is used when referring to euro amounts without using the symbol.

## 6. B (Boris Johnson)

Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson is a British politician and writer who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party from 2 July 2019 to September 2022.

### 7. C (Xinjiang)

The greatest concentration of Muslims are in Xinjiang, which contains a significant Uyghur population. Lesser yet significant populations reside in the regions of Ningxia, Gansu and Qinghai.

### 8. B (NAFTA)

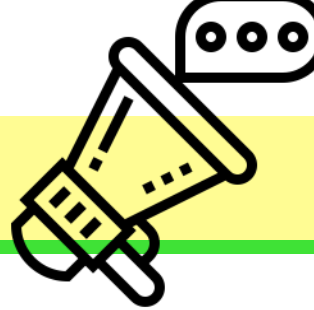
The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) entered into force on July 1, 2020. The USMCA, which substituted the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is supposed to be a mutually beneficial win for North American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses.

### 9. C (Belgium)

The national flag of Belgium is a tricolour consisting of three equal vertical bands displaying the national colours of Belgium: black, yellow, and red. The colours were taken from the coat of arms of the Duchy of Brabant, and the vertical design may be based on the flag of France.

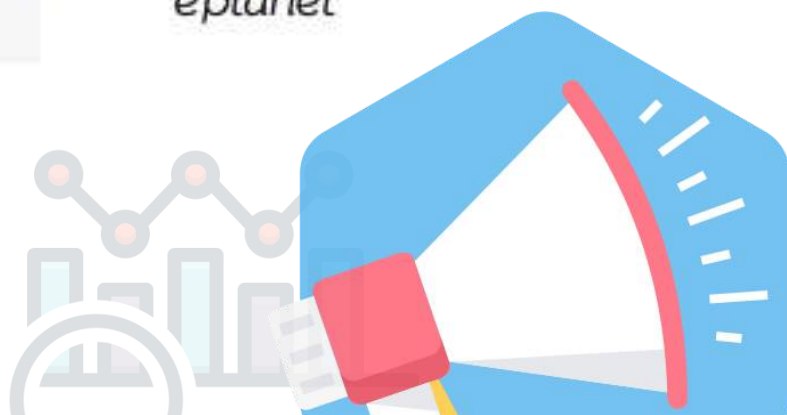


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