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The Paradigm Shift Magazine
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It's Happening: The Saudi-Israel Peace Deal

Hafsa Ammar

Nawaz Sharif's Return: What's in Store for Pakistan?

Amna Asif

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA): From a Glorious Take-Off to a Potential Touchdown?

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Mineral Resources in Pakistan

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A Comprehensive History of the Ongoing Palestine-Israel Conflict

Lt Gen (R) Tariq Khan

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Foreword

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

With around **200,000 monthly visits**, and over **60,000 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 **12 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

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.

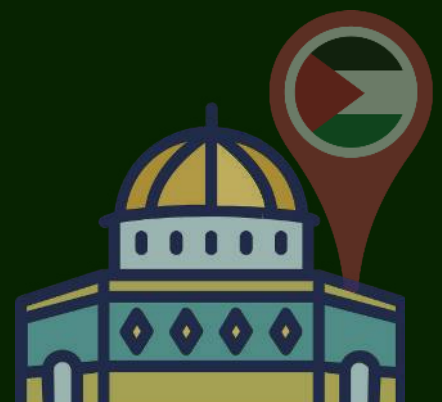


A Comprehensive History of the Ongoing Palestine–Israel Conflict

About the Author



Lt Gen (R) Tariq Khan is a retired army officer who has served as the head of Pakistan's Central Command.



The Plight of the Palestinians

What all had to be said about the latest Palestinian tragedy has probably been said already. The crisis has been analysed and over-analysed, yet goes on unabated and is witnessed by an indifferent world. There is no new substance one can add to the history of Palestine and Israel



and all that which has already been printed and presented. While there is little one can do to alleviate the wails and anguish of the Gazan community, empathy and compassion for human dignity demand that one should at the least firmly establish where he or she stands.

"Self Defence is not just a set of techniques. It's a state of mind that begins with the belief that you are worth defending." Rorion Gracie

Where life and death matters, picking a side is important, lest the wrong that civilisation perpetuates on its own remains forgotten and buried in the confusion of false narratives, hypocrisy, duplicity and perfidy publicised to hide reality. Thus, one finds oneself at a loss when in search of plausible cause and reason to determine why whole communities in general, but women and children in particular, are subjected to deliberate violence and brutality and written off in the name of collateral loss.

To begin with, propriety demands that one must not reduce one's argument to generalisation – it serves no purpose other than providing an environment to indict the other, with each accusation nothing more than a product of a historically driven but structured perception and a shaped opinion vested in self-interest. One should instead point towards specific incidents related to legal, moral, communal and societal violations so that the objective of the analysis is not lost in emotional rhetoric and political oratory.

Such superficial justifications are usually tainted by respective prejudices, biases and propaganda that usually find artificial moral traction through the infamous cliché, *'In the best interest of our respective states'*. This one sentence holds the key to explaining human conduct founded on fake values that justify extending a moral and physical license to annihilate whole communities, all in the name of patriotism, self-defence and national preservation. After all, as Samuel Johnson said, *"Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel"*.

A God-given Right

The backdrop to the Israeli-Arab crisis goes back to over a century and is not a new phenomenon. The Jews claim that God gave Israel to the Jews and thus established a perpetual divine right to rule the land. Arab Jews have lived side by side with the Arab Muslims in Palestine for centuries and there is nothing new in this, but bringing in Jews from Europe and the rest of the world,



changing the demographic equation on the basis of a biblical statement that is 4000 years old is a ridiculous rational.

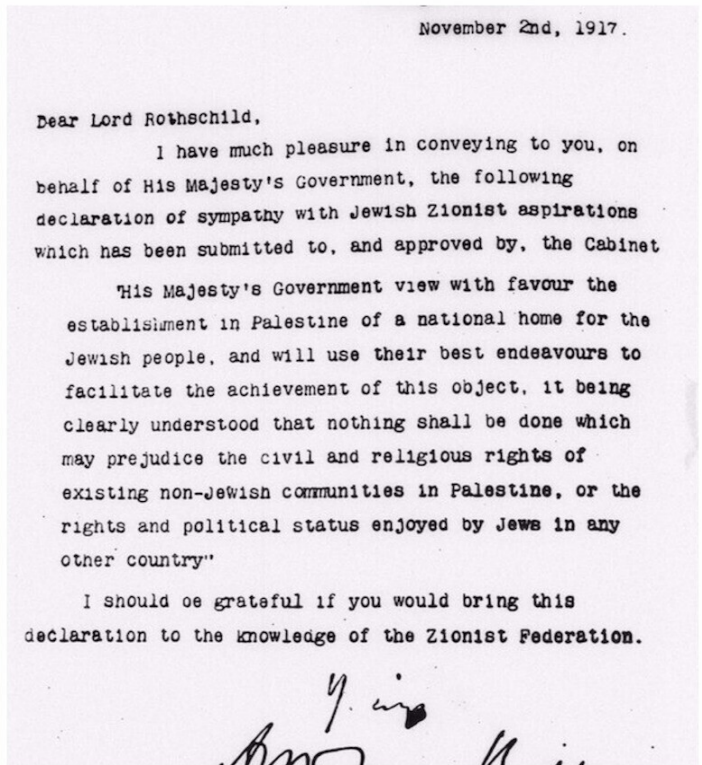
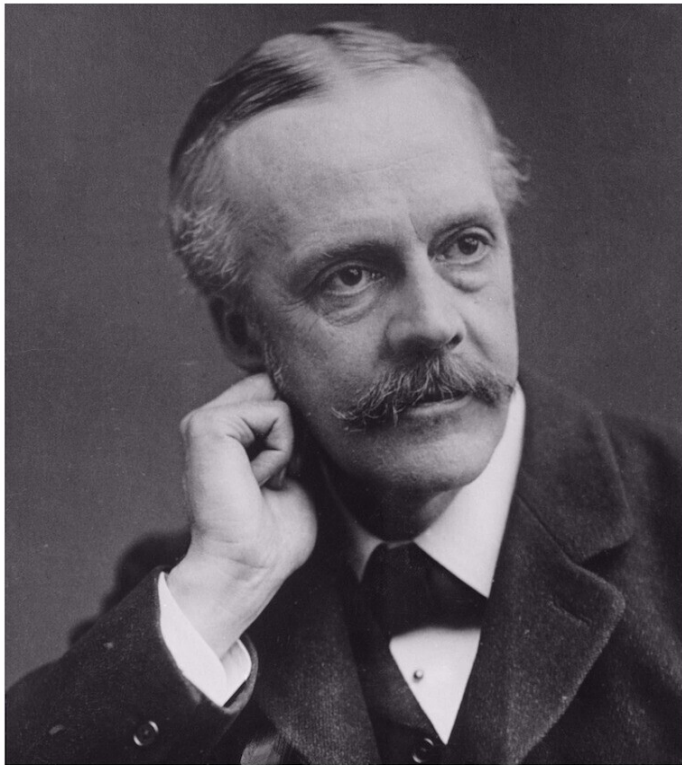
The hills and undulating terrain next to—and including—Jerusalem were always known and named as Zion and this took on a symbolic clarion call for Jews all over the world to 'return

to and concentrate around Zion'. Thus all Jews worldwide who want to establish their presence central to Zion are commonly addressed as Zionists; all Zionists are Jews but all Jews are not Zionists.

This sentiment of Zionism was later translated into the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a book originally published in 1903, but was later banned. It has since been rejected by the Jews as a piece of propaganda against them. One can take Jewish denials with a pinch of salt, simply a fake claim to dissociate from the book. The book refers to the world divided into the Goyam (non-Jews) and the Jews, with the Jews having the divine right to rule the world.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration

The four pillars of Jewish global dominance evolved around: first, propaganda/media/news etc., second, gold and banking, third, entertainment/amusement and exploitation of human vulnerabilities and weaknesses and fourth, clandestine infiltration into societies using women and wealth. (*Protocols of the Elders of Zion now disclaimed by the Jews as a fake narrative*). However, the Protocols eventually led to the Balfour Declaration of 1917 between the British government and the US entrepreneur Baron Rothschild, assisted by the manipulations of TE Lawrence of Arabia.



The Balfour Declaration exists to date and specifically mentions a "national home for the Jewish people" but it never mentioned a separate country for the Jews. The concept was actually first raised by Napoleon when he conquered Acres in 1799 and recommended a Jewish homeland in Palestine. However, his proposal was based on establishing a French Protectorate and colony in the region. Later, the proposed national home for the Jews was carved out of Palestinian land by the British.

Implicit, in this whole process, with divine sanction, international conspiracy and British duplicity, nowhere, is there any sign of Palestinian involvement or relevance towards the entire process. The League of Nations allowed Palestine to be governed by a British Protectorate in 1922, having truncated the Ottoman Empire, which it had been a part of. The British had no legal or moral right to give this land to the international Jewish community and that too at the expense of the Palestinians.

A State is Created at the Expense of Another

Israel was established on 14th May 1948, sliced out of Palestinian land without Palestinian consultation or representation, and was immediately declared a state, contrary to the commitments of the Balfour Declaration. A UN resolution demanded that two separate states be established, i.e. Palestine and Israel. However, multitudes of Jews immigrated from Europe and it so happened that the British had to limit the number of Jewish refugees entering Israel and tried to confine those that had arrived to refugee camps. This led to an armed/terrorist-style confrontation between the Jews and the British, with the British conveniently surrendering the moral ground and then in their usual style, leaving the stage without a resolution to the problem.

Since then, there have been 6 wars that Israel has fought with its neighbours. The first as early as 1948-49 involved the attack on Deir Yassin by the terrorist organisation of Irgun Zvai and the Stern gang. The Arabs responded by attacking a convoy carrying passengers to Jerusalem, killing 78 Jews. The conflict resulted in declaring 78% of Mandatory Palestine as Israel (*Mandatory Palestine was established between 1920 and 1948 by the League of Nations as the Mandate of Palestine*). This effectively disposed the Palestinians of their lands, homes and possessions that had always been theirs since recorded history. The incident is referred to by the Arabs as *Nekhba* (catastrophe).

Later, a coalition of Arab Nations, led by Egypt, attacked Israel in 1956, to right the wrong perpetuated by the West but the Arabs were not up to the task. Resultantly, Israel captured huge swaths of territory that after negotiations was returned to the respective countries and Israel found itself back to the borders established in March 1956.

In 1967, the Arabs again initiated a war against Israel, famously known as the 6-day war, where Israel captured Sinai, Gaza and acquired total control of Jerusalem. Subsequently, Egypt, in 1973, mounted another offensive with its allies that led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel – peace was negotiated with the normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel based on the Camp David Accords. However, this was widely unpopular in the Muslim world and was the direct cause of President Anwar Sadat's assassination.

Resistance against Israeli occupation and expansion by the Arab communities and the Palestinians continued in simmering sporadic conflicts. It led to the raising of [Hezbollah](#) as a resistance movement against the Israelis; the resistance was conducted from Lebanon. This eventually caused Israel to pursue its aggressive designs into Lebanon, first in 1982 and then again in 2006 mainly against Hezbollah who now became the face of the resistance.

Population Size

The total number of Jews in the world is about 15 million at best, or the Jewish population is 0.2% of the world population. Of these, 81% live in the US and Israel with the rest sprinkled all over Europe and the rest of the world. The US has a total of 6 million Jews, while 7 million live in Israel making up 73% of the total population of Israel.

The global Palestinian population is 14.7 million, of which 6.6 reside in Israel including Gaza and the West Bank and 1.6 million live within internationally recognised borders of Israel which makes up 20% of the population in Israel. The major population of Palestinians in Israel are divided into two spaces, i.e. Gaza and the West Bank.

The Palestinians confined to Gaza are about 2.2 million souls restricted to a space that is 41 km long and 10 km at its widest, making a total area of 3675 sq km. Gaza has the Mediterranean Sea to the west and Israel to the east and north while Egypt is to its south. Gaza is recognised as the most densely populated area in the world and is under perpetual siege by Israel.

The West Bank, on the other hand, is landlocked and lies east of Jerusalem and west of River Jordan and has a land area of 5640 sq km plus a water area comprising the Dead Sea, amounting to another 220 sq km. The population involves 2.7 million Palestinians and 6,70,000 Israeli settlers. The settlements are considered to be illegal by the international community.

The strategy of settlements is a product of the Allon Plan named after Yigal Allon and is designed to expand beyond the recognised borders of Israel into the West Bank by forcibly expelling Palestinians, illegally occupying Palestinian property and lands, and annexing other spaces such as the Golan Heights, Jordan Valley and East Jerusalem. The Allon Plan is commonly called *pogroms* (exterminations) by the Israeli community themselves. This has since been internationally considered as a war crime.

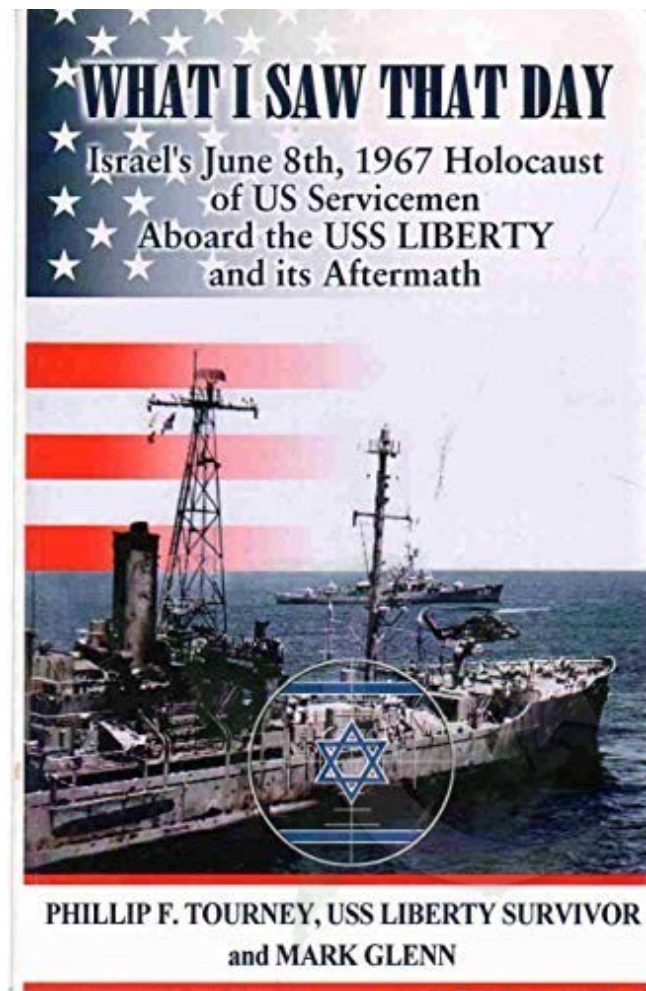
Violation of International Law

Israel is a blatant violator of international law and has no moral, legal or administrative justification for taking over lands from Palestine based on a flimsy argument that it was granted to them by God. This illegal annexation and occupation of Palestinian lands started in 1948 but in fact, mass immigration of Jews into Israel was encouraged under the British Protectorate since the late 1920s.

International indifference towards the atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians has been shocking and has exposed Western duplicity in the face of human tragedy. The international Muslim community is about 2 billion and comprises 25% of the global population. Despite holding the major resource in fossil fuels and wealth, this 25% is overwhelmed by the .2 % of Jews and is incapable of lifting a finger to help the Palestinians.

On the other hand, with a hold on US politics, Jewish control over US international policy is astounding. A clear case of the tail that wags the dog. It is neither difficult to understand nor something to be amazed about as to why the Jews have been persecuted throughout history – again and again. With a small population of Jews in the world, they still wield a disproportionate influence in the affairs of the entire globe in general and the Middle East in particular at present.

They manage to get involved in the polity, politics, economy, media and the security paradigms of the nations of interest. However, taking a leaf out of the research done by Jayne Gardner, a



summary of the Jewish modus operandi is explained: historically, Jews have been expelled from 79 countries and from some, multiple times. Some of the amazing incidents explaining their treachery involve the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty, an American intelligence-gathering ship in 1967, killing 34 US servicemen and wounding many more. It was a false flag operation that was exposed and was intended to provoke a US response against Egypt.

Israel justified the matter as a case of mistaken identity, a claim passionately contradicted by the survivors of the USS Liberty, with ample evidence but who were then threatened by a court martial if they persisted with their accusations. One objective

was to block any intelligence gathered pertaining to and giving away the intent of an Israeli attack on the Golan Heights, in violation of an international peace accord and ceasefire.

The second objective was to instigate a US-Egyptian confrontation by mounting a false flag operation accusing Egypt of the attack. Similarly, there is the curious case of Jonathan Pollard and other Israeli spies conducting clandestine operations against the US, but the US turned a blind eye towards this blatant act of deceit and disloyalty. It is amazing to read about anti-genteelism and the hate perpetuated in the Babylonian Talmud. That it is okay to kill and steal from a gentile (non-Jew) but that Jewish lives are sacred. That their 'chutzpah', that claims, a gentile is equated with a barnyard animal, is a prominent thought process.

The constant search for a new definition of political correctness where historians such as German Rudolph and David Irving, including many others, were incarcerated simply for making an academic inquiry into a specific period of history. Others too have been arrested or assassinated for simply trying to rationalise the narrative of the holocaust and into bringing out the reality of that tragedy as it really was.

It is very clear that the US-Iraq war of 2003 was an Israeli demand and had no political, moral or military justification. The war was manipulated by Jewish Zionists, "Israeli Firsters" in the Bush administration by Israel so that Jewish blood could be spared and instead young US men and women could be sacrificed. It is they who control the Middle Eastern policy of the US as it is they who control the Congress, the Senate and the puppet President currently a cadaver on life support.

The Fate of Jerusalem

In December 2017, East Jerusalem was illegally occupied and is now controlled by Israel contrary to the International Court of Justice's ruling. Only the US has recognised Jerusalem to be the new Israeli capital while the international community have not extended any such recognition. China still recognises East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Inconsistent with the status of *corpus-separatum*, the UN has designated East Jerusalem as an Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The *corpus-separatum* (separate-body resolution) was passed by a United Nations General Assembly with a 2/3rd majority in November 1947 and is instrumental in declaring Jerusalem as an international city to be governed by the United Nations. Thus Israel has continued unabated, with its perfidy, betrayal and dishonesty.

7th October Attack

On 7th October 2023, Hamas executed a brilliant land, air and sea manoeuvre against Israel. One of the questions is, why did Hamas choose 7th October 2023 to put in a sudden attack on Israeli territory?

The current crisis is not a standalone event and has a lot to do with international politics and global dynamics as well. Thus, the Palestinian attack on Israeli settlement and the military basis must not be seen in isolation. With 75 years of occupation, continual Israeli brutality, genocide and forced expansion onto Palestinian lands with an indifferent international community and a totally impotent United nation, the attack on Israel was an event waiting to happen.

It was never about 'if' but 'when' would it happen. At this time, there was also a buzz of anticipation in an Israeli and Saudi initiative at normalisation of the relationship and it obviously involved the entire Middle East as well as many other Muslim countries. In this context, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed the United Nations on a new trade corridor on 23rd September 2023.

A Plea for Existence

A utopian idea of connecting Israel, India, the Arab world, Africa and Europe. It was a US initiative and a response to the Chinese BRI. Even when it was announced, it never appeared to be something that could fly. However, the diplomatic activity around the suggestion was bringing the Saudis and the Muslim world into a normal relationship with Israel. Such a rapprochement

between the Islamic world and Israel would have left the Palestinians out on a limb and totally in the



cold and with a global indifference towards the Palestinian plight that they had been suffering for decades— Hamas had to act, there was no choice.

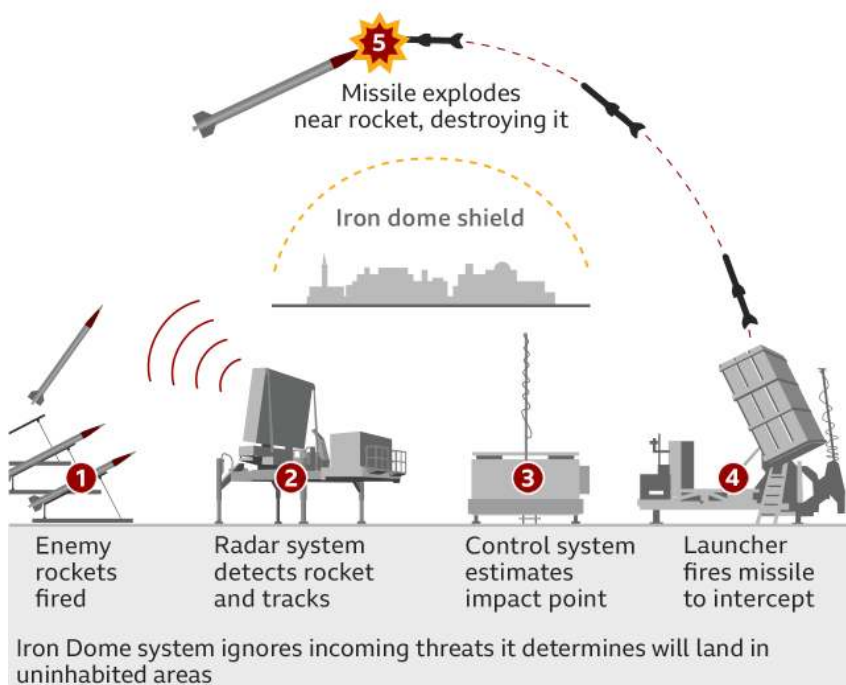
If the rapprochement between Israel and Saudi Arabia/Middle East had met with any success, Palestine and its people would have been relegated to history and no one would have ever raised a finger to support them. They would have been forgotten and totally side-lined, while trade and business would further downgrade Palestine to an anonymous entity, corporate activity taking precedence over human dignity and decency.

So Hamas acted, a desperate die was cast, a fight for survival—with a major objective to only post a claim to exist. Some still insist that with the sophisticated early warning system, the automated Iron Dome concept and mobilisation plans available to Israel, it is inconceivable that Israel was surprised and that this was a trap/false flag operation to justify an Israeli attack on Gaza. This implies that 1400 Israeli casualties and 203 hostages taken into Gaza were actually

deliberately sacrificed by the Israelis to facilitate a casus belli to conduct reprisals against Palestinians. That Hamas was by implication, an accomplice to the Israeli grand deception.

Israelis have never needed a rational or moral justification to attack the Palestinians and have always pursued genocidal atrocities against the Palestinian population without the need to justify their conduct.

How Israel's Iron Dome defence system works



Source: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems

BBC

International indifference to the Palestinian plight makes it all the more permissible and acceptable. The Israelis have done this repeatedly in the past while the world watched on benignly.

The system that the Israelis have put up in their defence has never been tested for its impregnability and as such was susceptible and open to hacking as well as hostile electronic disruptive warfare.

Also, Hamas would never conspire with the Israelis. The question that now arises is where and how have \$150 billion in bilateral assistance including an average of 4 billion annual military aid from the United States been utilised and to what effect? Or then has Israeli incompetence and lack of capacity been finally exposed – are Israeli vulnerabilities so easy to exploit?

Having said this, one ought to keep in mind that the Palestinians possess three combat elements designed to prosecute a war against Israel against whatever combat potential Israel has. The first is Hamas (an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Fighters) which has 25000 primarily Sunni Muslim members and is generally located in and around the Gaza Strip. It is the legally elected representative of the Palestinian people and won the 2006 election removing Fatah of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the Gaza Strip.

The control of the West Bank remains with secular Fatah, though. Fatah is the largest component of the PLO and is seen by the Arabs as a compromised group that is not open to resisting Israeli occupation. Hamas is resourced and funded by Egypt through sympathetic groups/individuals due to easy geographical access. Iran is a principal sponsor of Hamas despite its Sunni flavour; Iran is extending its help in pursuance of its state policy, while Qatar is a main funding source amongst many other nations of the world.

The most controversial part of Hamas' history is the rumour that it was first established by Israel as a counterweight to PLO in 1987 but has since then turned rogue and effectively become the strongest critic and resistance fighter against Israel. Then there is the Islamic Jihad or the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) with a strength of about 10,000 and is considered to be a part of the Axis of Resistance.

An offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, it acquired its ideology from Iran. It is mostly in the West Bank but has a presence in the Gaza Strip as well. The PIJ has its logistic and administrative depth in Syria but gets substantial support from Iran. It has headquarters in Damascus and Beirut. Unlike Hamas, PIJ does not participate in any political activity.

The largest and strongest group, Hezbollah, claims to have about 100,000 Shiite fighters which some analysts feel is an exaggeration but the consensus is that they can field about 20,000



trained fighters with a potential to grow to 30,000 through volunteers. Hezbollah is located in Lebanon and was founded in 1982. It has grown and acquired experience in the Syrian as well as the Lebanese civil wars and has been engaged in resisting Israel since its inception, making it a very battle-hardened organisation.

Hezbollah is totally supported by Iran and is armed with sophisticated Russian missiles such as the SA-22 ground-to-air weapon system.

So what we are looking at in total is a Palestinian resistance capacity to generate about 60,000 fighters that can apply themselves from the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Lebanon and the Golan Heights. This makes it a potentially multi-directional force as well as a multi-dimensional character i.e. urban warfare and guerrilla-style, hit-and-run sporadic engagements. The resistance movement would avoid standing battles and static hard-point resistance, preferring to wax and wane.

For Hamas to have executed their manoeuvre on the 7th of October successfully, they must have gone through the process of diligently planning it for some time. It needed to be resourced, training of people had to be undertaken, and the execution rehearsed for the efficacy of timing, objectives, simultaneity and mutual support.

They must have waited for an opportune time. As already explained, new bilateral initiatives between the Arabs and the Israelis must have been the trigger that set these operations off.

On the other hand, with such a brilliant execution of a surprise manoeuvre, is it really possible that the Hamas did not appreciate the 'end-state' of their operation? That the obvious consequence would be the brutal genocide against the civilian population of Gaza? It is not possible that this conclusion had not been arrived at, considered, and analysed. However, with the recent unprovoked Al Aqsa Mosque attacks, the evident Israeli intent in clearing more space for settlers, expansionist designs and a totally indifferent global opinion as to what was happening, it is quite possible that Hamas had deliberately done what it did on 7th October 2023, with the intent to bait and embroil the Israeli Army into a ground offensive in the Gaza Strip.

This operational thought would have been to nudge the Israeli military posture, bias and bearing into attempting to dominate the Gaza Strip. The Israeli warning to the Palestinians to vacate Gaza and move South is a clear indicator that the ruse worked. US foreign secretary Blinken's visit to Egypt was to convince them to allow the Palestinians to enter the Sinai and settle there is one thought, and Egyptian President General Sissi's remarks that he hoped the problem of the Gaza Strip would not turn into a regional issue is another. Both indicate an Israeli intent to execute a Palestinian exodus vacating the Gaza Strip.

Israel sees this as an opportunity to align its border along the Red Sea, remove the irritant of Palestinians living in Gaza and improve their security paradigm, thus being drawn into the Hamas gambit. However, after the first knee-jerk announcement, Israel realised that they may be walking into a trap and as such have started to display a tentative streak in entering Gaza. As such, the whole process of expanding into Gaza is most likely a mindless reaction but one that fulfils an old-standing ambition to annihilate the Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and sometime later, the West Bank too.

Though the current onslaught on Gaza, killing over 7000 civilians (29th October 20223 at the time of writing this paper) and murdering roughly 500 to 700 a day by aerial bombardment can be ruled out as an Israeli initiative and viewed more as a response, yet in the overall context, it must also be seen as an opportunity for the Israelis to pursue their expansionist plan in accordance to their age-old desire.

Yet, something is holding the Israelis back and the first is that Hamas has conditioned the space in Gaza for a long-standing and protracted guerrilla warfare based on underground tunnels and sub-surface manoeuvres for which the Israelis are not prepared at the moment. A matter illustrated by the combined US and Israeli Special Operations Brigade's attempt to infiltrate into Gaza which led to their total destruction as they were cut down to pieces.

The other factor holding back the Israelis is the much greater threat that Hezbollah imposes from Lebanon, a flank in the northern extremity of Israel. Some militant action can be expected from Jordan in the West as well as the West



Bank. With a large-scale ground offensive into the Gaza Strip, the implications on a military level are that first there would be a relative vacuum in Israel that can easily be exploited, while the forces in Gaza could be inextricably embroiled in a war of attrition.

With tempers high, the situation fluid and the environment uncertain, the military objectives have become more absolute: either no Israeli to be left standing or no Palestinians allowed to survive. Since this is not a realistic end-state, what is more likely is that one side will succumb to the pressures of combat and violence and surrender its sovereignty. At present, Israel seems to be too strong to be forced into a sort of surrender or a negotiated settlement, but the situation is not militarily promising for them either.

The Palestinians have the advantage that in preference to being totally wiped out, they still have options to migrate to other places within the region. This is what the Israelis hope for, by the genocide they are perpetuating and forcing the Palestinians out of Gaza. The nature of the war in Palestine will be asymmetric with one side using hi-tech equipment and the other rudimentary weapon systems. Mobility would be severely curtailed due to the destruction caused by the air bombardment.

The objectives would be absolutely aimed at the total annihilation of one or the other but would most likely be moderated by arriving at a culmination point at some stage by either side, leading to a negotiated settlement. However, to arrive at such a culmination point the war will be protracted. This would have other implications for the region. However, logistics for both sides will begin to matter very soon into the war and what kind of international support is provided to either side in terms of administration, logistics, munitions and arsenal.

The character of the war would be focused on human targeting and causing heavy casualties. Operations would have to be based on intelligence; the Israelis having very limited human intelligence would have to depend on electronic and digital intelligence, which is susceptible to disruption by hacking, jamming or overloading of information. Since Hamas would be mostly underground, their knowledge of the terrain and locally improvised communication methods would help them remain fluid, illusive and with flexible foot mobility.

Space would not have any direct bearing on success but controlling critical areas would. This implies setting up a series of static posts by Israel to facilitate movement and ensure command and control but then the posts themselves would be vulnerable. Hamas would have the advantage of fighting on their home ground and would be comfortable with whatever spaces they manage. The execution of the war in Gaza would be initiated by Israel and undertaken by small Israeli combat groups entering Gaza and then trying to circumvent the rubble and the catering created by the air bombardment.

Hamas would or should have planned to isolate individual Israeli combat groups and then destroy them piecemeal. Logistics would be nearly impossible to move forward without relative protection which would make it difficult. As such, each combat group would have to be self-sustained for a specific amount of time, probably 72 hours. It implies that there would be designated staging areas where the combat groups could be refitted, rested and provisioned for the next 72 hours.

These designated areas would have to be accessible to helicopters and the destruction now caused would be far and wide apart and easily identified. Here is where Hamas using shoulder-held surface-to-air missiles can cause great damage. The only way Israel can sustain operations in such an environment is to apply itself in a multi-directional and flexible spectrum across the entire Gaza Strip with its small combat groups so as to saturate Hamas' responses. Thus boots on the ground would be the key to success for them, but the current concentration of 300,000 troops will not be enough. This is especially so because no tactical mobility is possible in the rubble of Gaza.

Evacuation of casualties will become very difficult and morale will sap on account of this. Connectivity with the base of operations will always remain vulnerable at a number of points and highly susceptible to disruption by Hamas, causing isolated fighting in areas operationally cut off. While Gaza gets busy in a direct military confrontation, the rest of Israel will be open to



infiltration and missile attacks. Hezbollah is likely to exploit the vacuum from the north using bases in Lebanon, causing a pull on the troops in Gaza thus further slowing down the Gaza operations.

As combat escalates, the West Bank is likely to erupt and cause further military setbacks to Israel in the West thus making it a multi-directional combat situation for Israel for which they lack human resource. It is expected that if the war unfolds as described, Israel may have to come to terms sooner than later and would be the first to succumb to fatigue and attrition. The war would be under critical observation of the United States which would wish to support Israel as best as it could.

Having warned and bombed some Iranian installations in Syria, the US bases in the Middle East have been subjected to rocket attacks themselves, thus expanding the Palestinian-Israeli war. Although the US is reluctant to put boots on the ground, the situation at some stage may compel them to do so.

With direct or indirect US involvement, Iran is likely to get sucked into the war, which may even be one of the desired consequences of this conflict, as hoped for by the United States and Israel. This would allow bombing and destruction of Iranian nuclear facilities immediately escalating the war to a new level.

Russia would want to assert itself, seeing the opportunity and its capability. China may render some direct or indirect military support to Iran. The snowballing effect of such an escalation would force regional countries to take one side or the other in their own national interest and compel them to contribute in some way towards the side they have selected or elected to support. At the global level, Ukraine would gradually be down-graded and forgotten, giving Russia the victory.

Russia would consolidate in Sebastopol, strengthen its ground linkages with Crimea, dominate the Donbas Areas, establish a Russian populace and influence, subdue Ukraine, and deny space to NATO to expand towards Russia. Furthermore, the Russian Black Sea fleet would be given new life and strategic importance. In its off-shore areas, Gaza has large proven gas reserves, but they are disputed by other countries while Israel exercises control over them.

With Europe being denied gas and fertilizer, the cost of food, energy etc. is rising. Europe may eventually resist US demands insisting that Europe use North American gas. Also, China is likely to now speed up its BRI, while the utopian trade corridor, so enthusiastically presented to the UN by Netanyahu will lie dead on arrival, destroying immediate possibilities of a Saudi-Middle East-Israel diplomatic realignment.



China, with the cooperation of 130 countries already, is set to take over as the global leader in the financial spectrum and the US will try to prevent this from happening. Thus future alignment has begun to take shape with Israel, the US, India and a reluctant Europe on one side, while China, Russia, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey and possibly the Middle East, are on the other.

This is how a new world order will be reshaped by this crisis. However, what needs to be kept in mind is that global order is not a single-dimension phenomenon and has three distinct parameters. The first is 'military domination'; this remains an exclusive US privilege, and they have uncontested global military influence, making it a unipolar order. It also explains why the US diplomatic strategy and foreign relations are aggressive, have no compromises and are ruthless.

The second paradigm is the global fiscal order and here, though the US dollar is still the international monetary reserve for many nations, the rules and regulations for doing business have divided the world into smaller power centres. The World Trade Organisation, the European Union, BRICS, BRI etc, have defined the global fiscal setting into a multipolar world with China threatening US dominance.

The third spectrum of global control actually has begun to swing into the hands of digital applications, AI, and robotics. It is expected that this spectrum of global influence will bring a totally different dimension into international methods to inter and intra-state relations. The Hamas attack on the Israeli infrastructure, disabling early warning systems, intelligence and automation systems, is a good illustration of where the world is heading. Thus tomorrow may bring stateless entities into the forefront where recognised conventions such as the UN etc. may

become irrelevant.



In line with this thought is the fact that people of various countries are in disagreement with their own governments. Protests in favour of Palestine have shaken governments in America and Europe and even in the rest of the world; something unprecedented and

never heard of in the past. The latest voting for a ceasefire in the UN led to 120 votes in favour with Israel and the US voting against it and the support of a few island states.

The Palestinian problem is primarily a Muslim problem where the world stands by watching benignly as a whole Muslim community is decimated. The Palestinians do not deserve to die but are subjected to a unilateral death sentence because .2% of the global population finds them to be an irritant with whom they cannot co-exist. The Muslim world (25% of the globe) apparently does not care enough to do anything about it; they have forsaken their own brethren.

The crisis as it stands today has exposed the Muslim world for its total lack of capacity, sincerity or honesty. Even as the Jordanian king gave an aggressive speech at the UN and tabled a resolution for a ceasefire, his country was facilitating US-Israel flights (62 at the time) carrying ammunition for the bombing of Gaza. Iran has emerged as the new leader of the Islamic countries while Turkey has made some noises but shown no action.

The crisis has brought Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey into a huddle, but it's still only talk, all the while precious lives are lost while the talking continues. Palestine is on its own. This crisis is different from the ones in the past—no one is willing to assist the Palestinians in this crisis and they are managing on their own. The truth is evident as illustrated by what was recently said by them to the Islamic world in general, *"Do not pray at our funerals – we are not dead but are alive. It is you who are all dead"*.

A Pity for Pakistan

Pakistan, once a voice in the Islamic world, is an irrelevant entity today that the world finds fit to ignore and disregard. Considering our lack of capacity—both physical and intellectual—maybe it is a good thing; a blessing in disguise, lest we expose ourselves unnecessarily. We should do what we always do, hoot our slogans into the wind; slogans without substance and remain ineffectual.

While the two oldest unresolved resolutions at the UN are of Palestine and Kashmir, with Pakistan central to the latter, Pakistan is not found anywhere either in the matter of Palestine or in Kashmir. Pakistan, as a nation, is best described by the posture and body language of its cricket team in the World Cup: young men representing the country whose spirit is amputated and whose people have no voice.

"The nationalist not only does not disapprove of the atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them." George Orwell

In a nation where the violation of the law, constitution, and convention are so blatant and where principle, moral code of conduct and ethical behaviour are removed from day-to-day functioning, we as a nation and a people have forfeited the right to stand and be counted, voicing our concern about anything in the world. We have forsaken our dignity and honour and abdicated from any role amongst the Islamic countries. We have actually relegated ourselves as the pariahs of our time, living off scraps thrown at us—without shame or remorse.

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Article

It's Happening: the Saudi-Israel Peace Deal

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.

UN 78th General Assembly Session

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the UN General Assembly on 22nd September 2023 as he held up a map to showcase the 'New Middle East'. As is a pattern of UN history, the map caused great distress as it completely erased any trace of Palestine. The portion highlighted blue which was supposed to represent Israel, included the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank; even the Syrian-occupied Golan Heights under Israeli boundaries.

Although the prime minister held up the map to try and show growing relations and peace between Israel and other Arab neighbors; it was made clear that the goal was to eliminate the presence of Palestine.

Israeli Stance

PM Netanyahu stated that this budding peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel would give way to a new Middle East, one that would no longer be haunted by the Arab-Israeli conflicts of the past. He invoked both major religions – Judaism and Islam – explaining how they encourage good relations and that this deal would be sacred for both. He went as far as to say that this deal would also bring peace to Palestinians.

Despite the neighborly act that he put forth, his and his nation's disdain for Palestinians shone through. Exclaiming with a vehemence that Palestinians should not be given the right to veto this Arab-Israeli deal, he proved that [Israel wants Palestinians](#) to be part of the peace but not a party to it. Israel does not want the Palestinian Authority to have any say or sway in this deal.

[Khalid Elgindy](#), a scholar from a Middle Eastern think-tank, reported that he thinks Israel is incapable of making any concessions for the Palestinian Authority because they are against the very concept of the nation.

On 26th September, Israeli Minister of Tourism, Haim Katz, went to Saudi Arabia to participate in the United Nations World Tourism Organization Conference. It is a historic visit as no Israeli minister has set foot in Saudi Arabia before this. He was quoted saying that 'Tourism is a bridge between nations' and there is hope that this visit is the first of many in this alliance being established.

Saudi Stance

Saudi Arabia is playing an interesting game; it has all parties – the US, Israel, and Palestine – invested in this alleged peace deal of the decade. Mohammed Bin Salman is dealing with this pact quite strategically. What does Saudi Arabia seem to gain from this deal? It is getting security guarantees, that is, defense pacts from the US. America vows to not only lessen the restrictions on Saudi arms dealings but also to help Riyadh set up its civilian nuclear program.

Saudi officials are going as far as saying that any deal they make will include some form of progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state. As Saudi Arabia represents the focal point for all Muslim states, it needs to make sure that any political deal that it makes with Israel does not unleash a wave of unrest and protests in the Muslim world.



To bring legitimacy and credibility to this 'peace deal,' Saudi Arabia desperately needs the support of the Palestinian Authority. To gain support, Riyadh has put forth an offer to resume financial aid to the Palestinian Authority. The aid had been

constant since 1948, till it started to slow down in 2016, and officially dropped to zero in 2021. Palestine is constantly under siege due to its aggressive colonizer and is in dire need of funds.

As the Israeli Minister for Tourism landed in Riyadh, in its parallel, the Palestinian Authority welcomed the first Saudi Ambassador to Palestine, Nayef Bin Bandar Al-Sudairi. Arriving in the West Bank on Tuesday, Al-Sudairi met with multiple Palestinian officials and political figures. He went on record to say that [Saudi Arabia is working towards establishing a Palestinian State](#) which would have East Jerusalem as its capital.

If accomplished, this would be nothing short of a miracle as Israeli politicians (and nationals) are vehemently against the concept of Palestine as a state. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has gone as far as saying that there is no such thing as 'Palestine' or 'a Palestinian people'.

American Stance

Why is America gunning for peace between the two nations? Saudi Arabia and Israel are both close allies of the US and this collaboration has become a 'top policy goal' for America. Experts have deduced that President Biden does not think that the [Palestinian plight](#) for recognition is at the center of the unrest and war that has the Middle East in its grip, but rather the lack of acceptance that the Arab states have for Israel is what is feeding the faultlines.

Although the US has been a vocal critic of Netanyahu's government on occasion, the Israeli Prime Minister praised Biden's involvement in brokering this peace deal and said that American efforts for this alliance have been indispensable.

Palestinian Stance

The last time Arab states moved to ally with Israel was in 2020 under the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements that took place to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab States such as the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. As always, the US aided in the accords and incentivized the states; it made a deal to provide 50 F-35 jets to the UAE and vowed to reduce the severity of the sanctions on Sudan.

In 2020, the Palestinian Authority lashed out, stating that these states were stabbing the Palestinian cause and the people in the back.

This year, however, the PA has had a more pragmatic response. As they know that Saudi Arabia needs acceptance and support from the Palestinian Authority to go forward with this peace deal, certain [conditions](#) were put forth by the officials when they made an official visit to Riyadh-

1. The reopening of a US consulate in Palestine as the last one was closed in 2019 by then President Donald Trump.
2. United States to back Palestinian Representation in the United Nations.
3. More territorial control in the West Bank and the freezing of Israeli settlements.
4. Cash boost in millions of dollars.



This attempt at establishing friendly relations with Israel has come at a precarious time and Saudi Arabia needs to be cautious as it is dealing with perhaps the most aggressive, right-winged, and pro-Zionist government that Israel has seen to date.

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Article



Pakistan International Airlines (PIA): From a Glorious Take-Off to a Potential Touchdown?

About the Author



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



Introduction

During the last century, the aviation markets around the globe flourished in both commercial and military aspects. With the advent of huge apparatuses such as airplanes, travel became a convenient prospect for millions. Every nation-state in the contemporary arena now recognizes the need for aviation platforms. The same was observed with the emergence of Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had emphasized the need for a separate aviation authority even before the conception of Pakistan. With talks of Pakistan coming into being, he demanded the leading industrialist, Mr. M.A. Ispahani, set up an airline. This airline, which later became known as the PIA (Pakistan International Airlines), would assist the people of upcoming Pakistan in covering the 11,000 miles of distance between East and West Pakistan with swiftness and efficiency.

Orient Airways Takes Off

Registered as a pilot project in Calcutta, a new airline, namely "Orient Airways Ltd," began its ascendancy on [23rd October 1946](#). With Mr. M.A. Ispahani as the newly appointed chairman and Air Vice Marshal O.K. Carter as the general manager, the new carrier's base persisted in Calcutta. The efforts to obtain an operating license were successfully met in May 1947. Flight operations commenced shortly after the purchase of four new Douglas DC-3s, and within a couple of months, the creation of Pakistan led to the largest migration in the history of mankind.



With the already existing Orient Airways, the Government of Pakistan also took to chartering a BOAC aircraft to help with the relief operations of transporting people to and from the capital cities of Karachi and Delhi. Eventually, an aviation link was established between the two wings of



Pakistan through a Karachi-Dacca route. With a rather small fleet comprising just two DC-3s, three

crew members, and twelve mechanics, the airways smoothly commenced their scheduled operations. Initially, the planes were being chartered on three routes, but with the increasing demand for by-air transportation, several new apparatuses were acquired in late 1949. It had become evident by the early 1950s that the need for aviation catering across the subcontinent was dire.

Emergence of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)

Being a privatized aviation industry, Orient Airways was lacking funds, capital, and resources. Upon the proposition of the Government of Pakistan, a state-owned airline had to be established. Orient Airways was then merged with national aviation, creating the infamous Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on January 10, 1955. Besides carrying out the necessary transportation duties, Orient Airways had also established a gateway for the new Pakistan International Airlines in terms of infrastructure procurement.

The inauguration of the newly emerged PIA to the glitzy and glamorous destination of London via Cairo and Rome was considered to be an impertinent episode by the public. This particular scheduled international service had brought negative attention from the masses, as it was observed to be an unnecessary and opulent prospect. There were numerous other thriving issues, such as refuge, poverty, and shelter, but the government stayed focused on upholding its international accessibility status. Fortunately, this scheme proved fruitful in the long run, as substantial amounts of foreign exchange were earned through internationalizing the airline service.

The Golden Years of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)

Even though Mr. Ispahani was the first officially appointed chairman of the PIA, it was Mr. Zafar-ul-Ahsan who built the foundation for the airline's successful future endeavors during his 4-year tenure. By strengthening the already existing infrastructure, he laid the foundation for operating an international airline service effectively. Later on, the appointment of Air Commodore Nur Khan as the new managing director further enhanced the services. Under the new director, within six years, the PIA's reputation skyrocketed in terms of being a commercial airline, setting a new standard across Asia. The new management shifted its focus toward the development, growth, and expansion of this enterprise.



In March 1960, a tremendous achievement in the shape of a Boeing 707 was attained as it became the first airplane to launch a travel service from London to Karachi to Dacca. Gaining momentum during the entire decade of the 1960s was indeed a marvelous spectacle for spectators around the globe.

Flying high and mighty towards a never-ending horizon of success, the PIA quickly became a household name nationally as well as internationally. In 1962, the airline broke the record for the fastest flight from Karachi to London with a time precision of 6 hours, 43 minutes, and 51 seconds. To this day, the record remains unbroken.

Another success story unraveled as the PIA became the first airline belonging to a non-communist country to enter the airspace of the People's Republic of China in April 1964. Moreover, it [provided technical assistance to other airlines](#) such as Philippines Air and Air Malta while also granting two of its carriers on lease to Emirates Airline in the '70s and '80s.

Continuing up the growth curve with a constantly expanding fleet, Pakistan International Airlines has become the epitome of success.

The Increasing Altitude of Challenges

As years went by, the consistently changing government structure of the state had negative consequences for Pakistan International Airlines as well. Weak aviation policies with inefficient administration led to a [downfall in the reputation](#) during the 1990s. Viewing this as an opportunity, many powerful industrialists took to setting up their own privatized commercial airlines with better flying standards and staff. These include Airblue, Shaheen Air, Serene Air, and the more recent FlyJinnah.

With low-cost tickets and better catering services, these private airlines became strong competitors against the formerly world-renowned PIA. Unfortunately, the PIA has kept high fares, with disorganized human and technological resources,



which has ultimately impacted its credibility. Along with these factors, five air crash accidents – due to poor mechanical inspection – have also led the general public to lose confidence in PIA's travel services.

Adding to this unfortunate frenzy, the poor law and order situation in Pakistan has also hampered foreign tourists from visiting the country, ultimately putting it on a pedestal with neighboring India, which has seen a significant rise in its tourism industry in recent years. Due to the inflationary pressure, Pakistan's capital income has decreased significantly, which has been followed by an increase in the overall economic loss for the PIA.

Another surprising obstacle is the environmental aspect. For instance, [flights to and from Iceland were stopped](#) due to the requirement of a special technological engine needed to fly over the volcanic region. The same was observed with flights between the European regions, where the weather has been constantly transforming due to climate change. To cater to these emerging needs, many private national commercial airlines, such as Airblue, have already invested in buying carriers that fulfill the current technological needs as well the customer satisfaction. This has caused Pakistan International Airlines to be deemed an unreliable aviation brand that holds little to no relevance in the future.

Navigating New Efforts & Opportunities

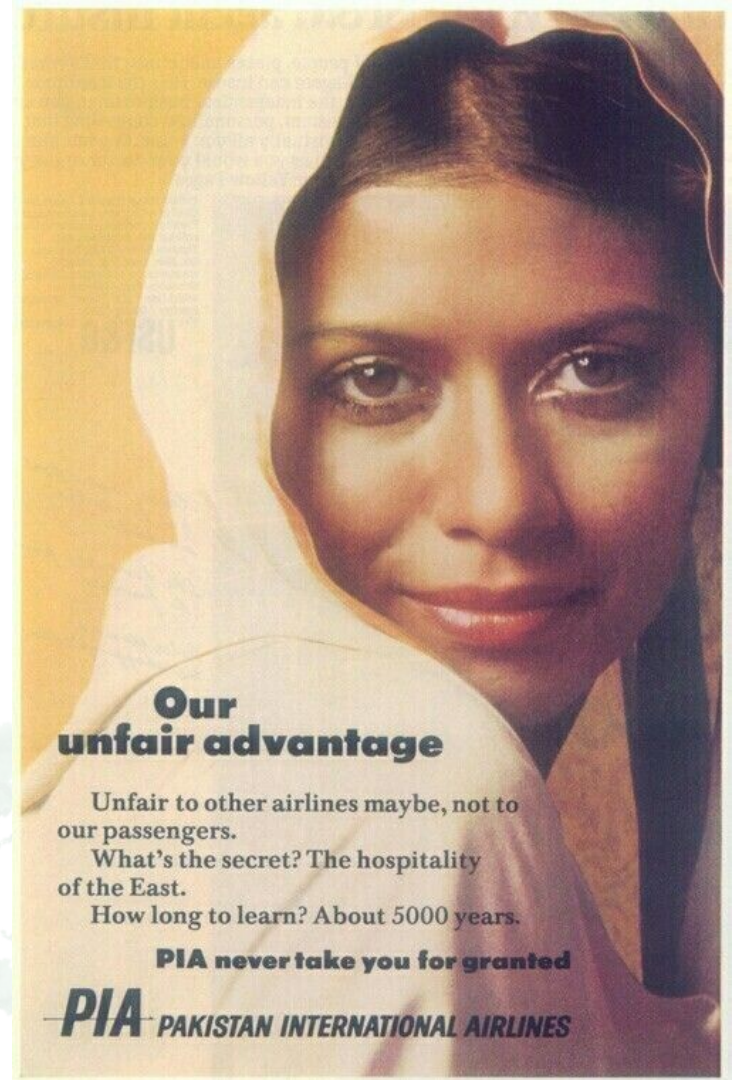
A business strategy turnaround was introduced by the new managing team of PIA around 2019. With a five-year plan to fix the foundational governance, fair recruitment, and promotions according to merits, along with a long-term vision of growth, the efforts seemed promising to restore the lost chartered standard of the struggling airline. As part of immediate actions, around 1,000 fair promotions were awarded to employees while also taking special care of disciplinary concerns through more than 700 disciplinary actions.

By tethering the overall organizational performance pattern, accountability and conduct improved tremendously. Setting up multifunctional project teams through the HR department of PIA also proved fruitful in enhancing the work ethic collectively as well as individually. Appointing auditors to look after the finance issues was a massive step towards resolving related issues of transformation and management.

Catering to the five-year plan, the annual strategy during the second year revolved around amalgamating the new changes into the roots of the working organization, while the strategy of the third year focused on the growth and expansion prospects of the airline. In 2019, PIA began to recover financially, with passenger revenues up by [42.5%](#), a seven-fold increase in charter revenue, a passenger yield increase of [32%](#) and cargo yield up by [19%](#), and a gross profit of [Rs.7.8bn](#) for the first time in 8 years.

Conclusion

Wrapping up the article, it has become clear that during its early days, Pakistan stood at a great stature in terms of its airline services, particularly during the second half of the 20th century. Breaking records and garnering many “firsts” in the global aviation field, it was considered to be more of a “dream-line” than an airline. However, unfortunate events struck one after another, affecting the country in its entirety and ultimately having adverse effects on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). But hope is resurfacing as efforts to eradicate the negatively impacting factors have increased in the last couple of years.



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A Guide to the Civil Judge Exam in Pakistan

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.



The [civil judge exam](#) of Pakistan for the year 2023 has already been conducted (24th June-14th July) and the date sheet for the year 2024 will be updated next year. To prepare for the competitive exam, one should be aware of its subjects, designated syllabus, and mark sheet breakdown.

Age Limit

Individuals are eligible to take the civil judge exam if they are older than 22 or younger than 35.

Salary

The expected salary is that of a 17-grade officer with added allowances.

Quota

Although the total seats are not fixed and the number of allocations depends on the administration, there is in fact a dedicated quota set apart for both differently-abled people and minorities.

03% Quota for differently-abled people; expanded further in the [Disabled Persons \(Employment and Rehabilitation\) Ordinance of 1981](#) which was last amended in 2015.

05% Quota for minorities, as underscored by the Punjab Government in [Notification SOR-III \(S&GAD\)1-35/93](#) from 2010.

Eligibility

An individual is eligible to sit for the civil judge exam if he/she has a valid degree in LLB from a reputable institution, has at least 2 years of advocate experience, and has a high court license. One would become ineligible to sit in the exam if they were to fail the bar exam thrice.

Qualifying Exam

The qualifying exam is an objective test of 100 marks, based on the subject matter of criminal law, civil law, English, and general knowledge – 25 MCQs per subject. Once the candidate has cleared the qualifying exam, they move to the written test.

Written Test

The written test encompasses eight subjects.

- Civil Law I – 100 Marks
- Civil Law II – 100 Marks
- Criminal Law – 100 Marks
- General Law – 100 Marks
- English – 100 Marks
- Urdu – 100 Marks
- General Knowledge – 100 Marks
- Viva Voce – 300 Marks

Syllabus

There are suggested topics for every subject in the examination.

-Civil Law I

- The Contract Act 1872
- The Guardian and Wards Act 1890; Relevant Provisions of High Court Rules and Orders
- The Limitation Act 1908
- Muslim Family Laws in Pakistan
- Punjab Pre-Emption Act 1991
- Punjab Rented Premises Act 2009

-Civil Law II

- The Code of Civil Procedure 1908
- The General Clauses Act 1897
- The Court Fee Act 1870
- The Registration Act 1908
- The Specific Relief Act 1877
- The Punjab Land Revenue Act 1967
- The West Pakistan Land Revenue Rules 1968

-Criminal Law

- Pakistan Penal Code 1860
- The Code of Criminal Procedure 1896
- The Juvenile Justice System Act 2018
- Police Order and Rules

-General Law

- Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order 1984
- Rules and Orders of Lahore High Court (II and III)
- The Punjab Civil Courts Ordinance 1962
- The Constitution of Pakistan, 1973

-English

- Composition and Comprehension
- Literature
- Grammar
- Idioms
- Essay

-Urdu

- Literature
- Grammar
- Comprehension
- Essay
- Translation of English Legal Terms into Urdu

-General Knowledge

- Everyday Science
- General Knowledge
- Pakistan Affairs
- Islamiat (Muslims)
- Ethics (Non-Muslims)
- International Relations
- Contemporary Political Affairs

Passing Marks

40% marks in every individual paper and 50% in aggregate counts as passing marks for the civil judge exam in Pakistan.

Psychological and Aptitude Test

Once you clear the written test, you have to appear for a psychological and aptitude test that assesses your attitude, personality, and character and determines whether you are suitable for the role.

Viva Voce

The viva is conducted at the very end once you have passed all other examinations. It is essentially a panel interview.

The questions can range from a number of topics including but not limited to your hobbies, moral values, ethics, reason for interest in the civil judge exam, and more.

There can even be questions about significant historical events or famous legal arguments. The board forms the viva panel and assesses the candidate on the grounds of intellect, strength of character, confidence, and general presence of mind.

{This information has been taken from the Civil Judge Exam Advertisement No. 01/2020/CJM(R&E) printed in the News by the Lahore High Court for the year 2020}

Role of a Civil Judge

A civil judge is in charge of civil cases that can include issues of property rights, contract negotiations, and family disputes including but not limited to custody, divorce, and separation of assets, and more. These cases can be brought to court by individuals, businesses, or other organizations/governmental institutions.

A civil judge has to be able to adjudicate between the conflicting parties, interpret Pakistan's civil laws in accordance with the circumstance, issue judgments, schedule hearings, and aim to resolve the conflict with justice and integrity.



Role of a Judicial Magistrate

Judicial officers typically work in the lower levels of the judiciary. They must handle preliminary hearings, grant bail, sanction search warrants, preside over a court case involving minor violations or petty crime, and conduct inquiries.

A judicial magistrate majorly handles criminal cases and other matters related to it such as summary trials.

Helpful Hints

Some easy tips and tricks to help prepare for the civil judge exam in Pakistan have been shared by previously successful applicants. These include figuring out a self-study schedule; academics and instructors can only take you so far, so what truly makes a difference is self-discipline and motivation.

Become a voracious reader – the newspaper, recommended textbooks, legal proceedings, and famous case studies as their arguments can be quoted in the examination. Go over past papers and strengthen your knowledge base.

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Opinion

Imran Khan's Political Future

About the Author



M. Shahbaz Rajper is a freelance columnist from Sindh.

In the busy streets, tea stalls, offices, and on social media in Pakistan, people are deeply engrossed in discussing Imran Khan's arrest. The topic of conversation often centers around the political future of "Qaidi Number 804," referring to Imran Khan. Some folks believe that this might be the end of Imran Khan's political journey, while others remain hopeful, pointing out how Pakistan's political landscape has shifted before.

While there's uncertainty about Imran Khan's case, it's important to remember that Pakistani politics is always changing. This may not be the end for Khan, but the recent events have certainly shaken PTI's position as Pakistan's largest political party, leaving its supporters without clear leadership.

The political dynamics of Pakistan changed drastically in the month of August. The arrest of



Imran Khan has been a major political event, and the end of the PDM government and the installment of a new [caretaker government](#) are a few other political events. With Pakistan facing a continuous political tussle and instability, these events have changed the dynamics of the political future of Pakistan.

Imran Khan's arrest on the 5th of August 2023, with charges of corruption in the Toshakhana case, has been followed by a sentence of 3 years of imprisonment, 5 years of political disqualification, and a fine. After some weeks, the Islamabad High Court suspended the verdict of the Toshakhana case, but he was already arrested in the Cipher case. These political dynamics would surely have a significant impact on the future of Imran Khan and his political party, PTI.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, considered as the largest political party in Pakistan, has faced extreme fragmentation with two major factions getting out of PTI. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PTI-parliamentarians led by Pervez Khattak, and Istehkam-e-Pakistan in Punjab led by Jahangir Tareen have made a huge blow to the political reputation and strength of PTI, especially in KPK and Punjab.



Although the population and craze of Imran Khan's populist rhetoric have not ended, the disconnection from major elite groups in the province will seriously hurt the political campaign of PTI in the upcoming general elections. With the

PTI facing such fragmentation where most of the senior leadership has left the party, the imprisonment of Khan is surely hurting the PTI as the supporters are clueless and leaderless now.

With the arrest of Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Vice-Chairman of PTI, the supporters of PTI are facing huge troubles in their political mobilization and future efforts. In recent times, it seems quite problematic for the PTI to keep their political campaign and mobilization active at the same pace when their leaders are behind bars with no direct means of communication.

The recent arrests and political victimization of PTI supporters after the [9th May protests](#) have also slowed down the movement. The arrests of people like Imaan Mazari and Ali Wazir among many have shown that the current political landscape has been very disturbing and extreme.

Imran Khan, once the charismatic and popular leader who promised a new era of governance in Pakistan, now finds himself at a crossroads with an uncertain political future.

His arrest on charges of corruption and subsequent legal battles have left him politically vulnerable. With PTI supporters feeling demoralized and disconnected from their leaders due to their incarceration, the party faces a significant challenge in mobilizing its base effectively.

Imran Khan's once-thriving populist appeal, while not extinguished, has certainly dimmed amid these tumultuous political developments. Nevertheless, it's essential to remember that Pakistani politics is known for its unpredictability. While Imran Khan faces an uphill battle to clear his legal issues and unite his party, political fortunes can shift rapidly in this dynamic environment.

[Faith in Imran Khan's](#) resilience and strategic acumen will be put to the test as he seeks to navigate the changing dynamics of Pakistani politics. His future hinges on his ability to rebuild PTI's unity, regain the trust of his supporters, and reestablish his standing as a formidable political force in a country where anything is possible in the ever-evolving political landscape.

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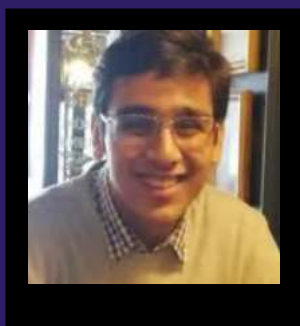
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The US Dollar vs BRICS: Is the American Financial Order Declining?

About the Author



M. Mustafa Ahmed Khan graduated with a degree in Economics and Political Science from Lahore University of Management Sciences. He is currently pursuing studies in International Economics. His interests include, but are not limited to, International Relations, political economy, and economics. He is also an avid cinephile who thoroughly enjoys listening to music.

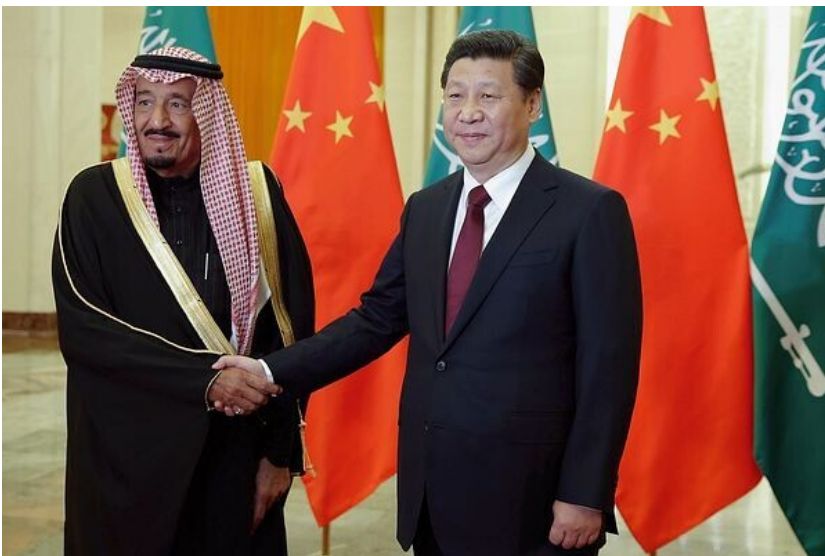
The Dollar's Supremacy

Since the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944, the US dollar has, in many ways, become the world currency. Tying the US dollar to the universally acceptable gold standard and the creation of international financial institutions (IFIs) based on the supply of funds to developing countries in dollars made the American a currency like none other. Cooperation between the United States and the Middle East in the oil trade also further increased the prominence of the dollar, propping it up with the power of oil, the phenomenon now known as the [Petrodollar](#).

With almost all global trade, foreign exchange, and financial investment denominated in the American currency, it seemed that there was no possible threat to the dominance of the US dollar in the world economy. Similarly, it also seemed for much of recent history that there was no real economic competitor for the United States; its position as the financial and industrial giant of the world was cemented. However, we know that this latter fact has been proven untrue.

Challengers to US Economic Hegemony

The [rise of China](#) as an economic titan in the 21st century has caused heads to turn with alarm all



over the world. The United States has tailored much of its economic and foreign policy in the last decade to deal with this threat. It has pursued strategies such as economic decoupling and more coercive measures such as the deployment of US armed forces and aid to contested territories such as the South China Sea and Taiwan. This has

done little to deter China or slow its growth. Most of China's economic troubles have come from domestic issues, such as its zero-case policy to counter the COVID-19 pandemic.

Competition for the United States' position is not only coming from rivals but from countries it has long considered friendly as well. India's economic growth within the past decade has been phenomenal, and today, it is one of the hottest destinations for investment in manufacturing as part of the Western strategy to reduce dependency on Chinese production for political insulation. While the US and the Western bloc have long been unable to exert political pressure on China, it could rely on support and cooperation from India in its vision.



However, the [Russia-Ukraine war](#) has exposed the changes in this balance. Due to its economic power, India is now able to choose its own path when it comes to politically contentious matters. In line with its historical legacy of non-alignment, India has refrained from extensive comment on the conflict and also maintained economic ties with Russia in the light of Western sanctions. Most notably, it agreed to trade in currencies other than the dollar, such as the Chinese yuan and the UAE dirham, though [negotiations to trade in rupees and roubles have failed](#).

It is this last point and the larger geopolitical trend around it that are the focus of this article. The position of the United States as a global hegemon does not seem as strong as it did at the turn of the century. While skeptics might say that China alone still lacks the requisite power to turn the tide, there are greater agglomerations of states such as the BRICS, which includes several huge economies, that together amount to a GDP several trillion dollars larger than that of the United States. These countries have become more and more immune to external pressure, choosing to conduct trade relations with each other and other countries on their own terms.

As to the position of the dollar as the world's reserve currency and medium of exchange, the [BRICS countries](#) are attempting to change that as well. While Brazil is currently alone amongst them in explicit calls for the creation of a common currency for these countries to trade in, Russia, India, China, and South Africa have promoted trade in their own national currencies, none of which is obviously the US dollar – much to American dismay.

The introduction of trade between the BRICS states, which together account for much of global trade and hold trillions of dollars in foreign reserves, in their own currencies spells a significant threat to the dominance of the dollar.

Even if this is not a single common currency, the flow of goods and services in exchange for a growing number of currencies will increase global openness to trading in other currencies. Furthermore, the [BRICS states have invited more countries to join](#) them in their group, including Iran, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. The introduction of these major oil-producing states would allow the BRICS to quite literally put their money where their mouth is, allowing the backing up of any future common currency the same way the petrodollar exists today.

Notably, China has shown its ability to balance and deal with international tensions that would undoubtedly be an issue in any such endeavor, having brokered historic negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia just this year. Additionally, the creation of the New Development Bank by BRICS acts as a response to IFIs like the IMF and the World Bank, which for decades have represented Western (or American) financial power and ensured the dominance of the US dollar in international development.

Conclusion

In short, we are living in times that are changing faster than most could have foreseen. The creation of entire financial systems by the BRICS states, that intend to rival entrenched Western-led ones, is a landmark moment. However, the road to a world where these systems actually become global alternatives to the financial order that has hitherto existed seems bumpy. Currently, most of the BRICS states are undergoing economic trouble, whilst the US economy has largely managed to deal with its recessionary trends and expects a [“soft landing.”](#) Furthermore, while the BRICS states may outsize the US in the cumulative size of their economies, trade volume, and population, the fact is that BRICS is not a formal union.

The United States, for all its internal troubles, is still a singular economy that can bring the full force of its economic might to bear in the same direction, while the BRICS states each have their own agendas that may or may not align with the others. China and India, for example, despite having one of the largest bilateral trade volumes in the world, also have significant geographical disputes that have persisted for decades and seem no closer to a solution. Therefore, BRICS cooperation will always be susceptible to political differences and instability between and within its member states, barring significant changes in geopolitical circumstances for the better in the next few years.



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Benito Mussolini: The Father of Fascism

About the Author



Alishbah Syed is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in International Relations from University of Peshawar.



Early Life And Influences

Benito Mussolini, the father of fascism, was born on July 29, 1883, in a small village named Predappio in the province of Forlì, Italy. He grew up in a poor family which he took immense pride in during his political career as his 'humble origins' made him the 'man of the people.' He was the



first child of the local blacksmith with a schoolteacher for a mother, but his parents gave him additional influences aside from their professions. Mussolini's father was a part-time socialist journalist, while his mother was a devout catholic.

While his father took Mussolini to the pubs to be present among other fellow socialists, his mother took him to the masses. These dual influences led him to look up to Karl Marx and the Pope. At a young age, Mussolini was an aggressive, obstinate, and unruly child. Something Mussolini himself admitted by saying, "I was not a good boy. I was, I believe, unruly." This led to a troubled childhood where he was expelled from two schools until he was admitted to his third school where he finally stuck around to finish his schooling. He completed his compulsory schooling at the age of seventeen with accomplishments in public speaking in addition to a bad school record.

Professional Life and the Allure of Socialism

Mussolini's first job was ironically as a schoolteacher despite his bad school record, and unsurprisingly lost this job by violently arguing with others. Jobless without any future aside from a reputation of being a womanizer, he moved to Switzerland to do manual labor in 1902 to escape his hopeless situation and partially to escape compulsory military duty in Italy. Along with him, the influences of his father came as he joined a Marxist group and a trade union while having a 'hobby' of agitating political rallies.

Despite being deported countless times from Switzerland, he still came back in 1904 when he returned to Italy and had to tend to his compulsory military duty of two years. Mostly because military deserters now had the opportunity to be pardoned by servicing in the military. After his military duty ended in 1906, he returned back to teaching.

Despite being a part of the military service, Mussolini did not learn much about discipline. Eventually, his roots drew him to the same place as his father and mother. He did it through writing and editing for socialist newspapers along with rallies against democracy, the government, and the church. Mussolini was considered to be well-read, especially when you consider his writings.

Mussolini's eventual break into fame was when he got arrested for 4 months in 1911 for participating in a riot against Italy's war in Libya protesting against the imperialistic actions of Italy. His avid public speaking and later arrest brought him into the eyes of [top socialist leaders and intellectuals of Italy who regarded him](#). It landed Mussolini as an editor of 'Avanti' in 1912, Italy's national socialist newspaper where he fit like a glove. His inflammatory style of reporting attracted more readerships while Mussolini now had a national forum to speak out at. He became a well-known socialist journalist at the time, capturing accurately the proletariat's feelings.

WWI and the Changing of Sides

Mussolini was firmly against Italy's intervention in WWI. It was in line with how Mussolini was when Italy invaded Libya, but that changed a few months in. A mixture of unification of Italy with the working classes getting a chance out and the chance of social change in great powers drove Mussolini to completely support the war. He justified war as a means of revolutionary change and called it a 'revolutionary war', using Avanti as a forum to voice to call the young Italians to join the war.

It started a radical change within his views, ending his long-held belief in the class struggle and egalitarian concepts of socialism. His new attachment became to ultra-nationalism and patriotism with irredentism in the background.

Mussolini founded the Il Popolo d'Italia (The People of Italy) newspaper which supported his interventionist views. It eventually culminated in the forming of a new political movement, the Fasci d'Azione Rivoluzionaria in 1914.

The Fascist party in 1914 was small, underdeveloped, and weak along with being greatly antagonized by the government and other socialists, something that gave fuel to Mussolini's hatred towards them. Along with openly supporting Italy's intervention, earning the interest and implicit support of France and Britain who wanted Italy to be on their side, Mussolini joined the military to fight in the war.

After Italy's entry into WWI in July 1915, Mussolini followed in September. His military endeavors ended in February 1917 when he was accidentally injured by a motor bomb explosion.

The Father Of Fascism

Mussolini's fascism had many ideological roots and foundations, but all those influences were [underpinned by Mussolini's opportunistic and Machiavellian way of politics](#). This especially came into fruition with Mussolini's desire of recreating the Roman Empire and a concept of a 'superior race' similar to Nazism. Italy getting the short end of the stick in the Paris Peace Talks, the utter ridicule Mussolini's party received when it lost in the election and the three years of political instability all ramped up the fascists and made them more power-hungry.

In May 1921, the fascists joined a coalition of right-winged parties named the 'National Block' which got Mussolini into the Italian government as a member of the chamber of deputies. In October 1922, Mussolini and his party, renamed to National Fascist Party, demanded a fascist government with a coup by marching to Rome. The king of Italy, King Victor Emmanuel III, handed over the power to Mussolini on account of Mussolini's increased support in the public and military despite fears of a civil war.

At the age of 39, Mussolini became the Prime Minister and foreign minister simply through threats and bullying, and the totalitarian revolution of fascism began to show explicitly. This was because working in a democratic setting when the fascists were a minority in the government was not



ideal for the power-hungry Mussolini. Upon assuming office, Mussolini set up a 'Fascist Grand Council' to reduce the acting power of the parliament.

In 1923, Acerbo Law was passed to make sure the

Fascists won the elections in 1924. The socialist deputy, Giacomo Matteotti, was assassinated soon after requesting re-elections because of the overwhelming victory of the Fascists. Mussolini eventually dropped the pretense of democracy in 1925 when he admitted to being responsible for the Blackshirts' violence, a fascist paramilitary group, and [challenged his political opponents to try to remove him from office as Mussolini truly began his Fascist dictatorship.](#)

Deep pervasive control over all media, a constant stream of propaganda, spies everywhere, and alternative political parties disbanded to make way for a one-party government and a façade of freedom to the public all culminated in Mussolini's iron-fisted rule. Three instructions by Mussolini were drilled into the national consciousness, "Believe, Obey, Fight". A quote by Mussolini has become immortalized, "All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state."

The Wall Street crash of 1929 created economic chaos in Italy to which Mussolini responded with an invasion of Libya, Ethiopia, and Spain. With the devastating and brutal occupation of Mussolini's Italy (killing an estimated 8% of Ethiopia's population), the UN had acted by sanctioning Italy. This got Mussolini mad which led, in 1936, him walking into the influence of a fellow dictator, Hitler.

WWII: The Beginning of the End

Mussolini formed a 'Pact of Steel' (Rome-Berlin Axis) between Adolf Hitler and himself in 1939 assuring support to one another in the case of any war. Then a few months later, Germany



invaded Poland. Mussolini tip-toed around completing his obligation of support to Hitler as Italy's resources were stretched to the max due to the economic crisis and Ethiopian occupation. He would cite Hitler's non-aggression agreement with the Soviet Union violating the provision of the 'Pact of Steel' as his no-show in the war.

Outwardly, Mussolini supported Hitler's actions but in private he desired to join the Britain/France coalition. When things began to look in the Axis power's favor, Mussolini entered the war against Britain and France in 1940 to make sure not to miss out on any spoils of war. He even went as far as to attack the British holding back in Africa. Italy

performed poorly from the start with multiple defeats from North Africa, Egypt, Greece, and the Soviet Union.

By 1942, it became quite clear that Italy was a liability as Hitler had to constantly order forces to save them from the pickle they were in. The last straw was when the Allies touched down in Sicily in 1943, and Mussolini's own government arrested Mussolini. It was a surprise to the 'Ill Duce' but with the current situation of complete and utter loss and chaos in Italy because of his failed opportunistic and greedy behavior, he was deposed by Italian King Victor Emmanuel III on 25th July 1943.

He was saved soon after by the German forces but Hitler saw a different man by now. [The bold and charismatic Mussolini had degraded into the shell of a man he was before.](#) Mussolini asked for an early political retirement, but Hitler wasn't done with him yet.

He was still of use to Hitler so Mussolini was installed as a puppet leader of the Italian Social Republic in northern Italy. The alliance between Mussolini and Hitler ultimately proved to be unsuccessful, as the Axis powers faced defeat from the combined forces of the Allied nations.

The Great Fall

On 25th April 1945, with the Allied troops nearing, Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci set out for Switzerland to escape to Spain by plane. Two days later, on 27th April, however, they were stopped and identified near the village of Dongo (Lake Como) by communist partisans. On 28th April 1945, Mussolini and Petacci were executed by a firing squad. Their bodies along with other Fascist members were taken to Piazzale Loreto, renamed "Piazza Quindici Martiri" (*Fifteen Martyrs' Square*) in honor of fifteen Italian partisans recently executed there, in Milan.

They were publicly displayed, desecrated, and hung upside down in a gasoline station by a mob. Ultimately, Mussolini's bullet-ridden corpse was taken to the city morgue and later buried in an unmarked grave in a Milan cemetery. However, his body was exhumed several times by anti-fascists until it was finally returned to his family's crypt in Predappio in 1957. His death marked the end of his brutal regime and his dream of re-creating the Roman Empire; a symbol of the downfall of fascism.

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Gaza Hospital Bombing: A Positivist Legal Analysis of Israel's Breach of International Law

About the Author



Ibrahim Tariq is a final-year student of law, with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree in International Politics from Georgetown University in Qatar. Has written for various publications including Express Tribune and The News, and undertaken research-related roles at institutions including LUMS and Gallup Pakistan.

Physical conflicts among nations have been a reality ever since human civilization emerged. Taking lessons from the bitter realities of the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, and Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nations came together to devise a framework of rules, norms, and standards – or simply, the “rules of the game” to avoid similar massacring of innocent human souls.

Although not binding *per se*, the gross violations of international law serve as stark reminders of how the League of Nations failed in its promise to prevent another catastrophic global conflict. Over the years, the state of Israel has faced consistent criticism for its perceived disregard of these international rules, particularly in its engagements with Hamas.

The recent bombing of the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza stands out as not only Israel’s most egregious violation of international law but also as one of the most significant breaches by any UN member state since World War II. Many have decried such actions as immoral and unjustifiable.

The decentralized and non-binding nature of international law necessitates an examination of whether the state in question has willingly subscribed to the rules in the first place. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) serves as the principal legal organ of the United Nations, and all member states are parties to the ICJ Statute, which identifies three sources of international law: international conventions, international customs, and general principles of law.

For the purposes of this discussion, we will focus on international conventions, as they provide a more clearly defined legal framework compared to the other two sources. First, let us consider whether Israel’s bombing of the hospital in Gaza violates the international conventions it has signed. The answer is a resounding yes. Despite avoiding signing most of the Geneva Convention protocols, Israel is a signatory to Geneva Conventions 1 to 4, and its recent action represents a clear breach of these conventions.

Israel has notably abstained from signing Protocol II, which pertains to the protection of victims in



non-international armed conflicts. However, it may be noted that the reason for not signing the protocol was morally weak, as it used Oman's declaration while signing the protocol (that its *accession would not amount to recognition or establishment of any relations with Israel with respect to the application of the protocols*) as a justification to not sign, as Israel

declared, *"In so far as the substance of the matter is concerned, the Government of Israel will adopt towards the Sultanate of Oman an attitude of complete reciprocity"*.

As such, in the strict rational legal sense, it may seem, however, that it does absolve Israel from the duty to not engage in collective punishment, to provide limited protection to victims including collective punishment (Article 4), general protection of medical duties (Article 10), medical units and transports (Article 11), protection of civilian population (Article 13), and protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population (Article 14), among others.

Similarly, Israel has carefully refrained from signing Protocol 1 which deals extensively with the protection of the wounded and sick (Article 10) and medical units (Article 12), among others. Here again, Israel cited the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration upon accession as a rationale for not signing the protocol. However, setting aside the supplementary protocols, it is essential to note that Israel is a signatory to all four Geneva Conventions.

Although interpretations vary regarding their applicability in the Israel-Palestine conflict, Section III of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly deals with occupied territory, which is relevant to the situation in Gaza. Although Hamas maintains significant control over administration, scholars as well as the UN agree that it indeed is occupied territory, given that Israel maintains control over its borders, airspace, and sea access.

In this regard, as an occupying power, Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention suggests that *"any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or co-operative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations."*

In hindsight, Israel has sought to take the view that the destruction was necessary by military operations since Hamas was operating from hospitals and using civilians as human shields. However, if we are to rely on a positivist legal approach to justify this action, the conventions outline the procedures to be followed, including providing a reasonable time frame for civilian evacuation, rather than arbitrary use of force.

Similarly, various articles of all the four conventions readily deal with the rights of the sick and prohibit the destruction of any healthcare facilities, such as Article 19 of the First Geneva Convention states that fixed medical facilities must not be attacked and respected by both parties to the conflict, and Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which states that civilian hospitals and other medical facilities must be protected whether permanent or temporary.

Collectively, it may be argued that even if one did not have to use a natural law perspective to know whether or not Israel's actions are justifiable, even if the morality part of it is taken away, a



positivist legal approach also makes us reach the same conclusion that these were legally unjustifiable and a clear-cut breach of the conventions which Israel itself is a signatory to.

It is unfortunate, however, that these conventions hold no value legally similar to domestic systems, as these are non-binding by virtue of it and various factors come into play when states are to be held responsible for their grave breaches. Given the unwavering support from the United States, a P5 member, it is unlikely that Israel will face immediate sanctions or punishment, similar to the case of Iran. Nevertheless, widespread discourse and activism addressing Israel's actions may increase international pressure and lead to appropriate sanctions or penalties for a state that has, for decades, treated Palestinians as non-humans.

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The Legality of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023

About the Author



Saad Saleem is a research intern at SR Law. He has participated and won awards in several moot competitions.



Supreme Court has recently opened up a new episode of the Supreme Court rules and regulations saga by introducing the live telecast of a court hearing heard by the full Supreme Court i.e., the 15-member bench of Supreme Court judges. This hearing is initiated by the petitioners arguing that the Parliament lacks legislative competence to draft the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 which intrudes on the Supreme Court's power of making rules for its regulation and thus poses a considerable threat to the independence of the judiciary.

The Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill 2023 was introduced by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and was made an act in 2023. However, Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial withheld its operation on the petition stating that the law was unconstitutional and violated the independence of the judiciary.



The first question we have is to answer the unconstitutionality of the bill passed by Parliament. Regarding this, it is imperative to first highlight that in Pakistan, even the Parliament is subject to the constitution and it is wrong to believe that Parliament is omnipotent as stated by the Supreme Court itself in *District Bar Association, Rawalpindi vs Federation of Pakistan (2015 PLD SC 401)*.

Furthermore, any act passed by Parliament is unconstitutional when it is in violation of Article 70 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. As per Article 70(1) of the constitution, the Parliament is lawful to make any law that is covered under the Federal Legislative List provided under Schedule IV of the constitution. If we examine entry 55 of Part I of the FLL, it is provided that parliament can legislate on:

"55. Jurisdiction and powers of all courts, except the Supreme Court, with respect to any matter on the list.... and for the enlargement of jurisdiction of Supreme Court and the conferring on it supplemental powers".

As per entry 55, the Parliament can make rules as to the enlargement of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and for conferring supplemental powers. The concept of conferring supplemental powers is very important as it highlights the legislative competence of the Parliament to make



rules when it deems necessary to firstly, bestow or grant additional powers which are necessary for the effective use of powers already granted or secondly, which are necessary for more effective management of power already granted. The word "supplement" has been defined by the Black's Law Dictionary as

something that is added to supply defects in things already made.

The second relevant entry that needs considerable attention is entry 59 (Matters incidental or ancillary to any matter enumerated in this part). As per entry 59, the Parliament can make rules regarding anything that aids a thing that is principal to another. Before the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure Act) 2023, the suo motu powers and the framing of the bench were the sole prerogative of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. After the promulgation of this bill, the decision must now be taken by the Chief Justice and the two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

The involvement of two senior judges ensures that the power is not absolutely in the hands of one person and that decisions are taken more effectively. The administration of jurisdiction already provided under article 184(3) brings the legislation within the ambit of entry 55. Thus, making this legislation within the four corners of the constitution and legislative competence of the Parliament of Pakistan.

This argument is also in line with the Supreme Court's view in the case of District Bar Association Rawalpindi vs Federation of Pakistan in which it is stated that whenever there is a clash between the powers of Parliament and the powers of the Supreme Court, the opinion should be made while favoring the Parliament. The law is also in line with the Islamic principles of taking discussions on the basis of discussion with colleagues and members of the Shura.

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The Hierarchy of Courts in Pakistan

About the Author



Amina Iqbal is studying International Relations at Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore.

Supreme Court of Pakistan

In the hierarchy of courts, the Supreme Court of Pakistan is the state's highest judicial body having ultimate appellate authority. The prime function is to interpret the Constitution, decide on constitutional cases, and ensure the protection of fundamental rights. The final authority on legal and constitutional matters lies in the hands of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.



The Supreme Court has its seat in Islamabad, but it has circuits in other cities such as Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta. The Supreme Court's formation, jurisdiction, powers, and functions are all detailed in the Constitution. The requirements and way of appointment of judges, the term of retirement, the grounds and mode of dismissal, and

the conditions of employment of judges are all closely linked.

Structure

At the apex of the judicial system of Pakistan lies the Supreme Court and it is composed of a Chief Justice known as the [Chief Justice of Pakistan](#) and numerous additional justices as specified by an Act of Parliament. Furthermore, the President of Pakistan elects the Chief Justice, but other judges only after consulting with the Chief Justice.

Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction is divided into original, appellate, and advisory jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has exclusive power to issue declaratory judgments in any conflict between the federal government and a provincial government, or between any two or more provincial governments. If the Supreme Court believes that a matter of public importance involving the enforcement of any of the basic rights guaranteed by the Pakistani Constitution is implicated, it has the power to issue any adequate order for the enforcement of fundamental rights.

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals against verdicts, decrees, final decisions, or penalties issued by a high court, the Federal Shariat Court, or the services appellate tribunals. If the President believes that it is essential to get the Supreme Court's view on any legal matter of public importance, he may refer the question to the Court for consideration at any time. The Supreme Court considers the question brought to it and submits its decision to the President.

High Courts



All four provinces and the capital have their own high courts. The four high courts of the provinces have general responsibility over the administration of justice within their respective territorial borders. The high court serves as an appellate court for all civil and criminal cases in the province. Hence, Articles 192 to 203 of Part VII of the Constitution deal with the operation of the high court.

Structure

A high court is composed of a Chief Justice and as many other judges as prescribed by law or appointed by the President.

Jurisdiction

Under the Constitution, the high court has two jurisdictions: original and appellate jurisdiction. According to the Constitution, a High Court has original jurisdiction:

- i. Ordering a person within the Court's territorial jurisdiction to refrain from doing anything prohibited by law or to do something required by law.
- ii. Stating that an act was performed without legitimate authority has no legal consequence.
- iii. Ordering that a person in custody be brought before the court to ensure that he is not being held unlawfully.
- iv. Providing such direction to any person or entity, for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Aside from the Constitution's original jurisdiction, a High Court possesses original jurisdiction in a variety of other areas given by or under other statutes.

A High Court has broad appellate jurisdiction over civil and criminal court verdicts, decisions, decrees, and punishments.



Federal Shariah Court

The Federal Shariah Court has been established to investigate and decide if any provision of law conflicts with Islamic injunctions as outlined in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him). If a statute is deemed to be

unconstitutional, the court must notify the appropriate level of government and explain its reasoning. The court also has jurisdiction to review any criminal court decision regarding the use of Hudood punishments.

The Supreme Court also has a Shariat Appellate Bench that can examine the decisions of the Federal Shariat Court decisions. Furthermore, Article 277 states that all current laws must be brought into compliance with Islamic injunctions, and Chapter 3-A deals with the functions and organization of the Federal Shariah Court.

Federal Shariah Court has original and appellate jurisdiction. The court has sole authority to hear appeals from criminal court decisions relating to the implementation of Hudood law, i.e., rules about intoxication, theft, Zina (unlawful sexual intercourse), and Qazf (false imputation of Zina).

Civil Courts

Civil courts in Pakistan are organized under the jurisdiction and oversight of the High Court within each respective province. The high court exercises general superintendence and control over all civil courts. The primary classes of civil courts, as stipulated by the Civil Courts Ordinance 1962, are the following.

- The Court of District Judge,
- The Court of Additional District Judges,
- The Civil Court

These courts operate within the framework of the laws established by each province, providing a structured hierarchy for the administration of civil justice throughout the country.

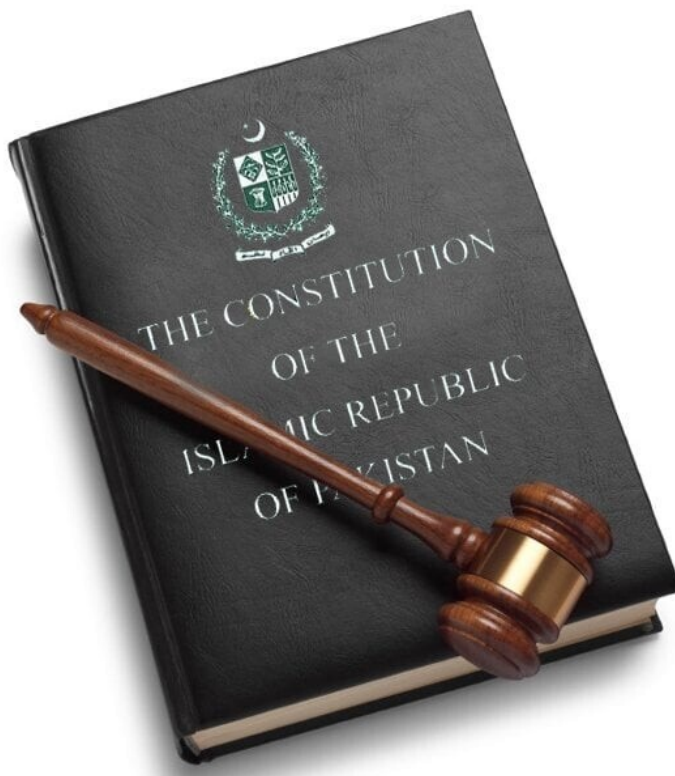
Criminal Courts

The criminal procedure in Pakistan is primarily governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure 1868, outlining the process and rules for conducting criminal proceedings. On the other hand, the [Pakistan Penal Code 1860](#) defines crimes and prescribes punishments for various offenses. The main criminal courts in Pakistan are mentioned below.

- High Court
- Sessions Court
- Court of Magistrate

Special Courts and Tribunals

In Pakistan, specialized courts and tribunals are established to handle specific types of cases. These include special courts for offences in banks and recovery of bank loans, Customs Act special courts, traffic courts, commercial courts, drug courts, labour courts, insurance appellate tribunals, income tax appellate tribunals, accountability courts, anti-terrorism courts, etcetera.



Appeals from these special courts typically go to the High Courts, except for labour courts and special traffic courts, which have their distinct forums for appeals, enhancing the efficiency and expertise in adjudicating matters related to their respective domains.

Conclusion

To sum it up, the hierarchy of courts in Pakistan embodies a complex structure aimed at administering justice and upholding the rule of law. At its zenith stands the Supreme Court of Pakistan, functioning as the paramount authority for legal and constitutional affairs. With its power to interpret the Constitution, safeguard fundamental rights, and provide declaratory judgments, the Supreme Court holds a significant role in guiding legal proceedings across the state.

The hierarchy extends to the high courts, the Federal Shariah court, the civil courts, the criminal courts, and the specialized tribunals, each playing vital roles in addressing specific legal issues. Additionally, the establishment of special courts and tribunals underscores the need for targeted resolution in distinct areas of law. This structured legal framework, supported by the appellate system, exemplifies Pakistan's diversified and sophisticated legal landscape, ensuring fairness, efficiency, and adherence to justice and Islamic law.

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Mineral Resources in Pakistan

About the Author



Zainab Haseeb is studying IR at Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore. She has previously participated in WWF's Eco-internship.

Significance of Mineral Resources

Mineral resources stand to hold great significance for the future of Pakistan. These naturally occurring nonrenewable and renewable resources contribute greatly to the economy. They are spent for the purposes of commercial consumption as well as manufacturing products in different setups of industries. In recent times, where there are international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the appropriate use of these resources is very important.

Economic giants such as China are very much interested in investing in Pakistan because of the incentive to profit from the country's natural wealth and to shift energy investments from [coal to renewable resources](#). Hence, these minerals act as a prospect for international investment rendering the state relevant in the international political economy. These investments could create job opportunities for people in the state and contribute towards a speedy growth of employment. However, to ensure that, the state must be focused on the controlled use of resources hence it needs responsible resource management.

Core Mineral Resources

Mineral deposits are unevenly distributed around the Earth and can be found in different countries. There are even countries that are based entirely on barren lands and have no considerable deposits whatsoever.

For Pakistan, the case is quite intriguing as the state is rich in metallic as well as non-metallic minerals such as [copper, iron ore, chromite, rock salt, gypsum, limestone, sulphur, marble, coal, gold, gemstones](#), etcetera. All of these possessions are an indication of strong geographical qualities for any state. Another important feature to acknowledge is that some of these minerals are located in non-accessible locations in the state and still haven't been extracted.



Coal

Pakistan has abundant coal reserves for the purposes of both fuel and energy. In total, Pakistan has around 185 billion tonnes of coal reserves. The measured ones are around 3.45 billion tons, the indicated ones are around 12 billion tonnes, and the inferred reserves are around 57 billion; the hypothetical ones are around 113 billion tons. The coal that is extracted in Pakistan has high sulphur and ash content.

Due to the weather in Sindh, the coal, especially that from Thar, has a high moisture percentage. The different small quantities of coal are used for the purpose of generating electricity and in domestic settings. However, the percentage of usage that exceeds all is that of the coal used in kilns for producing fire for the bricks.

It is estimated that if the coal resources in Pakistan are properly utilized, they can generate around 100,000 MW of electricity in the next 30 years. Some investment projects of coal in Pakistan include a coal-fired alternate energy power plant, a coal washing plant, and a coal briquette plant.

Copper

Copper is another very important resource in Pakistan that is found in great quantities. Copper is usually found in sulfides, oxides, and carbonates. Usually, the extraction process calls for mining a lot of rocks to obtain an adequate amount of copper content. Rocks are known to contain around 2% copper which makes them valuable in terms of their economic worth.

The copper industry is what provides the best conductors and fulfills the need for domestic cooking supplies such as utensils. In Pakistan, it is found in Chaghi, Sandak, Reko Diq, Qalat, Lasbela, and Zhob in Balochistan. Chaghi and Lasbela remain important copper producers of the world.

Gold

Pakistan has significant gold deposits which remain one of the most important metals that set the standard of currencies in the world. Pakistan has gold resources worth billions of dollars. The



major gold mines in Pakistan are located in Chaghi district in Balochistan. The Reko Diq copper-gold deposits are an important find in Pakistan that is being termed as the largest reservoir with an estimated 1200 tonnes of gold out of which 255 tonnes are proven. The Saindak gold and copper deposits range from 83 to 63 tonnes of proven reserves.

Iron Ore

Iron ore is one of the top five minerals that are found in the country. Pakistan is known to have an estimated 1.427 billion tonnes of reserves of different grades. The Kalabagh iron reserves are one of the largest reserves that the country possesses with around 350 million tonnes. The 500 million tonnes of iron ore deposits were discovered in Chiniot in 2015. Moreover, 60-65 pc of these discovered reservoirs were called high grade. These reserves remain of great economic significance, and it is said that the annual iron ore production in Pakistan remains low in comparison with the internal needs of the state.

Moreover, the Pachin Koh-Chigendik iron ore deposits are located in the town of Nokindi in the district of Chagai, Balochistan. The deposits are linked with the Sanjrani volcanic, and these ores are made of magnetite and hematite. The different geological inspections reveal that the amount of ore will exceed 100 million tonnes if more efforts are made in order to explore more iron ore resources. The ores discovered in Balochistan are tested to have compatibility with the steel mills industry in Pakistan.

Gemstones

Pakistan inhabits a wide variety of gems some of which are extremely prominent minerals around the world including [peridot](#), [aquamarine](#), [topaz of various colors](#), [emerald](#), [ruby](#), [bastnaesite](#), [xenotime](#), [sphene](#), [tourmalines](#), and other types of [quartz](#). The Gemstones Corporation developed in 1979 dealt with the extraction, exploration, and utilization of those stones and called for facilitating the mining capabilities in Pakistan. The corporation was liquidated in [1997](#).



Now, matters are dealt with by the Trade Development Authority as well as the All-Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association of Rough and Un-Polished Precious and semi-precious metals in Pakistan. This remains a potential and untapped market that hasn't been explored yet by potential international buyers. The concentration of these gems is mostly found in the Northern Areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan.

Gypsum

Another significant mineral resource is gypsum which is found in high quantities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Around 92 percent of Pakistan's gypsum is found in KPK and it is estimated to be 5.5 billion tonnes. The province comprises around seventy mines which produce 4.2 million tonnes per year.

This resource remains of such significance because it supports an industry manufacturing a wide range of products including plaster, plaster boards, soil conditioning gypsum power, cement, dental plaster, orthopedic applications such as bandages and gauze, gypsum lamps, and other decorative products made from gypsum.

Chromite

Chromite is another important mineral resource that is used for manufacturing stainless steel, paint, nichrome, and other chemicals in Pakistan. The resource has a wide utilization when it comes to the industrial needs of the state. In Pakistan, deposits of chromite are found due to the outpouring of molten material on the tectonic plates. The discovery and documentation of the resource began in the 1960s in Pakistan. However, the reports did not have any authentication when it came to estimation.

Chromite remains an export-oriented resource of Pakistan. Since 1903, it has been exported from this region to other countries. The export earnings from the 1997-98 period and then the 2001-2002 period differed from Rs 168 million to Rs 404 million. These export earnings can be improved if high-grade chromite is produced and sold in the international market which has an increasing demand for it. However, in the case of Pakistan, this might be tricky as Pakistan imports chromite chemicals. With the addition of projects in the state, the indigenous ore can manage to meet the domestic requirements, but it requires careful resource management and planning.

Conclusion

From the above statistics, it can be deduced that Pakistan remains a state with a high concentration of mineral resources. However, these resources can be amplified to empower the economic growth of the state. Not only that but the resources also require careful handling to ensure a sustainable use of them to avoid their depletion.

Any unaccounted exhaustion can lead to the expiration of the commodity which is against the SDGs set forward by the United Nations. Pakistan must realize that in order for the state to progress, it must mark its position in the international market and exhibit its rich resources for the economic benefit and prosperity of the country.

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A photograph of Nawaz Sharif, a Pakistani politician, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit and a red scarf, gesturing with his right hand. The background is dark.

Article

Nawaz Sharif's Return: What's in Store for Pakistan?

About the Author



Amna Asif is a second-year graduate student at NUST.

Introduction

Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and [PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz](#), announced on September 25th that ex-prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, will return to Pakistan on October 21st, 2023. This will be his first visit to Pakistan since his four-year self-imposed exile in England that occurred on the pretext of medical treatment. His return has been long-awaited by his loyal party members and supporters.



An event consisting of one million people will be held at Minar-e-Pakistan. This event will serve to officialize his return to Pakistan. This comeback represents a significant [development in Pakistan's politics](#) and has the potential to reshape the political landscape. However, Nawaz Sharif's journey from exile to the

political arena will not be an easy one as there are challenges he will be required to contend with, considering the fact that the political landscape has significantly shifted since 2018 with new alliances and changing public sentiments.

Background

Nawaz Sharif fled to England on an air ambulance for medical treatment while he was in prison for a seven-year sentence on the basis of corruption charges. According to Pakistan's anti-corruption court, the former prime minister could not prove the source of income for the steel mills he owned in Saudi Arabia. Despite being disqualified from holding public office, he had passed a revolutionary amendment during his time in office which removed the number of limits that a prime minister can serve. This may assist him in becoming prime minister for the fourth time if the case is overturned.

The circumstances regarding his comeback are obscure as the public speculates whether he is returning to remain a prominent figure in politics, to seek justice, or to lead the nation. Despite the legal battles he is contending with, his return to the political landscape has generated widespread curiosity and anticipation as Pakistani citizens gear up for the upcoming elections. Regardless, the return of Nawaz Sharif to the political arena is a necessity for his party, taking into account the fact that the Election Commission of Pakistan announced the new election deadline as the last week of January.



The party has seen waning political support since Shahbaz Sharif's one-year tenure as the 23rd prime minister due to high inflation, increased taxes, and political instability. Consequently, their public support has significantly decreased within a span of 5 years. In fact, the leading party, [Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf \(PTI\)](#) has a more significant political support base with 62% public support. Therefore, in order to

counter the opposition party, the PML-N is attempting to rectify its position and narrative.

Proposed Narrative for Return

Additionally, Shahbaz Sharif stated in a party meeting that the main agenda of Nawaz Sharif is to revive the economy and provide relief to the masses while simultaneously addressing governance and social issues. However, considering inflation has increased to [39.5% compared to last year](#), it will be difficult to stabilize the economic situation without direct investment, employability, and sources to generate capital. The actual pretext behind the return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan could be to negotiate and close a deal with the establishment. Since Imran Khan is blatantly refusing to negotiate, the PML-N has a fair chance of shaking hands with the establishment and gaining a landslide victory in the upcoming elections.

Diversion of Attention

Moreover, Nawaz Sharif publicly released a statement indicating that several characters including General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Saqib Nisar, Faiz Hameed, and one other ex-general are responsible for bringing Imran Khan into the forefront as prime minister and ought to be held accountable for their actions and for allowing Pakistan to descend down to this perilous state. However, diverting attention towards other entities will not facilitate the PML-N in winning the elections or regaining popularity. Therefore, it is a desideratum that they address public concerns and issues instead of engaging in a confrontation with the establishment and opposition party, PTI.

Previous Accomplishments and Tenures

Nawaz Sharif's tenure as prime minister from 2013 to 2018 was considerably successful; the rupee was stable, taxes were bearable for the lower echelons of society, and electricity costs were low. Moreover, his government developed several highways and equipped students with laptops. These social services were sufficient to gain high public support and are adequate to be rallied as accomplishments. Consequently, Nawaz Sharif and his party members may leverage these past accomplishments and attempt to provoke public sentiment, which can be readily done as the number of Pakistanis currently living in [poverty has substantially increased to 37.2%](#), according to a report released by the World Bank.

Party Agenda and Future Goals

Nawaz Sharif is returning to Pakistan to revive the party's image in the political arena. As a result, according to PML-N members present at the recent party meetings, the PML-N has decided to maintain its focus on Pakistan's economy and the social issues that are plaguing it. This will allow them to remain relevant to people's needs as Pakistan's populace currently solely desires relief as opposed to accountability and justice. Moreover, the party intends to "[bring about an agro-industrial revolution to transform the economic landscape of Pakistan](#) into one that promises a myriad of employment."

In a recent tweet, Maryam Nawaz announced that “Nawaz Sharif will end [inflation in Pakistan](#).” Although these statements seem exaggerated, CPI inflation was at [4.7% at the end of Nawaz Sharif’s tenure in 2018](#) while the CPI inflation stood at [12.2% after Imran Khan’s tenure in 2022](#). Regardless, the party is bound to recalibrate its electoral strategy, attempt to regain voter support and forge alliances with other parties to strengthen its position in the shifting political landscape.

Conclusion

The return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan could be prolific for the party and its agenda. There are previous accomplishments that can be leveraged by the party to gain more political support for the upcoming election. Additionally, the party members have proposed a list of social grievances they intend to address. However, whether or not they will be able to regain political support and win the upcoming elections, depends upon a plethora of factors including the campaign strategy of PTI, [Imran Khan’s willingness](#) to cooperate with the establishment, and the approach used to provoke public sentiment. Thus, nothing has ever been [predictable in Pakistan’s politics](#) and this upcoming election is no exception.

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The super QUICK QUIZ



Test your general knowledge!



Q1. Which country is the only one that has a flag that features a dragon?

A. Vietnam

B. Thailand

C. Bhutan

D. Cambodia

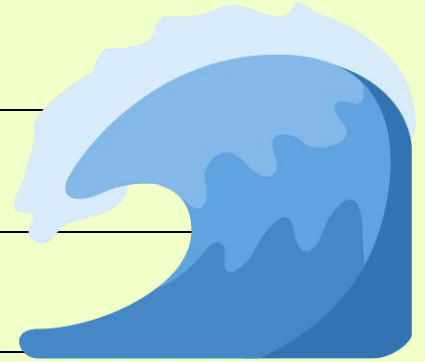
Q2. Which is the highest waterfall in the world by height?

A. Angel Falls

B. Niagara Falls

C. Victoria Falls

D. Iguazu Falls



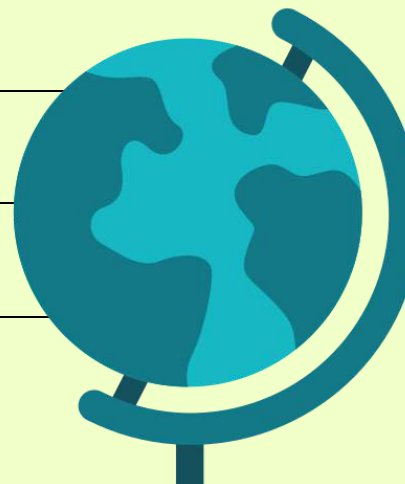
Q3. Which city is located on two continents?

A. Amsterdam

B. Islamabad

C. Istanbul

D. Toronto



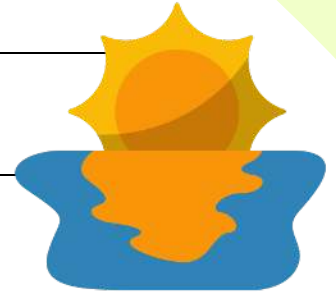
Q4. Which continent is the only one that does not have any desert?

A. Europe

B. Asia

C. North America

D. Antarctica



Q5. Which city is the most populous in the world?

A. Tokyo

B. Delhi

C. Shanghai

D. New York



Q6. Which desert is the largest in the world?

A. Sahara

B. Arabian

C. Gobi

D. Antarctic

Q7. Which continent has the most countries?

A. Africa

B. Asia

C. Europe

D. South America

Q8. How many time zones does Russia have?

A. 3

B. 10

C. 11

D. 5

Q9. What is the capital city of Nepal?

A. Kathmandu

B. Lalitpur

C. Dharan

D. Nepalgunj

Answers!

1. C) Bhutan

Bhutan is the only country that has a flag that features a dragon, as it has a white dragon in the center of its flag, which symbolizes the name of the country, Druk Yul, meaning "Land of the Thunder Dragon".

2. A) Angel Falls

Angel Falls is the highest waterfall in the world by height, with a height of about 979 meters. Niagara Falls is the second highest waterfall with 51 meters, followed by Victoria Falls with 108 meters and Iguazu Falls with 82 meters.

3. C) Istanbul

Istanbul lives on two continents. The city is separated by the Bosphorus, a strait, and thus consists of a European and an Asian part. Overall, 95% of Turkey is in Asia, and 5% is in Europe.

4. A) Europe

Europe is the only continent that does not have any desert, as it has a temperate climate with sufficient rainfall and vegetation. Asia, North America, and Antarctica all have deserts, such as the Gobi, the Mojave, and the Antarctic deserts, respectively.

5. A) Tokyo

Tokyo is the most populous city in the world, with a population of about 37.4 million people. Delhi is the second most populous city with 30.3 million people, followed by Shanghai with 27.1 million people and New York with 18.8 million people.

6. D) Antarctic

The Antarctic desert is the largest desert in the world, with an area of about 14 million square kilometers. The Sahara is the second largest desert with 9.2 million square kilometers, followed by the Arabian desert with 2.3 million square kilometers and the Gobi desert with 1.3 million square kilometers.



7. A) Africa

Africa has 54 countries, which is the most of any continent. Asia has 48 countries, Europe has 44 countries, and South America has 12 countries.

8. C) 11

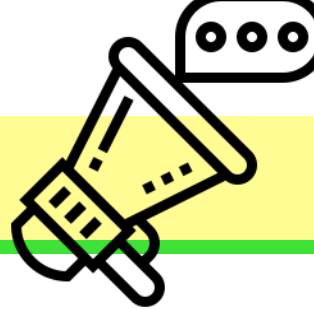
Russia has 11 different time zones across its vast territory.

9. A) Kathmandu

Kathmandu, officially the Kathmandu Metropolitan City is the capital and most populous city of Nepal. It is located in the Kathmandu Valley, a large valley in the high plateaus in central Nepal, at an altitude of 1,400 metres.

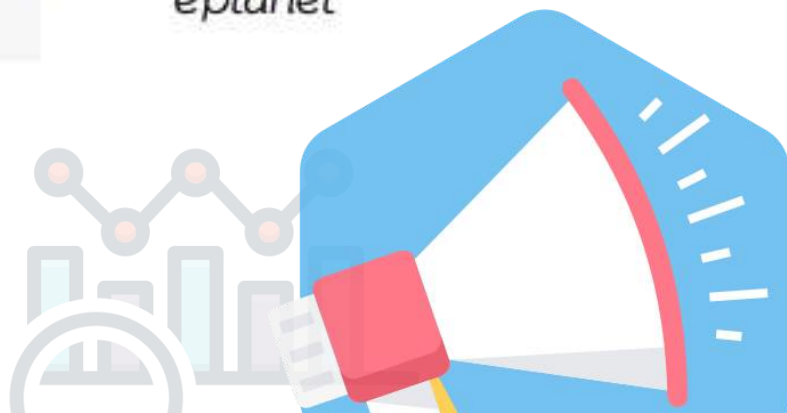


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