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Indian Intransigence in South Asian Region Under Modi Era and Complexities for Pakistan

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Abstract

In the mid of 20th century, the world has seen the emergence of two independent states, Pakistan and India, in the wave of decolonization. However, since their inception, both the nations have been arch-rivals to each other, ever seen in the history of human civilization. It would not be hyperbolic to say that India sees the existence of Pakistan as an obstruction to its treacherous national interest. Moreover, the Indian government, having the 2nd largest population in the world, wants to dominate in the entire region as well as in international politics. India has always been striving to become a regional hegemon. For that matter, the Indian government has launched a drive of rapid modernization of military equipment. So that it can influence its immediate neighborhood under the might of its strategic design. Thus, the growing belligerent and aggressive strategic design of India has been disturbing the equation of balance of power in South Asia.

Key Words: decolonization, inception, arch-rivals. treacherous, belligerent, modernization.

1. Introduction

South Asia is the southern part of Asia. Its seven sovereign states are abounding in bounteous natural resources and contain around one fourth of the population of the world. Being densely populated region and a pertinent junction of maritime trade, it has gain phenomenal importance in the regional as well as international politics. Evidently, it would not be an exaggeration to say that "whoever dominates south Asia, strategically, will dominate the Asia" (Patnaik, 2015). However, strategic policies of India especially in Modi's government, in her struggle to become a regional hegemon, has been disturbing the equation of balance of power in South Asia.

History has borne out the fact that since the inception of India, they are in a constant struggle to get themselves in the dominant position in the entire region. For that matter, they have fought several wars, especially with their immediate neighbor Pakistan. Moreover, its agreement with the international powers to make it militarily strong and its foreign interventions are not obscure from the entire world. The main purpose behind the wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965, 1971, and with China in 1962 was just to create its hegemony in South Asia and then eventually entire Asia. The military interventions in Sri Lanka in 1987 and in the Maldives in 1988 are also exhibiting its strategically aggressive narrative.

Similarly, India is not a signatory of nuclear test ban treaty (NTBT) and (NNPT) nuclear non-proliferation treaty, (NNPT). And above all, they launched its first nuclear test in 1974 and second in 1998. Thus, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Indian government has always been a follower of the realist approach to international politics. India has developed very cordial ties with the USA, Russia, and in economic terms with China. Moreover, since 1992 India is also growing its relationship with Israel, an emerging developed country. The Indian government has made multiple accords with these states for the procurement of military hardware (Menon, 2022).

The study of the past occurrence and its interpretation demystify different kinds of narrative. It must also be clear that history is not just an account of an explanation of past events but it does have interpretive tendencies. According to *George Santayana*, "*those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it*" (Santayana).

2. Theoretical Framework

According to the fundamental nature of this current research, it has two aspects; one is directly connected with the strategic policies of the Indian government, particularly since 2014, in South Asia to get herself a regional hegemon, the second aspect deals with the implications of this strategic design of India on the entire region and more particularly in Pakistan. Thus, this study will be the conceptual exhibition of broader framework of realism and mainly following three theories. Firstly, the Realist Model. The second one is Offensive Realism and last but not least The Defensive Realism.

This theory finds its roots in the writing of the famous Italian scholar Machiavelli. By using the realist tendencies, he put forward some suggestions for the king to rule the administration of his empire. Machiavelli wrote the book, *Prince*, and advised the King do not prefer morality over self-interest. The proponents of this theory Sun Tzu, Thucydides and Thomas Hobbes laid the foundation stone. They believed and wished to continue to dominate, because the resources of the world would get scarce with the passage of time (Jill Steans, 2010).

2.1 Offensive Realism

The prevailing assumptions of the theory of offensive realism are power, military might, is the main unit in the international system and it is the main cause of anarchical international political system. Every actor (state) in the present international political system must acquire offensive military capabilities. There is a wave of uncertainty. It means, there is no state in the world politics which is so

sure about the diplomacy of another state. The protection and procurement of national interests is the only passport to the survival of a state. Every state has sound strategic design to maximize its benefits. (Mearsheimer, 1994). The prevailing assumptions of the theory of offensive realism are power, military might, is the main unit in the international system and it is the main cause of anarchical international political system. Every actor (state) in the present international political system must acquire offensive military capabilities (Mearsheimer, 1994).

2.2 Defensive Realism

Robert Jervis another eminent and notable expert of international security. He explained in his worth reading book “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” that how security dilemma develops due to the offensive security strategies of expansionist states. He has a view point that despite anarchy exists but after then war can be prevented. By acquiring enough power not maximum power, a state can maintain deterrence. In defensive realism state should make concrete strategic policies and actions, not because of perception of fear, instead to pose perception of fears on others. And same Pakistan has used the narrative against the cold start doctrine of India. Because Pakistan cannot use nuclear weapons as minimum deterrence so, nuclear tactical missiles were developed (Jill Steans, 2010).

3.1. Research Methodology

Qualitative Research Method

Research methodology refers to a methodology a researcher utilizes to collect data. The methodology in this research will be “Qualitative Research Methodology” because this method revolves around assemblage of in-depth and detail information however for a specific time period. This qualitative research methodology involves around the words rather than quantifiable data, factual information, and statistics. The analysis of human behavior, knowledge and the ability to judge, practical manifestation and the answers of ‘How’s and Whys’ questions will be the essence of this methodology. Evidently, the in-depth analysis of data and its logical interpretation would not be possible from the quantifiable research (Frey, 2018).

Rationale for using the Qualitative research method

The fundamental reason for the use of qualitative research methodology is that the main argument and research questions are formulated in such a way that they address only Indian strategic policies in the south Asia, especially in the Modi’s era and its implications on the entire regional politics, and more particularly on Pakistan. In other words, this research does not deal in the strategic policies of all the seven sovereign states of south Asia or those states of the whole world rather it revolves around Indian strategic diplomacy. Moreover, with reference to time and space this study will be of 7 years of Modi Era.

Documentary Analysis

Documentary analysis is a part of qualitative research methodology and the most efficient technique to analyse the data and information. That is way; to complement the qualitative research method the documentary analysis technique will be utilized. In this documentary analysis technique, the preparation of the data can also be

accessed through public records like annual reports and credible international journals for the analyzing stage, analyzing the data, then eventually the interpretation of data by filtering out multiple assumptions and hypothesis and finally the deduction of the result is involving. Basically, it is a set of technique that the researchers used to analyze data in a profound way and for the interpretation of data from various sources like biographies, charts, credible chronicle records, credible populous novels, articles and maps, media documentaries and films. In documentary analysis, the credibility, representativeness and authenticity of journals, official documents and records can be interpreted easily. (Jhon Scott, 1990).

4.1. Indian Strategic Posture in the Formative Phase

There is no denying the fact that India has always been belligerent and aggressive in its foreign as well as strategic policies. After getting dominion status from the British, the Indian government remains in the struggle to increase its influence over the weaker or newly born states of South Asia. These realistic approaches can also be witnessed in its struggle for independence during the colonial period. With the same thoughts, India fought its first war with Pakistan within a few months of its inception. This war is also known as the "*first Kashmir war*". It was fought over the future status of a princely state of Jammu and Kashmir (Nawaz, 2008).

In the decade of 1950s, India tried to establish its cordial ties with regional as well as international developed countries. Contrary to this positive gesture, it remains indulged in arm conflicts with other countries. For instance, in 1961, the Indian annexation of Goa from then Portuguese Indian Territory. Indian government called it the "*liberation of Goa*" on the other hand Portuguese named it the "*invasion of Goa*". Indian army forces named this military action "Operation Vijay" means victory (Praval, 2009). This conflict involves land, air, and maritime strikes that lasted for thirty-six hours. This conflict was ended with the decisive victory of the Indian army forces. However, the Portuguese government demeans this action as an Indian invasion against its soil.

4.2. Indian Strategic Policies Under Modi Era

In the summer of 2014 Narendra Modi, leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed charge of India under the capacity of the Prime minister. His party won the election by a simple majority. Heaving a very fanatical background, his election campaign was principally revolved around fueling the animosity against Pakistan and making India towards the Asian tiger. However, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Narendra Modi, with his supremacist ideology, started his tenure with more belligerent and aggressive strategic policies. The main purpose of his government as his predecessors was to undermine the existence of immediate neighbor Pakistan and to gain a prominent international status for India (Ali, 2016).

4.3. Defense Budget

In 2019, India had the world's third-biggest military budget, following the USA at first and China at second. According to the annual report of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), the present military budget of India is 71 billion dollars. This expenditure is 6.8% higher than the military budget spent in 2018. Moreover, this increase in spending was growing by 259% from 1990 to 2019. And from 2010 to 2023 the percentage increased by 39%. (Rumer, 2022). Arguably,

The Indian arch-rival Pakistan and the world's second-biggest economy China are the main cause of India's excessive military spending. However, many analysts say that such extravagant expenditure on the defense budget without having any ostensible war-like situation and national security issues is the clear manifestation of the Indian government as a global narcissist and regional megalomaniac (Babar, 2019).

The final period begins in 2014 with the ascension of Modi as Indian Prime Minister. Under the supremacist ideology of RSS, the Modi government has been striving for the diffusion of the jingoistic Hindutva creed. This Hindutva creed emphasis the promotion of military strength over erstwhile pacifism. This period can be considered as the most threatening and dangerous phase for the future of South Asia as it came on the blatant exhibition of war rhetoric. Arguably, this is the main reason for the growing belligerent strategic design of India particularly in Modi's era in South Asia (Babar, 2019).

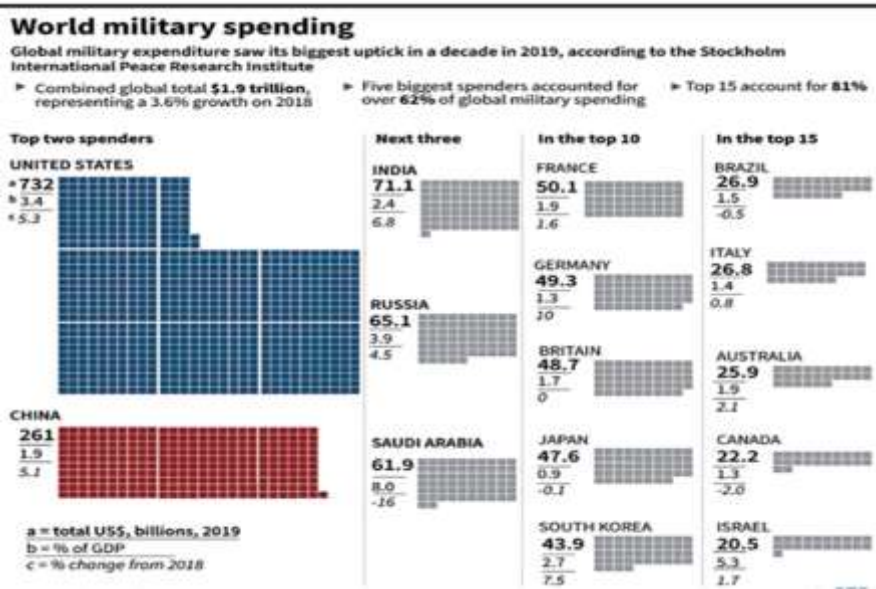
Proposed budget allocation to Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) as a % of GDP and total central government expenditure				
Year	Proposed Defence Budget (INR tr)	Total Central Government Expenditure (INR tr)	Proposed Defence Budget as % of GDP	Proposed Defence Budget as % of Total Central Government Expenditure
2023	5.94	45.0	1.93	13.2
2022	5.25	39.4	1.92	13.3
2021	4.78	34.8	2.02	13.7
2020	4.71	30.4	2.38	15.5
2019	4.31	27.9	2.15	15.5
2018	4.04	24.4	2.14	16.6
2017	3.60	21.5	2.11	16.8
2016	3.41	19.8	2.21	17.2
2015	3.10	17.8	2.25	17.4
2014	2.85	17.9	2.29	15.9
2013	2.53	16.7	2.26	15.2

Source: IISS Military Balance+ database; Government of India Union Budgets 2013–2023

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(McGerty, 2023)

Ironically, Indian officials are vehemently exhibiting a misleading portrait to the international community. They issued that only 30% of its defense budget is allocated for the fresh procurement of military hardware, annually, and remain 70% is for the maintenance of the already existing equipment. However, the situation is entirely otherwise; India allocates one of the world's highest defense expenditures on the procurement of new military equipment. From 2008 to 2018, she has spent around 32 billion dollars on new military acquisitions; she has left the UK, Russia, and France behind in this regard. The following picture draws the comparison of India with other countries concerning budgetary allocation for defense (Dewey, 2023).



(Janjua, 2020)

In the coming 3 to 4 years 200 ships, 500 aircrafts, and 24 attack submarine are planned to be bought by the Indian Navy from Russian defense manufacturing companies. However, in 2020 Indian Navy has the stock of 132 ships, 15 submarines and 220 aircraft. Indian Navy is also looking to violate CAATSA. It is an American law which is an abbreviation of countering American’s adversaries through sanctions act. On violating this law Indian government is planning to make a deal with Russia for S-400 Triumf. The cost of this deal would be 5.4 American dollars. These aircraft have the facility to operate from surface to air. It would demean the Patriot-3 and US Thaad. This S-400 also has the capacity of identification of the direction of bombs, can detect the track, and can destroy the bombs, drones, and missiles at from the distance of 380 kilometer. (Janjua, 2020). The Indian air force is also a major contender in this rapid modernization of technical defense equipment. It has obtained the propensity to develop a multi-layered defense shield system in the capital territory of India, New Delhi. There are three layers shield, are discussed:

The first layer is made of developed BMD (ballistic missile defense). The second layer is composed of S-400 and Barak-8 established with the contribution of IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries). The final shield include NASAMS (national advanced surface to air missile system) brought from the USA. This is a conglomeration of various weaponry systems like the system of guns, AIM-120 C 7 and AMRAAMs (advance medium-range air to air missile system) and stringer surface to air missiles. (Gady, 2017). These above mention layers can destabilize the nuclear stability in Sub-continent. Modi government is striving for foreign direct investment in the Indian defense sector. They are looking for the minimization of the investment gap from 26 to 49 in the initial level and then eventually towards 100%. The foreign direct investment ratio in the Indian defense sector since the action of Modi. 2014, is given below:

2014-2015	0.08 million US dollar	56 lacs
2015-2016	0.10 million US dollar	71 lacs
2017-2018	0.01 million US dollar	7 lacs
2018-2019	2.18 million US dollar	15 crores

Table (Shah, 2019)

4.3. Upgradation of Indigenous Defense Infrastructure

Modi government is not only spending a huge sum of its annual budget for the procurement of military hardware. It is also boosting up the Indian domestic defense manufacturing industry. The sole cause of this shift in policy is changing the status of India as the exporter rather than the importer of military equipment. It is crystal clear that the Modi government wants to rank India among the top countries that are famous as a manufacturer of defense equipment. By this dynamic policy shift, India would not only be able to gain pertinence importance in the international world but also help the fragile economy of India to become one of the world's stable economies. That is why the Modi administration has put the defense sector of India under the notion of "Atma Nirbhar" which means self-reliance. "Bharat Forge", "Kalyani Group", "Larsen & Toubro", "Tata Group" and "SSS Defence" are some famous indigenous defense manufacturing private companies of India. According to many analysts, this building up of indigenous defense manufacturers is a very long-awaited decision taken by the Modi administration. To them, it is certainly a right move for India to not only stable its economy but to minimize its import expenditures. Practically, to promote Indigenous defense manufacturing capability, the Modi government has made multiple agreements with local Indian firms in 2021, the list of these agreements are as follows: (Gill, 2021).

Indian Manufactured Tavor X 95 rifles

Tavor X 95 rifles are originally an Israeli product. It was built by Israel Weapons Industry (IWI). However, from now on word these guns will be manufactured by Indian firms and abundantly available for the state and central area forces.

Deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for new Tejas light Combat Aircraft.

It is a contract of 48,000 crores with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. This contract was signed by the ministry of defense of India on 3rd February 2021. In this deal, the company has to build 83 new Tejas light combat aircraft. It is also decided that the company will full fill the task by 2030.

Deal with Bharat Electronics

On February 8, 2021, the Indian defense ministry signed an agreement of 1,000 crores with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). This agreement is based on the production of Software Defined Radial Tactical System (SDR-Tac), is four-channel multi-mode, 19 racks mountable radio system. It is a joint venture of DARDO and BEL.

Contract with Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

The Indian ministry of defense announced the inclusion of 118 Arjun Mark-1A tanks in the Central army of India. The net amount of this deal will be around 84,000 crores. This deal was made in December 2020. It is third-generation military hardware with composite armor and a computerized fire control system. These new tanks will have 72 active features than the previous ones. The administration has decided that these will contribute to the strength of the first batch of 124 Arjun tanks. Moreover, they will be deployed on the western side of India towards the Pakistan and India border.

An Agreement with Idea forge

An order of modern computerized versions of SWITCH tactical drones. This deal is finalized with Idea forge on the 14th of January 2021. The total amount of this deal is 20 million dollars, equal to 140 crores in Indian rupee. For the operation in high-altitude areas such as Ladakh, these SWITCH tactical drones are used. The total number of drones manufactured by this deal has not been disclosed yet.

Contract for New Carbines

For the agreement for the production of new carbines, the administration has issued an application for request to all the major domestic manufacturing companies like Sig Sauer, SSS Defense, and BharatForge.

Deal for Six New Airborne Early Warning and Control Plans (AEW-C)

To minimize the time gap between the attack and reply Indian Air force is looking for six new Airborne Early Warning and Control plans. This task was given to the (Defense research and development organization) (DRDO) by the Indian defense procurement council in September 2020. A total amount of 10,994 crores was allocated for the manufacturing of these plans. To some analysts, these plans will play a critical role in India's Preparedness strategically and enable the Indian Air force to have an eye in the sky.

Procurement of UAVs to Strengthen the Maritime Surveillance

In September 2020, a deal worth 1,000 crores was signed by the Indian defense acquisition council for clear maritime surveillance for the Indian Naval forces.

Production of HTT-40 Trainer Aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

The Indian Ministry of Defense contracted with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of HTT-40 trainer aircraft. The company signed this agreement in addition to the previous accord of manufacturing of Tejas aircraft (Chari, 2020).

4.4. Modi's Government Strategic Pacts with Israel

Since 1992, The Indian government has formally started its friendly relationships with Israel. As Israel is the most powerful country in the Middle East and a close ally of the USA, since then, the Indian government made has Israel its close strategic partner. The 1990s and the first decade of the 21st century both the nations participated in multiple joint military exercises and signed numerous defense pacts. Similarly, after 2014 with the coming of Narendra Modi in the Indian government

as Prime minister, both the countries further strengthen their strategic ties. For instance, Narendra Modi was the first Indian Prime Minister who paid a visit to a Jewish country Israel. In reciprocity, the Israeli Prime Minister also paid a visit to India.

Moreover, there are a series of joint pacts, military exercises, and visits of government officials which exhibit the true manifestation of strategic ties between both nations. A delegation led by the former Israeli ambassador to United Nations, Dore Gold visited India in 2015. This delegation came from the Israeli center of Public affairs. The main purpose of this delegation was to research the strategic interest of both countries. In addition, the delegation also discussed the security situation of the Middle East and South Asia, and to combat radical Islam and develop policies as a countermeasure to territorial disputes. Besides this delegation in 2015, the Modi administration also accepted the proposal of the Indian Air Force related to the purchase of 10 Heron TP drones from IAI (Israeli Aerospace Industries). Moreover, the same year, according to the report of "The Pioneer", both Israel and India were willing to conduct their joint military exercise. (<http://www.dailypioneer.com/todays-newspaper/india-israel-to-lift--defence-ties-veil.html>, 2015)

4.5. Strategic Relations of Modi Government with Russia

Since the 1960s India has been in very cordial relationships with Russia. In the previous chapter, it has been seen that in the 4th quarter of the 20th-century both the countries have made phenomenal strategic agreements. It would not be an exaggeration to say that India brought more than 60% of the defense equipment from Russia between 1966 and 1988. Moreover, the strategic security of Indian could be at stake if Russia was not an Indian strategic partner. However, after the dismemberment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic in 1991, the range of defense agreements with Russia became low and the Indian government started to see the USA and Israel as its all-weather strategic partner. But still, under the supremacist and belligerent strategic policy of the Modi administration, India has made various strategic accords with Russia. Therefore, between 2014 and 2018, the net amount of arms sales between Russia and India was 62%. (Abi-Habib, 2018) Moreover, there were a host of joint military programs signed between India and Russia such as:

- BrahMos cruise missile program
 - 5th generation fighter jet program
 - Sukhoi Su-30MKI program (230+ to be built by Hindustan Aeronautics)
 - Ilyushin/HAL Tactical Transport Aircraft
- Similarly, the Modi administration has brought defense equipment from Russia.
- Kamov Ka-226 200 will be manufactured in India to boost up the Indian domestic defense industry.
 - T-90S Bhishma with over 1000 will be constructed in India
 - Akula-II nuclear submarine
 - INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier program
 - Tu-22M3 bS-400 Triumf
 - numbers (Indian government has ordered 4, not delivered yet)

- US\$900 million upgrades of MiG-29(upgraded with the worth 900 US dollars)
- Mil Mi-17
- Ilyushin Il-76 Candid

Modi administration has made a historic agreement with Russia of 5.43 billion US dollars. It is a deal to acquire surface to air missile defense system s-400 which is the most powerful and modern military defense system in the entire world. This deal with Russia was up against the American CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act) act. Moreover, the US also warned the Modi administration not to buy this s-400 Triumph otherwise she will have to bear the sanctions (Macias, 2019).

4.6. Modi's Government Strategic Partnership with USA

Since the advent of the 21st century, India has been developing its strategic as well as economic ties with the USA., the Indian government made its first prominent strategic agreements with the USA to strengthen its strategic partnerships in 2002. The Pentagon elucidated these accords as "routine instruments that the U.S. uses to promote military cooperation with partner-nations", the agreement was GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement), the general security of military information agreement. This agreement was signed in 2002. Under the articles of this agreement, both India and the USA will protect classified information of each other. Moreover, this agreement will ensure the exchange of military information between India and the USA (Rashid, 2018).

After 2014, the Modi government was also very keen on an established relationship with the USA for the advancement of their own economic and strategic interests. On the other hand, the USA also thinks that India can play an important role in the South Asian and Indo-Pacific region. According to American national security officials "A geopolitical competition between free and repressive visions of world order is taking place in South Asia region. It represents the most populous and economically dynamic part of the world. We welcome India's emergence as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defence partner." (White House, National Security Strategy of the United States of America, 2017). An eminent analyst Harsh V. Pant, who taught International Relations at Kings College London, threw light on the regional as well as international importance of the strategic partnership of India with the USA as,

"India is the key to the US' ability to create a stable balance of power. It needs partners like India to shore up its sagging credibility in the region in face of Chinese onslaught." (Boggs, 2015).

As a countermeasure to the growing economy of China and its influence in South Asia Trump administration also decided to develop strategic ties with India. For that matter, the administration was in planning to give India modern high technology feature drones, FA-18 Super Hornet and F-16 jet fighter. Above all, a grand deal worth 15 billion dollars under the direct proposal of Mahindra Media was finalized in 2018. Some Indian officials named this deal as the mother of all the defence deals. Ashton Carter visited India in June 2015. He became the first Defence secretary of America who paid a visit to Indian Military Command. In reciprocity to this, in the December of 2015, the Indian defence minister Manohar Parrikar visited the US-Pacific Command. In this capacity, Parrikar became the first defence minister who

paid a visit to the US. Following is the further detail of Indian strategic relationships with the USA under the Modi government (Rashid, 2018).

LEMOA (logistics exchange memorandum of agreement) was signed in 2016.

It is a bilateral agreement. It will provide an opportunity for the militaries of both the USA and India to use the facility of each other for repairs and supplies. The defence secretary of the USA and Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar issued a joint statement that this (LEMAO) "will facilitate an additional opportunity for practical engagement and strategic security." However, the articles of transportation and logistics support do not put binding force for each other (George, 2016).

COMCASA (communications compatibility and security agreement) was signed in 2018.

The Agreement was signed on September 6, and it is one of the four agreements which the USA used to sign with its strategic partners. The provisions of the agreement were implemented with immediate effects and they will be validated for the next ten years. "COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialized equipment for encrypted communications for US-origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130, and P-8Is. currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems." (Peri, 2018). However, strong measures will be taken to ensure the protection of security implications and national interest. Moreover, the information and data transferred through these platforms will not be shared with any other party without the consent of the Indian government. To strengthen the bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation an agreement was signed in 2019. The construction of six American nuclear reactors in India is also a part of this agreement.

BECA (basic exchange and cooperation program) signed in 2020

This agreement is a strategic pact, particularly a communication agreement. Exchange of classified and unclassified real-time map data, super-accurate targeting for aircraft, drones, ballistic and cruise missiles, Access of the US satellites, and airborne sensors. Acquisition of intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance are some important features of BECA. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the provisions of this agreement have given India phenomenal strength related to its strategic design in South Asia.

5. Indian Intransigence and Complexities for Pakistan

US is positioning India as bulwark against Pakistan. Now, it has been striving to become a regional hegemon and established its domination over the entire South Asia. Its treacherous plans will come to fruition only at the cost of destruction of peace in South Asia. The procurement of s-400 and many other deadly arsenals from Israel will certainly increase the gap in the defence equipment of two regional as well as neighbouring nuclear states. Consequently, South Asia which has not seen nuclear warfare can be the battlefield of the whole world. It is now obligatory upon all the global powers to discourage the Indian hegemonic design in South Asia. Otherwise no one can stop an Armageddon which will have serious repercussions for the whole world (Janjua, 2020).

5.1. Economic Repercussions

India's growing strategic diplomacy will also negatively impact Pakistan's economy. Pakistan is a developing country and it is facing multiple challenges related to its economy. So, owing to the increase in military hardware in India, Pakistan will have to invest more of its budget in the defense sector to balance the equation of power in the region. This would ultimately, have a devastating impact on the already fragile economy of Pakistan. For instance, in 2019 when the Indian soldiers started airstrikes on Pakistani soil. It triggered across border skirmishes. There were speculations that there could have been a fifth war between Pakistan and India. However, Pakistan has to alert its troops on the Indo-Pak border. So, according to estimation, Pakistan has to spend five billion rupees daily for the assistance of troops, deployed at the India-Pakistan border. (Burki, south asia in the new world order: the role of regional cooperation).

In the worst-case scenario if a military conflict breaks out between Pakistan and India for a longer period the result would be a drastic fall in FDI (foreign direct investment), inflow in Pakistan. For instance, after the airstrikes of the Indian army on Pakistani soil, the Pakistan stock exchange witnessed a significant decrease in foreign direct investment. Also, as the economy of Pakistan largely depends upon the remittances of the Pakistani diaspora, the instability in the country will negatively impact the ratio of inflow of remittances in Pakistan. Moreover, the increase in the conflict will mean the drastic transformation of the allocation of GDP towards buying military equipment and assisting the troops. Prachi Juneja quite explicitly explains the economic impact of a military conflict between Pakistan and India as:

"The GDP of Pakistan is about 305 billion dollars. Also, the country already has a huge debt burden and is also facing a foreign exchange crisis. India, on the other hand, has a GDP of \$2.7 trillion. It is amongst the top 5 economies in the world. War will have a huge impact on the Indian economy, but the effects will be disproportionately felt by Pakistan." (Juneja, 2022).

As a developing country, thousands of people in Pakistan are living below the poverty line. So, buying the defense equipment as a counter-measure to Indian strategic design would not be a sane decision. Other than this, Pakistan rank low on the human development Index. There is a dire need for the allocation of budget on social and physical infrastructure. However, under this growing race of the procurement of weapons, the only certain increase will be the financial burden on the already fragile economy of Pakistan. Contrary to improving the quality of life, ordinary people will suffer the most (Ansari, 2022).

5.2. Political Insinuations

Pakistan will have to deal with multiple challenges owing to unbridle strategic design of India in South Asia. As India has the world's third-biggest defence budget, Pakistan will have to spend more money on its military expenditure as a counter-measure to India. However, in the consequence of spending more money on the defence budget, politically, there would be chances of conflict between the civilian government and military leadership. Because the more the allocation of GDP on the defence budget, the more will be the influence of Pakistan military in the politics.

The history of Pakistan is replete with the events when all the major political decisions were taken by the Pakistan Army (Ali, 2016).

Furthermore, in the political history of Pakistan, the period of military dictators is more than the legitimized and constitutional civilian government. Many international scholars already vehemently labelled Pakistan as a military state. The population of Pakistan is one-sixth of the population of India. However, the size of arm forces of Pakistan is just half of that of India. Pakistan already spends 26% of its GDP on the procurement of military equipment and the maintenance of the existing one (Afzal, 2023).

5.3 Repercussions on Kashmir

The creation of Pakistan as an independent state had been the main problem for India since 1947. The Indian political elite consider this division to hack the mother India into pieces. Since then, disturbing the equation of balance of power in South Asia and turning up against Pakistan's stance on Kashmir has been the main objective of Indian strategic policies. For the Indian government, the existence of Pakistan is an obstacle in the way of achieving its national interest. To settle its ambitious interest, the Indian government always tried to remain in military conflict with Pakistan on the cause of Kashmir to create strategic instability. The recent strategic design of Modi's government has been deteriorating the peace in Kashmir. On 05 August 2019, the Indian parliament passed a bill to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was given by its constitution under articles 370 and 35A.

Historically, Kashmir has been the bone of contention of all the clashes between Pakistan and India. During the time of partition of united India, it was quite obvious that Kashmir will be a part of Pakistan because of its civilizational, religious, and cultural inclination. Moreover, more than 90% of the Kashmiri population is also in the favour of joining Pakistan. However, under his treacherous attitude, Indian army forces entered Kashmir in the order of Lord Mountbatten in October 1947. "Since that day Kashmiris are facing humiliating atrocities of the Indian. India tried to make this imperialistic occupation perpetually by force instead of trying to win the hearts and minds of the people." (Rashid, 2018).

Since that illegal occupation of the Indian army in Kashmir, there has been a series of short and long-term military clashes between Pakistan and India. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the main purpose behind the wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965, 1971 was just to create its strategic hegemony in South Asia and then eventually entire Asia. Hence, the strategic design of Modi's government in South Asia is posing grave challenges to the Kashmir cause (Rashid, 2018).

5.4 Policy Options for Pakistan

There is no denying the fact that in the fabric of international relations every country is in strives to achieve its national interest. As Lord Palmerston, a nineteenth-century British political scientist said that "we have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow." (Kissinger, 2014) Similarly, Indian politics, especially under the Premiership of Narendra Modi is not exceptional to this realistic rule of international relations. Owing to its Supremacist ideology, the belligerent and

aggressive strategic design of India in South Asia is also a culmination of its selfish nationalistic politics.

Moreover, asymmetrical military capabilities between Pakistan and India have been imposing multiple implications on Pakistan. However, to balance the equation of balance of power in South Asia Pakistan need to restructure its policy options, including reforms in the national security framework. Theoretically, Pakistan needs to shift its political strategy by keeping in view the core concepts of defensive realism, it is now become an obligation for Pakistan to develop maximum strategic policies with global and regional powers by preferring its national interests to all other regional or international interests as a countermeasure to growing belligerent strategic design of India in South Asia.

5.5. Maintaining Politico-Military Harmonious Relationship

Pakistan is in dire need to establish a strong politico-military strategy (Khan, 2017). All the major decision-making like both foreign and internal policy, economic policy, and related to natural resources must be done with the collaboration of the Pakistan military. In other words, a realistic national military strategy has to be constructed to coup up with the existential threat posed by India. Arguably, if a country does not establish its realistic strategy, it would have to face fatal consequences on its existence. According to Richard Betts, "without a realistically crafted strategy, it becomes a loose cannon and then war becomes a mindless undertaking." (Betts, 2000). This national military strategy refers to the accomplishment of the objectives made for the arm forces. However, the realistic strategic policies of the Military must be under the influence of political leadership. Monterio suggested that "This becomes especially perilous when military objectives come to be pursued for their own sake without reference to their political effect (Monterio, 2014). Moreover, there are two key models presented by "Beaufre" for the development of politico-military strategy.

5.6. Establishing Compatibility between Global Politics and Regional Geo-Strategic Partnership

To counter the growing influence of Indian strategic diplomacy in South Asia, Pakistan will have to reconcile its concerns with global politics and the regional geostrategic environment. Westphalia nation-state system which refers to the establishment of the structure of government on the fundamental principle of sovereignty and independence of a state has become obsolete in the 21st century. However, due to the permeation of Globalization, the world has become a small village. The nation-state system has been transformed into a global society in which states are interdependent (Albrow, 1990). Borrowing the concept of George Orwell, some states felt that they are more equal than others. These countries always remain in the struggle to destroy the peace of other nations. Similarly, the Indian government has always been striving for the destruction of Pakistan. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the main purpose behind the wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965, 1971 was just to create its strategic hegemony in South Asia and then eventually entire Asia. Therefore, to stand against the hegemonic tendencies of India, Pakistan has to gain the favour of the regional as well as global powers.

5.7. Enhancing Strategic Partnership with China and USA

Pakistan needs to demand an agreement with the USA with similar terms and conditions agreed by India. For instance, the agreement like Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), and Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA). Under the provisions of such agreements, Pakistan will be able to get the latest navigational technology. Moreover, this will provide an opportunity for Pakistan to get real-time information from the US satellites. Besides the all-weather friendship with China, which is necessary for economic and political support, Pakistan needs to develop strong strategic ties with other internationally prominent countries such as the USA and European Union. Owing to its critical position the Asia and its abundance of natural resources, Pakistan can easily bind these countries to establish a collective security system (Danish, 2022).

Pakistan should engage with the US diplomatically and make sure that USA will not share information related to Pakistan with India, under the articles of the recent accord, BECA. If for a worst-case scenario, Pakistan fails to get the favour of the USA in the data-sharing program, it would be left a drastic impact on Pakistan's national security. Moreover, the Indian army will have the facility to obtain classified and non-classified real-time data about Pakistan. So, this access of India to Pakistan's secret military information will help her dominate in the region. Moreover, all the mobilization of arm forces in Pakistan will be at stake.

Pakistan should sign a comprehensive defence deal with China. As China is the second biggest military spending country, the close strategic relationships with her will eventually increase the importance of Pakistan in the region as well as the international level. Nevertheless, Pakistan is a very important strategic partner of China. The initiative of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) will be a game-changer for both countries. With a similar thread, there must be a comprehensive defence deal with China. This deal must include the exchange of intelligence information, use of each other's satellites, joint construction of modern defence equipment, and joint military, naval, and Air defence exercises (Janjua, 2020).

5.7. Upgradation of Space Technology

Pakistan must fast its space program. There are a host of factors in way of a modern, robust space program. Corruption, mismanagement, lack of resources, and bureaucratic hurdles are the main cause of the deterioration of the Space program. On the other hand, India has been successful in its space program. Moreover, the Modi administration is planning to send a highly complex mission to Mars. With the collaboration of Israel, India has been launching multiple satellites. By these space programs, India will not only be able to boost its international status but also dominate the tactics of 5th generation warfare in South Asia. Therefore, the policy-maker of Pakistan needs to pay particular attention to SUPARCO. Pakistan has to invest more in the space program. The construction of short-to-medium range ballistic missiles at the cost of a space project is not a sane decision. The investment in the space program will certainly help Pakistan in military and economic gains. Hence, it has now become obligatory for Pakistan to acknowledge and develop a robust space program.

Conclusion

Since 2014, after the ascendancy of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India, the world has seen a more aggressive strategic policy of India. Following the footprints of his predecessors, under the Modi administration, India has the world's 3rd biggest defense budget. The sole purpose of this extravagant spending on military equipment is to make deterrence on its immediate neighborhood in South Asia. It is a mighty 37% increase in the defense budget between 2010 and 2019. Ironically, Indian officials are vehemently exhibiting a misleading portrait to the international community. She issued that only 30% of its defense budget is allocated for the fresh procurement of military hardware, annually, and the remaining 70% for the maintenance of the already existing equipment. However, the situation is entirely otherwise; India allocates one of the world's highest defense expenditures on the procurement of new military equipment.

So because of the increase in military hardware in India, Pakistan will have to invest more of its budget on the procurement of defense budget to balance the equation of power in the region. It will certainly leave a negative impact on the already fragile economy of Pakistan. For instance, in 2019 when the Indian soldiers started airstrikes on Pakistani soil. It triggered across border skirmishes. There were speculations that there could have been a fifth war between Pakistan and India. However, Pakistan has to alert its troops on the Indo-Pak border. So, according to an estimation that Pakistan has to spend five billion rupees daily for the assistance of troops (Ali, 2016).

However, as there has always been a silver line after every dark cloud, Pakistan does have some policy options as a counter-measure to Indian belligerent strategic design. Pakistan has to develop a strong politico-military strategy and re-conciliate its concern with global politics as well as the regional geostrategic environment. Moreover, Pakistan must sign a deal with the USA on the same terms and conditions as agreed with India. On the other hand, a comprehensive defense deal with China is also an option for Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistan needs to robust its nuclear deterrence and space program, as it has become essential for the sovereign integrity of Pakistan.

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