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## **Convergence of Pak-US Relation during President Joe Biden Era**

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### **Abstract**

The convergence of PAK-US relations during President Joe Biden's era (2021–2024) highlighting key areas of mutual interest, cooperation, and diplomatic alignment. Despite ongoing challenges in regional stability and security, the Biden administration adopted a more balanced and engagement-oriented approach toward Pakistan compared to its predecessor. The convergence was evident in areas such as climate change collaboration, counterterrorism efforts, health and humanitarian assistance during COVID-19, and educational and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, the US recognized Pakistan's strategic importance in regional peace, especially in the context of the Afghanistan withdrawal and evolving Indo-Pacific dynamics. While challenges in trust and strategic goals remained, the Biden era showed signs of rebuilding ties and finding new areas of understanding between the two nations. Through official meetings, policy statements, and joint projects, this period reflects a cautious but positive shift in Pak-US relations offering hope for stronger cooperation in a complex global environment.

**Keywords:** Convergence, Cooperation, Alignment, stability, oriented, counterterrorism, strategic, joint projects.

### **Introduction**

The bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the United States has been long marked by periods of both cooperation and mistrust, shaped by shifting regional dynamics, global events, and changing leadership styles. During President Joe Biden's tenure from (2021-2024) a notable shift occurred as the US pursued a more balanced and engagement-driven approach toward Pakistan in contrast to the more transactional policies of the previous administration. The President Joe Biden recognized Pakistan's role in South Asia, specifically supporting the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan and sought to rebuild diplomatic ties through mutual cooperation. Areas of convergence included climate change, counterterrorism, public health, education, regional security, and humanitarian assistance. These shared interests opened the door for renewed dialogue and collaboration, despite lingering challenges such as trust deficits and concerns



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over Pakistan's ties with regional powers like China.

The aims of the study are to explore how both countries found common ground during Biden's presidency and how this convergence has impacted the overall trend of Pakistan-US relations in a complicated and changing global environment. Pakistan-US relations under President Joe Biden administration have navigated a complex landscape shaped by shifting geopolitical priorities. The Joe Biden administration is reportedly reevaluating the US approach to South Asia emphasizing strategic interests such as joint action against terrorism, economic development, and regional stability in South Asia. The relationship has also faced challenges, including focus over Pakistan's role in Afghanistan and its relationship with China. This period marks a nuanced phase in bilateral relations, balancing long-standing strategic partnerships with evolving policy priorities and regional pressures.

### Literature Review

"Disappointment and Indifference: Pakistan and the Joe Biden Presidency" written by Hathaway (2022) explains the Pakistan-US relations ups and down likened to a roller coaster ride. World have seen it as succession of two states which has interests for work together, punctuated by period but seemed to go in different directions. Islamabad and Washington have appeared to be friend and enemies simultaneously, Pakistan-US bilateral relations displayed the same as in earlier period of their seventy-five years' history. President Joe Biden expects a high level of cooperation from Pakistan which generates hopes that 'two countries could move beyond the boom and bust pattern of the past' Unfortunately, the 1<sup>st</sup> year of President Joe Biden Presidency where not fulfil the aspirations, where a new change entered into PAK-US relations and higher expectations seems to lose by attitude of new American administrations towards Pakistan (Hathaway, 2022). The writer has explained the disappointment and indifference of Pakistan under Joe Biden Presidency but did not mention the economic and Pakistan has faced security issues since Joe Biden's presidency and even Donald Trump's administration.

"Prospect for PAK-US relationship under President Biden" written by Shafaat Ullah Shah (2021) define that Pakistan is follower of pro-US policies as part of capitalist block. The bilateral relations of PAK-US have been fluctuate where rising competition between US-China could never be ignore. Pakistan is in condition where US and its strategic partner India are likely to plan to destabilize China and its impact in South Asian region. Pakistan participate with a vital playback in the Doha agreement accord 2020 settlement of US and Afghanistan. The PAK-US relations under the Joe Biden administrations are currently limited to economic and military assistance. even the anti-regional impact from Iran, China and Russia keep pushing the US for better bilateral relations and still reliance on Pakistan which has geopolitics importance. Both previous presidents, Donald Trump and Barack Obama had a negative perception about Pakistan but later relations have been adjusted due to Joe Biden presidential system bring up with new idea to collective action against counterterrorism said by (Ullah, 2021). In this report Prospect of PAK-US relationship under Biden the author defines that after the Barack Obama and Donald Trump Pakistan-US relation have been develop by needs of time from President Joe Biden administrations even Pakistan have been a partner with US on counterterrorism, therefore importance



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of Pakistan is still exist by super power view. The writer also explains the reduction of military aid and limited liabilities towards Pakistan having negative impact on bilateral Relations of US-PAK. Arthur did not explain a comparison analysis between Donald Trump and President Joe Biden which will be define in this research study.

“The future of Us-Pakistan Relations” by Hanlon (2023) The PAK-US relations has been facing geopolitical constraints since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The relationship has also grappled with Pakistan has governance financial, and safety issues. Despite the fact of these challenges, recently high-level diplomatic engagements and dialogues on trade, energy, education, and defense seen. The conference focused on realistically crafting Pakistan and United States relations amidst challenges, Speakers included Pakistani and US scholars, officials, investors, analysts, prominent and business leaders. Even Pakistan diaspora members aimed to goal the foster partnership through dialogue and diplomacy (Hanlon, 2023) . In this article the source has explain that Pakistan and United State relations situation since the US exit from Afghanistan and mention that the Pakistan is heading towards a better relationship approach by US. This report defines the financial and safety issue ties of Pakistan but the comparative analysis of two US administration did not mention which I will discuss in this research study.

“US-Pakistan relations Ebb After Afghanistan Withdrawal” written by Akmal Dawi (2022) explain that PAK-US relation turn cold after the USSR withdrawal from Afghanistan due to no need of Pakistan’s support for regional intelligence but after Withdrawal US again shows its national interest as fact of realism because needs of Withdrawal support under agreement of ‘The Doha Accord 2020’. The financial support and security paradigm appears as agenda of US for Pakistan sanction and grey area has been removed. Double game playing obligation and humanitarian aid been released towards Pakistan due to US policy for withdrawal and safety of troops in Afghanistan which became lens for Washington to see relations development with Islamabad. Pakistan is nuclear power state and having a domestic economic problem needs to maintain its balance- power against Indian for ideological and completion factors. US government accused Pakistani authorities for support of Terrorism activates and training inside and outside the boarder. The depending alliance relations of PAK-China could impact on US-PAK relations. (Dawi, 2022). The writer has explained that PAK-US relations turn into cold condition despite Pakistan has done many favor to US governments, where alliance with China and its bilateral relation could crack the Relations of PAK-US. The Arthur define well in this report with security perception but the Economic lens and comparative analysis did not mention which will be clarify in this research study.

### **Research Question**

How did the Biden administration contribute to the convergence of PAK-US relations from (2021-2024) and in which key areas did both countries find common ground for cooperation?

### **Research Methodology**

This study adopts a qualitative research methodology to examine the convergence of Pakistan and United States relations during President Joe Biden’s



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era (2021–2024). The research relies on secondary sources including official U.S. and Pakistani government statements, policy documents, speeches, press releases, scholarly articles, think tank reports, and news media coverage. A thematic analysis approach is used to identify key areas of convergence such as climate cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, humanitarian assistance, regional diplomacy, and educational exchanges. By analyzing the content and context of these sources, the study aims to understand the nature, depth, and scope of bilateral cooperation. Comparative evaluation is also used to highlight shifts in U.S. policy toward Pakistan compared to previous administrations. The study does not involve fieldwork or primary data collection but is rooted in analytical interpretation of credible and relevant published material to draw conclusions about the evolving nature of Pak-US ties under President Biden.

### **Convergence of Pak-US Relation Afghan Withdrawal**

Afghan Withdrawal during President Joe Biden administration started by 'The Doha Peace Conference' in February 2020 saw the contract of a historic negotiation agreement the US and Taliban with the Taliban's Secretary of State Zalmay Khalil Zad and political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani. The deal outlines that the Taliban will be fully withdrawn by the end of 2021. Both the Afghan Taliban and US officials have committed to engage in discussions by March 2020 to address issues related to insecurity and the release of Afghan prisoners. However, the US and Pakistan have differing military goals in the Indo-Pacific region (Muzaffar, 2021). Taliban leaders have assured that there will be no further target the US and their partners, and the Afghan government has reaffirmed its dedication to maintaining relations with the Taliban. However, tensions surfaced as the US and Taliban both stepped outside agreed protocols, leading to an attack on the Taliban and the involvement of allied forces that resulted in casualties among Afghan soldiers in Kabul. In a significant move, nearly 50 countries, including United State Secretary Mike Pompeo endorsed a historic settlement between the Taliban and the US.

Achieving peace in Afghanistan calls for enduring dialogues and gentle negotiations with the Afghan populace. Pakistan plays a mediator role in facilitating the Taliban's involvement in the safety talks and endorsing the US-Taliban agreement. However, Pakistan's efforts seem to be met with dissatisfaction from Afghanistan, and there are elements keen on undermining this process. The peace accord had backing from Ashraf Ghani and other key players, who held the belief that the Taliban would come on board. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, concerns about security and stability have driven nations to seek new pathways for establishing productive relations with both the Taliban and the government.

### **Counterterrorism Measures**

In 2021, the shift in US-Pakistan relations sparked heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. Many in Islamabad felt that the US was favoring New Delhi at their expense, leading to frustration over the "do more" strategy and the suspension of aid. Pakistan pushed back against what it saw as unrealistic expectations that overlooked its regional security concerns. The Intelligent partnership of INDO-US has had enduring effects, further intensifying the rivalry





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bilateral Pakistan and India. The President Joe Biden administration's stance on Pakistan has been heavily influenced by the United State left from Afghanistan, prompting a recognition of the changing terrorist landscape and a reevaluation of ties with Islamabad. The US has confirmation of Pakistan's role in South Asian regional development and safety and expressed an interest in bolstering economic and diplomatic relations.

As global dynamics shift, particularly with China's uprising impact and the US-China rivalry in the Indo-Pacific, these factors will undoubtedly shape US-Pakistan relations. Key decisions made by Pakistan especially in its dealings with China and Russia will perform a vital act in determining the upcoming time of the bilateral relationship. In this evolving landscape, it is important for the US and Pakistan to find the common interests in areas like Anti-terrorism, non-proliferate, and ensuring stability. The United States will use its relationship with Pakistan to accomplish larger regional aims, whereas Pakistan will want to preserve tactical independence while leveraging on its partnerships with numerous great powers. Their relationship is anticipated to be distinguished by both collaboration and competition (Adil, 2023). Pakistan's involvement in the Afghanistan conflict was critical to achieving America's objectives.

Pakistan remained a primary state with concerns and expanded spy collaboration and landing privileges but ending diplomatic backing for the al-Qaeda and Taliban. However, America was concerned that greater formalized collaboration might lead to trust and long-lasting partnerships between PAK-US. Sympathetic attitudes toward the Afghan Taliban originated in Pakistan. Pakistan military lacked the logistical capabilities to combat both the domestic and Afghan Taliban, resulting in a refugee catastrophe. Pakistan undertook a number of military actions, including Operation Zalzal, Sirat-e-Mustaqeem, Operation Sher Dil, Rah-e-Haq-III, Operation Sher Dil Battle for Bajaur, Operation Rah-e-Rast, Rah-e-Nijat, and Operation Koh-e-Sufaid. These operations were further consolidated once the Nationwide Administered tribal regions were brought into the mainstream with the implementation of a constitutional package. The FATA has been a safe haven for extremist activity, and the outcomes of these operations were further solidified with the implementation of a constitutional package (Akhtar, 2021). Pakistan can assist the United States in combating terrorism attempts particularly if terrorist organizations like al Qaeda or the Islamic State threaten both countries. However, US military forces are mostly concentrated in the Persian Gulf, creating it tough to expand counterterrorism actions in the Asia. Pakistan can assist the US compensate for the loss by giving overflight authorization or useful information about targets. The United States should also broaden its counter-terrorism collaboration with other regional allies. Any gains in US-Pakistan counterterrorism cooperation must be contingent on Pakistan meeting certain benchmarks signaling a finish to its favors for extremist and terror.

Pakistan should display its commitment to counterterrorism by leaving terrorist organizations like Lashkare-Toiba, keeping jailed leaders in jail, arresting top officials, and closing down the headquarter in Muridke, Pakistan (Ganguly, 2023). The US is reportedly pursuing strategic rapprochement with Pakistan to enhance joint counterterrorism capabilities. The United State Defense Department claims that the US F-16 special contract will help Pakistan maintain Coordination with the US and ally forces thereby enhancing Pakistan's



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support for US counterterrorism efforts Pakistan and the U.S. are focusing on strengthening their relationship in new world order, particularly the US exit from Afghanistan in 2021. While counterterrorism remains a major area of convergence, cooperation has shifted from a security-centric approach to other areas such as trade, non-traditional security issues, and human development.

This shift aligns with Pakistan's shift to geo-economics and comprehensive security approach. The PAK-US Counterterrorism Dialogue forum has been established, focusing on addressing regional and global security challenges, expanding Counter Terrorism collaboration, exchanging technical expertise, providing border security infrastructure, and training over three hundred police and frontline responders. Both countries have also ensured high-level exchanges on the military front. Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir met with key US Government and Military officials, discussing collaboration on counter-terrorism efforts and the enduring military-to-military partnership bilateral Pakistan and US security forces (Khan, 2024) . Both countries have participated in numerous military and naval exercises, including the fifth iteration of Exercise Falcon Talon, which focuses on tactical-level counterterrorism and expert exchanges, and Inspired Union 2024. Naval exercises, such as Inspired Union 2024, have also been regular between the two sides

### **Climate Change and Energy Cooperation**

Climate change is becoming a primary policy focus in Islamabad, which might lead to A change in aspirations in its ties with the United States. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Pakistan's Foreign Minister has visited Washington to advocate for the United States to lead the global climate response. Zardari encouraged Washington to make his nation "the pilot case" for implementing previous US climate promises, as well as to expand cooperation with the Pakistani government on food, nutrition, water, and long-term shelter aid in flood-affected areas. State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet recently echoed Zardari's views on broader climate cooperation, noting "profound crisis" (Hussain, 2022) of Pakistan's floods as a new opportunity for improved bilateral ties. Despite Pakistan's strong backing for the US-led war in Afghanistan the Biden administration's national security policy made no mention of Pakistan.

It is in both nations' best interests to acknowledge the potential for fruitful climate collaboration. The lack of substantial collaboration risks exacerbating anti-Americanism in Pakistan's opposition politics, worsening food and economic distress, and escalating anti-US sentiment in internal politics. Washington can successfully address Pakistan's post-flood reconstruction requirements by getting recognition from the G-20, G-7, UN, and IMF, pushing long-term debt relief and sustainable economic action. Experts and policymakers have shed light on how this important connection might evolve into a more meaningful and mutually beneficial climate agenda.

### **People to People and Education Exchange**

Modern diplomacy becomes aware that official conversations between governments are inadequate to sustain strong international relations. Social exchange activities may increase Theological and respect with Pakistan and the United States boosting mutual interactions while also facilitating professional



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growth and academic achievement. The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan is an organization that helps Pakistani students pursue higher education in the United States. These programs have made major contributions to tackling global concerns and furthering Pakistan's development agenda, resulting in the fulfillment of countless Pakistani students' academic and professional goals. An expert and social exchange events, such as the Global UGRAD, Fulbright Student Program, SUSI, IVLP, YES, and the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program are critical components that maintain and develop the Pakistan-US connection. Since 1951, the Fulbright program has awarded financial assistance to 4,100 Pakistani citizens to pursue academic studies, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to the resolution of International concerns involving equal interest. By the previous two decade 2,568 Pakistanis have received this coveted award (Sulaiman, 2023) . Pakistan might employ social convert programs in unusual line to strengthen people-to-people relations bilateral of two countries. Pakistan may build a deeper feeling of mutual understanding and respect by facilitating personal engagement and communication, resulting in increased collaboration and a long-term bilateral partnership.

### **Regional Stability**

The US and Pakistan cooperation have a long history relation with the former being the largest destination for Pakistani exports. The two countries are investing in their relationship, focusing on trade, health, energy, climate change and investment. Pakistan is ready to extend trade ties with the United State and absorb US investments in renewable digital platforms, industry, green technology, energy, and higher education. The economic partnership is the core element of PAK-US engagement, and the relationship is critical to ensuring the security of Pakistan and people around the globe. President Joe Biden emphasized the importance of the partnership in tackling global and regional challenges, highlighting common interests in investment , economic growth, trade, security the Pak-US (Yousaf, 2024) framework, and prosperity. The relationship between two nations remains essential for regional stability, protection, and the Pak-US cooperation on countering terrorist threats is appreciated.

### **US Continued Counterterrorism Focus**

Pakistan's contribute with US in the counterterrorism has been scrutinized since the September 11 attacks, with implications for diplomatic, military, economic, and domestic aspects. The withdrawal of United State soldiers left Afghanistan in 2021 has far-reaching regional ramifications, including international penetration, asylum seekers, and the possibility of unrest spilling over into Pakistan. Pakistan to maintained a compromise among keeping its west border with Afghanistan and resolving issues with India to the east, especially in the unresolved Kashmir region. In 2023 Pakistan experienced national security challenges including as conflicts with India, domestic issues of movements, and shifting in Afghanistan following the US removal. Despite criticism and allegations of double-dealing, Pakistan calibrated its commitment to international anti-terrorist operations against its strategic objectives.

The geopolitical scene will shift even more in 2024 as new security concerns



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emerge and old dangers become more severe. The success of Pakistan's anti-terrorist activities has been the subject of controversy and conjecture in the battle on extremist, as has the strength of its ties with the United States. Pakistan's collaboration with the US in battling extremism has had an important lasting influence on the country's international policy (Adeel, 2024). The country's foreign policy options will be impacted by its regional objectives, international objectives, and changing global conditions. Pakistan security and progress in the shifting global environment necessitate a careful balance between immediate security requirements and for a long time strategic goals.

Pakistan's primary accord with the US has elevated it to the front of worldwide anti-extremist efforts, with far-reaching repercussions for national and global security. Pakistan had a crucial role in destroying. Eliminating sanctuaries and fighting devoted belief systems are all examples of fear-based repressive groups. Its simple geography, easy lines, and deep sociopolitical landscape made it a hybrid of facing emotional assault and relentless desire. Pakistan's security forces have improved coordination with NATO force in Afghanistan (Munawar, 2024). Pakistan's anti-terror measures have yielded substantial gains as took the dismantling latest areas, developing relationships that promote physiological violence, and avoiding extend division assaults. Yet, Pakistan's commitment to worldwide efforts to combat psychological discrimination has been questioned because to its backing for hostile gatherings and claims of mediated combat. The government has advanced its involvement in global counter-terrorism activities, which necessitates ongoing collaboration with other nations, improved line safety initiatives. Pakistan can contribute significantly to maintaining security, peace, and stability at both the local and global levels by effectively participating in global counterterrorism operations.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the era of President Joe Biden marked a cautious but meaningful shift in Pakistan and US relations toward greater cooperation and understanding. Unlike the confrontational tone of the previous administration, Biden's foreign policy emphasized diplomacy, strategic engagement, and rebuilding alliances, which created space for improved dialogue with Pakistan. Key areas of convergence included joint efforts on climate change, public health, regional security, counterterrorism, and educational exchange programs. While certain challenges such as mistrust and geopolitical tensions especially Pakistan's ties with China continued to impact the relationship, both nations found common ground in addressing shared regional and global concerns. The Biden era thus represents a step forward in redefining PAK-US relations through mutual respect, issue based cooperation, and the pursuit of long-term stability in South Asia.

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