

## *Pak-Turkish Relationship*



## **Executive Summary**

This report aims to examine the relationship between Turkey and Pakistan. The report will evaluate the long standing diplomatic ties between both countries ranges from diplomatic ties to culture cooperation to military cooperation. The report will also examine the historical ties between both countries. The content of the report are related to the practical consideration based on important parameters and dimensions of the relationship between the two countries.

The findings of the report reveal the historical ties between both countries. The friendly and brotherly relations between the two Muslim majority states are rooted in history

Since Turkey has emerged as a regional power in the Middle East and is now among the top 20 economies of the world. In this scenario, there is a great possibility of future alliance in South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East for the establishment of Economic Union. The following recommendations have been made

- Pakistan and Turkey should pursue the policy of unity.
- There is a need of larger investment in the fields of infrastructure and industry in both the countries.
- Both countries need to move closer to each other and work for the establishment of Economic Union.

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## **Introduction**

### **Background**

Turkey and Pakistan are strategically and economically important because of their strange geography. Turkey has occupied a venerated place in the Islamic world. It has been the centre of Islamic world (The Caliphate) , an institution for which the Muslims all over the world had profound respect. The Muslims of the subcontinent, in particular, always extended their most respectful loyalties to Caliph of Turkey being their spiritual and religious leaders since they considered the caliph to be the symbol of unity. That was the major reason that the Muslims of the sub continent had launched the Caliphate Movement in 1919, when the British and her other European allies started hatching conspiracies to destroy the unity of Muslims during the First World War. Thus, the relationship between the people of Pakistan and Turkey is rooted in history.

### **Aims**

The basic aim of this report is to give historical analysis of Pakistan-Turkish relationship and the new developments in ties between both the countries. These ties have been further widened and deepened due to mutual cooperation in defense, economic and culture.

### **Scope**

The report evaluates the new dimensions of the relationship between both countries: the heavy investment of Turkish companies in Pakistan has strengthened the economic ties between both the countries. The report evaluates specific facts and figures about the new trends and future prospects of the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey.

### **Historical background**

History plays an important role in determining relations between two nation states. The relations between the two nation states are affected by conflicts and contradictions; it's often rooted in history which plays a significant role in shaping the relations. For example Britain and France can't forget their past in which they have been rival of each other and fought many wars. We have another living example of the relations between Pakistan and the state of India. Since in

international relations there exists no permanent enemy or friend but only permanent interest which could have either positive or negative impacts on relations between two states.

### **1.1 Pakistan and Turkey**

The relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey are based on two major factors religion and culture. These two are the factors which play a very significant and important role in determining and shaping relations between these two Muslim majority states. Islam has in the past played an important role in the relations between these two states and continues to play a significant part. The relations between Pakistan and Turkey are based on culture and religion. These factors played a major role in forming relations between these two states. After the disintegration of Ottoman Empire Turkey emerged as a secular independent state on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1923 and Mustafa Kamal became the first president of the Republic of Turkey. On the other hand Pakistan came into being on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 a result of a great movement launched by the Muslims of India.

## **Methodology**

In this report a qualitative based approach and method has been used to develop understanding about the given topic. Data for this study was collected using different sources such as websites, books, articles and Journals. This report is divided into several topics which provide efficient information about the given topic. Part one consists of two different topics which puts emphasis on the main theme of the topic. The materials and information has been collected from different sources. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part has two subheadings which emphasize further on the topic. Part three of the report discusses the broad dimensions of the given topic at different levels with conspicuous information.

## **4.0 Diplomatic Relations**

The Relations between the people of Turkey and Pakistan date back to the Ottoman empire, before the establishment of the nation states, more precisely during the Turkish War of Independence when the Muslims of the northwestern British Raj sent financial aid to the declining Ottoman Empire which was followed by the formation of the Turkish Republic. As a result, Pakistan and the people of Pakistan have enjoyed a positive perception in Turkey and among the citizens of Turkey for many decades. However, today the relationship between both the majority Muslim countries is at peak. Turkey established diplomatic relations soon after the independence of Pakistan in 1947 and bilateral relations were improved in terms of cultural, religious and economic links between the two countries. In a response to the speech of March 4 (1948) made by the first Turkish ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah the founder of Pakistan told said "Turkey has been in our thoughts constantly and has drawn our admiration for the valour of your people and the way in which your statesman and leaders have struggled and fought almost single handed in the midst of Europe for your freedom and sovereignty which have been happily maintained. I can, therefore, assure Your Excellency that the Muslims of Pakistan entertain sentiments of affection and esteem for your country, and now Turkey and Pakistan both as free, sovereign and independent countries, can strengthen their ties more and more for the good of both"

. The diplomatic relations further improved with the passage of time . Although, both countries have suffered politically and diplomatically several times from the military coups howsoever this did not affect the relations between them adversely. The relations further strengthened between both countries, since the Justice and Development party came to power in Turkey in 2002, Ex Prime Minister and the current President of Turkey Recep Tayyeb Erdogan visited Islamic Republic several times and signed several agreements in the defense, cultural and defense sectors.

### **4.1 Political ties**

The fast pace bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey can be traced back to the time of British India before Pakistan was born but the Pakistan Movement was well underway. Until 1924, the symbol of universal Islamic unity for the Indian Muslims was the Sultan of Turkey in his capacity as the Khalifa(Caliph) of Islam, and the fate of Turkey, therefore, stirred the emotions of Muslims in India. During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, religious services were held in the mosques in Calcutta and subscriptions were collected for the Turkish wounded. The Muslims of India sent a medical mission to Turkey during the Balkans War. Money was subscribed more readily for the Turkish cause than for any proposal for the betterment of the Indian Muslims. After the First World War, when the British and other war winner decided to

turnaround Ottoman Caliphate, the spiritual heaven of Muslims all over world then the Muslim of the subcontinent had expressed their renowned opposition to British Policy of dividing Ottoman Empire. A Khilafat movement was inaugurated in India by the Ali Brothers and Abul Kalam Azad, and two delegations, one led by Maulana Muhammad Ali and the other by the Agha Khan III, to plead on behalf of the Sultan to British Prime Minister, George Lloyd.

But the British and the other allies that emerged victorious were not willing to preserve the sanctity of Khilafa in Turkey. Finally, the Ottoman Empire was abolished in 1924, and then the foundation of The foundation of modern Turkey was laid down by the then General Mustafa Kamal Attaturk. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father and the first Governor General of Pakistan,. Quaid-e-Azam said:

*“The exploits of your leaders in many a historic field of battle; the progress of your revolution; are well known to the people of Pakistan”.*

The political ties began with the set up of diplomatic relations between both countries in 1947. Turkey accepted Pakistan as an independent sovereign state in the United Nations and supported politically to stabilize Pakistan. So, relations between Pakistan and Turkey were have been strong from the day one, the relations became even stronger when pacts of mutual interest were signed such as the Baghdad Pact, and the Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD), which then evolved into the current Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The Baghdad pact was signed in 1955. The Pact has enabled the both countries to come closer. The co-operation between member states aimed at maintaining security and improving defense capabilities. Furthermore, Pakistan, Turkey and Iran, already tied together through culture, religion, and geography, established an organization under the name of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in July 1964. RCD was a by-product of the growing disenchantment of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey with their ties with the Western countries. The organization did not survive for a long period and finally, in the 1980s it was renamed as Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The winds of the relationship had blown strongly hither and hither in 2002, when the Justice and development party came to power in Turkey. Then Prime Minister, Reccep Tayyeb Erdagon visited Islamabad in June 2003 and following that visit of Turkish Prime Minister Pakistan

further consolidated its political ties with Turkey. The visit was reciprocated by the then president of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf in 2004. According to the January 20, 2004 Agreement, Ankara and Islamabad would exchange 'experts and intelligence' on terrorism and pursue a joint strategy which reflects a new level of political alignment and a common determination regarding the fight against terror. Both Pakistan and Turkey have been faced with terrorist acts in the recent past specifically for playing important roles in the so-called war against terrorism and both have been endeavoring to improve their ties with the West. Today, the political ties between both countries are at apex because of close mutual collaboration and mutual understanding of the new dynamics of the global system. Both Pakistan and Turkey are playing a crucial role in countering Terrorism and are closely working with the other Muslim countries across the world to hunt terrorism and sectarianism. The collaboration between both countries is a good sign for the people of both countries, It is hoped that it will yield positive results.

## **4.2 Economic Ties**

Pakistan and Turkey are the emerging market economies and the relations between both have been transforming into economic partnership. For the past ten years, trade between Pakistan and Turkey has reached around \$10 billion. Several Turkish companies have invested in the private sector of Pakistan including Bayinder, Enka and Tekser, for various projects in the country. There is hope that in keeping with the global trends, economic interaction will assume centre-stage in relations between Pakistan and Turkey. Though, the current economic cooperation is not enough but the economic ties have seen impressive growth since huge investment has been made in infrastructure and trade. In June 2003, when President Rancep Tayeeb Erdagon visited Pakistan back in 2003, the entourage included 110 businessmen showed Turkey's desire to increase trade and boost economic ties with Pakistan. In his visit to Pakistan in 2010, around 18 MoUs were signed by both countries. So far, Turkish companies have invested around \$ 2.7 billion, in Pakistan. Moreover, the Republic of Turkey is an emerging economic leader in Asia, Europe and Africa. It is the 16th largest economy of the world. It is a successful model of democracy in the entire Islamic World. Turkey has set an excellent example before all the emerging economies to liberalize their economies without compromising their traditions. So, in terms of economy there is a greater chance of multilateral cooperation between both countries.

### **4.3 Defense ties**

Besides, economic and political ties both countries are collaborating in the field of defense on a larger scale. Now, Turkey and Pakistan has established a sustained “strategic partnership”. It would provide win-win situation for both the countries. Prior to this, the High-Level Military Dialogue (HLMDG) was the forum for defense co-operation between Pakistan and Turkey. The HLMDG was set up in June 2003, when after coming into power Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan visited Pakistan. Earlier, the Pakistan-Turkey Military Consultative Group (MCG) formed in 1988 worked on extending cooperation and exchange experiences in the fields of military training and defense production between the two countries and to review geo-political environment of the region. Historically, Pakistan and Turkey have maintained long-standing military linkups with Turkey also providing training to Pakistani air force officers in upgrading its F-16 fleet. On 2 April 1954, Pakistan and Turkey signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation. Both countries, valued as controversial states in their regions, joined the U.S.-led Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) aimed to bolster military and strategic cooperation and counter the spread of communism and Soviet influence in the region. Defense relations have encouraged cooperation in defense and training including developing joint defense industrial projects, as well as providing training for each other’s armed forces personnel. Since then, defense industrial complex is developing in both countries especially process of military up gradation has become more efficient. Besides, the Pakistan ordinance production facilities have won contracts from the Turkish Armed Forces. The Military cooperation has been extended to intelligence sharing between both countries on countering terrorism and most recently the cooperation has further strengthened in light of severe threat from the rise of ISIS in Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia.

### **4.4 Culture ties**

The Agreement for Cultural Cooperation signed in 1953 was followed up through cultural Exchange curricula. The curricula for cultural exchanges were expired in December 2006. A number of Pakistani students had availed the scholarship during that period but the ratio of Turkish students coming to Pakistan was very low but in the recent year, there has been a wide range of student exchange between Turkey and Pakistan. Besides, the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, and Centre for Strategic Research (CSR), Ankara, had signed a landmark

agreement in this regard in May 2003, which was and is a building block for establishing other institutional linkages between both countries. Prior to this, the Turkish embassy in Pakistan is playing a crucial role in bridging culture heritage between both countries. In the recent years, the Turkish Embassy in Islamabad has intensified visits of Turkish cultural troupes to Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan's embassy in Ankara is also playing a significant role in the promotion culture and heritage. Thus, with latter struggle the relationship between both countries has now become multi-dimensional and the future prospects of this multi-dimensional cooperation seem very bright and consistent.

A cultural week titled "Jeevay Jeevay" Pakistan was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 by the embassy of Pakistan in Ankara on a large scale for the first time in the history of Pak-Turk relations. The cultural show had different activities including Qawali performance, fashion show and food stalls were set up. The cultural activities were sponsored and supported by various Turkish media groups and companies.

President Erdogan during his two-day visits to Pakistan in 2013 announced the establishment of a Turkish cultural centre in Lahore. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on this occasion vowed to further strengthen the bilateral, trade, cultural relations.

## **5.0 Pakistan, Turkey and the Muslim world**

Pakistan and Turkey are the important Muslim states. Pakistan enjoys the status of the only Muslim state that possesses nuclear weapon and has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest fleet in the entire World. Whereas ,Turkey besides having a strong Army is also among the top 20 world economic giants and is an emerging regional power in the Middle East. Moreover, with this position on the global stage both the states posses the power and capability contribute and to unite the Muslim countries in order to address their problems since at the moment both are leading countries in the Muslim World. Both countries can work together in the elimination of civil strife between Muslim factions, sectarianism across the Muslim world. In addition, Pakistan and Turkey have a strong political relationship established through their common faith, shared history and cultural bond. However, this political relationship of an exceptional nature can ensure full-fledged cooperation among the other Muslim countries. Pakistan and Turkey work closely in the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. Both countries support each other on issues like Kashmir and Cyprus and have similar perspectives on regional and international

issues. Likewise, with this enthusiasm they can contribute in the resolution other disputes and conflicts across the Muslim World.

## **5.1 OIC**

Pakistan continues to enjoy a privileged status in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC, formerly the Organization of the Islamic Conference). In terms of population, it is the OIC's second largest member. Similarly, Turkey is a strong member in the OIC and playing a crucial role in the discussion session and is a strong voice for the Palestinian right of self determination. Till now Turkey has attended six summits and Islamic conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) was held in Istanbul in 1976. Turkey also hosted the 20, ICFM in Istanbul on 3-8 August 1991. The year 1976 was a turning point for Turkish participation in the activities of the Organization. At this Conference, upon the proposal of Turkey, the resolution on the establishment of two centers namely "The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture" and "The Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre" in Istanbul and Ankara respectively was adopted. Turkey still hosts these two Centers. Prior to this, it is the only Platform through which both Pakistan and Turkey can ensure their Position regarding burning issues and conflicts across the Muslim world.

## **6.0 Areas of cooperation**

The friendship between Pakistan and Turkey needs no introduction. The two countries have remained tied with each other culturally for centuries. The relationship between Turkey and Pakistan is now on the frontline because of their wide range collaboration on defense, culture and economic areas. During the past few years, Turkey has helped Pakistan build mega projects like Metro Bus System of Punjab, roads, hospitals and has also helped Pakistan train its human resource in various fields. Besides, Energy, natural resource mining and training of Pakistani workforce has also been a major avenue that the two countries have explored. Economic ties are getting stronger as the private enterprises are also bringing in more investment from the friendly country while the cultural ties are being enhanced through cooperation in multimedia. The areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey can be understood by focusing on the following areas. On Contrary Pakistan is playing the role of front line on the war against terror while Turkey is a NATO member and is playing a crucial role in countering terrorism. As an

illustration, the areas of cooperation between both countries are very much extended and lay at large plane line and with this paradigm further consolidation of the relationship between both countries is very much vivid.

### **6.1 Role for regional and global peace**

Both Turkey and Pakistan had played a great role in the maintenance of both regional and global peace. For instance, when the tragic event of 9/11 occurred in New York, both countries have anonymously condemned the attacks on American soil. Moreover, Turkey and Pakistan are two Muslim countries marred by terrorism related violence and are both striving for good relations with the West. There seems to be commonality of interest and objective to fight terrorism and establish better relations with the West. Both countries have collaborated militarily and through intelligence sharing with the pentagon and the CIA. Specifically, both countries have contributed on a large scale in maintaining Global and Regional peace. The Pak-Turkish relations as well as Pakistan's relations with the rest of the Muslim world had been taken for granted. Pakistan realizes the need to maintain close ties with Turkey given that both sides have a similarity of vision for the Muslim world, and can also bring the West and the Muslim world together.

### **7.0 Turkey as emerging regional power**

Turkey has been presented as a role model, especially during the Arab uprisings, for the Middle East with its democratic system together with Muslim population. Moreover, in the 2000s Turkey with its increasing trade relations, economic diversity and dynamism, stability due to one party government and evolution of its foreign policy into a more soft power rather than a hard power became more of a regional power, its role as a stabilizing actor with a diplomatic leadership pushing for more multilateral cooperation and showing economic, military, political and cultural superiority is questionable. Besides, one needs to accept that when regions have intensified relations with great powers, it is more difficult for the regional power aspirer to be effective i.e. Middle East. Today, Turkey ranks among the top 16 economic giants and is an outspoken voice in the Middle East for the regional peace and for the Palestinian right of self determination. According to theory, in order to be a regional power a country needs to be a leader meaning having political influence in diplomatic forums, having responsibility for

regional security, maintaining order in the region, stabilizing or at least peacemaking in its region. Thus, a regional power should be interconnected to the region, influence political – ideational construction of the region, influence regional governance structures, define a common regional identity, provide a collective good for the region, define the regional security agenda, be integrated in interregional and global forums, be in a leading position recognized by others. According to the latter theory, Turkey fulfils all the conditions to be a regional power rather global as whole.

### **7.1 Pakistan and Turkey's role in making peace in the Middle East**

All in all, one can say that economic rise, stability in politics, increasing soft power, stabilizing role in the region, increasing cooperation at a multilateral level both at the regional and global levels, and diplomatic leadership can be elements of regional power definition.. There have been debates on Turkey's role as a model in especially the Middle East, increasing multilateral efforts both in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean regions and both political and academic debates on Turkey's increasing regional and even global power. Especially it has been argued that Turkey's Arab neighbors were not keen on building ties with Turkey since it was a friend of Israel and an ally of the USA, the election victory of the AKP in 2002 and the Turkish parliamentarians' decision to block access to US forces destined for Iraq in 2003 dramatically changed perceptions about Turkey. Besides, Turkey has always been the ambassador of peace making in the Middle East and signing peace truce with Kurdistan workers Party (PKK) shows a good faith for keeping peace across and beyond its borders.

### **8.0 Future prospects of the relationship**

The first and foremost challenge before the leaders of Pakistan and Turkey now is how to prevent the negative trends in relationship between the two countries - trends caused by a growing discrepancy of mutual perceptions and interests particularly over Cyprus and Kashmir. As for co-operation in mutually beneficial areas such as trade, business, investment and defense production, a wide array of agreed frameworks and institutional arrangements - including the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) and Defense Consultative Group (DCG) are available for the purpose. What is needed is a sustained effort, supported by the necessary political will, to

make the best use of the measures and processes en vogue. Once this happens, the existing areas of discrepancy may gradually converge due to the emergence of a commonality of interests built essentially around co-operative pursuits, particularly in the economic field. In this regard, the future prospects of the relationship between both countries seem more prosperous and multi-dimensional.

## **Conclusion**

Although the facts and figures about the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey have its limitations, the information and analysis are educational. The facts and figures about the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey are concrete and accurate for the reader's information. The information provided in the report is complete and authentic. The content of the report is global research base; however the contents are multi-dimensional with wide range of information.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, several recommendations can be made:

- The transportation facilities between Turkey and Pakistan are inadequate and there is a need to set up a joint cargo line/regular charter vessel services between Karachi and Istanbul.
- There is also a need to provide a permanent display centre of Pakistani products in Istanbul and to organize Single Country Exhibition by Pakistan in Istanbul and vice versa.
- Improved military ties that encompass not only training of servicemen but also conducting joint military exercises as well as joint production of weapons can improve bilateral defense ties.

- Possibility of employment opportunities for Pakistani professionals and technical manpower such as doctors, architects and software developers.
- Establishing institutional linkages whether it is political, economic or cultural.

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