



Pakistan and the 2.0 Taliban (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) Regime New Scene

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Abstract:

This study explores the impact and repercussions of Pakistan's long-term support of the Taliban on Afghanistan's foreign relations and politics, focusing on the impact on Afghanistan's relations with its neighbors. This study investigates Pakistan's influence on the Afghan Taliban's second rule and Pakistan's authority over Afghanistan's foreign policy. This research, which employs qualitative analysis via a literature review, case studies, and interviews, demonstrates that Pakistan's influence on the Taliban's foreign policy decisions is diminishing and that Pakistan has not received what it anticipated from the Taliban. In favor of a more autonomous posture is the Taliban's desire for international recognition, shifting regional dynamics, and their governance objectives. The findings have significant ramifications for comprehending the dynamics of state sponsors and non-state actors, as well as the complexities of Afghan relations since the Taliban's return to power. The researcher emphasizes ethical issues during research to ensure honesty, impartiality, and respect for all parties involved.

Keywords: Taliban, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Relations, Foreign Policy

1. Introduction

Pakistan's long-standing backing for the Taliban had a considerable influence on shaping Afghanistan's political situation. During the 1990s, when Pakistan was one of the few nations to acknowledge the Taliban's early authority in Afghanistan, its ties with the Taliban stayed complicated and diverse. During the Taliban's reign, Pakistan offered military and financial backing, allowing them to seize control of a large portion of Afghanistan.

The triangular relationship between Pakistan and the Taliban raises serious concerns about the influence of Pakistan in the leadership of the Taliban. Pakistan's primary goal in Afghanistan is to develop a friendly and cooperative administration that is compatible with the country's long-term interests in the region. Pakistan intended to defend its security interests, prevent the emergence of anti-Pakistani groups inside Afghanistan, and maintain control of the Taliban.

However, with the Taliban's recent revival and takeover of power for a second term in 2021, the dynamics of Pakistan's impact on the Taliban's foreign policy decisions have been put into doubt, as has its total control over the Taliban. It seems to have vanished. The Taliban's contacts with other nations, particularly regional powers like China, Iran, and India, demonstrate that their international relations have stretched beyond Pakistan. This reflects a shift in the Taliban's policy, which now plays a more autonomous role in shaping foreign affairs. These neighboring nations' ties with the Taliban's second rule are based on common interests, and countries deemed close to Pakistan have no good or negative connections with the Taliban.

The goal of this research is to look at how Pakistan's long-standing backing for the Taliban affects Afghanistan's ties with other countries. The goal is to look at Pakistan's role in the second Taliban government as well as the effect of Afghanistan's foreign policy. This study tries to give insight into the changing connection between Pakistan, the Taliban, and Afghanistan's international position using qualitative research methodologies such as literature analysis, case studies, and interviews with experts and journalists.

This study's findings have significant implications for understanding the dynamics of state sponsorship of non-state actors and their influence on foreign policy. The Taliban's return, also adds to a better understanding of the regional geopolitical environment and the complexities of Afghanistan's interactions with other nations. By addressing ethical considerations throughout the research process, this study guarantees a fair and impartial analysis of the complicated interaction between Pakistan, the Taliban, and Afghanistan's foreign ties.

Research Question:

What impact has Pakistan's long-standing support for the Taliban had on relations between Afghanistan and other countries?

1.1 Problem Statement:

The situation at hand is gaining a better understanding of the effect of Pakistan's long-term assistance to the Taliban on Afghanistan's foreign relations, with a special focus on the impact on Afghanistan's ties with its neighboring countries. The history of Pakistan's backing for the Taliban raises questions regarding the extent of its control over the Taliban leadership. Pakistan has had close ties with the Taliban since 1990, as it was one of those three countries that recognized the first Taliban rule. After a 20-year battle with the erstwhile Islamic Republic of

Afghanistan, Afghanistan saw a dramatic political shift in 2021, with the Taliban assuming power for the second time. What is critical today is to understand Pakistan's influence on the Taliban second regime and its effect on Afghanistan's foreign policy. This research intends to explore the interaction among Pakistan, the Taliban, as well as other countries participating in Afghanistan's political landscape by assessing the extent and nature that Pakistan's influence, in addition to the ensuing effect on Afghanistan's relationship with the world specially with its neighbors' countries.

1.2 The Empirical or Theoretical Puzzle:

The theoretical conundrum derives from the pairing of Pakistan's long-standing support for the Taliban, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan for a second time (2021), and the influence on Afghanistan's relations with other countries. On the one hand, Pakistan's backing of the Taliban implies that the country has tremendous influence on the Taliban leadership. This begs the issue of how Pakistan wields its power and to what extent it suggests Afghanistan's foreign policy. Afghanistan's connections with other countries and international players, on the other hand, are critical to its security, stability, and economic progress. The problem is figuring out how Pakistan's support for the Taliban impacts Afghanistan's relations with other countries, notably regional powers like India, Iran, and China. Exploring this empirical riddle will reveal insights into the complex mentioned dynamics, and Afghan foreign relations, providing to a broad understanding of the region's geopolitical environment.

1.3 Research Significant:

In the year (2021), there was a political change in Afghanistan, and the Taliban came to power for the second time. It is claimed that the Taliban fought with the former Islamic Republic of Afghanistan under the direction of Pakistan for 20 years, and finally, the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan as a result of the continuous cooperation of Pakistan and the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban in Doha.

So, it is crucial to investigate the impact of Pakistan's backing of the Taliban on Afghanistan's relationships with other countries to understand the regional and global ramifications. Afghan relationships with other countries and international players are essential to the country's security, stability, and economic growth.

Furthermore, the study may assist academic scholars, researchers, and experts in international affairs, geopolitics, or security studies to better understand state-sponsored effects on non-state actors and their impact on foreign policy.

This analysis will show how simple or difficult it is for Pakistan to maintain its strategic interests from the Taliban, despite the allegation that the Taliban is a product of Pakistan. However, it is assumed that this product (the Taliban's second administration) was not beneficial to Pakistan.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Historical Background:

Since the 1990s, when Pakistan was one of the few (three) countries to recognize the Taliban's first regime in Afghanistan, there has been a long-standing relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan. Pakistan gave the Taliban military and financial support when they were in power, which was essential for helping them seize control of the majority of Afghanistan (Holland, K. M. 2021).

As a result of its prior backing for the Taliban, Pakistan seems to have had certain expectations and intentions in shaping the Afghan Taliban's foreign policy. Pakistan's principal goal has been to establish a friendly and cooperative administration in Afghanistan that would support its long-term goals in the area. Pakistan has attempted to retain influence on the Taliban to protect its security interests, such as avoiding the development of anti-Pakistan factions in Afghanistan. (Media reports).

While Pakistan has had influence on the Taliban in the past, its power looks to be restricted under the current Taliban regime. In its foreign policy choices, the Taliban has taken a more autonomous position, implying that it is less dependent on Pakistan's leadership. The Taliban's interaction with other nations, including China, Russia, & Iran, suggests that its international connections are expanding beyond Pakistan. (2021, Asia Times).

As a result, Pakistan's decreasing influence on the Afghan Taliban's foreign policy efforts is due to several factors and Pakistan reaps its harvest with the worst yield.

To begin with, the Taliban's ambition for worldwide recognition & legitimacy has driven them to interact with a wider variety of nations and pursue autonomous foreign policy stances. This tendency lowers their reliance on Pakistan and lets them seek partnerships that are in their best interests.

Second, the shifting geopolitical situation has also contributed to Pakistan's decline in influence. With the departure of NATO troops from Afghanistan & the advent of new regional dynamics, the Taliban has gained access to other parties, decreasing Pakistan's monopoly position.

Lastly, the Taliban's own growth and governance goals have most likely led them to an approach that is more realistic, seeking cooperation with diverse parties for economic help, rebuilding, and regional stability. This variety of relationships weakens Pakistan's influence over Taliban decision-making.

2.2 Pakistan's Strategic Interests in Afghanistan:

Pakistan's strategic interests in Afghanistan go beyond the country's significant economic gains. These interests include the need to prevent India from using Afghanistan as a base of operations in the area (Ahmed, Z. S., & Bhatnagar, 2007). The possibility of instability along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan and the possibility of terrorist strikes by organizations like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan TTP also cause Pakistan anxiety (Burki, K. Z. 2010). As a result, Pakistan views the Taliban as a crucial ally in maintaining security and stability in Afghanistan.

2.3 Pakistan's Relationship with the Taliban:

The connection between Pakistan and the Taliban is intricate and multidimensional. Long-standing claims that Pakistan is home to the Taliban and other terrorist organizations are refuted by Pakistan. Pakistan has shown interest in seeing an Afghanistan that is secure and peaceful, but

it has always seen the Taliban as a key partner in achieving these goals, and as a result, has been ready to retain close ties with the Taliban (Rubin, M. 2002).

In my conclusion, the rational choice theory also contends that relationships between nations are based on their interests, and Pakistan perceives the Taliban as serving Pakistan's best interests. For this reason, Pakistan has consistently worked to maintain control over the Taliban by forging close ties with them in the past.

Furthermore, based on my knowledge and readings, the general perceptions Afghans have of Pakistan's friendship (Pakistan's connection with the Taliban) have not been exposed, even though the majority of publications on the issue are accurate in their own right.

Afghan academics and political analysts are certain that Pakistan's ties to the Taliban, as previously noted, indicate that Pakistan will never desire a stable Afghanistan.

Another unexpected opinion held by Afghan specialists and political analysts is that Pakistan was founded as a result of Afghanistan's instability, which requires more investigation.

3. Research Hypothesis

The effects of Pakistan's lengthy relationship with the Taliban look weakened under the second Taliban rule. Pakistan's intervention in the Taliban's foreign policy is not at the level that Pakistan had hoped for.

And, accordance with the National Role Conception theory, the Taliban's attitude seems that they interact with neighboring and other countries based on their mutual interests.

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Research Design:

A qualitative research technique would be suited to explore the impacts of Pakistan's long relationship with the Taliban during the second Taliban administration and its influence on Afghanistan's interactions with other nations. Qualitative research enables an in-depth examination of complex social events, revealing special insights regarding the experiences, views, and relationships of the people involved. It allows the researcher to comprehend the underlying motives, attitudes, and contextual elements that determine Pakistan's interactions with the Taliban and other nations.

4.2 Data Collection Methods:

Literature, case studies, & semi-structured interviews with experts and journalists for their insights and views are held, however, it was really hard to find experts or journalists regarding this complex phenomenon, because everyone is not getting ready to talk about Taliban and Pakistan's long-standing relations and its influence. These interviews give personal experiences and insights regarding the complexities of Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban, as well as the implications of that relationship on Afghanistan's international standing.

4.3 Data Analysis Techniques: Qualitative Analysis

The data gathered from the literature; case studies, & interviews were examined qualitatively. This entails methodically evaluating the data to uncover themes, patterns, and linkages, as well as to derive useful inferences and conclusions. The study intends to give a comprehensive

understanding of the variables affecting Pakistan's commitment to maintaining strong ties with the Taliban, but seems that Pakistan's influence on the Taliban's second regime is getting weak.

4.4 Ethical Considerations

The research has taken ethical considerations into account at every stage. To ensure their informed consent and anonymity, participants will be questioned throughout interviews and surveys. The research will adhere to ethical standards for collecting, preserving, and disseminating data. It will also be practiced to properly acknowledge and cite sources to protect intellectual property rights and prevent plagiarism.

5. Finding and Discussion

5.1 Taliban first and second regimes in brief:

The Taliban became a significant force in Afghanistan in the 1990s over years of civil conflict and political unrest. In September 1996, they successfully took control of Kabul, the nation's capital, and set up their first government. Several reasons, including military strength, the ability to capitalize on ethnic tensions, and assurances of security and stability, led to the Taliban's quick capture of Kabul.

Under Taliban rule, Afghanistan underwent a significant shift. The government implemented laws that severely curtailed individuals' rights while marginalizing certain racial and religious groups, using a rigorous interpretation of Islamic law. International criticism of Taliban acts, such as the limitation of rights for women and the destruction of cultural treasures, led to worries about human rights breaches.

At the Taliban's first rule, Pakistan had been one of the few nations to acknowledge and assist the newly established government. Assistance might take the shape of diplomatic recognition, military backing, financial help, or information sharing. A combination of reasons, including historical links, geographic dynamics, and strategic goals, led Pakistan to support the Taliban.

Since the Soviet-Afghan War of the 1980s, Pakistan has had relationships with certain Taliban terrorists. The Afghan Mujahideen were supported by Pakistan, the United States, and other nations; many of these individuals later rose to prominence under the Taliban. As a consequence of their prior connections, Pakistan and the Taliban have developed a certain level of trust and understanding.

Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban during their first administration was impacted by a number of variables. Security issues and Pakistan's strategic goals were important factors. Pakistan worked to preserve security and control along its western border because it considered Afghanistan to be an essential neighbor. By creating the Taliban, Pakistan was able to influence the Afghan government while also creating a secure atmosphere.

In Afghanistan, Pakistan likewise made an effort to limit Indian influence. India and Pakistan have always been rivals, and the closeness of Afghanistan to Pakistan gives their rivalry a strategic twist. Controlling Afghanistan was considered a way for the Taliban to prevent the establishment of a government sympathetic to India along Pakistan's western border and to ensure a more favorable regional power balance.

Ideological factors were also at work. In certain parts of Pakistan, the Taliban's stringent interpretation of Islam struck a chord because it was perceived as congruent with the nation's

distinctive religious heritage. Pakistan's initial support for the Taliban regime was impacted by this ideological connection.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan's unique relationship with the Taliban during their inaugural rule was difficult and influenced by a variety of factors. While Pakistan initially supported the Taliban, over time the nature of the relationship altered, and Pakistan's position toward the Taliban was revised in response to shifting regional dynamics and external forces.

5.2 Taliban 2.0 Regime (2021-Progress):

The Taliban soon stormed Kabul and reclaimed control of Afghanistan in August 2021.

The relationship between Pakistan & the Taliban throughout their second rule has sparked interest and debate. Islamabad had close ties with the Taliban, providing various sorts of support including refugee camps, resources, and intelligence. This support is alleged to have helped the Taliban restore power and given Pakistan influence and leverage in shaping Afghanistan's political climate.

The source material often emphasizes the differences between Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban and the previous Afghan government headed by Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. While Ghani's government wished to enhance relations with regional countries, particularly Pakistan, it experienced problems in creating trust and achieving effective cooperation. Pakistan's connections with the Taliban, on the other hand, seemed to be proactive and consistent with their strategic objectives.

After the Taliban took power, it seemed that Pakistan anticipated them to be entirely under the authority of Islamabad (Pakistan), but the game shifted and expectations were not completely met.

Pakistan saw a stable and cooperative Afghanistan as critical to its security. The Taliban's control in Afghanistan was seen as a means of creating a more predictable and friendly government on Pakistan's western border, so reducing the likelihood of cross-border conflict and improving regional peace (Khan, A. 2017).

Since the Taliban seized control in Pakistan in 2021, the country's security situation has been worse than it was before, and there have been bombings and fatal assaults on security facilities. It seems like Pakistan is now caught in its trap.

“For decades, Pakistan pursued a policy of supporting the Afghan Taliban while cracking down on the Pakistani Taliban, the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP). With the Taliban in power in Afghanistan, Islamabad may have won its “long game”. But its game of chicken may be backfiring with jihadists coming home to roost” (France 24, 2022).

5.3 Pakistan reaps its harvest with the worst yield

The Consequences of Pakistan's Long-standing Backing for the Taliban on Afghanistan's Foreign Politics does not seem as it was expected.

For the past two decades, the majority opinion in Pakistan was that a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan would be beneficial to Pakistan's security. Islamabad has long backed the Taliban, believing that the insurgents might help deny India, which most Pakistani officials observe as an essential danger, any influence in Afghanistan. But, since regaining control last August, the Taliban have shown how wrong the popular opinion was. After the Taliban's successful march into Kabul, Pakistan has become less secure, not safer (Husain Haqqani, Foreign Affairs, May 23, 2022).

The Taliban's long-running insurgency and swift conquest of Afghanistan are closely tied to Pakistan. Pakistan recruited extremist forces in Afghanistan for the greater part of a half-century as part of their regional quest for "strategic depth." The Taliban groups maintained strong logistical and tactical linkages with Pakistani agencies, and many of their members came from a variety of ethnic & tribal alliances that covered both sides of the mountainous border. These same networks most likely allowed al-Qaeda terrorist founder Osama bin Laden to seek refuge in a lush property near Pakistan's premier military college until he was assassinated by US Navy Seals in a raid a decade ago (Ishaan Tharoor, The Washington Post, 2021).

So, as a result, the takeover in 2021 of the Taliban in Afghanistan, which is directly linked to Pakistan, has not increased Pakistan's security as expected. Instead, it has exacerbated insecurity and heightened concerns about Pakistan's involvement in backing terrorist organizations. The long-standing links between Pakistani intelligence services and the Taliban have unintentionally aided the conflict and enabled terrorists to hide. The ramifications of this assistance go beyond Pakistan's borders, hurting ties with neighboring nations and creating worries about regional security.

5.4 Relations of the Current Taliban Regime with Neighboring Countries:

The Taliban's fast return to power in Afghanistan following over twenty years has sent shockwaves across the area, leaving neighboring countries wrestling with the need to adjust to a swiftly shifting geopolitical environment. As the US withdrew its soldiers left Afghanistan, the Taliban seized the chance and advanced quickly on the battlefield, ultimately gaining control of key towns including the capital, Kabul. This unexpected change of events has alarmed Afghanistan's neighbors, who are concerned about the possible ramifications, which include instability in politics, refugee influxes, and even the rebirth of terrorism.

As surrounding nations observe the Taliban's comeback and takeover, they must rethink their plans and programs to manage the changing scenario. The Taliban's unexpected and sudden return to power threw the area into geopolitical turmoil, with neighbors rushing to figure out how to deal with the advent of new Taliban authority.

In this setting, surrounding nations are wrestling with the necessity to adapt their diplomatic, security, & humanitarian measures in response to Afghanistan's shifting dynamics. Concern about political instability & its possible influence on regional security has encouraged these countries to reconsider their strategy and look for ways to collaborate. The advent of a Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan has sparked serious concerns about the region's security and the possible spillover consequences on neighboring nations (Saheli Roy Choudhury, CNBC World Politics, 202).

5.5 Mutual Interests Dependency Between Pakistan and Taliban:

Pakistan aims to influence the Taliban in Afghanistan in a manner that will be advantageous to Pakistan. However, according to participant opinions and news reports, a good and strong relationship will end if any side feels the ending of their interests, especially Pakistan.

"It is obvious that Pakistan continues to openly interfere in both the internal and foreign affairs of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan. Taliban are in the fever of Pakistan because they are educated in religious (Islamic Madrassas) and lived in Pakistan, and Pakistan has aided them in several circumstances in the past. But it is very

important to know that these relations and a sweet friendship depend to a mutual benefit. The world will see that if they became meaningless to each other on that day all care will get a quick end” (P2, 2023).

Therefore, the Taliban is a subordinate group of Pakistan, although now it appears that some members of the Taliban do not want to care about Pakistan. But when a group (Taliban) is subject to a country and this group is in power in the desired country, it can easily gain its benefits.

When the Taliban seized power for the second time in August 2021 and the former Islamic Republic of Afghanistan collapsed, terrorist attacks in Pakistan increased accordingly. In addition to this, there were reports of bilateral clashes between the Taliban and Pakistani border forces on the Durand Line. (Cordesman, A. H. (2021).

“In my opinion, after the Taliban came to power for the second time in Afghanistan, it was thought that Pakistan’s hand would be very clear in their governance and it would do whatever Pakistan wanted, but now looking at their relations The current Taliban government does not agree with what Pakistan expected from the Taliban government. However, this does not mean that the Taliban have completely released by Pakistan’s control, but it seems that Pakistan’s control over the Taliban has decreased or the form of control may have changed” (P7, 2023)

But, in some cases, there are still Taliban members loyal to Pakistan who are in power in Afghanistan, still Pakistan has not achieved what they (Pakistan) expected so far from the Taliban in Afghanistan (P7, 2023).

“Similarly, it is right that Pakistan and the Taliban have close connections, but it is incorrect to claim that Pakistan established the Taliban and that it is Pakistan’s agent in Afghanistan. The Taliban are Afghan citizens with their independent government, yet it is a known truth that they have close ties to Pakistan due to several causes and agreements” (P4, Zaheen. 2023).

5.6 Pakistan's interference level in Afghanistan's affairs during Taliban 2nd rule:

The claim that Pakistan can interfere in Afghanistan's internal and external affairs and establish a government of its choice (Taliban government) is complex and contradictory. It is important to consider this issue and consider some factors that have changed the dynamic between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“Pakistan wants to have some kind of permanent influence and control over the Taliban for considering strategic considerations. Pakistan has repeatedly expressed its security concerns as the main reason for its intervention in Afghanistan. A good example of this is that Pakistan has officially requested Afghanistan to carry out military operations in some areas of Afghanistan to target and destroy its enemies, but during the former government of The Afghanistan it was unacceptable and challenging for Pakistan, but meanwhile Pakistan sees it easy for themselves to conduct military operations under the rule of the Taliban, although it is not completely clear yet, that Pakistan would be that much confident to conduct military operations in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban according to all its demands” (P1, 2023).

“Pakistan always follows the policy against Afghans, that they can only achieve their strategic goals and for this case they trying to have control and influence on Taliban meanwhile wants

Taliban to have control and rule on Afghanistan which can help Pakistan to reach their strategic objectives.

It is also evident from this that Pakistan wants the Taliban to govern Afghanistan continuously and permanently, so long as Pakistan can continue to exert control and influence over the Taliban and profit from the Taliban” P1, 2023).

5.7 Counterbalancing India:

Pakistan’s backing for the Taliban was influenced by its rivalry with India. Pakistan attempted to counteract Indian dominance in Afghanistan and avert encirclement by hostile neighbors by supporting the Taliban. Pakistan’s backing for the Taliban administration was motivated by this strategic factor.

India and Pakistan see each other as enemies, while the relations between the previous government of Afghanistan and India were called friendly, so Pakistan was looking for a government in Afghanistan that would stand with Pakistan.

But besides all these efforts by Pakistan, there is still no significant evidence to show that the Taliban's second regime is in a kind of disputed relationship with India for Pakistan's interests.

“Pakistan – India relations are not in a friendly environment they seem just like an enemy to each other; so for that Pakistan never wants friendship between India and Afghanistan. Because Pakistan considers India as its enemy and India considers Pakistan as its enemy, while the previous government of Afghanistan and India had friendly relations, and at the same time, there were hostile relations between Pakistan and the previous government of Afghanistan. So, it is obvious that Pakistan will change its foreign policy towards India’s friendly countries. This is why Pakistan is eager to achieve this goal, so that such a government continues in Afghanistan, which is more sympathetic and friendly to Pakistan than India, so for this can be expected from the Taliban” (P2, 2023).

5.8 Evaluation of the Impact of Pakistani Support on Afghan Foreign Policy

Pakistan's influence over the Taliban rule, as well as its backing for the organization, has had a considerable impact on Afghan foreign policy. Pakistan's tight ties with the Taliban have influenced Afghanistan's diplomatic contacts as well as its relations with other nations in the region and beyond.

One of the most significant effects of Pakistan's backing of the Taliban on Afghanistan's foreign policy is seen in the country's ties with its neighbors. Pakistan's previous support for the Taliban had a mixed impact on its connection with Afghanistan, which is often marked by suspicion and animosity. Afghanistan's ties with Pakistan have been strained as a result of the Taliban's comeback and Pakistan's apparent backing (Gopal, 2021). The Afghan government had accused Islamabad of harboring and supporting the Taliban, so obstructing the peace process & security in Afghanistan (Rashid, 2020). This difficult relationship has hampered Afghanistan's capacity to cultivate strong links with its neighbor, undermining regional stability and cooperation.

Also, Pakistan's backing of the Taliban has jeopardized Afghanistan's ties with its neighbors, especially Iran and China. Iran, which shares an extensive and porous border with Afghanistan, is concerned about the Taliban's links with Pakistan. Iran has voiced concern about the consequences of a Taliban-led administration, including the possibility of instability and refugee flows (Rashid, 2020). Similarly, China has been wary of the Taliban's ascent, fearing for its

security interests and the stability of its western area (Gopal, 2021). The Taliban's backing from Pakistan has hampered Afghanistan's involvement with these bordering nations and changed the dynamics of regional cooperation.

Pakistan's assistance to the Taliban has also harmed Afghanistan's ties with both local and international countries. The US, in particular, has criticized Pakistan's involvement in assisting the Taliban rebellion, accusing it of providing secure havens for terrorists (Fair, 2020). Pakistan's engagement in and influence over the Taliban has affected Afghanistan's ties with the United States and other NATO nations, reducing their backing for Afghanistan's security and stability. Pakistan's alleged meddling in Afghan politics has hampered diplomatic efforts and harmed confidence among Afghanistan and its foreign allies.

6. Conclusion

The conclusions of this study provide insight into how Pakistan's long-standing backing of the Taliban has affected Afghanistan's international relations. Pakistan's influence on the second Taliban rule has diminished in comparison to earlier years. The Taliban now have a more autonomous foreign policy stance as a result of their quest for international legitimacy, shifting regional dynamics, and internal governance objectives.

In the past, Pakistan supported the Taliban because doing so served its strategic goals, which included blocking Indian involvement in the area and preserving peace along its border with Afghanistan. The analysis does show that the Taliban have become less dependent on Pakistan as a result of their engagements with a broader variety of nations & their pursuit of alliances based on shared interests.

These results have important ramifications for comprehending how non-state actors and state sponsors interact to influence foreign policy. The complicated geopolitics of the area and the value of taking into account the agency and goals of non-state actors in diplomatic relations are both highlighted by the changing relationship between Pakistan, the Taliban, & Afghanistan.

For decision-makers, academics, and specialists in the domains of international matters, and geopolitics, including security studies, it is essential to comprehend the Taliban's declining reliance on Pakistan for guidance on their foreign policy choices. It underlines the significance of examining the complicated ties between Afghanistan and other nations in the wake of the Taliban's takeover of power as well as the changing nature of state-non-state actor relationships.

Ethical issues were given top importance throughout the study process, assuring informed permission, voluntary participation, & the preservation of respondent confidentiality. The research upholds honesty, impartiality, and respect for all parties involved by abiding by ethical standards.

In conclusion, Pakistan seems to have had less of an impact on the Taliban's second administration's foreign policy choices. The Taliban's independent strategy and contact with a wide variety of nations suggest a change in their dependence on Pakistan. This study illustrates the complex linkages that affect Afghanistan's foreign policy in the aftermath of the Taliban's rebirth and helps to a greater understanding of regional dynamics.

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