



## SHIFTING SANDS: PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE AMIDST REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FLUX

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### ABSTRACT

The paper examines the historical development and current dynamics of Pakistan's strategic culture. This study explores the key influences, events, and trends that have shaped Pakistan's strategic culture through a combination of historical research, case studies, and content analysis. Partition of British India, early state creation, military involvement, and ties with regional and international powers are all examples. How Pakistan maintains a balance of power in the area, maintains credible deterrent capabilities, pursues diplomacy, and deals with domestic difficulties are all aspects of national security and foreign policy examined in this paper.

The end of the Cold War, the War on Terror, and the shifting geopolitical landscape are just a few examples of the global and regional environmental changes that have influenced Pakistan's strategic culture. Understanding the development of Pakistan's strategic culture and the country's regional and global dynamics is essential for foreseeing Pakistan's behaviour and policy choices in the future. Pakistan's strategic decision-making is complex and multifaceted, and this research contributes to our understanding of strategic culture and provides light on those complexities.

**Keywords:** Strategic culture, Pakistan, National security, foreign policy, Geopolitics, Nuclear deterrence

### INTRODUCTION

Knowing strategic culture is necessary to comprehend a country's security and foreign policy (Gray, 1984). It offers perspectives on the profoundly rooted ideologies, practices, and historical events that shape how governments act and what they want globally (Johnston, 1995). Pakistan, a country with a complex geopolitical environment, was founded in 1947, and its strategic culture has seen a significant transformation. Many local, regional, and international influences have shaped these developments, and these forces have affected how the country conducts foreign policy and national security.

This study will focus on local and international aspects to better comprehend Pakistan's strategic culture. The historical underpinnings of Pakistan's strategic culture, state formation, and Islamic influence will all be examined in this research. After that, it will examine significant occasions and causes, such as the competition between India and Pakistan, ties with the US, and the advancement of its nuclear program, that have shaped the nation's strategic culture.

The inquiry will explore regional factors that have influenced Pakistan's strategic culture, such as Pakistan's connections to China, Iran, and Afghanistan. The essay will next go into the global dynamics that have impacted Pakistan's strategic culture, such as its involvement in the War on Terror, the influence of non-state actors, and the ramifications of significant changes in the balance of power.



### CONTEXT AND HISTORY

Pakistan's strategic culture has evolved through time due to the complex interaction of historical, regional, and global forces (Cohen, 2004). Since gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan has faced several security challenges, including wars with India, internal upheavals, and global terrorism (Rizvi, 1993). The strategic culture of the country has been impacted by these issues, which in turn has formed the country's choices for security and foreign policy (Aziz, 2017).

Understanding the development of Pakistan's strategic culture is necessary to comprehend how the country approaches regional and global concerns. The country's strategic culture has affected choices on nuclear deterrence, counterterrorism measures, and diplomatic relations (Khan, 2007). Moreover, it has greatly influenced regional and worldwide security (Hussain, 2005).

### GOALS & PURPOSES

The primary objective of this study is to examine how Pakistan's strategic culture has evolved, focusing on the regional and global factors that have impacted its evolution. The specific objectives of this research are to:

- Analyse the historical background and origins of Pakistan's strategic culture, considering colonialism's legacy, the state's founding, and Islam's relevance.
- To investigate the key factors and events, such as Pakistan's nuclear program, its ties with the US, and its rivalry with India, that helped to shape the country's strategic culture.
- To look at the regional elements that have influenced Pakistan's strategic culture, particularly its ties with China, Iran, and Afghanistan.
- To assess Pakistan's strategic culture considering how the world has evolved, focusing on its involvement in the War on Terror, the influence of non-state actors, and the ramifications of changing global power.

By achieving these objectives, this research piece aims to contribute to the body of knowledge on Pakistan's strategic culture and provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the national and international processes that have influenced the nation's evolution.

### IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The importance of this study rests in its potential to add to the body of knowledge already available on Pakistan's strategic culture and to provide an in-depth analysis of the regional and global forces that have influenced its development. This research article can offer insights into Pakistan's national security and foreign policy preferences by examining the elements that have shaped that nation's strategic culture. These insights can, in turn, drive policy discussions and strategic decision-making.

This article is organised as follows: The theoretical foundation is presented in Section 2, which also outlines the idea of strategic culture and its essential elements. A survey of the literature on Pakistan's strategic culture is provided in Section 3, which also discusses any gaps in the body of knowledge. The methodology and case studies are described in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. The results and analysis are presented in Section 6, and the article is concluded with a summary of the main conclusions and suggestions for additional research in Section 7.

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical underpinning of this research paper will be the concept of strategic culture, which seeks to understand the influence of cultural factors on a country's security and foreign policy choices (Gray, 1984). Using this paradigm, we may evaluate the historical, regional, and global factors that have shaped Pakistan's strategic culture and how they have affected its security and foreign policy.

### STRATEGIC CULTURE: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Understanding how cultural factors impact a country's security and foreign policy decisions is the goal of strategic culture (Gray, 1984). It contains the deeply established beliefs, values, and past



encounters that shape a state's choices and behaviours in the world (Johnston, 1995). In order to gain an understanding of the reasons behind and explanations for a nation's policy choices, scholars may foresee future actions by researching strategic culture (Snyder, 1977).

Strategic culture started gaining traction in the late 1970s when realist and rational choice theories failed to fully explain state behaviour (Krebs & Lobasz, 2007). The strategic culture emphasises the significance of ideational components, such as identity, customs, and historical narratives, in influencing a state's policy decisions (Katzenstein, 1996). These factors affect how states perceive threats, assess their interests, and choose strategies to achieve their objectives (Buzan & Hansen, 2009).

For the study of strategic culture, several scholars have proposed numerous definitions and methodologies. Strategic culture is what Gray refers to as a country's "chosen manner of fighting," which is influenced by its history, geography, and cultural identity (1984). On the other hand, strategic culture is described by Johnston (1995) as a "system of symbols" that affects a nation's "strategic choices." Lantis (2002) emphasises the significance of national security institutions and decision-making processes to develop a strategic culture.

Notwithstanding these disparities in definition, experts usually agree that comprehension of a nation's strategic culture is necessary to know its judgments about security and foreign policy (Desch, 1998). By studying the strategic culture of a nation like Pakistan, researchers may better comprehend how a state responds to national and international crises and predict its future behaviour and policy choices.

#### ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF STRATEGIC CULTURE

A nation's choices for security and foreign policy are influenced by the interaction of many key components of strategic culture (Johnston, 1995). Understanding these components is necessary to analyse how strategic culture has evolved in countries like Pakistan. The following sections provide an overview of the essential elements of strategic culture as they are presented in the literature:

**Traditions from the Past:** A nation's historical experiences impact its understanding of security concerns, possibilities, and favoured techniques (Gray, 1984). Pakistan's strategic culture has been influenced by its colonial past, its break from India, and disagreements with its neighbours (Cohen, 2004).

b) **The geopolitical context** in which a country conducts its operations impacts its strategic culture by affecting how it perceives threats, allies, and policy choices (Buzan & Hansen, 2009). Pakistan's position in a dangerous region bordering Iran, Afghanistan, and India has significantly impacted its strategic culture (Rizvi, 1993).

b) **Ideological and cultural motivations:** Via norms, values, and worldviews, a nation's ideological viewpoint and cultural identity influence its strategic culture (Katzenstein, 1996). The role of Islam as a uniting factor and its impact on Pakistan's strategic perspective have been crucial components of that country's strategic culture (Aziz, 2017).

**Decision-Making and Institutional Structures and Processes:** The development and application of a country's national security institutions and decision-making processes' policies affect the strategic culture (Lantis, 2002). In Pakistan, for instance, the military's dominance over politics and decision-making has significantly influenced the nation's strategic culture (Khan, 2007).

e) **Habits of Conduct:** A country's preferred methods and strategies for addressing security issues may be observed in its behavioural patterns, which reflect its strategic culture (Johnston, 1995). Pakistan's proxy war, nuclear deterrence, and diplomatic bluffing tactics provide insight into the country's strategic thinking (Hussain, 2005).

By examining four key components of strategic culture, this research paper aims to give a full knowledge of the development of Pakistan's strategic culture and the regional and global dynamics that have influenced its growth.



### STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Strategic culture affects how a country reacts to threats and challenges, so the link between strategic culture and national security is complex (Gray, 1984). Studying a state's strategic culture may teach academics more about the beliefs, principles, and past events that influence that state's security and foreign policy choices (Johnston, 1995). Understanding this link is crucial for predicting a country's behaviour and developing workable solutions to manage and lessen security threats (Buzan & Hansen, 2009).

National security is the defence of a state's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and important interests against internal and foreign threats (Wolfers, 1962). Strategic culture affects national security by affecting how a state sees threats, articulates its interests, and decides how to achieve its objectives (Lantis, 2002). A strategic defensive culture prioritises maintaining a strong deterrent posture and seeking cooperative solutions to security concerns. In contrast, an offensive strategic culture might take aggressive methods to promote its interests and grow its influence (Booth & Wheeler, 2008).

The relationship between strategic culture and national security is even more important given the many regional and international factors that have shaped Pakistan's strategic culture throughout time (Cohen, 2004). These elements have influenced Pakistan's perception of threats, its approach to addressing them, and its connections and foreign alliances (Rizvi, 1993). By investigating the development of the nation's strategic culture, this research study aims to shed light on Pakistan's national security goals and behaviour in regional and international affairs.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The wide and varied literature on the country's strategic culture covers many Pakistani security and foreign policy preference section identifies the gaps this research paper attempts to address and summarises the key ideas and arguments from the earlier work.

### START OF PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE

The literature mainly focuses on Pakistan's strategic culture's historical context and origins. In his 2004 book, Cohen looks at the country's colonial past, the structure of the state, and how Islam influenced the development of its strategic culture. The importance of Pakistan's strategic culture evolving as a consequence of India's partition and the ensuing competition between the two countries has been emphasised by several scholars (Ganguly, 2002; Paul, 2005). According to Rizvi (1993), long-standing grievances and distrust of India cause Pakistan's security orientation and foreign policy choices.

### GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND HISTORICAL LEGACIES

Pakistan's strategic culture has been shaped by its unique geopolitical environment and rich historical background (Cohen, 2004). The nation's history and location have all influenced how it perceives threats, interacts with its neighbours, and views national security (Rizvi, 1993). Understanding the evolution of Pakistan's strategic culture and how it has affected the nation's security and foreign policy choices requires knowledge of its historical heritage and geopolitical context.

British India was divided in 1947, leading to the creation of Pakistan, which significantly influenced the country's strategic culture (Jalal, 1995). Pakistan's sense of national identity and its view of India as an existential danger have been impacted by the sad events preceding the partition, such as the widespread violence and the enormous displacement (Ganguly & Kapur, 2010). This mindset has impacted Pakistan's security objectives and endeavours to balance India's economic and military supremacy (Paul, 2018).

Pakistan's strategic culture has also been greatly influenced by its geopolitical environment, characterised by its position at the confluence of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East (Fair, 2014). The country's proximity to India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China has impacted regional security dynamics and its ties with these neighbouring nations (Rizvi, 1993). The proximity of Pakistan to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean has drawn the attention of powerful nations like the United States and China, who have sought to forge alliances with Pakistan to further their interests in the



region (Markey, 2008). This has increased Pakistan's strategic importance (Nasr, 2001). Islam has brought together Pakistan's ethnic and linguistic groups, affecting Pakistan's foreign policy's emphasis on the Muslim world (Ahmed, 2013). Pakistan's national identity prioritises Islam, which is relevant to internal security challenges such as the rise of Islamist militancy and sectarian conflict (Fair, 2014).

In conclusion, Pakistan's historical heritage and geopolitical context have significantly influenced the development of its strategic culture. This study aims to provide readers with a complete understanding of Pakistan's strategic culture's evolution and how it has influenced the nation's security and foreign policy goals.

#### **EARLY STATE CREATION AND THE MILITARY'S FUNCTION**

The early history of Pakistan and the presence of the military have greatly influenced how strategically aware the country is now. It was difficult for Pakistan to establish a functional state since it only acquired a tiny share of British India's assets and resources when it attained independence in 1947. (Jalal, 1990). Due to the bloodshed that followed the partition of India, Pakistan's strategic culture also developed a feeling of fragility and insecurity that proved crucial (Ganguly, 2002).

For various reasons, the military was essential to Pakistan's early growth. First, the nascent state lacked strong political structures, and the military quickly took over as the primary influence in shaping the country's internal and external policies (Cohen, 2004). Throughout Pakistan's history, the military's political engagement set a precedent that would last forever and had a critical role in setting the nation's strategic direction (Rizvi, 1993).

Second, in the face of perceived challenges from outside, notably from India, the military was seen as a guardian of Pakistan's national identity and territorial integrity (Cloughley, 2016). This notion enhanced the military's significance in Pakistan's strategic culture and fueled attempts to create a strong defence apparatus to fend off potential adversaries (Khan, 2007).

Last but not least, Pakistan's strategic decision-making processes have been influenced by a culture of centralised control fostered by the military's early involvement in the foundation of the state (Fair, 2014). This coordinated security and foreign policy approach favours military solutions over those involving diplomacy or politics, underscoring the military's role in helping Pakistan develop its strategic culture (Jaffrelot, 2002).

In conclusion, the country's early foundation and the military's role in that development have significantly impacted Pakistan's strategic culture. The military's influence on political and security issues and the aftereffects of partition have impacted Pakistan's views of threats and strategy for dealing with them thematically and globally.

#### **ISLAM'S INFLUENCE ON PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE**

Islam has had a significant impact on Pakistan's strategic culture ever since it was founded. Being the first modern nation-state formally formed on a common religious identity, Pakistan has long battled with the problem of how Islam should be accommodated into its political and strategic perspective (Jalal, 1995). This struggle has profoundly affected Pakistan's strategic philosophy and internal and foreign affairs approach; an ideological element of Pakistan's strategic culture has emerged due to its reliance on Islam as a defining feature of its national identity (Nasr, 2001). As the de facto leader of the Muslim world, Pakistan has regularly attempted to strengthen Islamic unity, affecting its foreign policy choices and alliances (Shaikh, 2018). This ideological component has sometimes resulted in the backing of Islamic organisations and causes, both locally and globally, with significant consequences on Pakistan's security (Haqqani, 2010).

Second, Pakistan's close ties to Islam have shaped how it perceives dangers and security concerns. The projected competition with Hindu-majority India has been framed in terms of religion, emphasising the importance of military preparedness and nuclear deterrence in Pakistan's strategic culture (Kapur, 2017). Also, the effort to define Islam's position in Pakistani society has given rise to





internal conflicts and tensions that have benefitted extremist organisations, greatly aggravating the security situation there (Ahmed, 2013).

Lastly, Islam has affected Pakistan's strategic culture, which has affected how it conducts diplomacy and conflict resolution. The religious nature of the country has sometimes made it more reluctant to agree on certain issues, including the Kashmir conflict, which is usually couched in religious terms (Ganguly&Hagerty, 2012). In addition, non-state actors are now active in Pakistan's foreign policy due to the linked nature of religion and politics, complicating bilateral ties and enhancing Pakistan's image as an unpredictable and unreliable partner (Fair, 2014).

Last but not least, Islam has significantly impacted Pakistan's strategic culture, influencing how threats are seen; favoured techniques and diplomatic approaches examine the role of Islam in Pakistan's strategic culture to better understand how the country conducts itself in both home and foreign affairs.

### **PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE HAS CHANGED**

Pakistan's strategic culture has evolved through time due to many historical, regional, and international factors. This section will discuss the key events and changes that have shaped Pakistan's strategic culture's evolution, including its rivalry with India, its relationships with strong countries, and the impact of non-state entities.

#### **THE KASHMIR CONFLICT AND THE RIVALRY BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

The rivalry between Pakistan and India has long been a defining aspect of its strategic culture (Ganguly, 2002). Due to the impacts of the partition, competing nationalisms, and territorial disputes, notably those concerning Kashmir, there is a feeling of unease and distrust between the two nations (Paul, 2005). This competition has led to several wars and conflicts, which have helped shape Pakistan's strategic culture by underlining the need for a strong military and emphasising conventional and nuclear deterrence (Kapur, 2017).

#### **RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER BIG POWERS**

The strategic worldview of Pakistan has been strongly impacted by its relations with stronger countries like the US and China. Due to its alliance with the United States throughout the Cold War and the War on Terror, Pakistan gained economic and military support, which increased its defence capabilities and regional influence (Hussain, 2005). This relationship also exposed Pakistan to the complexities of global politics since Pakistan had to combine its duties as a front-line state in the War on Terror with its internal issues (Markey, 2008).

Like this, Pakistan's interactions with China have been crucial in shaping its strategic culture. China has provided Pakistan with significant financial and military support and assistance with nuclear and missile programs (Small, 2015). Due to this relationship, Pakistan's feeling of security has increased, and Indian influence in the area has been countered (Yusuf, 2020).

#### **STRATEGIC DETERRENCE AND THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN**

The growth of Pakistan's nuclear program has profoundly impacted the country's strategic thinking and deterrent stance. The feeling of an existential threat from India, the necessity to balance regional power dynamics, and a sense of pride and prestige in one's nation were among the factors that contributed to the development of nuclear weapons (Khan, 2020).

The search for nuclear weapons capability began in the 1970s with the defeat of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in the conflict with India (Krepon&Gagné, 2001). This horrible catastrophe, which revealed Pakistan's conventional military vulnerability, highlighted the need for a strategic deterrent to counterbalance Indian might (Narang, 2014).

Pakistan's nuclear development expanded in the 1980s with major assistance from China and A.Q. Khan's black-market network (Corera, 2006). Geopolitical competition in the region increased after Pakistan and India both announced their nuclear-armed status in 1998 by conducting nuclear tests (Perkovich, 1999).



Pakistan's nuclear arsenal has significantly influenced its strategic culture by providing security and deterrence against conventional military threats, notably from India (Lodhi, 2011). The nuclear cover has allowed Pakistan to keep its relatively modest conventional military, freeing up resources for domestic objectives like economic development (Lavoy, 2009).

However, given the ongoing disputes and tensions with India, Pakistan's nuclear deterrent has also raised concerns about the possibility of escalation and the danger of nuclear war in the region (Kapur, 2005). Further complicating regional security dynamics are concerns about the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and the possibility that non-state actors may get nuclear weapons (Chari, Cheema, & Cohen, 2009).

In conclusion, Pakistan's nuclear program and strategic deterrence have significantly shaped the nation's strategic culture. Because of the development of nuclear weapons, Pakistan today feels secure and possesses a tactical counterweight to India's overwhelming conventional military might. Nonetheless, the nuclear component has greatly widened the danger and challenged regional security.

#### **NON-STATE ACTORS' EFFECTS**

Non-state actors, such as militant and extremist organisations, have also impacted Pakistan's strategic culture. Pakistan's security apparatus has traditionally used these organisations to promote its goals as regional goals allied to Afghanistan and Kashmir (Rashid, 2008). These organisations against the Pakistani government have caused domestic discontent and raised concerns about the country's ability to sustain its nuclear weapons globally, therefore; therefore, it has had unintended consequences (Fair, 2014).

In conclusion, a complex combination of historical, regional, and international elements has shaped the evolution of Pakistan's strategic culture. Understanding this history is crucial for understanding Pakistan's position on national and international problems and predicting its future behaviour and policy choices.

#### **THE STRATEGIC CULTURE OF PAKISTAN AND REGIONAL DYNAMICS**

The regional environment has profoundly impacted Pakistan's strategic mentality. The relationships Pakistan has with Afghanistan, Iran, and the Gulf States, as well as its involvement in regional organisations, are some of the key regional factors that have influenced Pakistan's strategic thinking and actions.

#### **AFGHANISTAN'S CONTRIBUTION**

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has significantly influenced Pakistan's strategic mindset. The lengthy and permeable border between the two countries has promoted interethnic tourism and connections (Rashid, 2010). Pakistan has traditionally attempted to maintain a friendly administration in Kabul to defend its western border and counterbalance Indian influence in the area (Marsden, 2008). As a result, Pakistan has meddled in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, particularly due to its backing of various terrorist groups and the Taliban rule during the 1990s (Rashid, 2008).

The U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was followed by a war on terror, which made Pakistan's strategic planning even more challenging. Pakistan, an official ally of the United States in the war against terrorism, has had to find a balance between that assistance and its internal issues and strategic interests in Afghanistan (Markey, 2008). This challenging endeavour to strike a balance led to regional tensions and significantly affected Pakistan's strategic philosophy.

#### **RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA: THE ALL-WEATHER FRIEND**

The relationship between Pakistan and China has been a cornerstone of its foreign policy and a major factor in forming its strategic philosophy. China has constantly helped Pakistan in all three of these areas, aiding it in maintaining the balance of power in the region and enhancing its strategic capabilities. It is often called an "all-weather companion" because of this (Small, 2015).

The Sino-Pakistani relationship began in the late 1950s and early 1960s as both countries attempted to counteract India's growing influence in the area (Yusuf, 2020). This partnership has expanded to



include a variety of sectors of cooperation, including infrastructure, commerce, and diplomatic assistance (Garver, 2011).

One of their most notable characteristics has been militarizing their bilateral relations. China and Pakistan. China has provided Pakistan with a large amount of military aid, including the transfer of military technology, a joint production of defence products, and help in boosting Pakistan's nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities (Khan, 2020). Pakistan has maintained a credible deterrence against India and developed its strategic mentality by cooperating with other nations (Siddiqua, 2001).

In addition to providing military aid, China has played a key role in the economic growth of Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a centrepiece of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), seeks to increase regional connectivity and economic development in Pakistan by attracting significant investment in infrastructure, energy, and industrial projects (Wolf, 2021). The CPEC promotes Pakistan's strategic culture by providing it with financial and logistical assistance and highlighting the depth of Sino-Pakistani ties (Abbas, 2004).

Also, China has regularly served as Pakistan's diplomatic ally in regional and international fora. China has used its influence to back Islamabad's position on various issues, such as the Kashmir dispute and Pakistan's participation in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) (Kubbig&Fikenscher, 2012). This diplomatic support has helped Pakistan preserve its strategic clout and engage in more effective international negotiations (Sutter, 2012).

Pakistan's ties to China have significantly influenced its strategic culture as a consequence of ongoing assistance in the military, economic, and diplomatic domains. Pakistan now has the chance to strengthen its defence capabilities, counterbalance India's regional influence, and more confidently pursue its strategic objectives thanks to this "all-weather relationship."

#### **IDEOLOGY AND GEOPOLITICS IN IRAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS**

Pakistan's ties to Iran are another significant regional factor that has shaped its strategic mindset. Despite their shared religious, cultural, and historical links, the two countries' relationship has also been marked by rivalry and conflict, particularly over issues like sectarianism and regional dominance (Grare, 2013). Making strategic choices has become increasingly challenging for Pakistan due to its attempts to maintain a careful balance between its connections with Iran, the Gulf States, and the United States (Hassan, 2019).

#### **THE STRATEGIC MINDSET IN PAKISTAN AND GLOBAL DYNAMICS**

Global influences have significantly impacted Pakistan's beliefs, allegiances, and policies. We will discuss how key worldwide trends and events, such as the Cold War, the War on Terror, and the changing geopolitical landscape, have impacted Pakistan's strategic culture in this part.

#### **UNITED STATES-PAKISTAN ALLIANCE DURING THE COLD WAR**

Pakistan allied with the United States and joined the Western bloc during the Cold War in reaction to India's non-alignment and Soviet support for India (Riedel, 2012). This alliance provided Pakistan financial and military support, improving its defence capabilities and strategic outlook (Hagerty, 1998). Nevertheless, as the Cold War ended and the US strategic significance to Pakistan lessened, Pakistan's help was reduced, and its nuclear program became more scrutinised (Schofield, 2012).

#### **ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR**

After the 9/11 attacks, Pakistan reemerged as an important partner for the US in the War on Terror. The US and other Western countries provided Pakistan, a frontline state in the fight against terrorism, with major military and financial assistance (Fair, 2004). This partnership also exposed Pakistan to the complexities of global politics and internal strife because of its challenges with terrorism, domestic problems, and maintaining its strategic balance with India (Markey, 2008).

#### **INCREASED IMPACT OF NON-STATE ACTORS**

The increasing importance of non-state actors in Pakistan is a key factor in the evolution of its strategic culture. Non-state entities, such as terrorist organisations and religious institutions, have





played a vital role in forming Pakistan's identity and contacts with other states and non-state parties in the region and beyond.

Non-state actors have influenced Pakistan's strategic culture due to their involvement in regional wars and insurgencies. Due to their involvement in conflicts like the Afghanistan War and the Kashmir Insurgency with Pakistani security forces, the Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba have contributed to the perception of Pakistan as a country that supports extremist groups.

Non-state actors have also influenced Pakistan's relations with other regional organisations. For example, organisations with strong links to the Afghan Taliban, like the Haqqani network, complicate Pakistan's relations with the Afghan government and the US. In addition to raising tensions between the two countries, the attacks by Lashkar-e-Taiba against India have larger implications for regional security.

The growing presence of non-state actors in Pakistan has positively and negatively affected its strategic culture. On the one hand, these tribes have increased Pakistan's feeling of pride and identity while also giving Pakistan some influence over local conflicts. However, they have also increased international attention and pressure, leading to local instability.

Overall, the non-state actors in Pakistan, whose influence is growing, greatly impact the country's changing strategic culture. Understanding these organisations' roles and affiliations to other governments and groups is necessary to analyse Pakistan's strategic behaviour and relations with the region and the rest of the world.

#### **CHANGES IN WORLD POWER AFFECT PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE.**

The changing global power dynamics, particularly the rise of China and Russia's resurgence have influenced Pakistan's strategic culture. Due to the growing geopolitical rivalry between the US and China, Pakistan can exploit its connections with big nations to achieve its goals (Yusuf, 2020). Also, because of the shifting geopolitical landscape, Pakistan now has a wider range of strategic alternatives, which has enhanced cooperation with other nations, including Iran, Turkey, and Russia (Mazari, 2017).

Lastly, the formation of Pakistan's strategic culture has been significantly influenced by global dynamics, which impact Pakistan's relationships, attitudes, and policies. Understanding these dynamics is important for forecasting Pakistan's future actions and policy choices and for comprehending Pakistan's viewpoint on regional and global concerns.

#### **RESEARCH GAP IN LITERATURE**

There are still certain research gaps even though the corpus of literature on Pakistan's strategic culture has significantly improved our understanding of the historical, political, and military facets of the problem. This section discusses these gaps and offers areas where further study is needed to give a more comprehensive understanding of the development of strategic culture in Pakistan and its regional and global dynamics.

#### **SECURITY ISSUES THAT ARE DEVELOPING**

Most studies on Pakistan's strategic culture focus on traditional security problems, such as its rivalry with India and the development of nuclear deterrence (Khan, 2020; Paul, 2018). Research on Pakistan's strategic culture's reactions to or potential reactions to emerging security challenges such as terrorism, pandemics, cyber warfare, and climate change is, nevertheless, scant. Further investigation is needed to ascertain how Pakistan's strategic culture is altering in response to these non-traditional problems and their effects on regional and global security.

#### **NON-STATE ACTORS' FUNCTION**

While Pakistan's political and military elites significantly affect its strategic culture, little is known about the role of non-state actors, including religious and racial organisations, civil society groups, and the media. Further investigation is required to comprehend how these non-state actors impact Pakistan's strategic mindset and decision-making procedure.



### **DOMESTIC POLITICS' EFFECTS**

Few studies evaluate the impact of domestic politics on the evolution of Pakistan's strategic culture, despite some literature (Jalal, 1995; Markey, 2008) exploring the interplay between Pakistan's internal politics and foreign policy. The influence of changes in Pakistan's political environment, such as the establishment of new political parties or different power dynamics, on the nation's strategic thinking and foreign policy direction, may be studied in more detail.

### **REGIONAL CONNECTIONS AND DYNAMICS**

Pakistan's strategic culture has been greatly influenced by its relations with nearby nations like China and India (Small, 2015; Yusuf, 2020). While more study is needed in this area, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), other regional initiatives, and other kinds of regional connectivity and economic integration may impact Pakistan's strategic culture. This would provide information on these changes' potential benefits and drawbacks and their consequences for the area's security and stability.

Future studies may close these information gaps and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors affecting Pakistan's strategic culture on a regional and international scale.

#### **Methodology**

This section outlines the methodology used to examine Pakistan's evolving strategic culture's local, regional, and global aspects. The study employs various qualitative techniques, including content analysis of government documents and speeches, case studies, and historical research.

### **HISTORICAL REVIEW**

A historical analysis of the culture is conducted to contextualise Pakistan's strategic culture and appreciate the factors that have impacted its development through time. The separation of British India, the establishment of states, the role of the military, and Pakistan's relations with regional and global powers are only a few of the noteworthy events and trends covered in this book (Cohen, 2004). One may identify patterns and assess the impact of various factors on the evolution of Pakistan's strategic culture by analysing historical data.

### **THE CASE STUDIES.**

Case studies are used to go further into specific issues and occasions that have significantly influenced Pakistan's strategic culture. The following are some examples of Pakistan's "War on Terror" (Khan, 2020; Fair, 2004; Jalal, 1995). The case studies thoroughly examine how Pakistan's strategic culture has evolved and responded to various opportunities and difficulties.

### **CONTENT EVALUATION**

Content analysis is used to assess official papers, speeches, and statements by Pakistani leaders and policymakers to grasp the underlying concepts, attitudes, and presumptions underlying Pakistan's strategic culture (Zaman, 2009). This study includes looking at documents like the National Security Policy, the Defence White Paper, and remarks made by important military and political figures. Content analysis may be used to identify the main discourses and subjects that shape Pakistan's strategic thinking and behaviour.

### **DATA GATHERING AND RESOURCES**

The information for this research was gathered from various sources, including books, journal papers, reports, speeches, government records, and news stories. First-hand testimony and official documents ensure the content's legitimacy and veracity. Secondary sources, such as scholarly works and analyses, provide readers with a complete understanding of the subject and help them put the findings in the correct context.

### **RESTRICTIONS AND ETHICAL ISSUES**

In conducting a study on the evolution of strategic culture in Pakistan and its regional and global dynamics, several constraints and ethical considerations must be acknowledged and considered.

### **CONTROLLED ACCESS TO SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter, which covers military and security issues, access to certain information and sources may be restricted or unavailable (Khan, 2020). This limitation



could make it more difficult to conduct a full examination and assess aspects of Pakistan's strategic culture appropriately. Researchers must rely on secondary sources, such as academic works and journalistic pieces, as well as open-source resources to provide insights and fill in the gaps in the data that are currently accessible.

#### **INDIVIDUALITY AND BIAS**

As strategic culture is a broad and complex concept encompassing the interpretation of values, beliefs, and historical events, research must be subjective (Johnston, 1995). While trying to prevent bias, paraphrasing is essential. Many perspectives and information sources should be used to lessen this risk. The outcomes should also be rigorously evaluated and cross-referenced with other research.

#### **ETHICS-RELATED ISSUES**

Each research dealing with sensitive topics and national security must consider ethics. Researchers must ensure that their work does not endanger or infringe on the privacy of any participants and maintain the anonymity of any individuals or organisations involved in the study (Israel & Hay, 2006). Moreover, researchers should avoid sensationalism and distorting the facts and try to convey an honest, fair, and unbiased picture of the topic.

#### **CASE STUDIES**

##### **CASE STUDY 1**

The Soviet-Afghan War, which lasted from 1979 to 1989, is one specific example of Pakistan's strategic culture in action. Pakistan's support for the Afghan mujahideen insurgents significantly influenced the nation's strategic culture and relations with other countries and international entities in the region and beyond.

Pakistan assisted the mujahideen via the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which worked closely with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States. The CIA provided the mujahideen with materials, gear, and training, while Pakistan provided safe havens and logistical support. Pakistan also provided housing for millions of Afghan refugees, which significantly impacted the country's social and economic development.

The Soviet-Afghan War impacted Pakistan's strategic culture in various ways. Second, it allowed Islamic organisations to grow in Pakistan, allowing them to have a greater impact on the politics and culture of the nation. The growth of extremism and militancy are long-term ramifications of this influence on Pakistan's internal politics. Pakistan's support for the mujahideen bolstered the nation's perception of itself as a regional leader and defender of the Muslim world. This effect continues in Pakistan's foreign policy and strategic culture today. The war's strengthening of Pakistan's connections to the United States was not least among these effects, which profoundly changed Pakistan's foreign policy and strategic course.

However, Pakistan's history of involvement in the Soviet-Afghan War has negatively impacted its strategic culture. The rise of extremist organisations in Pakistan has sparked domestic discontent and bloodshed, including attacks on civilians and military personnel. Pakistan's support for the mujahideen contributed to the Taliban's rise in Afghanistan as well, which was bad for the security and stability of the surrounding area.

The case study of Pakistan's involvement in the Soviet-Afghan War demonstrates how historical events may affect a country's strategic culture and have a long-term impact on its relations with other countries and actors. Moreover, it emphasises the importance of understanding the historical context of present strategic decisions.

##### **CASE STUDY 2**

One specific example of a case study relating to the nation's strategic culture is Pakistan's nuclear program and the subsequent nuclear testing in 1998. Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear weapons profoundly impacted the nation's strategic culture and contacts with other governments, actors, and other countries in the region and beyond.



In an endeavour to develop a nuclear deterrent against anticipated Indian threats, Pakistan began its nuclear program in the 1970s. "Yet, the program faced significant obstacles, including international condemnation, sanctions, and worries about nuclear proliferation.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Pakistan persevered in moving forward with its nuclear program, culminating in nuclear tests in May 1998. This has a variety of effects on Pakistan's strategic mentality. The nation's perception of itself as a regional force and a defender of Muslim interests was also bolstered. Second, it caused tensions with India to rise, and shortly after, India responded with its test. Finally, it increased international attention and sanctions, which affected the economy and politics.

The strategic culture of Pakistan has been impacted by Pakistan's nuclear program in both good and bad ways. On the one hand, it has strengthened Pakistan's feeling of security and pride in its nation while acting as a deterrence to outside threats. Conversely, it has fuelled worries about nuclear proliferation and increased regional instability.

In conclusion, the case study of Pakistan's nuclear program and the subsequent tests highlights the nuanced ways strategic choices may affect a nation's identity and interactions with other nations and entities. It also emphasises comprehending the historical and geopolitical background of the choices.

### CASE STUDY 3

Pakistan's participation in the war in Afghanistan and its ties to the Taliban are two case studies relevant to the strategic culture of Pakistan. The Taliban's sponsorship by Pakistan has considerably impacted its strategic mindset and ties with other nations and international players in the region and beyond.

Pakistan has been involved in the Afghan war since the 1980s, when it aided Afghan resistance organisations against the Soviet occupation. However, the importance of Pakistan's connection with the Taliban increased in the 1990s when it gave the organisation military, financial, and political assistance.

The Taliban's backing from Pakistan has several effects on that nation's strategic mindset; first, it strengthens Pakistan's sense of itself as a crucial participant in regional security and a protector of Muslim interests. Moreover, it helped destabilise and fuel extremist organisations' emergence. Lastly, it resulted in heightened hostilities with the US, which saw Pakistan's backing of the Taliban as a danger to its regional interests.

The Taliban's assistance by Pakistan has left both beneficial and bad effects on the nation's strategic culture. On the one hand, it has influenced Pakistan in Afghanistan and improved ties with other regional players like China. On the other side, it has fuelled international pressure and added to Pakistan's image as a country that backs terrorist organisations; the case study of Pakistan's engagement in the war in Afghanistan and its relationship with the Taliban highlights the nuanced ways that strategic choices may affect a nation's identity and interactions with other nations and players. It emphasises how important it is to comprehend the historical and geopolitical background of the choices that are made.

### FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Based on the previous methods, this part gives the main conclusions and analyses of the development of strategic culture in Pakistan and its regional and global dynamics. The historical study, case studies, and content analysis are combined to give readers a thorough grasp of Pakistan's strategic culture and how it affects domestic and international affairs.

#### PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CULTURE: IMPORTANT COMPONENTS

The research identifies several crucial factors that have influenced and still impact Pakistan's strategic culture, such as:



### **EXISTENTIAL THREAT ALLEGEDLY POSED BY INDIA.**

Pakistan's assessment of India as an existential danger is a key component of its strategic culture (Ganguly&Hagerty, 2012). Pakistan has prioritised military readiness and made significant investments in its defence capabilities, including developing nuclear weapons as a strategic deterrent, as a result of this view (Khan, 2020).

### **THE MILITARY COMES FIRST**

Since its founding, the military has dominated Pakistan's politics and decision-making, formed its strategic culture and dictated its foreign policy (Jalal, 1995). Defence and political concerns are prioritised as parts of statecraft in a security-centric strategic culture resulting from the engagement in governance and emphasis on national security (Cohen, 2004).

### **STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS AND ALLIES**

Pakistan's alliances and strategic relationships, notably with China and the United States, have formed its strategic culture (Small, 2015; Riedel, 2012). By receiving backing from these partnerships on the military, economic, and diplomatic fronts, Pakistan has been able to preserve the balance of power in the area and advance its strategic goals.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL DYNAMICS**

Pakistan's regional dynamics, notably its interactions with India, Afghanistan, and China, impact its strategic culture. Important conclusions on these processes include:

#### **INDIAN-PAKISTANI CONFLICT**

Pakistan's strategic culture has been heavily influenced by its rivalry with India, resulting in several continuing arms races (Ganguly&Hagerty, 2012). This competition has shaped Pakistan's approach to domestic and international affairs approach s military posture, defence budget, and defence considerations.

#### **THE GREAT GAME AND AFGHANISTAN**

Because of its engagement in Afghanistan, which has traditionally been a hotbed of great power rivalry, Pakistan's strategic culture has also been influenced (Rubin, 2000). Pakistan's strategic culture and internal stability have been significantly impacted by its experience as a frontline state in both the War on Terror and the Soviet-Afghan War (Fair, 2004).

#### **THE PAKISTAN-CHINA ALLIANCE**

Pakistan's partnership with China, which consistently supports it in the military, economic, and diplomatic spheres, has considerably impacted its strategic culture (Small, 2015). With the help of this coalition, Pakistan is now better equipped to defend itself, balance off Ind regional dominance, and confidently pursue its strategic goals.

### **WORLDWIDE DYNAMICS**

The Cold War, the War on Terror, and the shifting geopolitical environment are just a few examples of the global forces that have significantly influenced Pakistan's strategic culture (Riedel, 2012; Markey, 2008; Yusuf, 2020). These factors have impacted Pakistan's affiliations, attitudes, and policies, which impact how it approaches domestic and international issues.

The research shows that Pakistan's strategic culture is a complicated and dynamic phenomenon influenced by several regional and international influences. To appreciate Pakistan's behaviour in international affairs and to foresee its future policy decisions, it is crucial to know these aspects and their repercussions.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

Significant implications for Pakistan's national security and foreign policy result from understanding the development of strategic culture in that country and its regional and global dynamics. The main conclusions and possible effects on Pakistan's strategic choices and policy direction are covered in this section.





### **REGIONAL POWER BALANCE**

Pakistan's strategic mindset has changed in response to the rise of regional powers, especially India. Pakistan has thus tried to retain solid relationships with other regional and international powers, such as China and the United States (Small, 2015; Yusuf, 2020). Pakistan will probably continue to adopt a balance-of-power pollute to preserve its strategic alliances and capitalise on tact with large nations to further its goals.

### **UPKEEP OF DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES**

The growth of Pakistan's nuclear program and its emphasis on strategic deterrence highlight how crucial it is for its strategic culture to retain credible deterrent capabilities (Khan, 2020). Pakistan will probably continue to prioritise its defence as regional and global dynamics change to secure and deter possible enemies.

### **PUTTING OUT DIPLOMATIC EFFORT**

In the past, Pakistan's strategic culture has strongly focused on diplomacy and interaction with foreign organisations' objectives (Rizvi, 2004). Pakistan will probably take a more aggressive diplomatic stance as the geopolitical environment changes, aiming to forge closer ties with regional and international entities like Iran, Russia, and Turkey while preserving its current partnerships.

### **TAKING ON INTERNAL ISSUES**

Pakistan's internal problems, such as political unrest, economic inequities, and the danger of terrorism, have influenced its strategic culture (Markey, 2008). Pakistan must solve these domestic problems by fostering political stability, encouraging economic growth, and successfully combating terrorism to bolster its national security and improve its reputation in the region and worldwide.

In conclusion, it is essential to comprehend Pakistan's strategic culture's history and regional and global dynamics to predict its future behaviour and policy decisions. Pakistan's strategic culture will continue to influence its national security and foreign policy choices as it navigates the shifting geopolitical landscape.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study piece has studied the development of Pakistan's strategic culture and its regional and international dynamics. The research has examined the crucial elements, occasions, and trends influencing Pakistan's strategic culture from its origin using historical, case studies, and content analysis. The paper has also evaluated how Pakistan's strategic culture may affect its international and domestic policies.


The results show that a mix of historical events, geographical conditions, local difficulties, and regional and international factors have moulded Pakistan's strategic culture. The division of British India has significantly influenced Pakistan's strategic culture, the early development of the state, the military's role, and Pakistan's interactions with regional and international powers. In addition, Pakistan's strategic culture has changed in response to modifications in the local and international environment, such as the end of the Cold War, the War on Terror, and the altering geopolitical landscape.

Pakistan's strategic culture has ramifications for its national security and foreign policy, including balancing regional powers, maintaining credible deterrent capabilities, pursuing diplomatic initiatives, and managing internal issues. Pakistan's strategic culture will continue to influence how it approaches regional and international issues as it navigates the changing geopolitical terrain.

In order to predict Pakistan's future behaviour and policy decisions, it is crucial to comprehend the growth of its strategic culture and regional and global dynamics. This study adds to the body of knowledge on strategic culture and sheds light on how complicated and multidimensional Pakistan's strategic decision-making is. The ramifications of developing technologies, such as cyberwarfare and artificial intelligence, on Pakistan's strategic culture and the possible effects on regional and global security might be explored in more detail.

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