

Relations of Pakistan and Muslim Countries

Hashim Ali

Assistant Professor

Federal Urdu University, Karachi

&

Zainul Abideen

Assistant Professor

Federal Urdu University, Karachi

Pakistan

Abstract

Pakistan is an Islamic country. Islam is its ideological foundation. It came into being on the basis of two-nation theory. Therefore, it is called the fort of Islam. Pakistan is the only atomic power in the Islamic world. This is why it has an eminent position amongst the nations of the world. Pakistan not only plays an important role to resolve the controversies of Islamic countries but also has a significant character to solve the problems of the nations of the world.

Pakistan has religious, political, economic and social relations with Muslim countries. In this regard, the reawakening of the Islamic Conference, Organization of Islamic Countries is particularly remarkable.

Pakistan is now striving for mutual interests of the Islamic world. For promoting the trade and economical relations with Central Asian states and keeping in view the current situation of Afghanistan, the realistic policies are being acted upon. For reconstruction of the basic structure in West Afghanistan, the two-sided international attempts got courage from this. If Pakistan becomes successful for creating unity amongst Islamic nations, the Muslim world will get an important place at international level.

Key Words: Pakistan, Muslim Countries, Relations.

Introduction

The vast crescent circle from Indonesia to Morocco consists Muslim population or (Muslim world). The political, geographical and military importance of this region can be conjectured with this fact that four continents i.e. setting aside America, the others like Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia's land and air paths cannot contact with each other without passing through this. The narrow lines of Mediterranean Sea and the oceans of Africa and Asia are situated in Islamic World and they are like aorta for international trade. The Islamic world can suppress and close this aorta. If they wish they can make the international economical life paralyzed. Every fourth person is Muslim in the world. There are more than 50 independent Muslim countries. They are blessed with agricultural and mineral wealth. The Muslim world has the monopoly of Patrol and Oil reserves. Yet the Muslim world has economical contradiction. Some Muslim countries are very rich and some are spending their lives in very miserable circumstances.

The Muslim world is not independent in the matter of food and causes defective planning, deficit and reliance. There is no deficiency of mental poverty in the Muslim world. They spend 0.5 percent of total gross domestic product (GDP) on education. There is one scientist in every 10,00,000 people. The total trade of Muslim world is 110 billion dollars and the trade of Islamic brother countries is 14 billion dollars. Armed forces are huge in number. But the response cannot be given to the aggression in Kashmir and Chechnya etc. The greatest disease of the Muslim world is lack of unity. The institutions and agencies are not strong in Muslim countries because of defective planning. The efforts for revival and implementation of Islam are being made in several Muslim countries. A point of moderation is being searched between the necessities of past and the needs of present. The movement for implementation of Islam and revolution is getting intensity. All terms of Interpretation, illustration, Jihad (Islamic methodology of deciding by self-opinion on the basis of Quran and the way Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said and acted), thoughts nuance, modernism and progressiveness are revived. The future is in the hands of the people who know how to get rid of being drowned with the burden of the past. The wish to live in the future is bigger than the wish to live in the past.

The relations of Pakistan with some important countries of Islamic world are given below through which we can understand their political, social, economic and military cooperation and progress.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is not only the important country of the central Asia but also a most important country of the Islamic world. This country is blessed with Oil, Gas and other minerals. Pakistan has very close relations with Saudi Arabia. Firstly, because the two holy places (Harmain Sharifain) are situated in Saudi Arabia, Pakistani Muslims have very deep care for this region and the people there. Secondly, both the countries have a key place of unity between the Islamic countries in their foreign policies. The relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are exemplary since their beginning. Particularly in the period of Shah Faisal the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were ideal. Bank Al-Jazair came into being with mutual efforts of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (1).

In 1973, Pakistan's Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto visited Saudi Arabia and they had a discussion about Arab-Israel war. In 1976 the foundation of Mutual Ministry Commission was set under which the cultural and civil relations between both the countries were increased. In 1974, the meeting of Organization of Islamic Countries was held in Lahore with the personal efforts and cooperation of Shah Faisal and the unity and cooperation between the Islamic countries was increased. The heads of both the countries visited the countries of each other several times. They helped each other in every difficult time. When Pakistan did nuclear experiment then Pakistan had to face restrictions in the world. Saudi Arabia was one of some countries that a lot. The point of view of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was same in regional and international problems. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia resolved the issues which arose after 9/11 of 2001. In 2008 helped in different progressive plans, for example economical and defensive cooperation, real estate, auto industry and telecommunication. In addition to mutual efforts for Organization of Islamic Countries, both the countries will have increased mutual consent on regional and international problems, ideologies and harmony (2).

Turkey

Turkey is situated 97% in Europe and 3% in Asia. Turkey had the caliphate of Muslim nation. Pakistan and Turkey did an agreement of Baghdad with each other. When Iraq separated itself from this agreement, then its name was changed to CETO and CENTO. Pakistan and Turkey support each other on the problems of Kashmir and Cyprus. An agreement of R.C.D was done between Turkey, Pakistan and Iran in 1964. After that it was renamed to ECO. Central Asia and Afghanistan are also a part of this agreement. In the government of Benazir Bhutto, the topics of central Asia, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Bosnia,

Cyprus and atomic energy were discussed. Different kind of agreements for example agreements related to culture, technology, trade, communication, defence, economy, education and science were done. The misunderstandings between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey were over because of the efforts of the heads of these countries (3).

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is the neighbor Islamic country of Pakistan. The relations between both the countries were not pleasant since their beginning. Afghanistan talked against the inclusion of Pakistan in United Nations and there is a controversy of boundaries between Afghanistan and Pakistan which is called Durand Line. The Nazim-e-Ala of Afghanistan and the British Government had an agreement on the boundaries in 1893 (4).

After Pakistan came into being, Afghanistan went against the said agreement and demanded that the region from the seashore of Makran to Torkham should be given to Afghanistan so that they may get access to sea (The Arab Ocean). Pakistan rejected this demand and the tension started between both the countries. Russia and India tried to increase the boundary controversy.

Pakistan has allowed Afghanistan to use its sea on very easy terms. But Afghanistan is showing stubborn attitude on the matter of Pakhtunistan and it attacked on Bajor Agency in 1960 because of which the relations of both the countries became cold and the embassies were closed.

In 1964, president General Ayoub Khan visited Afghanistan. In the 1965 war, Pakistan was at risk on the boundaries with Afghanistan. So Afghanistan confirmed Pakistan that it will not take a step against Pakistan. Likewise in the 1971 war, Afghanistan remained neutral.

In December, 1979 Russia entered into Afghanistan with its armed forces. Its objective was to possess the Arabic Ocean. Pakistan helped its Muslim brothers in this incident and tried to solve this problem as soon as possible. Because of these efforts, an agreement was executed on 14th April, 1988 at Geneva on which the representatives of Russia, America, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed. Because of this agreement, the Russian army had to leave Afghanistan. Pakistan's effort was admirable in Geneva agreement because of which the Russian army had left Afghanistan after nine years without accomplishment of its objectives (6).

An agreement was executed in Islamabad revival of political stability in Afghanistan in which Burhanuddin was appointed as President and Gulbadeen Hikmatyar as Prime Minister. All the groups who are working in Afghanistan accepted this agreement.

All the group leaders of Afghanistan promised to abide by this agreement in Islamabad but they didn't act upon it with true heart so Afghanistan became a victim of political instability once again. Taliban declared insurgence against the Afghan groups and they possessed a big area in no time. Pakistan accepted the Taliban Government but America started a new warfare against them. Pakistan also became a companion with Afghanistan in this occasion and made political and diplomatic efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

As a result of those efforts, America and its partner countries are going out of Afghanistan imperceptibly and now a stable government is being established there which can promote peace between both the countries in near future (7).

Iran

Iran is near to Pakistan and its neighbor. It is situated in South West of Pakistan. In 1958, the agreements of boundaries were executed between both the countries. In 1964, the agreement of R.C.D was executed. It was renamed to ECO after that. Iran supports Pakistan on Kashmir issue. In 1965 and 1971 wars between India and Pakistan, Iran openly helped Pakistan. Likewise Pakistan played a key role to remove anxiety during war between Iraq and Iran. And executed a ceasefire agreement between both the Muslim neighboring countries. In 1998 when Pakistan responded with an Atomic experiment, Iran supported the Pakistani point of view and helped Pakistan a lot in that critical time. Iranian president Khatami Rafsanjani visited Pakistan in that occasion and many cooperation agreements were signed including defense. Cooperation agreements about smuggling, gas pipeline and other sections were executed. Agreements about automobile, oil & gas, petrochemical and food processing textile were acted upon (8).

Bangladesh

Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on 14th August, 1947 in great leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with efforts of Indian Muslims on the map of the world. At that time Pakistan had two parts (East Pakistan and West Pakistan). There was a distance of 1600km (1000 miles) between both of them... As a result, the depressing historical incident of the separation of East Pakistan took place. Likewise on 16th December, 1971 a separate country came into being with the name of Bangladesh (Ex-East Pakistan) while the West Pakistan was renamed to Islamic Republic of Pakistan (9).

In the first period of Benazir Bhutto the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh started getting better. Because of political instability in Pakistan Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif could not complete their reigns, therefore, resultantly the relations between both the

countries could not go further. In 1999 President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf visited Bangladesh and tried to start a new age of relations between both the countries. The conversation about removing the bitter memories of the past and resolving the mistakes was also done. Now the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh are better than before, but there is no warmth in the relations which should be seen between two brother Muslim countries. Some agreements about promotion of science, education and culture and progress of agriculture are recently executed between Pakistan and Bangladesh (10).

Egypt

The relations between Pakistan and Egypt went through from different ages and finally reached to friendship and brotherhood. CETO and CENTO agreements were the cause of anger. The Suez Canal conflict was also a reason of annoyance. In 1960, President Jamal Abdul Nasir's visit caused the misunderstandings removal. Zia-ul-Haq played role to establish Egypt as a member of Organization of Islamic Countries once again. On the Kashmir issue, Gulf War and Afghan problem in 1979, both the countries had same point of view. Not only the people of both the countries will get benefit but also the unity of the Islamic world will be strengthened if the relations keep going on the same way on sacrifice and dedication basis (11).

Libya

In 90s, Pakistan started living in American influence because of which its relations were bad with Libya. Because of the fact that Libya is extremely against the imperial forces, the relations between both the countries remained cold. Agreements of economical and defense cooperation along with employment, higher education, progress of human resources, culture, transfer of prisoners and information technology were executed between Pakistan and Libya. Both the countries have also signed on the agreements of political cooperation. Libya showed deep interest in investment in the fields of industry, trade, banking, education science and health (12).

Indonesia

According to an evaluation, currently there is a value of 80 million for the trade which is currently carried out between both the countries. Pakistan provides Indonesia with rice, cotton, cotton thread and medical tools while Indonesia provides us tea and edible oil etc. Pakistan intends to export tobacco, mechanical tools, railway bogies and sugarcane to Indonesia while we will receive tires, steel wires and other tools of iron from Indonesia.

In 1971, after Bangladesh came into being Pakistan's interest decreased from south East Asia. However, the friendly relations with Indonesia were not decreased. There is enough harmony between both the countries about international issues (13).

United Arab Emirates

The relations between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates are pleasant. In the past ages, United Arab Emirates has established numerous organizations in Pakistan for example urea, oil refinery, dairy farming, 320 mega watt power plant etc. United Arab Emirates played an important role for decreasing anxiety with India.

United Arab Emirates is playing an important role in economical progress of Pakistan.

Central Asian Muslim States

Six Central Asian Muslim States are respectively Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. The mutual cooperation of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and nine Central Asian Muslim States has splendid results. With economical and military cooperation and mutual cooperation both the parties can rise with firm and stable condition at international level. Pakistan is the nearest and important neighbor country of nine Central Asian Muslim States. This is why first of all Pakistan has played an important role firstly for freedom and secondly for stability of these states (14).

Conclusion

The basic objective of Pakistan's foreign policy is the security of Pakistan's ideology, working for Islam and building of brotherhood amongst the Muslim nation. Pakistan has always not only tried for building better relations with Muslim countries but whenever there was some risk of controversy amongst Muslim countries, Pakistan also made every possible effort for reconciliation. Historically Pakistan is part of central Asia. Any political or geographical change which occurs in Asian Muslim countries and the countries of central Asia effects Pakistan. Therefore, it is essential for Pakistan to build strong economical, social and political relations with the countries of central Asia.

Pakistan is not like a bridge between Muslim countries of Asia and Muslim countries of central Asia but it also has its impact and importance as a nuclear power in the world. This is why it is called the fort of Islam in the Muslim countries. Pakistan has played a key role from past to present in the unity and progress of Muslim countries.

Pakistan has always played an important role for Muslim nation and their political, social and economical progress whether it is Muslim countries of the central Asia or of Europe and

Africa. This is why the exertion of Pakistan is seen and given important value in the nations of the world.

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