



PAKISTAN AND POLAND RELATIONS PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (Conference Paper)

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Abstract

The international world order is in transition. The ongoing economic crisis, digital revolution, environmental challenges and political conflicts are fixing the nations into new power centers. The polygonal challenges sweeping this time from West to East, weakening the liberal democracies, reviving and strengthening ethnonationalism and national sovereignty. Taking advantage of this transition, Pakistan is exploring new partners to enhance its scope of diplomatic, economic and defense spheres of influence. Among all European nations, Poland has a unique historical, diplomatic and people-to-people relations with Pakistan which are subtle yet meaningful. Pakistan was one of the first Muslim countries to establish diplomatic relations with Poland, whereas, the size of its trade with Poland is more than half a billion Euros. Poland's location at the heart of the Europe serves Pakistan as the gateway to the European markets. Similarly, both countries have been enjoying strong defense ties since early 50s. These multidimensional sectors of cooperation and similarities will help us building exclusive partnership for peace and development inside and across the regions. Besides local components, external factors, and, new partners are essential for sustainable peace and all-inclusive development in contemporary times. Pakistan and Poland may not only build cooperation for peace and development. More avenues for brining prosperity, diversity and collaboration should be discovered for two different nations from two different regions, yet, with a mutual aspiration for peace and development.



Key words: Peace Development International World Order

Prelude:

Pakistan and Poland have recently celebrated 60 years of mutual relations based on respect and cordiality. The consensual agenda focused on political and military dialogue to promote peace, economic cooperation, and, people-to-people relations. The positivity of the relations among two countries reinforces further opportunities for peace and development which is significant for long and sustainable relations build on mutual trust, respect and collaboration.

Despite transitioning world order, peace and development remained in prime focus of all policy debates. Both concepts have been widely discussed as a vital force to eliminate the risk of conflict, to bring prosperity and to enhance the nation's sphere of influence. The social order and economic progress within and outside a country determines the prospects for peace and development. These elements are inevitable to build, expand and strengthen sustainable bilateral relations.

Pakistan, for its long-term commitment to liberate its region from all traditional and non-traditional security threats, has emerged in global politics for all the right reasons. Pakistan has learned the lesson very hard way, building sustainable peace in region to move towards the extra regional opportunities are now considered as the only way to fit into this challenging and transitioning time when the nations are exploring new cronies and trying for alternative options. Pakistan's alliance during cold war with Western bloc against Soviet Union, and then later on, for two decades partnering in 'War on Terror' sternly sabotaged the state of peace and security at home, damaged its reputation as a responsible state and withered its opportunities for economic and human development. According to a research done throughout 2016 by Foreign Service Programme at the University of Oxford about *Pakistan's perception in the eyes of the world*, results suggested that Pakistan was not trusted by the international community due to narrow scope of its foreign policy measures, fickle democracy, limited participation in regional and international trade, and overemphasis on hard power rather than soft power. The research findings summarized that world's strongest associations with Pakistan were with nuclear weapons, terrorism, security, Islam, and the Taliban, instead of peace stability, freedom and progress (Sheikh, Cheema, 2017).

This perception of Pakistan as a militarized or security state remained widespread for a long time. But now after learning lesson from its difficult past, the time has come when Pakistan must focus on achieving peace and prosperity, not just by military means, but through imparting democratic norms in its internal and external conduct, economic diplomacy and cultural exchange. Similarly, a shattering economy rendered Pakistan in an awful situation to seek help from friendly countries. Pakistan and its friends have to revisit their policy of engagements with Pakistan; it should now be 'trade not aid'. Since both countries are blessed with unique geo-strategic location, which is ideal for trade channelizing deeper in the regions, their spectrum of opportunities is boundless. Moreover, the diversity of cultures and range of products may help to maximize the potential



investors, ultimately lead cooperation and development in social and economic sectors.

Aim of the study:

1. To explore untapped avenues of mutual cooperation
2. To seek new options for both countries to enhance substantive diplomatic and political engagements
3. To introduce scholars and policy-makers the strengths, as well as, vulnerabilities of both countries, that help in concluding a comprehensive, workable policy.

Theoretical and conceptual explanation:

This research incorporated ***“the theory of peace and development”***, combining *John Galtung’s ‘theory of Peace’* and *Amartya Sen’s ‘theory of development’* to elaborate the interdependent nature of the two factors; peace and development. John Galtung in his ***theory of peace*** recommends peace as a relation, between two or more parties, peace is not the property alone whereas, Amartya Sen, the greatest development thinker of our time, in his ***theory of development*** explains development as a way of expanding freedom that helps to overcome many of the structural problems obstructing the opportunities (Galtung, 2017). The combined ***theory of peace and development*** advocates for equitable distribution of economic, social opportunities, protective security and political freedom from all direct threats of violence.

Besides theoretical elucidation, the concept of ***‘soft power’*** which was *originated by Joseph S. Nye*, expounds the capacity to influence nations through the use of persuasion, engagement and attraction by the tools of culture, economy, education, technology and diplomacy. The use of hard power or coercion is not beneficial in most scenarios (Sen, 2014). The subsidiary concept of soft power is the ***“culture of peace”*** which is meant to achieve sustainable economic and social development to bring people together through peaceful means i.e. trade and dialogues. The concept was first emerged on International Congress of Peace in Minds of Men, organized by UNESCO in 1989. According to the concept of culture of peace, peace is more than just the lack of tension and conflict. It is a constructive, dynamic, participatory process whereby differences are respected, dialogue is encouraged, and conflicts are constantly resolved through non-violent means to open up new opportunities for cooperation. It is intrinsically linked to democracy, justice, and development for all.

This paper shall explain the prospects for peace and development between Pakistan and Poland using the two scholarly theories in a distinct, theoretical synchronization, as well as, the conceptual framework of soft power.

The Peace Economy:

Though economic development does not automatically bring peace, peace is essential for building



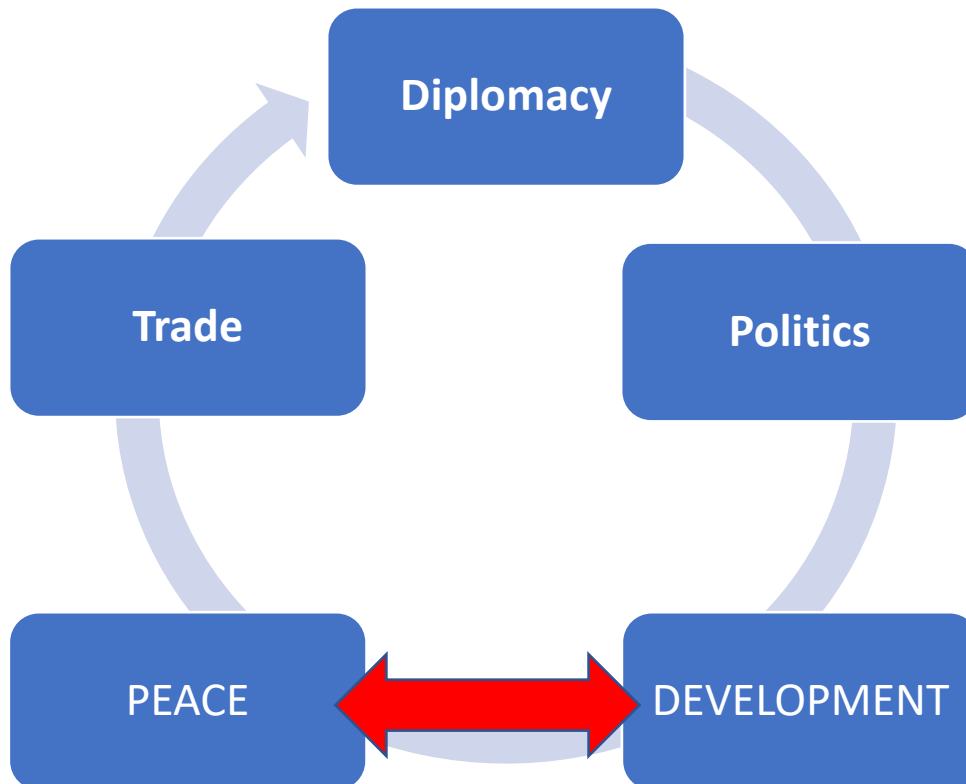
economies. The overall economic growth, social security, and market competitiveness are the general indicators of peace contributing to economies. The world where 1.4 billion people are forced to live in conflict-affected areas in highly vulnerable conditions, the peace is essential not just to end the conflict but also to build the countries and their economies back. Paul Collier provides compelling statistical evidence in his widely read book *The Bottom Billion*, that conflicts tend to cluster in the world's poorest countries. Violence is more likely to occur in nations with low per capita income, while civil war is less likely as a result of economic growth. The relationship between conflict and poverty also operates in the other direction. Conflict can undo years of development and destroy infrastructure, trade, and markets. Every three years that a nation experiences significant violence, poverty reduction lags by 2.7%, and no country affected by conflict has yet to meet even one of the Millennium Development Goals, according to the World Bank's 2011 World Development Report (Matteuci, 2005)

In many cases, due to the politicized nature of borders and the increased vigilance of the concerned states and their regional neighbors, establishing economic ties across international boundaries adds an additional layer of complexity. When political tensions prevent other forms of engagement, local businesses can act as a potent force for peace by fostering economic interdependence and pushing for reform. Pakistan and Poland may take advantage of their time-honored favorable relations with no history of political or territorial conflicts. Pakistan has an interesting paradox of economic growth without human and social development. (Web) It has all the due potential to become regional economic hub, but for that it has been proposed to build and exploit developing economic corridors. Through connectivity and economic integration with other regional and extra regional participants, Pakistan can make the most of its strategic location and help the region's standards converge for increased cross-border trade. To unleash the nation's economic growth, structural reforms in key areas are essential, such as rationalizing business regulations and taxes and enhancing trade facilitation and logistics. Trading and engaging with Poland in terms of technological, environmental and infrastructural development would facilitate Pakistan in transforming from conflict affected economy to peace economy.

Explaining the binary of Peace and Development:

Peace and development go hand in hand, but peace is the precondition for development. Pakistan and Poland both may take advantage of stable and peaceful bilateral relations to promote their agenda for development. Following model reflects the binary of peace and development where (peace) is the 'mean' to achieve the 'end' (development), through the smart and substantive implication of diplomacy, politics and trade.

Model for Peace and Development



Peace without development cannot be lasting, similarly, development without peace is unachievable. Both can be achieved through relative adjustment of political, diplomatic and commercial connectivity.

Why Poland is Important for Pakistan?

The formal diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Poland were established on December 17, 1962. But that was not the first time Polish people were introduced to this land. Despite geographical distance of 4,720 kilometers (Vernon, 2016). *Poland has an old history of visiting this region where present day Pakistan is situated. It was first time in Middle Ages when Polish explorers reached to this part of the world. The earliest topographic description of Hunza and Karakorum was later produced in the 19th century by two Polish researchers, Jan Goaszewski and Bronisaw Grbczewski. More than 21,000 Polish war refugees who had been evacuated from the USSR by Gen. Wadysaw Anders' army during World War II found safety in Karachi and Quetta. Later, Polish airmen who had served in the Polish Army in the West made a significant contribution to the development of the Pakistan Air Force and civil aviation during vital years of Pakistan's fledgling sovereignty. Gen. Wadysaw Turowicz, a particularly notable general, contributed to the development of Pakistan's space program's structure (Corps, 2011)*

Regardless of quite an active involvement of Poland before and after creation of Pakistan, their



bilateral relations never caught much space in global news. Poland is a market with huge potential, not yet explored enough by Pakistani business, which tends to focus mainly on the EU Countries. Poland has a mixed, highly industrialized economy, with a developed market that serves as the sixth-largest in the European Union by nominal GDP and fifth-largest by GDP (PPP) (Atlantic Council) Beyond regional markets, Poland offers an interesting alternative to Pakistan, having less competition and at the same time providing an easy access to the rest of European markets. People-to-people relations are important for the people of both countries to have a better knowledge of each other's culture, customs and beliefs.

Over the past 25 years, Polish oil and gas exploration companies have made significant investments in Pakistan. As a key component of Poland's economic cooperation, the gas explored by Polish businesses was sold in Pakistan to local consumers. That improves bilateral relations by making an individual better understand potential business or political partners for the future agreements and ventures.

The Pakistani business community is urged to look at Poland's potential for trade, investments, links for import and export, and marketing initiatives. Poland has a sound, free-market economy that abides by the highest quality and conditions standards in all of Europe. It is also a market that is quickly growing, combining the knowledge and technology advancement of established economies with the costs, rate of growth, and prospects more frequently seen in developing markets. It is situated at the intersection of important trade and transit lines, the lifeblood of the continent's business, and is located in the geographic center of Europe.

The shared value of *Peace*

“Don't be satisfied with the stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth”.

- Rumi

This is a crucial time to understand that despite continuous trivialities and challenges, Pakistan has to focus on its own target of achieving peace to bring home prosperity. Despite the malicious scheming to harm Pakistan's reputation in the region and around the world, the country and its resilient people have repeatedly shown through their countless peace initiatives that Pakistan gladly supports peace and stability despite all obstacles. Pursuing the goals of peace in the modern complicated world and shifting political dynamics, is challenging to get, if not impossible.

Peace is vital and unavoidable for development. Pakistan and Poland, exclusively expounds peace as the fundamental principle of their foreign policy. Poland is an active member of the UN in each of its three pillars: human rights, peace and security, and development. The former president of Poland Mr. Andrzej, once described Poland's aspiration for sustainable development, peace and security, and the protection of human rights fundamental for Poland's foreign policy. He stated that the goals pursued by Poland in line with the foundations of the United Nations could bring



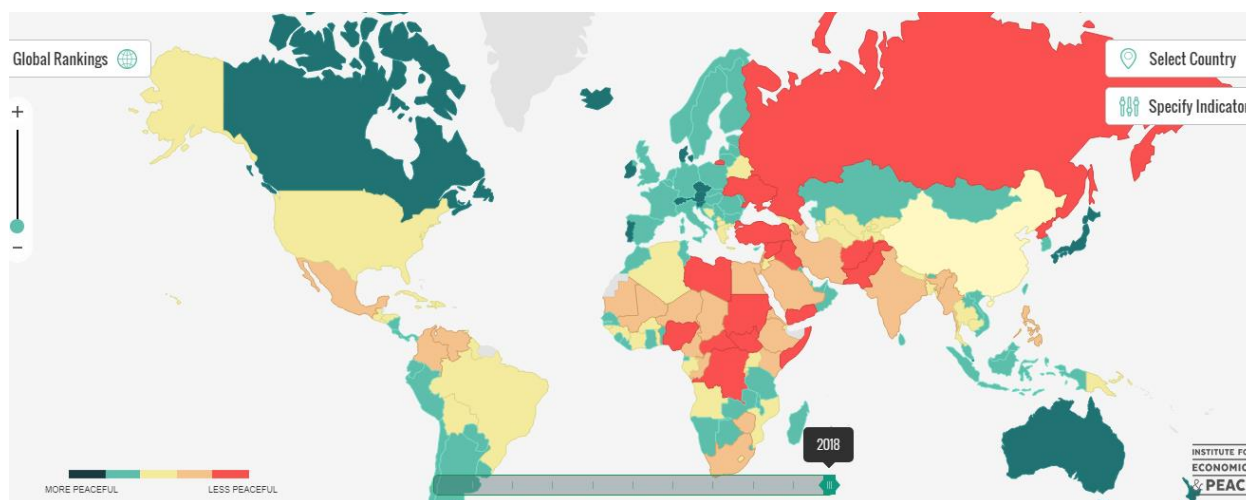
constructive changes not just in local but on global level. Poland adopted the 2030 Agenda that determine the model of sustainable development at the global level to show its ability to work together with the nations of the world as a welded community. In the same way, Pakistan, is known for its dynamic role in world peace and cooperation through its constant and meaningful contributions in UN peace missions, active engagements in regional and international organization, and, bilateral relations with nations of the world based on mutual interests. But at the same time, the entire journey of 75 years of Pakistan has been quite rough due to its domestic and regional miss-engagements and misadventures. This twofold policy damaged the trust of international community and disparage Pakistan's long term aspiration to recognize itself as a global pacifier. Situation for Pakistan is more difficult than Poland. Pakistan's turbulent past, poor democratic value-ridden politics, over insistence on state security rather than human security has swamped all its potential. This endless chase and overdoing of hard power has largely dominated its official profile. Pakistan has to revive its global perception through two essential ingredient; (i) change in political thought among all political actors (ii) shifting focus from securitization to peace and development. (Vernon, 2016)

Peace and Development through Economy

Economic development relies on the state of peace and stability in a country. The political instability and unpredictability, higher risk perception and rising inflation minimizes the chances for substantive economic development, subsequently leads to the problems like withdrawal of investors and businesses innovation, limited production activities, unemployment, crimes and social disparity.

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)'s Global Peace Index (GPI) is the most widely used indicator of world peace. According to the IEP's 2018 report, countries with high levels of peace have experienced three times more per capita growth over the past 70 years than nations with low levels of peace. The low levels of development in nations that are prone to conflict may be attributed to colonial legacies, low levels of human development, inequality, geographic factors, natural disasters, etc., according to critics of this index. There is no denying the significance of these elements, but peace is also a necessary condition for economic growth. When there is constant worry about violence and property damage, it is almost impossible for businesses, hospitals, and schools to function. Like, countries with a high level of peace receive more than twice as much foreign direct investment. This is because a stable environment conducive to business growth and effective government, which upholds the rule of law, is created by peace.

According to the 2019 Business and Peace Report from the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), economic prosperity and peace frequently reinforce one another. Building peace benefits from stronger economic performance, and vice versa. These components can work together to create a positive cycle. Similar to how declining peace performance impedes economic growth, it creates a vicious cycle.



Global Peace Index

Source: <http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/global-peace-index>

Pakistan often claims to seek a policy of *trade not aid* to fix its weak economy. Over the time various political leaders have used this fascinating phrase to exhibit their commitment to bring economic prosperity and national dignity, and apparently, few measures have been taken to expand options for free trade and ease of doing business. However, due to passive trade policies, lack of political stability, less innovative products and flaky financial indicators at home Pakistan has not achieved its aspired trade volume with any of its friendly state. Poland can be a good case to study and to make polices with for improving trade balance and for entrenching deeper into EU's market.

Recommendations:

To conclude this paper, three recommendations are added for building a strategy for peace and development between Pakistan and Poland:

First, both countries should broaden the scope for cooperation and peace. The power of any one nation is constrained in the era of globalization. Countries can only effectively address the escalating regional threats and global concerns through economic cooperation and partnerships. The significance of pursuing shared interests and supporting a win-win strategy rather than a zero-sum game approach will energize the state-to-state relations. This is a good idea that will promote communication and collaboration, not just between Poland and Pakistan, but it may spread across the global community while averting conflict and confrontation to expand trade and diplomacy.

Second, treat one another fairly and respectfully. Despite differences in geo-strategic spheres, size, power, and income, all nations are treated equally as members of the global community. Both countries must support a cooperation that adheres to the idea of national equality, respects the



sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as each other's fundamental interests and pressing worries. Such a partnership respects the freedom of the populace to choose the social structures and economic development of their nations, and it opposes power politics in which the powerful, powerful, and wealthy coerce the weak, poor, and small. This will provide more democracy and the rule of law a fresh impetus in international affairs.

Third, emphasize the advantages for all. The winner-takes-all mentality and prioritizing one's own interests over those of others are outmoded and ineffective in today's environment. This is especially with reference to Pakistan for its struggling economy and instable political environment. The ultimate goal of a partnership has to increase the size of the pie of shared interests through collaboration, allowing for greater sharing of the benefits of success and mutual progress and prosperity for people of both countries.

Conclusion:

The current state of diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries have prospects for peace and development in both conventional and nonconventional ways. Trade indicators from Pakistan's side showing improvements which is very encouraging in a time when country's economy is direly needing a smooth trading partner. Similarly, Poland may increase its diplomatic engagements in Pakistan to attract Pakistani investors, as well as, to tap Pakistan's local business opportunities in digital technology sector like; digital banking, fintech, drones, smart cities, digital security, etc. For Pakistan it's important to produce value added products and to come out from its conventional business and diplomatic zones, whereas, for Poland it will be useful to invest mainly in transforming the service sector, technology, gas exploration, education, research and skill development of local work force. The prospects for peace and development through increasing trade engagements between countries will help in furthering the next agendas for strengthening people-to-people ties, political and military consultation, and economic cooperation.



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