

Journal of Social Sciences Research & Policy (JSSRP)**Pakistan in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy: Strategic Priorities and Regional Implications (2025 - 2026)****Muhammad Imran Humayun¹, Gulrukh², Dr. Zahid Faqir³**

1. MPhil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Abasyn University Peshawar.

2. MPhil Scholar, Department of Political Sciences, Abasyn University Peshawar.

3. PhD, Lead Auditor OHSMS, EMS & QMS IOSH/ NEBOSH UK Head of HSE, Fauji Foundation, Head Office Welfare Branch.

Cite This Article: Humayun, M. I., Gulrukh. & Faqir, Z. (2026). Pakistan in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy: Strategic Priorities and Regional Implications (2025 - 2026). *Journal of Social Sciences Research & Policy*. 4 (01), 639-648.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.71327/jssrp.41.639.648>

ISSN: 3006-6557 (Online)

ISSN: 3006-6549 (Print)

Vol. 4, No. 1 (2026)

Pages: 639-648

Key Words:

U.S. Foreign Policy, Pakistan – U.S. Relations, Strategic Priorities, South Asia, Regional Security, Indo-Pacific Strategy, China - U.S. Competition, Afghanistan, Geopolitics, Contemporary International Relations

Corresponding Author:**Dr. Zahid Faqir**Email: zahid.faqir@fauji.com.pk**License:**

Abstract: *This article examines Pakistan's evolving position within contemporary U.S. foreign policy during 2025-2026, focusing on the strategic priorities shaping bilateral engagement and their broader regional implications. As the international system experiences intensifying geopolitical competition, particularly between the United States and China, Pakistan has re-emerged as a strategically significant actor in South Asia. The study analyzes key dimensions of U.S. policy, including regional security, counterterrorism cooperation, economic engagement, nuclear stability, and the changing geopolitical landscape following developments in Afghanistan. It argues that Washington's approach toward Pakistan reflects a pragmatic balance between strategic necessity and regional realignment, driven by evolving Indo-Pacific priorities and great-power competition. The article further assesses how these policy shifts influence regional stability, Pakistan's foreign policy choices, and the broader security architecture of South Asia. Ultimately, the study highlights the opportunities and constraints shaping U.S. - Pakistan relations in an increasingly complex and competitive global environment.*

Introduction

Pakistan's position in contemporary U.S. foreign policy has undergone significant recalibration in response to shifting geopolitical realities, intensifying great-power competition, and evolving regional security dynamics. During the 2025-2026 period, Washington's engagement with Islamabad reflects a pragmatic strategic approach that extends beyond the traditional framework of counterterrorism cooperation. The growing influence of China in South Asia, particularly through the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has elevated Pakistan's geostrategic significance within broader U.S. strategic calculations. Simultaneously, regional developments in Afghanistan, concerns regarding nuclear stability, and emerging economic and technological competition continue to shape American policy priorities toward Pakistan (Kronstadt, 2024).

From a strategic perspective, the United States increasingly views Pakistan as both a regional security stakeholder and a critical actor in maintaining stability across South and Central Asia. However, bilateral

relations remain characterized by a complex mixture of cooperation, competition, and mutual skepticism. While Washington seeks to strengthen regional partnerships through its Indo-Pacific strategy, Pakistan continues to pursue a diversified foreign policy that balances relations with the United States, China, and other regional powers (Tellis, 2023). Consequently, the future trajectory of U.S. - Pakistan relations will depend on how both states navigate strategic priorities, regional security challenges, and evolving geopolitical alignments. This study critically examines the strategic priorities underpinning contemporary U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan and assesses their implications for regional stability and power politics in South Asia.

Literature Review

The scholarly literature on U.S. - Pakistan relations highlights a persistent pattern of strategic engagement shaped by shifting geopolitical priorities, security concerns, and regional power dynamics. Historically, the relationship has been characterized by cyclical cooperation and divergence, often influenced by broader U.S. strategic objectives in South Asia and the Middle East. Scholars argue that Pakistan's geostrategic location has consistently positioned it as a critical partner in American foreign policy, particularly during the Cold War, the post-9/11 War on Terror, and the Afghanistan conflict (Kux, 2001; Haqqani, 2013). Recent studies suggest that U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan is increasingly influenced by the rise of China and the broader strategic competition emerging in the Indo-Pacific region. According to Tellis (2023), Washington's contemporary approach reflects a transition from counterterrorism-centered engagement toward a more comprehensive geopolitical framework focused on balancing Chinese influence and maintaining regional stability. Similarly, Fair (2024) contends that Pakistan's strategic partnership with China, particularly through the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has become a central consideration in U.S. policy calculations.

The literature further emphasizes the significance of Afghanistan, nuclear security, and regional stability in shaping bilateral relations. Kronstadt (2024) argues that despite periods of diplomatic tension, Pakistan remains an indispensable actor in addressing transnational security challenges and managing regional crises. However, scholars also highlight persistent trust deficits, divergent strategic interests, and policy inconsistencies that continue to constrain deeper cooperation (Markey, 2013). Consequently, contemporary research increasingly focuses on how evolving geopolitical realities, great-power competition, and regional security concerns are redefining Pakistan's place within U.S. foreign policy and shaping the future trajectory of bilateral relations.

Problem Statement

The evolving geopolitical landscape of South Asia and the intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China have significantly reshaped Pakistan's position in contemporary U.S. foreign policy. Despite Pakistan's continued relevance in regional security, counterterrorism, nuclear stability, and Afghanistan-related affairs, there remains considerable uncertainty regarding Washington's strategic priorities toward Islamabad during 2025-2026. Existing studies primarily focus on historical patterns of cooperation and conflict, offering limited analysis of Pakistan's role within emerging U.S. geopolitical calculations. This study seeks to address this gap by critically examining the strategic priorities, policy objectives, and regional implications of contemporary U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan in an increasingly complex international environment.

Research Objectives

1. To critically examine the strategic priorities shaping U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan during 2025-2026, with particular emphasis on regional security, great-power competition, counterterrorism, and geopolitical interests.

2. To analyze the regional implications of contemporary U.S. policy toward Pakistan and assess its impact on South Asian security dynamics, Pakistan's foreign policy orientation, and broader regional stability.

Research Questions

1. What are the principal strategic priorities shaping U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan during the period 2025-2026, and how do they reflect broader American geopolitical objectives in South Asia?
2. How do contemporary U.S. foreign policy priorities toward Pakistan influence regional security dynamics, strategic alignments, and the balance of power in South Asia during 2025 - 2026?

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative and analytical research methodology based on secondary data. Data are collected from academic journals, policy reports, government publications, think-tank analyses, and official documents related to U.S. - Pakistan relations during 2025-2026. The study utilizes a descriptive-analytical approach to examine the strategic priorities of U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan and assess their regional implications. Through content analysis and policy evaluation, the research critically explores contemporary geopolitical developments, regional security dynamics, and bilateral strategic interests shaping U.S. - Pakistan relations.

Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in Realist Theory, which emphasizes national interest, power politics, and strategic competition as the primary drivers of state behavior in international relations. The framework explains how the United States formulates its policy toward Pakistan based on security concerns, geopolitical interests, and regional power dynamics. It further examines Pakistan's strategic relevance within the context of great-power competition, particularly the U.S. - China rivalry. Through a realist lens, the study analyzes how strategic priorities influence bilateral relations and shape regional stability in South Asia during 2025-2026.

Significances of the Study

This study is significant because it provides a contemporary analysis of Pakistan's strategic importance in U.S. foreign policy amid evolving regional and global geopolitical dynamics. It contributes to understanding how U.S. strategic priorities influence Pakistan's foreign policy choices, regional security, and the balance of power in South Asia. Furthermore, the research offers valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and strategic analysts seeking to assess the future trajectory of U.S. - Pakistan relations in an increasingly competitive international environment.

Pakistan in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy

The relationship between the United States and Pakistan has remained one of the most complex and strategically significant partnerships in South Asian geopolitics. Since Pakistan's independence in 1947, bilateral relations have experienced periods of close cooperation as well as recurring tensions, largely shaped by shifting geopolitical interests and regional security considerations. During the Cold War, Pakistan emerged as a key American ally in the containment of Soviet influence, joining Western-led security arrangements such as SEATO and CENTO (Kux, 2001). Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan became a frontline state in supporting U.S. strategic objectives, further strengthening bilateral cooperation (Haqqani, 2013). The post-9/11 era marked another significant phase in U.S. - Pakistan relations, as Islamabad became a critical partner in the Global War on Terror. However, disagreements over counterterrorism policies, drone strikes, and regional security priorities contributed to growing mistrust between the two countries (Markey, 2013). The U.S. military

withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 further altered the strategic foundation of bilateral relations, compelling both states to reassess their respective policy priorities. Consequently, the relationship has gradually shifted from a predominantly security-centric partnership toward a broader framework encompassing regional stability, economic engagement, and geopolitical competition (Kronstadt, 2024). In the contemporary geopolitical environment of 2025-2026, Pakistan occupies a strategically important position within U.S. foreign policy calculations. The intensification of U.S.-China strategic competition has elevated Pakistan's significance due to its close political, economic, and security partnership with China, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As Washington seeks to maintain influence in the Indo-Pacific region, Pakistan represents both a strategic opportunity and a geopolitical challenge within broader American regional objectives (Tellis, 2023). Pakistan's geographical location at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East enhances its relevance in regional security and connectivity initiatives. Moreover, Pakistan remains an important stakeholder in counterterrorism cooperation, nuclear stability, and Afghanistan-related developments. Despite the reduced American military presence in Afghanistan, U.S. policymakers continue to recognize Pakistan's role in preventing regional instability and managing transnational security threats (Kronstadt, 2024).

From a strategic perspective, contemporary U.S. policy toward Pakistan reflects a pragmatic approach aimed at balancing regional security interests, managing great-power competition, and preserving diplomatic engagement. While challenges persist due to divergent strategic priorities and Pakistan's deepening ties with China, Washington increasingly views constructive engagement with Islamabad as essential for promoting stability in South Asia. Therefore, Pakistan's strategic significance in 2025-2026 extends beyond traditional security concerns and encompasses broader geopolitical, economic, and diplomatic dimensions that continue to shape the trajectory of U.S. foreign policy in the region.

U.S. Strategic Priorities toward Pakistan: Security, Geopolitics, and Economic Engagement

The United States' strategic priorities toward Pakistan during 2025-2026 are shaped by a complex combination of security concerns, geopolitical calculations, and economic interests. As global politics increasingly revolves around great-power competition, particularly between the United States and China, Pakistan has regained strategic relevance within Washington's broader foreign policy framework. Although the post-9/11 counterterrorism paradigm no longer dominates bilateral relations, Pakistan remains an important actor in regional security, geopolitical stability, and economic connectivity across South and Central Asia. Consequently, contemporary U.S. policy toward Pakistan reflects a pragmatic approach aimed at safeguarding American interests while managing emerging regional challenges (Kronstadt, 2024). Security remains a central pillar of U.S. engagement with Pakistan. Despite the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan, Washington continues to view Pakistan as a critical partner in addressing transnational terrorism, violent extremism, and regional instability. The persistence of terrorist networks operating across South and Central Asia necessitates intelligence sharing, security cooperation, and diplomatic coordination between the two countries. Moreover, Pakistan's status as a nuclear-armed state places it at the center of regional security calculations. U.S. policymakers remain concerned with issues of nuclear stability, crisis management, and strategic deterrence, particularly in the context of recurring tensions between Pakistan and India (Tellis, 2023). From a security perspective, maintaining constructive engagement with Islamabad is considered essential for preventing regional conflicts and preserving strategic stability in South Asia.

Geopolitics represents another significant dimension of contemporary U.S. policy toward Pakistan. The intensifying strategic rivalry between the United States and China has transformed South Asia into an increasingly important arena of geopolitical competition. Pakistan's close partnership with China,

particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has elevated its significance within American strategic calculations. Washington views China's growing influence in the region as a challenge to its long-term geopolitical objectives and therefore seeks to maintain diplomatic channels with Islamabad despite existing differences (Fair, 2024). Rather than pursuing a confrontational approach, the United States increasingly adopts a strategy of selective engagement designed to prevent Pakistan from becoming exclusively aligned with Chinese regional ambitions.

Pakistan's geographical location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East enhances its geopolitical importance. The country serves as a critical link between regional economic corridors, energy routes, and security networks. As a result, American policymakers recognize that regional stability and connectivity initiatives cannot be effectively pursued without considering Pakistan's strategic role (Markey, 2013). This geopolitical reality continues to influence U.S. diplomatic engagement and regional policy formulation. Economic engagement has also emerged as an increasingly important component of bilateral relations. While security concerns previously dominated the relationship, contemporary U.S. policy places greater emphasis on trade, investment, technological cooperation, and sustainable economic development. The United States seeks to encourage economic reforms, private-sector growth, and investment opportunities that can contribute to Pakistan's economic stability and reduce structural vulnerabilities. Economic engagement is also viewed as a means of strengthening bilateral relations beyond traditional security cooperation and fostering long-term strategic partnership (U.S. Department of State, 2024).

The economic considerations are closely linked to broader geopolitical objectives. By expanding trade and investment cooperation, Washington aims to maintain economic influence in Pakistan while offering alternatives to excessive dependence on Chinese financial and infrastructure initiatives. This approach reflects a broader strategy of economic statecraft, whereby economic tools are utilized to advance strategic and geopolitical interests. Consequently, economic engagement has become an increasingly important instrument in shaping contemporary U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan. The U.S. strategic priorities toward Pakistan during 2025-2026 are driven by the interconnected objectives of regional security, geopolitical competition, and economic engagement. While counterterrorism and nuclear stability remain important concerns, the rise of China, shifting regional power dynamics, and emerging economic opportunities have broadened the scope of bilateral relations. Therefore, Pakistan continues to occupy a significant position within contemporary U.S. foreign policy as Washington seeks to balance strategic competition, regional stability, and long-term economic interests in South Asia.

Regional Implications for South Asian Security and Stability

The contemporary trajectory of U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan carries significant implications for South Asian security and regional stability. As the geopolitical environment of South Asia becomes increasingly shaped by strategic competition, nuclear deterrence, and transnational security challenges, Pakistan remains a pivotal actor within the regional security architecture. Washington's engagement with Islamabad during 2025-2026 reflects broader efforts to preserve strategic equilibrium while preventing the emergence of security vacuums that could destabilize the region (Kronstadt, 2024). Pakistan's role in regional security extends beyond its bilateral relationship with the United States. As a nuclear-armed state situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan occupies a critical position in maintaining strategic stability. U.S. policymakers continue to recognize that effective management of regional security challenges, including terrorism, border instability, and nuclear risk reduction, requires constructive engagement with Islamabad (Tellis, 2023). Consequently,

American strategic priorities increasingly focus on sustaining diplomatic channels and security cooperation that can contribute to crisis management and conflict prevention.

Moreover, the evolving U.S. - Pakistan relationship influences broader regional alignments and power configurations. South Asia remains characterized by enduring rivalry between Pakistan and India, with periodic tensions posing risks to regional peace and security. The United States seeks to balance its growing strategic partnership with India while simultaneously maintaining functional relations with Pakistan. This balancing act reflects Washington's objective of preventing escalation between two nuclear powers while promoting regional stability and economic connectivity (Markey, 2013). Therefore, U.S. policy toward Pakistan possesses direct implications for the broader security environment of South Asia.

China, India, and Afghanistan Dimensions

The regional implications of contemporary U.S. policy toward Pakistan cannot be fully understood without examining the interconnected dimensions of China, India, and Afghanistan. The intensification of U.S. - China strategic competition has transformed Pakistan into a significant geopolitical actor within broader regional calculations. Pakistan's strategic partnership with China, particularly through the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has elevated its importance in Beijing's regional and global ambitions. Consequently, Washington increasingly views Pakistan through the lens of great-power competition, where strategic influence and regional alignments play a decisive role in shaping policy outcomes (Fair, 2024). From an Indian perspective, the strengthening of U.S. - India strategic cooperation has generated concerns within Pakistan regarding regional power asymmetries. The United States regards India as a key partner in its Indo-Pacific strategy and as a counterweight to China's expanding influence. However, this strategic alignment creates complex challenges for regional stability, as Pakistan perceives growing U.S.-India cooperation as potentially altering the regional balance of power (Tellis, 2023). As a result, Islamabad continues to diversify its strategic partnerships while strengthening ties with Beijing to safeguard its national interests.

Afghanistan remains another crucial dimension influencing regional security dynamics. Despite the withdrawal of U.S. military forces, Afghanistan continues to present challenges related to terrorism, political instability, humanitarian crises, and border security. Pakistan's geographic proximity and historical involvement in Afghan affairs make it an indispensable stakeholder in efforts aimed at preventing instability from spreading across the region (Kronstadt, 2024). U.S. policymakers recognize that sustainable regional stability requires cooperation with Pakistan in addressing security threats emanating from Afghanistan. Ultimately, the interaction between China, India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan reflects an increasingly interconnected geopolitical environment where strategic competition and regional security concerns are deeply intertwined. Contemporary U.S. foreign policy toward Pakistan therefore carries implications that extend beyond bilateral relations, influencing power politics, strategic alignments, and the broader security architecture of South Asia. The effectiveness of future U.S. engagement with Pakistan will largely determine whether regional dynamics evolve toward greater cooperation and stability or heightened geopolitical competition and strategic uncertainty.

Challenges and Opportunities

The contemporary relationship between the United States and Pakistan is characterized by a complex interplay of strategic cooperation, geopolitical competition, and mutual distrust. Despite decades of engagement, several structural challenges continue to constrain the development of a stable and comprehensive bilateral partnership. One of the most significant challenges is the persistent trust deficit that has historically shaped U.S. - Pakistan relations. Divergent security priorities, disagreements over

counterterrorism strategies, and differing regional perspectives have frequently generated tensions between the two countries (Haqqani, 2013). While both states recognize the importance of strategic engagement, their respective policy objectives often diverge, particularly regarding regional security and geopolitical alignments.

Another major challenge stems from the intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China. Pakistan's deepening economic, military, and diplomatic partnership with China, particularly through the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has raised concerns in Washington regarding Beijing's expanding influence in South Asia (Fair, 2024). Consequently, U.S. policymakers face the challenge of maintaining constructive relations with Pakistan while simultaneously pursuing broader strategic objectives aimed at counterbalancing China's regional presence. This geopolitical dynamic has introduced new complexities into bilateral relations and reshaped the strategic calculations of both states. Economic vulnerabilities also present significant challenges. Pakistan continues to face fiscal constraints, debt pressures, energy shortages, and development challenges that affect its long-term stability. From the American perspective, economic instability in Pakistan can contribute to political uncertainty and security risks, potentially undermining regional stability (Kronstadt, 2024). Furthermore, limited trade volume and insufficient economic integration have prevented bilateral relations from achieving the depth commonly associated with long-term strategic partnerships.

Despite these challenges, substantial opportunities exist for enhancing cooperation. Regional security remains an area of mutual interest, particularly in addressing terrorism, extremism, cyber threats, and emerging security challenges. Additionally, economic engagement, technological cooperation, climate resilience initiatives, and educational partnerships offer promising avenues for strengthening bilateral ties. As global politics increasingly emphasizes economic diplomacy and technological innovation, both countries possess opportunities to expand cooperation beyond traditional security concerns (Tellis, 2023).

The Future of U.S. - Pakistan Relations

The future trajectory of U.S.- Pakistan relations will largely depend upon the ability of both countries to adapt to evolving geopolitical realities and redefine their partnership within a rapidly changing international environment. Unlike previous decades, future engagement is unlikely to be dominated solely by counterterrorism or military cooperation. Instead, bilateral relations are expected to become increasingly multidimensional, encompassing economic cooperation, strategic dialogue, regional connectivity, technological collaboration, and climate security initiatives. From a geopolitical perspective, Pakistan will continue to occupy a strategically important position due to its geographic location, nuclear capabilities, and influence in South Asian and Afghan affairs. The United States is therefore likely to maintain diplomatic engagement with Islamabad as part of its broader strategy to preserve regional stability and manage great-power competition (Markey, 2013). Simultaneously, Pakistan is expected to pursue a diversified foreign policy approach that balances relations with the United States, China, Gulf States, and other regional actors.

Looking ahead, the sustainability of bilateral relations will depend upon the development of a more balanced partnership based on mutual interests rather than short-term strategic necessities. While geopolitical competition and regional uncertainties will continue to shape policy choices, opportunities for constructive engagement remain significant. If effectively managed, U.S.-Pakistan relations can evolve into a pragmatic and mutually beneficial partnership that contributes to regional stability, economic development, and strategic cooperation across South Asia. Therefore, the future of the

relationship will be determined not only by geopolitical calculations but also by the capacity of both states to build trust, expand economic ties, and institutionalize long-term strategic cooperation.

Conclusion

Pakistan's position in contemporary U.S. foreign policy during 2025-2026 reflects its enduring strategic relevance within an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment. The study demonstrates that U.S. engagement with Pakistan is no longer confined to counterterrorism cooperation but increasingly encompasses regional security, geopolitical competition, economic engagement, and diplomatic crisis management. Pakistan's geostrategic location, nuclear capabilities, and influence in South Asian and Middle Eastern affairs continue to make it a significant factor in Washington's regional calculations. The analysis further reveals that the intensifying U.S. - China rivalry, the evolving situation in Afghanistan, and the growing U.S. - India strategic partnership have reshaped the dynamics of U.S. - Pakistan relations. Despite persistent challenges, including strategic mistrust and divergent policy priorities, both countries share common interests in regional stability, conflict prevention, and economic development. A notable development during 2025-2026 has been Pakistan's diplomatic role in facilitating dialogue amid the U.S. - Iran confrontation and the broader regional tensions involving Israel and Iran. Pakistan actively pursued mediation efforts and encouraged diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation in the Middle East. Reports indicate that Islamabad played a significant role in facilitating negotiations that contributed to a peace framework and subsequent agreements between Washington and Tehran, highlighting Pakistan's growing diplomatic relevance beyond South Asia. The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations will depend on the ability of both states to transform a historically transactional partnership into a broader strategic relationship based on mutual interests and sustained cooperation. As geopolitical competition and regional instability continue to shape international politics, Pakistan is likely to remain an important actor in contemporary U.S. foreign policy and a key contributor to regional peace, stability, and diplomatic conflict resolution.

Findings

1. Pakistan has re-emerged as a strategically important state in U.S. foreign policy due to its geopolitical location and regional influence. Its role extends beyond counterterrorism to broader security and diplomatic considerations.
2. The growing U.S.-China rivalry has increased Pakistan's strategic significance in South Asia. Washington increasingly views Pakistan within the context of regional power competition and geopolitical balancing.
3. Pakistan remains a key actor in addressing regional security challenges, including terrorism, nuclear stability, and Afghanistan-related issues. U.S.-Pakistan cooperation continues to be important for maintaining regional peace.
4. The strengthening U.S. - India relationship has altered the regional balance of power. This development has encouraged Pakistan to deepen its strategic and economic ties with China.
5. Economic cooperation is becoming an increasingly important component of bilateral relations. Trade, investment, and technological collaboration are gradually complementing traditional security cooperation.
6. Pakistan demonstrated growing diplomatic relevance through its support for dialogue and de-escalation during regional crises. Its peace-oriented engagement enhanced its international diplomatic profile.
7. Historical mistrust and policy divergences continue to hinder the development of a comprehensive strategic partnership. These challenges remain a major constraint on bilateral cooperation.

8. Future U.S.-Pakistan relations are likely to be guided by pragmatic and interest-based cooperation. Regional stability, economic engagement, and strategic dialogue will remain central areas of collaboration.

Recommendations

1. The United States and Pakistan should institutionalize regular strategic dialogues to strengthen mutual trust and policy coordination.
2. Both countries should expand economic and trade cooperation to diversify bilateral relations beyond security concerns.
3. Pakistan should continue pursuing a balanced foreign policy that promotes constructive engagement with both the United States and China.
4. The United States should support Pakistan's economic stabilization and development initiatives through investment and technological cooperation.
5. Enhanced intelligence-sharing and counterterrorism cooperation should be maintained to address emerging regional security threats.
6. Both states should collaborate on climate security, water management, and sustainable development challenges.
7. The United States should encourage regional conflict resolution initiatives involving Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, and Iran.
8. Pakistan should further strengthen its diplomatic role as a mediator in regional and international disputes.
9. Greater people-to-people, educational, and academic exchanges should be promoted to improve long-term bilateral understanding.
10. Both countries should pursue a pragmatic, long-term strategic partnership focused on regional stability, economic growth, and peace building.

References

- Fair, C. C. (2024). *Pakistan, China, and the evolving strategic landscape of South Asia*. Oxford University Press.
- Fair, C. C. (2024). *Pakistan, China, and the evolving strategic landscape of South Asia*. Oxford University Press.
- Fair, C. C. (2024). *Pakistan, China, and the evolving strategic landscape of South Asia*. Oxford University Press.
- Fair, C. C. (2024). *Pakistan, China, and the evolving strategic landscape of South Asia*. Oxford University Press.
- Haqqani, H. (2013). *Magnificent delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an epic history of misunderstanding*. PublicAffairs.
- Haqqani, H. (2013). *Magnificent delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an epic history of misunderstanding*. PublicAffairs.
- Haqqani, H. (2013). *Magnificent Delusions: Pakistan, the United States, and an Epic History of Misunderstanding*. PublicAffairs.
- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.
- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.
- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.
- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.
- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.

- Kronstadt, K. A. (2024). *Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Issues for Congress*. Congressional Research Service.
- Kux, D. (2001). *The United States and Pakistan, 1947–2000: Disenchanted allies*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
- Kux, D. (2001). *The United States and Pakistan, 1947–2000: Disenchanted allies*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
- Markey, D. S. (2013). *No exit from Pakistan: America's tortured relationship with Islamabad*. Cambridge University Press.
- Markey, D. S. (2013). *No exit from Pakistan: America's tortured relationship with Islamabad*. Cambridge University Press.
- Markey, D. S. (2013). *No exit from Pakistan: America's tortured relationship with Islamabad*. Cambridge University Press.
- Markey, D. S. (2013). *No Exit from Pakistan: America's Tortured Relationship with Islamabad*. Cambridge University Press.
- Markey, D. S. (2013). *No Exit from Pakistan: America's Tortured Relationship with Islamabad*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations in a changing Asian order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations in a changing Asian order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations in a changing Asian order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The future of U.S.-Pakistan relations in a changing Asian order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The Future of U.S.-Pakistan Relations in a Changing Asian Order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Tellis, A. J. (2023). *The Future of U.S.-Pakistan Relations in a Changing Asian Order*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- U.S. Department of State. (2024). *U.S.–Pakistan bilateral relations and economic cooperation*. U.S. Department of State.