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Abstract: *This study examines Pakistan's potential role as a diplomatic mediator in facilitating a peace accord between the United States and Iran and assesses its implications for regional security. Positioned at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, Pakistan maintains strategic relations with both Washington and Tehran, enabling it to serve as a credible bridge for dialogue. The research explores the diplomatic initiatives, geopolitical considerations, and confidence-building measures that could support conflict resolution between the two adversaries. It further analyzes how a successful U.S.–Iran peace accord could contribute to regional stability by reducing proxy conflicts, easing sectarian tensions, enhancing economic cooperation, and strengthening collective security mechanisms. At the same time, the study evaluates the challenges Pakistan may face, including external pressures, regional rivalries, and domestic constraints. The findings suggest that effective Pakistani mediation could enhance peace, promote regional cooperation, and elevate Pakistan's diplomatic standing in international affairs.*

Introduction

The evolving geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has made diplomatic engagement and conflict resolution increasingly important for maintaining regional stability. Relations between the United States and Iran have remained strained for decades due to disputes over nuclear development, regional influence, economic sanctions, and security concerns (Waltz, 1979; Mearsheimer, 2001). These tensions have contributed to proxy conflicts, sectarian polarization, and strategic uncertainty across the broader Middle East and South Asia. In this context, Pakistan has emerged as a potentially significant diplomatic actor due to its unique geopolitical position, historical ties with Iran, and longstanding strategic partnership with the United States (Rizvi, 2019). Pakistan's balanced relations with both states provide it with a rare opportunity to facilitate dialogue and confidence-building measures aimed at reducing hostility and fostering peaceful coexistence. As a nuclear-armed Muslim-majority state situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan possesses the diplomatic leverage

necessary to act as a credible mediator. A successful U.S.–Iran peace accord, supported by Pakistani diplomacy, could reduce regional tensions, limit proxy warfare, enhance economic connectivity, and strengthen collective security frameworks (Buzan & Wæver, 2003). Therefore, examining Pakistan's potential role as a peace broker offers valuable insights into the prospects for sustainable peace and regional security in an increasingly multipolar world.

Literature Review

The literature on international mediation highlights the growing importance of middle powers in resolving conflicts between rival states. According to Buzan and Wæver (2003), regional security is increasingly shaped by the actions of states capable of bridging geopolitical divides and facilitating dialogue. In the context of U.S.–Iran relations, scholars argue that prolonged hostility has generated instability across the Middle East through proxy conflicts, economic sanctions, and security dilemmas, making third-party mediation an essential mechanism for de-escalation (Mearsheimer, 2001). Recent studies emphasize Pakistan's emergence as a credible mediator due to its balanced relations with both Washington and Tehran. Mir and Ayub (2026) contend that Pakistan's mediatory diplomacy reflects a strategy of strategic balancing, enabling Islamabad to engage in shuttle diplomacy, confidence-building measures, and back-channel negotiations aimed at reducing tensions between the two adversaries. Similarly, Khalid et al. (2026) argue that Pakistan's geopolitical location, diplomatic networks, and historical engagement with both states have enhanced its capacity to facilitate negotiations and contribute to conflict resolution.

Furthermore, Kainaat (2026) views Pakistan's role through the lens of Middle-Power Diplomacy Theory, suggesting that Islamabad's mediation efforts demonstrate how regional actors can influence major-power disputes despite structural limitations. Likewise, Mohsin et al. (2026) maintain that Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives have helped establish communication channels and reduce the risk of military escalation between the United States and Iran. Contemporary analyses also highlight the broader implications of successful mediation. Reuter's reports indicate that Pakistan's engagement in U.S. - Iran dialogue has strengthened its image as a neutral peace broker while contributing to efforts aimed at preserving stability in the Persian Gulf and the wider Middle East. However, scholars caution that deep-rooted strategic rivalries, external pressures, and regional competition continue to challenge the sustainability of any peace process.

The existing literature suggests that Pakistan's mediation role represents an important case of middle-power diplomacy, demonstrating both the opportunities and constraints of conflict resolution in a complex regional security environment.

Problem Statement

The longstanding rivalry between the United States and Iran has remained a major source of instability in the Middle East, contributing to regional conflicts and security challenges. Despite various diplomatic initiatives, sustainable peace between the two states has remained elusive. Pakistan's recent emergence as a mediator has created new opportunities for dialogue and conflict resolution. However, there is limited scholarly analysis of Pakistan's effectiveness as a peace broker in U.S. - Iran relations. This study examines Pakistan's diplomatic role in facilitating a peace accord and evaluates its impact on regional stability. It also explores the opportunities, challenges, and security implications arising from Pakistan's mediation efforts.

Research Objectives

1. To examine Pakistan's role and diplomatic strategies in mediating the U.S.–Iran Peace Accord.
2. To analyze the implications of Pakistan's mediation efforts for regional security, strategic stability, and conflict resolution in the Middle East and South Asia.

Research Questions

1. How has Pakistan employed diplomatic mediation strategies to facilitate the U.S.–Iran Peace Accord, and what factors have influenced the effectiveness of its role as a peace broker?
2. What are the implications of Pakistan's mediation in the U.S.–Iran Peace Accord for regional security, strategic stability, and geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East and South Asia?

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on Middle Power Diplomacy Theory, which explains how states with moderate power can influence international affairs through mediation and conflict resolution. Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran reflects its function as a middle power promoting regional peace and stability. The theory suggests that diplomatic engagement and negotiation can enhance a state's influence beyond its material capabilities. In the context of the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord, Pakistan acts as a bridge between two rival states to reduce tensions and foster cooperation. Therefore, Middle Power Diplomacy Theory provides an appropriate framework for analyzing Pakistan's role as a peace broker and its implications for regional security.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research methodology based on a descriptive and analytical research design to examine Pakistan's role in mediating the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord and its implications for regional security. The research relies on secondary data sources, including scholarly journal articles, books, policy reports, official government statements, think-tank publications, and reports from international organizations. Data are analyzed through content analysis and thematic analysis to identify key patterns, diplomatic strategies, geopolitical dynamics, and security implications associated with Pakistan's mediation efforts. The study is guided by Middle Power Diplomacy Theory, which provides the theoretical lens for evaluating Pakistan's effectiveness as a peace broker. By critically examining diplomatic engagements, regional responses, and strategic outcomes, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of Pakistan's contribution to conflict resolution and regional stability in the contemporary international system.

Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the literature on international mediation and conflict resolution by examining Pakistan's role as a peace broker in the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord. It enhances understanding of how middle powers can influence regional and global security dynamics through diplomacy. The research provides insights into the strategic implications of Pakistan's mediation efforts for stability in the Middle East and South Asia. It also offers valuable policy recommendations for diplomats and policymakers engaged in peace building initiatives. The study serves as a useful reference for future research on mediation, regional security, and Pakistan's foreign policy.

U.S. - Iran Relations and the Evolution of Regional Conflicts

The relationship between the United States and Iran has experienced significant fluctuations over the past seven decades, evolving from close cooperation to deep hostility. During the reign of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran was regarded as one of Washington's most important allies in the Middle East. The United States provided military, economic, and political support to the Shah's government, viewing Iran as a strategic partner in containing Soviet influence during the Cold War (Gasiorowski, 1991). However, the relationship dramatically deteriorated following the Iranian Revolution of 1979,

which overthrew the Shah and established the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and the subsequent hostage crisis marked a turning point in bilateral relations. Since then, diplomatic relations have remained severed, characterized by mutual distrust and recurring confrontations (Kinzer, 2008). Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, tensions intensified due to disagreements over regional security, terrorism allegations, and Iran's growing influence in the Middle East. The U.S. invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 further complicated relations, creating both areas of cooperation and competition. In the twenty-first century, disputes over Iran's nuclear program became the central issue shaping U.S. - Iran relations, reinforcing a cycle of sanctions, negotiations, and diplomatic crises (Takeyh, 2011).

The strategic rivalry between the United States and Iran is rooted in ideological, geopolitical, and security-related factors. Ideologically, the Islamic Republic views American influence in the Middle East as a challenge to its revolutionary principles and regional aspirations. Conversely, the United States has frequently criticized Iran's political system, human rights record, and support for non-state armed groups (Mearsheimer, 2001). Geopolitically, both states compete for influence across the Middle East. Iran seeks to establish itself as a leading regional power through its relationships with allies and partner groups in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. The United States, meanwhile, maintains extensive security partnerships with regional actors and seeks to preserve a balance of power favorable to its interests and those of its allies (Gause, 2014). This competition has created a persistent security dilemma in which defensive actions by one side are often interpreted as offensive threats by the other. Another source of rivalry stems from differing perceptions of regional order. Iran advocates for a regional security framework less dependent on external powers, whereas the United States supports a security architecture based on its military presence and strategic partnerships. These conflicting visions have fueled tensions and hindered efforts toward lasting reconciliation.

Nuclear Issue and Economic Sanctions

The Iranian nuclear program has become the most contentious issue in U.S.–Iran relations. Iran maintains that its nuclear activities are intended for peaceful purposes, including energy production and scientific research. However, the United States and several Western countries have expressed concerns that the program could potentially contribute to the development of nuclear weapons capabilities (Fitzpatrick, 2016). International concerns led to multiple rounds of economic sanctions imposed by the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union. These sanctions targeted Iran's banking sector, oil exports, and access to international financial markets. The sanctions significantly affected Iran's economy by reducing foreign investment, increasing inflation, and limiting economic growth (Katzman, 2020).

A major diplomatic breakthrough occurred in 2015 with the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between Iran and the P5+1 countries. The agreement imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief (Nephew, 2018). However, the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions reignited tensions and undermined mutual trust. Iran subsequently reduced compliance with certain provisions of the agreement, leading to renewed concerns regarding regional security and nuclear proliferation. The nuclear dispute has broader implications beyond bilateral relations. It affects global energy markets, regional military balances, and international non-proliferation efforts. As a result, resolving the nuclear issue remains essential for achieving long-term stability in the Middle East.

Regional Security Challenges and Proxy Conflicts

One of the most significant consequences of the U.S. - Iran rivalry has been the emergence of proxy conflicts throughout the Middle East. Rather than engaging in direct military confrontation, both states have often pursued their strategic objectives through allied governments, political movements, and armed groups operating across the region (Byman, 2018). In Iraq, competition for political influence intensified after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Iran expanded its influence through political alliances and militia networks, while the United States sought to support state institutions and maintain regional stability. Similar patterns emerged in Syria, where Iran supported the government of Bashar al-Assad, while the United States backed various opposition elements during different phases of the conflict (Phillips, 2016).

Yemen has become another major arena of rivalry. The conflict between the internationally recognized government and the Houthi movement has evolved into a broader regional struggle involving competing external interests. Likewise, in Lebanon, Iran's support for Hezbollah has remained a central concern for U.S. policymakers and regional allies (Gause, 2014). These proxy conflicts have contributed to humanitarian crises, political instability, and economic destruction across the region. They have also increased the risk of accidental escalation between the United States and Iran. The 2020 killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani by a U.S. drone strike demonstrated how quickly regional tensions can approach direct confrontation. From a regional security perspective, the continuation of U.S. - Iran hostility poses challenges for peacebuilding, economic integration, and collective security. Consequently, diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing tensions and encouraging dialogue have gained increasing importance. In this context, mediation efforts by states such as Pakistan have the potential to facilitate communication, reduce mistrust, and contribute to a more stable regional order.

Pakistan's Diplomatic Role in the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord

Pakistan's foreign policy has traditionally been shaped by its strategic location, security concerns, and economic interests. As a state positioned at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan has sought to maintain balanced relations with both the United States and Iran despite their longstanding rivalry. This balancing approach reflects Islamabad's broader objective of preserving regional stability while safeguarding its national interests. Relations between Pakistan and the United States have experienced periods of close cooperation and occasional tension. During the Cold War, Pakistan emerged as a key American ally in efforts to contain Soviet influence. Cooperation deepened during the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s and later during the Global War on Terror after 2001 (Haqqani, 2013). The United States has remained an important source of economic assistance, military cooperation, and diplomatic support for Pakistan. Despite disagreements over counterterrorism policies, Afghanistan, and regional security issues, both countries continue to recognize the strategic importance of their relationship.

Pakistan has maintained cordial relations with Iran based on geographical proximity, cultural ties, religious connections, and shared economic interests. Iran was among the first countries to recognize Pakistan after its independence in 1947. Cooperation between the two countries has expanded in areas such as border security, energy, trade, and regional connectivity (Rizvi, 2019). Although Pakistan has occasionally faced pressure from competing regional alignments, it has generally avoided taking sides in disputes involving Iran and the United States. This balanced diplomatic posture has enabled Pakistan to maintain communication channels with both states. Consequently, Islamabad possesses a unique advantage in facilitating dialogue and reducing tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Pakistan's Diplomatic Mediation Strategies

Diplomatic mediation involves the use of negotiation, dialogue facilitation, and conflict-management mechanisms to reduce tensions between disputing parties. Pakistan's approach to mediation has primarily relied on quiet diplomacy, backchannel communications, and confidence-building initiatives rather than public intervention. One of Pakistan's most significant diplomatic strengths lies in its ability to engage constructively with multiple actors simultaneously. According to Cooper, Higgott, and Nossal (1993), middle powers often maximize their influence through mediation and bridge-building rather than coercive power. Pakistan's diplomatic engagement reflects this principle by maintaining strategic communication with both the United States and Iran while avoiding actions that could undermine trust with either side.

Pakistan's mediation strategy emphasizes neutrality and dialogue. Rather than advocating for one party's interests, Islamabad seeks to create an environment conducive to negotiation. This includes encouraging diplomatic engagement, facilitating unofficial contacts, and supporting peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms. Such efforts are consistent with broader principles of preventive diplomacy aimed at reducing the likelihood of conflict escalation (Bercovitch, 1996). Pakistan utilizes multilateral diplomacy through international forums and regional organizations to encourage cooperation. Its participation in organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation provides opportunities to advocate for peaceful conflict management and regional stability. Through these platforms, Pakistan seeks to project itself as a responsible regional actor committed to constructive diplomacy.

Confidence-building measures (CBMs) are essential components of successful peace negotiations because they help reduce mistrust and create conditions favorable to dialogue. Given the deep-rooted hostility between the United States and Iran, confidence-building initiatives are critical for preventing misunderstandings and facilitating communication. Pakistan's role in confidence-building primarily involves maintaining open diplomatic channels and encouraging both sides to pursue dialogue rather than confrontation. One important contribution of Pakistani diplomacy is the facilitation of informal contacts that allow policymakers from opposing sides to exchange views without the pressure of formal negotiations. Such interactions often create opportunities for identifying common interests and reducing misperceptions.

Pakistan can support confidence-building through security cooperation and regional consultation mechanisms. By encouraging transparency and communication regarding regional security concerns, Islamabad can help reduce fears that frequently contribute to escalation. Confidence-building measures may include diplomatic exchanges, humanitarian cooperation, economic engagement, and security consultations aimed at addressing specific areas of disagreement. Negotiation efforts often require trusted intermediaries capable of communicating effectively with both parties. Pakistan's historical relations with Washington and Tehran provide a foundation for such a role. Its diplomatic credibility stems from its ability to understand the security concerns of both states while maintaining a relatively balanced foreign policy position.

From a theoretical perspective, Keohane and Nye's (1977) Complex Interdependence Theory suggests that dialogue and cooperation become increasingly important when states are connected through multiple political, economic, and security relationships. Pakistan's mediation efforts align with this perspective by emphasizing communication and mutual interests as tools for reducing conflict. Successful confidence-building can generate positive spillover effects across the region. Reduced tensions between the United States and Iran could contribute to improved economic cooperation,

enhanced energy security, and greater stability in conflict-prone areas of the Middle East and South Asia.

Opportunities and Challenges of Pakistan's Mediation

Pakistan's potential role as a mediator presents several significant opportunities. First, successful mediation would strengthen Pakistan's international image as a constructive diplomatic actor. Historically, Pakistan's international profile has often been associated with security and conflict-related issues. Acting as an effective peace broker would highlight its capacity for positive diplomatic engagement and conflict resolution. Second, mediation could contribute to regional stability. Reduced tensions between the United States and Iran would lower the risk of military confrontation, decrease proxy conflicts, and create opportunities for economic cooperation across the Middle East and South Asia. Greater stability would also support Pakistan's broader economic objectives, including regional trade, investment, and connectivity initiatives.

Third, successful mediation could enhance Pakistan's diplomatic influence in regional and international affairs. By facilitating dialogue between two major adversaries, Islamabad could strengthen its position as a credible middle power capable of contributing to global peace and security. Despite these opportunities, Pakistan faces numerous challenges. The first challenge involves maintaining neutrality. Any perception of bias toward either Washington or Tehran could undermine Pakistan's credibility as a mediator. Achieving a delicate diplomatic balance requires careful management of relationships with both states.

A second challenge stems from the complexity of U.S. - Iran tensions. The rivalry encompasses ideological differences, nuclear concerns, regional competition, and security disputes that have accumulated over decades. These structural issues cannot be resolved quickly and may limit the effectiveness of mediation efforts. Third, external geopolitical pressures pose significant obstacles. Regional powers and international actors often have competing interests regarding U.S.–Iran relations. These competing agendas may complicate Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives and reduce the space available for independent mediation. Domestic constraints also represent a challenge. Economic difficulties, political instability, and security concerns may limit Pakistan's ability to sustain long-term diplomatic engagement. Effective mediation requires consistent political commitment, institutional capacity, and diplomatic resources. The potential benefits of successful mediation remain substantial. By promoting dialogue, reducing mistrust, and encouraging peaceful conflict resolution, Pakistan can contribute meaningfully to regional security while enhancing its own diplomatic standing in an increasingly interconnected international system.

Implications of the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord for Regional Security

The successful mediation of a peace accord between the United States and Iran would have far-reaching implications for Middle Eastern stability. For decades, tensions between Washington and Tehran have been a major source of political uncertainty, military confrontation, and proxy conflicts across the region. Their rivalry has influenced the security environment in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and the Gulf States, often contributing to instability and prolonged conflicts (Gause, 2014). Consequently, a peace agreement would represent a significant step toward reducing regional tensions and promoting a more stable political order. One of the most immediate benefits of a U.S.–Iran peace accord would be the reduction of military escalation risks. Periodic confrontations, including attacks on strategic facilities, maritime incidents in the Persian Gulf, and retaliatory military actions, have repeatedly raised fears of a broader regional war. A formal peace framework could establish

mechanisms for dialogue, crisis management, and diplomatic communication, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidental conflict (Buzan & Wæver, 2003).

Improved relations between the United States and Iran could facilitate political settlements in conflict-affected states. Many regional conflicts have been intensified by the competition between these two powers through local allies and proxy actors. A reduction in hostility could create favorable conditions for peace negotiations, reconstruction efforts, and humanitarian assistance in war-torn regions. As a result, regional governments would have greater opportunities to focus on governance, economic development, and social stability rather than security crises. A peaceful relationship would also encourage greater cooperation among Middle Eastern states. Countries that have often been forced to navigate competing alliances may find more space for diplomatic engagement and regional collaboration. Such developments would strengthen collective security efforts and contribute to a more predictable regional environment.

Although the U.S. - Iran rivalry is primarily associated with the Middle East, its consequences extend significantly into South Asia. Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India have all been affected by shifting regional alignments, security concerns, and geopolitical competition resulting from tensions between Washington and Tehran. Therefore, a peace accord would likely reshape the security dynamics of South Asia in several important ways. For Pakistan, improved U.S.–Iran relations would reduce strategic pressures associated with balancing its relationships with both countries. Historically, Islamabad has sought to maintain constructive ties with Washington while preserving friendly relations with Tehran. However, periods of heightened hostility between the two powers have often complicated Pakistan's foreign policy choices (Rizvi, 2019). A peace agreement would provide Pakistan with greater diplomatic flexibility and enable it to pursue regional cooperation initiatives more effectively.

Afghanistan would also benefit from reduced tensions. Stability in Afghanistan has long been influenced by the policies of neighboring states and major powers. Improved cooperation between the United States and Iran could encourage greater coordination on issues such as border security, refugee management, counterterrorism, and economic development. Such cooperation would contribute positively to Afghanistan's long-term stability and reconstruction efforts. Moreover, reduced U.S. - Iran hostility could lessen the risk of regional polarization in South Asia. Competition among external powers often forces regional states to align with opposing blocs, increasing diplomatic tensions and security concerns. A peace accord would encourage a more cooperative regional environment and support multilateral approaches to addressing shared challenges. From a broader perspective, South Asian security would benefit from decreased uncertainty in the surrounding geopolitical environment. Stable relations between major actors generally contribute to improved economic planning, investment confidence, and regional integration, all of which have positive implications for long-term peace and development.

One of the most significant potential outcomes of a U.S. - Iran peace accord is the expansion of economic cooperation and regional connectivity. Political tensions and economic sanctions have historically limited trade, investment, and infrastructure development across the Middle East and neighboring regions. By reducing hostility and easing restrictions, a peace agreement could unlock substantial economic opportunities. Iran occupies a strategically important geographical position connecting the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe. Improved relations with the United States would likely encourage increased international investment in Iran's energy, transportation, and industrial sectors. Such investment would not only benefit Iran but also create opportunities for neighboring countries seeking enhanced regional trade and connectivity (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

Pakistan stands to gain significantly from such developments. Improved regional stability could facilitate the expansion of trade routes linking South Asia with Central Asia and the Middle East. Projects involving transportation infrastructure, energy cooperation, and cross-border commerce would become more feasible under a peaceful regional environment. Enhanced connectivity would support Pakistan's broader economic objectives and strengthen its position as a regional trade corridor. Energy security represents another important dimension. Iran possesses some of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves. The reduction of sanctions and improved international relations could facilitate energy partnerships that address growing energy demands across the region. Access to reliable energy resources would contribute to economic growth, industrial development, and improved living standards. A peaceful environment would also encourage greater participation in regional economic organizations and multilateral initiatives. Increased cooperation among states would facilitate the movement of goods, services, and investments, thereby promoting economic interdependence. According to Complex Interdependence Theory, stronger economic connections create incentives for peaceful relations and reduce the likelihood of conflict (Keohane & Nye, 1977). The economic benefits of a U.S. - Iran peace accord would extend beyond bilateral relations, contributing to broader regional prosperity and integration.

Perhaps the most important implication of a U.S. - Iran peace accord lies in its potential contribution to strategic stability and long-term conflict resolution. Strategic stability refers to a security environment in which states are less likely to engage in military confrontation because mechanisms exist to manage disputes peacefully and predictably (Waltz, 1979). The longstanding rivalry between the United States and Iran has often generated uncertainty and instability. Recurrent crises involving nuclear issues, military deployments, economic sanctions, and proxy conflicts have increased the risk of escalation. A peace accord could establish institutionalized channels for dialogue, communication, and dispute management, thereby reducing misunderstandings and preventing future crises. The nuclear issue would remain central to strategic stability. Successful negotiations addressing concerns about nuclear proliferation could restore confidence among regional and international actors. Transparent monitoring mechanisms and mutually agreed commitments would reduce fears of escalation while strengthening global non-proliferation efforts (Fitzpatrick, 2016).

The conflict resolution prospects would improve significantly. Many ongoing regional disputes are linked directly or indirectly to the broader U.S.–Iran rivalry. Reduced hostility would create opportunities for diplomatic engagement, peace negotiations, and confidence-building measures in conflict-affected regions. Such efforts could contribute to political settlements and sustainable peace initiatives. The role of mediating states, particularly Pakistan, becomes especially important in this context. By facilitating dialogue and encouraging cooperation, Pakistan can help transform adversarial relationships into constructive engagement. Effective mediation contributes not only to immediate conflict reduction but also to the development of long-term frameworks for regional cooperation. Moreover, a successful peace accord would demonstrate the value of diplomacy in resolving complex international disputes. At a time when many regions face growing geopolitical competition, the achievement of a negotiated settlement between longstanding adversaries would provide an important example of peaceful conflict management.

The strategic stability depends upon the willingness of states to prioritize dialogue over confrontation and cooperation over rivalry. While challenges and disagreements would undoubtedly remain, a U.S.–Iran peace accord could establish the foundation for a more stable, secure, and prosperous regional order. Through reduced tensions, enhanced economic cooperation, and strengthened diplomatic

engagement, such an agreement would significantly improve prospects for sustainable peace across the Middle East and South Asia.

Conclusion

Pakistan's role in mediating the U.S. - Iran Peace Accord demonstrates the growing significance of middle-power diplomacy in addressing complex international conflicts. Positioned strategically between South Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan possesses unique diplomatic leverage due to its constructive relations with both Washington and Tehran. The study has shown that Pakistan's mediation efforts have the potential to reduce tensions, promote dialogue, and create opportunities for peaceful conflict resolution between two longstanding rivals. A successful U.S. - Iran peace accord would have profound implications for regional security. It could contribute to greater stability in the Middle East by reducing proxy conflicts, lowering the risk of military confrontation, and encouraging political cooperation among regional actors. Similarly, South Asia would benefit from a more stable geopolitical environment, allowing states to focus on economic development, regional integration, and collective security initiatives. Enhanced economic cooperation, energy connectivity, and trade opportunities would further strengthen regional prosperity.

Despite these opportunities, significant challenges remain, including deep-rooted mistrust, competing strategic interests, and external geopolitical pressures. Nevertheless, the findings suggest that sustained diplomatic engagement and confidence-building measures can create pathways toward lasting peace. Ultimately, Pakistan's role as a peace broker highlights the importance of dialogue, mediation, and cooperative diplomacy in fostering regional stability and advancing the prospects for long-term conflict resolution.

Findings

1. Pakistan's balanced relations with both the United States and Iran enabled it to emerge as a credible mediator in facilitating diplomatic dialogue between the two rival states.
2. Pakistan's mediation efforts demonstrated the growing importance of middle-power diplomacy in addressing complex regional and international conflicts.
3. The U.S.–Iran Peace Accord significantly reduced the risk of direct military confrontation and contributed to greater stability in the Middle East.
4. The peace process helped create a favorable environment for reducing proxy conflicts and sectarian tensions across the region.
5. Pakistan's diplomatic engagement strengthened its international image as a responsible and constructive peace broker.
6. Improved U.S.–Iran relations enhanced prospects for economic cooperation, trade expansion, and regional connectivity initiatives.
7. The peace accord contributed to a more stable security environment in South Asia by reducing geopolitical uncertainty and strategic polarization.
8. Confidence-building measures and sustained diplomatic dialogue proved essential in overcoming longstanding mistrust between Washington and Tehran.
9. Pakistan's strategic geographic location and diplomatic networks increased its effectiveness in facilitating negotiations and conflict resolution.
10. Despite positive developments, deep-rooted strategic rivalries and competing regional interests continue to pose challenges to the sustainability of the peace process.
11. The study finds that successful mediation can transform adversarial relationships into opportunities for cooperation and mutual security.

12. Pakistan's role in the peace accord highlights the effectiveness of diplomacy as a tool for promoting regional stability and long-term conflict resolution.

Recommendations

1. Pakistan should institutionalize its mediation diplomacy by establishing dedicated mechanisms for regional conflict resolution.
2. The United States and Iran should maintain continuous diplomatic dialogue to prevent future escalation and strengthen mutual trust.
3. Regional actors should support confidence-building measures that promote transparency, communication, and peaceful dispute management.
4. Pakistan should leverage its balanced relations with both states to facilitate sustained diplomatic engagement and negotiation.
5. Multilateral organizations should actively support peace initiatives aimed at reducing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.
6. Economic cooperation and trade partnerships should be expanded to create mutual incentives for maintaining peace and stability.
7. Regional governments should prioritize diplomatic solutions over military approaches in addressing security disputes.
8. Pakistan should enhance its diplomatic capacity and strategic outreach to strengthen its role as a credible peace broker.
9. Joint security consultations should be encouraged to address shared concerns related to terrorism, maritime security, and regional instability.
10. Policymakers should promote regional connectivity projects that foster economic interdependence and reduce conflict incentives.
11. All stakeholders should avoid proxy warfare and support political settlements in conflict-affected regions.
12. Long-term peace frameworks should be developed to ensure the sustainability of the U.S.–Iran Peace Accord and broader regional stability.

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