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Pak-Saudi Imbrolio and Opportunities

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Abstract:

This study is consisting of compilations regarding bilateral relations & opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Saudi Arabia & Pakistan have enjoyed enormous cordiality in their relations since the former's independence in 1947. There is no denying that the Saudi monarchs have manifested their love and affection to the All India Muslim League (AIML) which represented the case of the creation of Pakistan by rendering the financial assistance during the famine in the Sub-continent. Saudi Kingdom has the distinction first to extend its recognition to the existence of Pakistan among others. Pakistan attaches great importance to the Saudi Arabia because of the Haramain Shareefain (Makkah and Madinah; the holiest cities of Islam). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born in the Arabian-peninsula who then became the torch-bearer of the Islamic religion fourteen hundred years back. Pakistanis feel pride in defending the holy land of Saudi Arab. Both Muslim states have power of freedom and enjoy same "Sharia Law" as described in Holy Quran. Saudi-Pak bilateral relations have a lot of opportunities in Oil & Gas. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have some genuine hitches which should be addressed accordingly to strengthen time tested bondage to counter Indo-Saudi strategic ties.

Keywords: Military, Defense, Relations, Economic, Social

More than seven decades have gone by since Pakistanis and Saudis have been enjoying political, diplomatic, strategic and commercial relations. But, in the recent past, Saudi new crown prince Muhammad Bin Salman has made a paradigm shift to the Pakistan's arch rival i.e., India. Kashmir issue is badly suffered due to cold bolded Saudi attitude. Saudi's¹ demanded from Pakistan to stop its inclination towards the Turks and Malaysians. Although oil facility is extended and financial assistance is also provided in order to correct the balance of Payment and the budget deficit The dynamics of world has been transformed post 9/11 and new political alliances are developing in South Asian region. Saudi Arabia is developing Socio-economic ties with India which will badly affect the national interest of Pakistan. This research study is considered to be important as its main focus is to explain the nature of Saudi Pak socio relations with ethnic mobilization of identities and cultural diversification. Saudi Pak-Socio Cultural relations are time tested but economic relations should be more strengthen to counter Indian factor in south Asian region, Saudi economic relations with Pakistan are very cordial because of Saudi's utmost cooperation, Investment & development. Aforesaid trust worthy relations are comprising of Pak- Saudi government level & people to people which have huge potential for further enhancement in bilateral trade & economic cooperation. The social & religious association of both states is very strong due to Macca & Medina. Pakistan's largest labour work force is working in Saudi Arabia which shows the cultural, religious and economic relations of both countries & these remittances are playing key role in sustainable development of Pakistan.

The Government of Saudi Arabia supported Pakistan post Nuclear test period which was very difficult era of Pakistan's history & Saudi helped Pakistan to raise foreign reserve by providing financial assistance loan. Saudi Arabia also extended oil facility (SOF) to Pakistan after Nuclear testing of 1998 to avert default threat & Saudis were agreed to pay oil on deferred payments for the period of two years through this scheme. Saudi provided Crude oil, petro-chemical and refined petroleum products to Pakistan.

The Business Community of Saudi Arabia has also shown positive interest in setting up power plant, oil refinery, both countries established twenty-sixth joint venture which shows the depth in economic relations of both countries. Al-Bandara International group(BIG) is setting up unit

¹ Ahmad Hashim “ Neutral Pakistan Pulls out of Malaysia summit of Muslim nations “ , Aljazeera ,Dec,18,2019.Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/18/neutral-pakistan-pulls-out-of-malaysia-summit-of-muslim-nations>

in Pakistan with aim to trade business opportunity in high-yielding areas. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz visited Saudi Arabia and King Abdullah visited Pakistan. During these visits both countries signed five accords and four agreements and one MOU to stimulate cordially cooperation in different fields. There is series of top leadership frequent visit to strengthen political commitments unanimity which made strong bilateral relations but also enable the both countries leadership to take imitative to resolve Ummah disputes such as Palestine and Kashmir. The people of Pakistan have special love and senility, affection for custodian of two holly Masque King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz. The Government of Saudi Arabia & Pakistan are on forefront to fight war of extremism and terrorism both states are against the act which harms the innocent people of any religion. Saudi Arabia is very committed to eliminate terrorism and the appointment of General Raheel Sharif as a Chief of Muslims Army is example of strong political relations between two countries. As far as regional and global changing situation is concerned the step of reduction in Tariff, PTA (Potential Trade Agreement) FTAs (Free Trade Agreement) and MFN (Most favorite Nation) status and FDI are the examples of bilateral relations between two countries but post 9/11 Saudi showed its interest towards Indian market which is badly suffering national interest of Pakistan. The lightened moderate elements of Pakistani society believe that the state of Pakistan must revisit its foreign policy and relationship with Saudi Arabia. Of course there is huge division between the policymakers and society regarding how Pakistan can go to appease its time tasted old friends such as Saudi Arabia and gulf states and the concerns are voiced against repercussions of delink from friends due to financial, cultural, religious factors.

The Government of Pakistan does not act upon the aspiration of Saudi Arabi and refused to send its troops in Yemen. The religious & emotional bondage between two states and the state sponsored intellectual elite of Pakistan has created myth that Pakistan does not take independent decisions due to financial dependence. The Government of Iran did initiative in various oceans to create economic ties with Pakistan and Iranian President Hassan Ruhani visited Islamabad to negotiated Pak-Iran gas pipeline in2016. Even Pakistan cannot afford rivalry with Iran or Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's role should be only to facilitate both countries so that Pakistan shifted its foreign policy & decided to not take part in Yemen War to avoid Sunni - Shia conflict in Pakistan. It is ground reality that Saudi Arabia is a very significant economic partner, while Iran is closet neighbor. Pakistan managed its friendly relations with both countries in numerous crunches such as Iraq-Iran War, assault of Afghanistan, and Iranian nuclear program including current Saudi –Iran bitter rivalry. The relationship between Pakistan and Iran were odds in 1990s

due to Afghan issue but when Iran nuclear Programme came under criticism, Pakistan was against attack on Iranian Nuclear installations. Saudi Arabia requested Pakistan to revisit its foreign policy but Pakistan supported Iran because of main two reasons one was its domestic situation a huge community of Shia Muslims and second was threat of millions of refugees & sectarian uncertainties.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have strategic interest in encouraging reconciliation between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan should advocate the settlement of disputes among two brotherly counters and in this context two-pronged approach is required. Its bitter reality foreign policy is extension of country's domestic policy and without firm foreign policy internal Pakistan cannot achieve its targets. In true spirit without input of all state holders within country. Economic stability is linked with political stability and for political stability all institution and organ of state should remain in its domain. The USA has withdrawn from Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia can play key to prolife peace between Taliban and Pakistan because of its financial and spiritual influence. The foreign policy makers of Pakistan safeguard national interest versus ideologies in their discussion and there should be balance while formulating foreign policy specially with gulf states. Pakistan's foreign policy has been influenced by super powers, domestic pressure groups and regional compulsions.

Pakistan has adopted the policy of neutrality to avoid further friction between Pak Saudi relations, the political stake holders of Pakistan should create harmony within country. Trade & Business community of Pakistan should build up more strengthen cooperation between Pakistan & Saudi Arabia vide friendly media campaign & realistic strategy, planning to counter fifth generation war of India. Pakistan has outstanding potential for further socio-economic relations to higher level for enhancing in the field of tourism, education, agriculture & manpower industry. The role of Pak-Saudi joint economic commission is very important for further development regarding commerce & industry. Now time has come Pakistan should take decisions to safeguard the national interest of country by developing strategic relations with Iran, China and regional countries rather than the protection of Ummah and Pakistan should also promote its diplomatic relations with non-Arab states such as Turkey, Malaysia. Pakistan should try to lead from the front to resolve issues two major's states Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Conclusion:

There is no doubt Saudi-Pak have an unprecedented relationship and always prepared to support each other through thick and thin. This mutual partnership is not limited to socio- economic

collaboration and investment pledges like strategic, political, military. The kingdom of Saudi is also looking forward to greater military collaboration from Government of Pakistan. Saudi-Pak armed forces have unfathomable collaboration at virtually levels joints military exercises. Both states have a dire need to reinforce the bilateral relations due to changing south Asian and global geopolitical scenarios. Pakistan should be remaining neutral and try to play his role as mediator to resolve disputes among Muslims states to protect its interest with region and in Middle east. The state of Pakistan should clearly adopt policy of discouraging the sectarian based strategy within country as well bilateral relations with Muslims states. Pakistan should develop narrative of Islamic state as per vision of Quaid-I-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The friendly relations between Iran and Saudi Arab can help to bring peace in middle east and certainty in south Asian region which can help to prevent spread of sectarian violations in south Asian region. Gulf countries and Pakistan should focus on regional approach to resolve regional tussles rather than looking towards international super powers and role of institutions such as GCC and ECO should be mobilized. Pakistan should try to enhance economic with China to accomplish CPEC to reduce reliance on middle east states. The role of Chahbahar port is very key due to Indo-Iran strategic ties, Pakistan should use influence of China to counter this move because Chine's are planning to invest² \$ 400 dollar in Iran.

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²Lucille Greer," Last Among Equal: The China Iran partnership in Regional Context, "Wilson Center", September , 2020.Retruved from <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/last-among-equals-china-iran-partnership-regional-context>

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