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**Q1. What is constitution? Also explain 1973 constitution?**

**Ans.**

**Definition of Constitution:**

A **constitution** is a statement of the **basic** principles and laws of a nation, state, or group, such as the **Pakistan**  **Constitution**. ... If you have a strong **constitution**, it **means** you don't get sick very often.

The term "**constitution**" had a different meaning to **Aristotle** than it **does** to us today. ... **Aristotle** wrote that a **constitution** "is the way of life of a citizen-body." According to **Aristotle**, citizens were "all who share in the civic life of ruling and being ruled in t

the physical makeup of the individual especially with respect to the health, strength, and appearance of the body

The basic [**law**](http://www.duhaime.org/LegalDictionary/L/Law.aspx) or laws of a [**nation**](http://www.duhaime.org/LegalDictionary/N/Nation.aspx) or a [**state**](http://www.duhaime.org/LegalDictionary/S/State.aspx) which sets out how that state will be organized by deciding the powers and authorities of government between different political units, and by stating the basic law-making and structural principles of society.

The primary contract or law by which the government of a nation or state is set out and organized.

The constitution is colloquially referred to as the "#1 law of the land"; to which all of government, citizens, corporate persons and other laws must defer in the event of any conflict.

**Constitution of 1973:**

The constitution of Pakistan 1973 was enforced on 14th Aug 1973. It consists of 280 articles and 7 schedules with Objective Resolution forming the preamble of the constitution beside 20 amendments which have been made since then. It is regarded as the landmark accomplishment of Bhutto’s era as it was a unanimous act of the parliament with complete consensus of all the political parties. However, many twists and turns have been witnessed ever since its enforcement but still it is the supreme law of land and the sacrosanct instrument which reigns supreme in governance of the state.

The constitution 1956 and 1962 failed to provide the aspired political stability to the country. Both proved short lived and were replaced with the martial laws in the country. But the subsequent years after imposition of martial law were highly tumultuous costing Pakistan its eastern wing. The leftover country was first governed by a unique proposition of civilian Chief Martial administrator till the interim constitution was adopted by the national assembly. The assembly constituted a committee headed by Hafiz-ud-Din Pirzada to formulate the permanent constitution for Pakistan. The committee did its work in shortest possible time and the national assembly adopted the constitution on 10th April unanimously.

The constitution declared Pakistan an Islamic republic laying down condition for head of state and head of the government to be Muslims. However, 8th amendment has made the Objective Resolution a substantial part of the constitution by incorporating it as article 2A according to which all laws made in Pakistan should be in accordance with the injunctions of Quran and Sunnah. Its Islamic character is further reinforced by accepting the sovereignty of Almighty Allah, Islam to be the state religion and by promising the Muslims to enable them to order their lives in accordance with the fundamental principles of Islam. It also provides a long list of fundamental rights as well directive principles of state policy. Besides, the constitution envisages a federation of Pakistan and affords a parliamentary form of government leaving president with only ceremonious functions. The federal legislature is bicameral i.e. senate the upper house and national assembly the lower house. Moreover, the constitution provides an independent judiciary, provincial autonomy to the federating units, a council of common interests, a council of Islamic ideology etc.

The subsequent voyage of the constitution however was not smooth. It has been suspended or held in abeyance twice. Amendments made by military dictators have changed spirit of original constitution. So far, 20 amendments have been made most of which have been brought about not for the fulfillment of compulsions and needs of changing times but to accomplish the selfish ends. This experimentation has achieved nothing but instability in the country that has blocked the process of establishing and strengthening the democratic system in Pakistan.

**Q2.What is culture and define the types of Culture?**

**Ans.**

**Definition of Culture:** **Culture** consists of the beliefs, behaviors, objects, and other characteristics common to the members of a particular group or society. Through culture, people and groups define themselves, conform to society's shared values, and contribute to society. Thus, culture includes many societal aspects: language, customs, values, norms, mores, rules, tools, technologies, products, organizations, and institutions. This latter term **institution** refers to clusters of rules and cultural meanings associated with specific social activities. Common institutions are the family, education, religion, work, and health care

Popularly speaking, being **cultured** means being well‐educated, knowledgeable of the arts, stylish, and well‐mannered. **High culture**—generally pursued by the upper class—refers to classical music, theater, fine arts, and other sophisticated pursuits.

Culture is one of the important concepts in sociology. No human society can exist and develop without its culture. The main difference between the animal and human societies is of culture only. Animal societies have no culture because they do not have systems of learning and transmitting social experiences. Sociologists are keenly interested in the study of culture because the study of human society is incomplete without it.

**Different sociologists have differently defined the term culture:**

**Linton:** “Culture is social heredity, which is transmitted from one generation to anotherwith the accumulation of individual experiences”.

**John Beattee:** Culture is the way of life which is transmitted from generation to generation”.

**Taylor:** “Culture is the complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs and habits and any capabilities acquired by man as a member of society”.

**TYPES OF CULTURE**

**Material Culture**

**Non-material Culture**

**Real Culture**

**Ideal Culture**

**1. Material Culture**

From material culture we understand material and physical objects. For instance, house, road, vehicles, pen, table, radio set, book etc. these are the products of human efforts to control his environment and make his life conformable and safe.

**2. Non-material culture**

In non-material culture we include non material objects. For example religion, art, ideas, customs, values system, attitudes, knowledge etc. it does not have physical shape. It is very important in determining human behavior and has strong hold on an individual. Both parts are inter-related with each other.

**Real Culture:**

Real culture is that which can be observed in our social life. The culture on which we act upon in our daily life is real culture. It is that parts of culture, which the people adopt in their social life, for example. If a person/ says that he/she is Muslim, will be, when followed all the principles of Islam is the real and when doesn’t follow, is not a real one.

**Ideal Culture:**

The culture which is presented as a pattern to the people is called ideal culture. It is the goal of society and never achieved fully because some parts remain out of practice. This culture is explained in books, speeches etc.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE:**

From the definitions it becomes clear that sociologically culture has specific meaning and characteristics. It is the product of human behavior and gaining knowledge through group. It is a system of learned behavior and set procedure. Some of the salient characteristics of culture are as under:

* **Culture is learned.**
* **Culture is shared.**
* **Culture is transmitted.**
* **Culture is changing.**

**Q3.What is economic instability?Also define the source of economic instability in Pakistan.**

**Ans: Economic Instability.**

**1. Changes in house prices/assets**

A fall in house prices can caused a negative wealth effect – householders see a decline in their net worth, leading to lower confidence and less spending. It can also cause financial losses for banks. For example 2006-10, the US saw its housing bubble burst with a 50% fall in house prices. This caused a rise in delinquencies, [negative equity](https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/398/uk-economy/negative-mortgage-equity-withdrawal/) (people lost wealth) and a rise in defaults. As a result, banks started to lose money on failed mortgage payments. In 2007, this caused a fall in bank lending, the credit crisis and the 2008 recession.

**2. Fluctuations in Stock Markets**

A big fall in stock markets can trigger falls in consumer confidence, a loss of consumer wealth and lead to a recession. The [Wall Street crash](https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/76/economics/wall-street-crash-1929/) of 1929 was a significant cause of the great depression. In 2008, the stock market crash again coincided with the 2008 recession.

However, it is not always the case falling share prices cause instability. The stock market crash of 1987 did not cause an economic downturn. In fact, in the UK it was followed by an unprecedented economic boom. This was partly due to the way the government responded by cutting income tax and cutting interest rates. The falls 2000-2004 also did not cause a recession.

**3. Global Credit Markets**

The subprime mortgage problems in the US caused many firms to go insolvent. This cause a big fall in confidence in lending money. This shortage of credit led to a shortage of credit. This caused the problems of northern rock and reduced consumer confidence.

**4. Changes in Interest Rates**

Interest rates are used as a tool in controlling inflation. However, they can also have an impact on consumer spending. Sometimes interest rates may have little impact; however, if they coincide with other factors they can cause a much bigger than expected fall in consumer spending. For example, in the UK, many homeowners have a variable mortgage. Therefore a small change in interest rates can have a big effect on disposable income. If an increase in interest rates was combined with another factor such as the slowing down of house price growth it may cause a big fall in spending.

**5. Global Factors**

In an era of globalisation, there is an increasing interdependence of the world economies. For example, if China’s boom was to end, there would be a marked slowdown in global growth. It used to be the case the world was very dependent on the US economy. if the US economy suffered a recession, it would often drag the rest of the world into recession. This was because the US was the world’sbiggest consumer of imports. However, it is argued that the world is less dependent on the US economy because of the development of new economies like China and India. Nevertheless, global factors are of great importance. When the coronavirus interrupted manufacturing in China in early 2020, this had a knock-on effect for nearly all multinational companies who relied on Chinese manufacturing of parts.

**6. Government Debt Crisis**

If markets fear government debt is unsustainable or likely to face liquidity shortages, bonds will be sold. This will tend to push up interest rates on bond yields. This increases government debt interest payments and puts pressure on the government to cut spending and reduce the budget deficit. This can cause a negative spiral of lower growth and lower tax receipts.

**7. Black swan events**

Black swan events are unexpected events, which can destabilise the economy. In theory, they have a very low probability, but throughout history, they occur at an unexpected moment. For example, the outbreak of an infectious virus can cause a fall in travel and economic activity. A major terrorist attack or natural disaster can also cause a fall in economic growth.

The 2020 coronavirus is a good example of how a black swan event can cause major instability. The virus led to a sharp fall in travel and quarantines imposed across the world. This disrupts usual economic activity. The virus also causes great uncertainty because the effects are unknown. It led to a major fall in shares, investment and the price of oil.

**8. Erratic leadership**

If political leaders are erratic, it can cause instability. For example, President Trump initiated a trade war with China, which caused a decline in global trade.

**Q4. Write the importance of physical features of Pakistan?**

**Ans.** **Importance of physical features of Pakistan:**

**Pakistan**, populous and multiethnic [country](https://www.britannica.com/topic/nation-state) of South Asia. Having a predominately Indo-Iranian speaking population, Pakistan has historically and culturally been associated with its neighbours [Iran](https://www.britannica.com/place/Iran), [Afghanistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan), and [India](https://www.britannica.com/place/India). Since Pakistan and India achieved independence in 1947, Pakistan has been distinguished from its larger southeastern neighbour by its overwhelmingly Muslim population (as opposed to the predominance of Hindus in India). Pakistan has struggled throughout its existence to attain political stability and sustained [social development](https://www.britannica.com/science/social-learning). Its capital is [Islamabad](https://www.britannica.com/place/Islamabad), in the foothills of the [Himalayas](https://www.britannica.com/place/Himalayas) in the northern part of the country, and its largest city is [Karachi](https://www.britannica.com/place/Karachi), in the south on the coast of the [Arabian Sea](https://www.britannica.com/place/Arabian-Sea).

Pakistan was brought into being at the time of the partition of British India, in response to the demands of Islamic nationalists: as [articulated](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/articulated) by the All India [Muslim League](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Muslim-League) under the leadership of [Mohammed Ali Jinnah](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mohammed-Ali-Jinnah), India’s Muslims would receive just representation only in their own country. From independence until 1971, Pakistan (both de facto and in law) consisted of two regions—West Pakistan, in the Indus River basin in the northwestern portion of the Indian subcontinent, and East Pakistan, located more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to the east in the vast delta of the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system. In response to grave internal political problems that erupted in civil war in 1971, East Pakistan was proclaimed the independent country of [Bangladesh](https://www.britannica.com/place/Bangladesh).

Pakistan [encompasses](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/encompasses) a rich [diversity](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diversity) of landscapes, starting in the northwest, from the soaring [Pamirs](https://www.britannica.com/place/Pamirs) and the [Karakoram Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Karakoram-Range) through a maze of mountain ranges, a complex of valleys, and inhospitable plateaus, down to the remarkably even surface of the fertile [Indus River](https://www.britannica.com/place/Indus-River) plain, which drains southward into the Arabian Sea. It contains a section of the ancient [Silk Road](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Silk-Road-trade-route) and the [Khyber Pass,](https://www.britannica.com/place/Khyber-Pass) the famous passageway that has brought outside influences into the otherwise isolated subcontinent. Lofty peaks such as [K2](https://www.britannica.com/place/K2) and [Nanga Parbat](https://www.britannica.com/place/Nanga-Parbat), in the Pakistani-administered region of [Kashmir](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kashmir-region-Indian-subcontinent), present a challenging lure to mountain climbers. Along the Indus River, the artery of the country, the ancient site of [Mohenjo-daro](https://www.britannica.com/place/Mohenjo-daro) marks one of the cradles of civilization.

Yet, politically and culturally, Pakistan has struggled to define itself. Established as a [parliamentary democracy](https://www.britannica.com/topic/parliamentary-system) that espoused [secular](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/secular) ideas, the country has experienced repeated military coups, and religion—that is to say, [adherence](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adherence) to the values of [Sunni](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sunni) Islam—has increasingly become a standard by which political leaders are measured. In addition, northern Pakistan—particularly the Federally Administered Tribal Areas—has become a haven for members of neighbouring [Afghanistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan)’s ousted [Taliban](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban) regime and for members of numerous other Islamic extremist groups. In various parts of the country, instances of ethnic, religious, and social conflict have flared up from time to time, often rendering those areas virtually ungovernable by the central authorities, and acts of violence against religious minorities have increased.

At the time of partition in 1947, as many as 10 million Muslim refugees fled their homes in India and sought refuge in Pakistan—about 8 million in West Pakistan. Virtually an equal number of Hindus and Sikhs were uprooted from their land and familiar surroundings in what became Pakistan, and they fled to India. Unlike the earlier migrations, which took centuries to unfold, these chaotic population transfers took hardly one year. The resulting impact on the life of the subcontinent has reverberated ever since in the rivalries between the two countries, and each has continued to seek a lasting modus vivendi with the other. Pakistan and India have fought four wars, three of which (1948–49, 1965, and 1999) were over Kashmir. Since 1998 both countries have also possessed nuclear weapons, further heightening tensions between them.

**Land**

Pakistan is bounded by [Iran](https://www.britannica.com/place/Iran) to the west, [Afghanistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan) to the northwest and north, [China](https://www.britannica.com/place/China) to the northeast, and [India](https://www.britannica.com/place/India) to the east and southeast. The coast of the [Arabian Sea](https://www.britannica.com/place/Arabian-Sea) forms its southern border.

Since 1947 the Kashmir region, along the [western Himalayas](https://www.britannica.com/place/western-Himalayas), has been disputed, with Pakistan, India, and China each controlling sections of the territory. Part of the Pakistani-administered territory [comprises](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comprises) the so-called [Azad Kashmir](https://www.britannica.com/place/Azad-Kashmir) (“Free Kashmir”) region—which Pakistan nonetheless considers an independent state, with its capital at Muzaffarabad. The remainder of Pakistani-administered Kashmir consists of [Gilgit](https://www.britannica.com/place/Gilgit) and Baltistan, known collectively as the Northern Areas.

**Relief and drainage**

Pakistan is situated at the western end of the great [Indo-Gangetic Plain](https://www.britannica.com/place/Indo-Gangetic-Plain). Of the total area of the country, about three-fifths consists of rough mountainous terrain and plateaus, and the remaining two-fifths [constitutes](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/constitutes) a wide expanse of level plain. The land can be divided into five major regions: the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges and their subranges; the [Hindu Kush](https://www.britannica.com/place/Hindu-Kush) and western mountains; the [Balochistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Balochistan) plateau; the submontane plateau ([Potwar Plateau](https://www.britannica.com/place/Potwar-Plateau), [Salt Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Salt-Range), trans-Indus plain, and [Sialkot](https://www.britannica.com/place/Sialkot-Pakistan) area); and the Indus River plain. Within each major division there are further subdivisions, including a number of desert areas.

# **The**[**Himalayan**](https://www.britannica.com/place/Himalayas)**and**[**Karakoram ranges**](https://www.britannica.com/place/Karakoram-Range)**:**

The [Himalayas](https://www.britannica.com/place/Himalayas), which have long been a physical and cultural divide between South and [Central Asia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Central-Asia), form the northern rampart of the subcontinent, and their western ranges occupy the entire northern end of Pakistan, extending about 200 miles (320 km) into the [country](https://www.britannica.com/topic/nation-state). Spreading over [Kashmir](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kashmir-region-Indian-subcontinent) and northern Pakistan, the western Himalayan system splits into three distinct ranges, which are, from south to north, the [Pir Panjal Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Pir-Panjal-Range), the [Zaskar Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Zaskar-Range), and the [Ladakh Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Ladakh-Range). Farther north is the [Karakoram Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Karakoram-Range), which is a separate system adjoining the Himalayas. This series of ranges varies in elevation from roughly 13,000 feet (4,000 metres) to higher than 19,500 feet (6,000 metres) above [sea level](https://www.britannica.com/science/sea-level). Four of the region’s peaks exceed 26,000 feet (8,000 metres), and many rise to heights of more than 15,000 feet (4,500 metres). These include such towering peaks as [Nanga Parbat](https://www.britannica.com/place/Nanga-Parbat) (26,660 feet [8,126 metres]) and [K2](https://www.britannica.com/place/K2), also called Godwin Austen (28,251 feet [8,611 metres]), in the Northern Areas.

Several important rivers flow from, or through, the mountains of Kashmir into Pakistan. From the Pir Panjal Range flows the [Jhelum River](https://www.britannica.com/place/Jhelum-River) (which bisects the famous Vale of Kashmir); the [Indus River](https://www.britannica.com/place/Indus-River) descends between the Zaskar and Ladakh ranges; and the [Shyok River](https://www.britannica.com/place/Shyok-River) rises in the Karakoram Range. South of the Pir Panjal is the northwestern extension of the [Shiwalik Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Siwalik-Range)(there rising to about 600 to 900 feet [200 to 300 metres]), which extend over the southern part of the Hazara and Murree hills and include the hills surrounding [Rawalpindi](https://www.britannica.com/place/Rawalpindi) and neighbouring [Islamabad](https://www.britannica.com/place/Islamabad).

## **The**[**Hindu Kush**](https://www.britannica.com/place/Hindu-Kush)**and the western mountains:**

In far northern Pakistan the Hindu Kush branches off southwestward from the nodal orogenic uplift known as the Pamir Knot. The ridges of the Hindu Kush generally trend from northeast to southwest, while those of the Karakorams run in a southeast-northwest direction from the knot. The Hindu Kush is made up of two distinct ranges, a main crest line that is cut by transverse streams, and a watershed range to the west of the main range, in [Afghanistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan), that divides the Indus system of rivers from the [Amu Darya](https://www.britannica.com/place/Amu-Darya) (ancient Oxus River) [drainage basin](https://www.britannica.com/science/drainage-basin). From the Hindu Kush, several branches run southward through the areas of [Chitral](https://www.britannica.com/place/Chitral), [Dir](https://www.britannica.com/place/Dir-Pakistan), and Swat, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These branches have deep, narrow valleys along the Kunar, Panjkora, and [Swat](https://www.britannica.com/place/Swat-River) rivers. In the extreme northern portion, the ranges are capped with perpetual snow and ice; high peaks include [Tirich Mir](https://www.britannica.com/place/Tirich-Mir), which rises to 25,230 feet (7,690 metres). The valley sides are generally bare on account of their isolation from the precipitation-bearing influences. Toward the south the region is largely covered with forests of deodar (a type of cedar) and pine and also has extensive grasslands.

# **The Balochistan plateau:**

The vast tableland of [Balochistan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Balochistan) contains a great variety of physical features. In the northeast a basin centred on the towns of [Zhob](https://www.britannica.com/place/Zhob) and [Loralai](https://www.britannica.com/place/Loralai) forms a trellis-patterned lobe that is surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges. To the east and southeast is the [Sulaiman Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Sulaiman-Range), which joins the [Central Brahui Range](https://www.britannica.com/place/Central-Brahui-Range) near [Quetta](https://www.britannica.com/place/Quetta-Pakistan), and to the north and northwest is the Toba Kakar Range (which farther west becomes the Khwaja Amran Range). The hilly terrain becomes less severe southwestward in the form of Ras Koh Range. The small Quetta basin is surrounded on all sides by mountains. The whole area appears to form a node of high ranges. West of the Ras Koh Range, the general landform of northwestern Balochistan is a series of low-lying plateaus divided by hills. In the north the Chagai Hills border a region of true desert, consisting of inland drainage and hamuns ([playas](https://www.britannica.com/science/playa)).

**Q5. Write down the relation between Pakistan and Iran?**

**Ans: Relation Between Pakistan and Iran:**

**Sabah AslamEstablishment of Bittersweet Relations**

Pakistan and Iran share strong historical, religious, cultural, and linguistic bonds. The relationship witnessed ups and downs, but despite all that the two countries tried to maintain a smooth path. Soon after Pakistan’s independence, Iran was the first country to recognize its independence from the British raj.  The diplomatic ties started with the visit of the then PM Liaqat Ali khan in 1948. The relationship took a good flight with the visit of the Shah of Iran in 1950. Both the countries enjoyed cordial relations until 1996 but then due to divergence of interest in Afghanistan both moved apart. Pakistan was pro-Taliban whereas Iran supported the anti-Taliban alliance (i.e. Northern Alliance). Pakistan’s post 9/11 policy had further increased the void. Islamabad’s pro-Saudi and West policy added salt to the recipe. Being partner of United States of America in WoT, and under a great American and Saudi Arabia’s influence, Pakistan and Iranian relations suffered a lot. The General Zia’s regime with a strong pro-Saudis attitude also negatively impacted the two. However, the land connection between the two gave an opportunity to revive the relationship.

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* **Adding Economic dimension**

Being immediate neighbors, Muslim states and once good partners tried to fill-up the gap through non-economic means. However, in the age of development, both the states have to analyse the level of their relations through the lens of economic means as well. As, both the states have huge potential. Both Pakistan and Iran look towards the untapped the economic opportunities in order to have a strong regional bond. In addition, history also witnessed that both the states have extended their support to each other in worst times as well.

With the help of China and smooth development of CPEC, United States’ influence in the region could be countered. Convergence of interest in this very case is of utmost importance. The impetus behind the closer relations between the two should be prospered in  developed state system.

Pakistan as a growing state needs to meet the energy deficiency, and for that Iran could be a good option, being a neighbor rich in natural resources especially oil and gas is vital for an energy deficient state. On the other hand, Pakistan, a country of 209 million people with a per capita income of $1,480, is a developing economy with a GDP of $312.57 billion and an estimated real growth rate of 3.3% (2019). Pakistan has to strengthen its trade relations with Iran and vice versa for a prosper future. To that end, both states have to utilize economic means as well, an element of soft power, to further deepen the economic dependency for development and growth.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trade** | **Amount US Dollars** |
| **Pakistan Exports** **To Iran** | Rice, Meat, Paper and Paper Board, Chemicals, Textiles, Fruit & Vegetables | 22.86 million |
| **Pakistan Imports From Iran** | Iron Ore, Hide & Skins, and Chemical Products | 369.23 million |
| **Total Trade Volume** | 392.08 million |  |

* **Other spheres of cooperation**

The people to people contact between the Pakistani and Iranian community is unique. Religion, Sufism, and Persian language all have a deep imprint. The state relations currently are in transformative phase. Positive state attitude tip-offs that both Iran and Pakistan desires to work together for a brighter future. In the recent history, and under the current government of PTI, the relations took a new height. Exchange of high profile visits including Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Javad Zarif (August 2018, October 2018, May 2019) and Pakistan’s Foreign Minister (Dec 2018), and Prime Minister Imran Khan(21-22 April 2019) all are a start of new beginning. Moreover, helped enhance mutual understanding on political, economic and security sectors. Strong communication links between the two also facilitated policy formation for a consistent and mutually beneficial diplomatic, political, and trade ties. Pakistan and Iran signed Declaration for Cooperation in Healthcare Sector; opening of new crossing points, initiation of the process for release of a number of Pakistani prisoners; and call for peaceful solution of Jammu &Kashmir dispute.P akistan’sbacking on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and commitment towards Tehran in the face of U.S.’s unilateral sanctions has been a great source of strength and applauded by Iran too.

**Iran’s Standing in the Middle East**

Iran has a long history and is an important regional player, one of well-known Middle Eastern power bloc. Iran survived and is surviving despite of all the International sanctions. Power politics is not only western dream but is admired by the eastern countries too. Iran has a good regional connection and time and again has played its role in a very smart manner. Its affiliates are everywhere, from Palestine to Iraq and Syria, Afghanistan, & Pakistan.

Since, Iran played a major role in Middle East, a strong Iran is always seen as a challenge not only to the Middle Eastern power machines but also world’s superpower U.S. A fragile Iran favours of all those. To this end, even America played its card well and hence tried to put it under pressure

**Establishment of Bittersweet Relations**

Pakistan and Iran share strong historical, religious, cultural, and linguistic bonds. The relationship witnessed ups and downs, but despite all that the two countries tried to maintain a smooth path. Soon after Pakistan’s independence, Iran was the first country to recognize its independence from the British raj.  The diplomatic ties started with the visit of the then PM Liaqat Ali khan in 1948. The relationship took a good flight with the visit of the Shah of Iran in 1950. Both the countries enjoyed cordial relations until 1996 but then due to divergence of interest in Afghanistan both moved apart. Pakistan was pro-Taliban whereas Iran supported the anti-Taliban alliance (i.e. Northern Alliance). Pakistan’s post 9/11 policy had further increased the void. Islamabad’s pro-Saudi and West policy added salt to the recipe. Being partner of United States of America in WoT, and under a great American and Saudi Arabia’s influence, Pakistan and Iranian relations suffered a lot. The General Zia’s regime with a strong pro-Saudis attitude also negatively impacted the two. However, the land connection between the two gave an opportunity to revive the relationship.

**Adding Economic dimension**

Being immediate neighbors, Muslim states and once good partners tried to fill-up the gap through non-economic means. However, in the age of development, both the states have to analyse the level of their relations through the lens of economic means as well. As, both the states have huge potential. Both Pakistan and Iran look towards the untapped the economic opportunities in order to have a strong regional bond. In addition, history also witnessed that both the states have extended their support to each other in worst times as well.

With the help of China and smooth development of CPEC, United States’ influence in the region could be countered. Convergence of interest in this very case is of utmost importance. The impetus behind the closer relations between the two should be prospered in  developed state system.

Pakistan as a growing state needs to meet the energy deficiency, and for that Iran could be a good option, being a neighbor rich in natural resources especially oil and gas is vital for an energy deficient state. On the other hand, Pakistan, a country of 209 million people with a per capita income of $1,480, is a developing economy with a GDP of $312.57 billion and an estimated real growth rate of 3.3% (2019). Pakistan has to strengthen its trade relations with Iran and vice versa for a prosper future. To that end, both states have to utilize economic means as well, an element of soft power, to further deepen the economic dependency for development and growth.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trade** | **Amount US Dollars** |
| **Pakistan Exports** **To Iran** | Rice, Meat, Paper and Paper Board, Chemicals, Textiles, Fruit & Vegetables | 22.86 million |
| **Pakistan Imports From Iran** | Iron Ore, Hide & Skins, and Chemical Products | 369.23 million |
| **Total Trade Volume** | 392.08 million |  |

**Table 1: Pakistan – Iran Trade Volume**

**Other spheres of cooperation**

The people to people contact between the Pakistani and Iranian community is unique. Religion, Sufism, and Persian language all have a deep imprint. The state relations currently are in transformative phase. Positive state attitude tip-offs that both Iran and Pakistan desires to work together for a brighter future. In the recent history, and under the current government of PTI, the relations took a new height. Exchange of high profile visits including Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Javad Zarif (August 2018, October 2018, May 2019) and Pakistan’s Foreign Minister (Dec 2018), and Prime Minister Imran Khan(21-22 April 2019) all are a start of new beginning. Moreover, helped enhance mutual understanding on political, economic and security sectors. Strong communication links between the two also facilitated policy formation for a consistent and mutually beneficial diplomatic, political, and trade ties. Pakistan and Iran signed Declaration for Cooperation in Healthcare Sector; opening of new crossing points, initiation of the process for release of a number of Pakistani prisoners; and call for peaceful solution of Jammu &Kashmir dispute.P akistan’sbacking on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and commitment towards Tehran in the face of U.S.’s unilateral sanctions has been a great source of strength and applauded by Iran too.

**Iran’s Standing in the Middle East**

Iran has a long history and is an important regional player, one of well-known Middle Eastern power bloc. Iran survived and is surviving despite of all the International sanctions. Power politics is not only western dream but is admired by the eastern countries too. Iran has a good regional connection and time and again has played its role in a very smart manner. Its affiliates are everywhere, from Palestine to Iraq and Syria, Afghanistan, & Pakistan.

Since, Iran played a major role in Middle East, a strong Iran is always seen as a challenge not only to the Middle Eastern power machines but also world’s superpower U.S. A fragile Iran favours of all those. To this end, even America played its card well and hence tried to put it under pressure.

**Iran vs USA**

To this lead, even killing of Quds Force commander Qasem Solemani in January is also a move to further weaken Iran. U.S. instead of acting wisely, start frivolous acts, for instance trade war with China, assassination of Solemani, zero response on Kashmir and Palestine, just to keep itself up.

U.S. was well aware of that in wake of Solemani’s murder, Iranians would fight back. Though Iran would not indulge in any straight conflict but proxies. Hence, U.S. tried to influence regional states even Pakistan to be part of its dirty games. Pakistan as already trapped in Afghanistan, and lost so much in terms of human life and economics, doesn’t want to support the Big Might this time. Hence, Islamabad refused to be part of a problem that would be a havoc for the regional peace and stability. One reason behind U.S.’s all these efforts is also to disturb China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC a game changer for the region which is also perceived by the world community is a problem for U.S. China’s rise and economic influence in the region is wearisome for U.S.

**Pakistan’s stance on the emerging conflict**

Pakistan’s establishment and political parties were well aware of this odd game and hence were on the same page; therefore sent a straight message to Washington that it will not be part of any ferocious act. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi conveyed the message that, “Pakistan’s soil will not be used against any other state, and nor will Pakistan become a part of this regional conflict and doesn’t endorse any unilateral action”.

Pakistan’s strong position on that fortunately hoarded the region from another Afghanistan to happen.  Pakistan is trying to correct its already complex relations with Iran.

**Power shift in Iran**

Iran just had the first round of its parliamentary elections in last week, the second round is yet to happen in May most probably, but the results have clearly indicated the patterns and the ones sliding into the power corridors are been identified. However, a number of factors are responsible for these “obvious results” as some citizens are calling them to be.

Giving a brief account of the ideologies into play, Iran had a coalition for reformists and another of principlists. There was the right wing, the left wing and the centrists i.e. the ones with a moderate approach. In 2016, the 120 seats were won by the reformists while 113 were taken up by the principlists or conservatives. The remaining ones were distributed between the independents largely and others. However, the emerging picture of results in 2020 is very different from what it was four years back.

The parliamentary elections 2020 for Iran had made it easy for the conservatives or the hardliners to get to power. In Islamic Republic’s Majlis of 290 seats, 219 are already won by them. Primarily, because of the fact that only a small number of participants are allowed to run for the office or contest the elections. Prior to elections the contestants are supposed to go through a scrutiny by the Guardian Council. It is a body that includes six jurists and six clerics who are appointed by the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. This time, the GC had disqualified more than fifty percent of the total 14,000 applicants who had applied to run for the office. Most of these disqualified names were those of the reformists or the moderates.

**Domestic issues**

Another factor to understand here is that Iran experienced lowest voter turnout since the Iranian revolution of 1979. Less than half of the total voters is said to have voted in the recent elections. It is said that some people didn’t participate because of the economic situation. The most important reason for those people is the sanctions by the USA and so they have became hopeless as of anything can be changed. However, the good news is that if the new representatives would do anything against the illegal sanctions, the domestic situation can be changed in favor of the government. It has been said that people have shown dissatisfaction over the clerical rule particularly after the Ukrainian plane massacre. If conservative proceed with narrower scope to function there is likely a chance that they can face fallout of the mass protests leading to the worsening of the situation for Iran.

**In bag for Ruhani**

The new parliament will not be an ally for Ruhani. Because conservatives are not so fond of him and reformists. They cannot forget his politics and political rhetoric about their opinions and principles. Also, it seems they will put more pressure on him in order to get more privileges. So, Ruhani should be prepared for new critics and hard domestic situation.

In all, the foreign policy of Ruhani toward the west will be more weakened because the new parliament is not expected to be on the same page as him. Although, Ruhani has shown a flexible political opinion which made him able to work with all parties of Iran, the new era of Iran’s domestic affairs are not so clear. So it’s a little soon to predict the future!

**Who could be the next supreme leader?**

The struggle for power is already into play admist US sanctions. Iran’s Supreme Leader, Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei’s failing health and increasing age has led to the speculations of who could take his place. His resign or death can altogether reshape Iranian politics. The most likely names in this regard are Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, Sadeq Larijani and Ebrahim Raisi.

**Vague future**

The imminent question rises that next president off course would be from conservatives, how they will orientate state cogs when it comes to dealing with Washington? Will they behave in same manner or worse?  Or there is any minute chance that they will behave in an opposite manner and try to men the ties with international community and Oval? While it this point in time, the parliamentary elections cannot directly have an impact on the foreign policy but after the presidential elections, where the same conservative parliament can elect their president things can get a little shaky. The conservatives apparently are not so fond of the direct negotiations and can lead to re-imposition of sanctions as well. At this moment when the global economy is on a gamble in post corona outbreak, Iran being affected by this terrible news too, needs to secure their economic interests. There is likely a chance that conservative would act in a liberal and a quite understanding manner when it comes to dealing with Washington.

**Pak-Iran and the West**

As both the states have new political elites, it is time to counter the western influence in the region, both states have to entrust working closely with each other in different sectors. Following are some points highlighting the Pakistan – Iran convergence of interest:

1. Pakistan – Iran cooperation and collaboration in Afghanistan
2. Combating terrorism, extremism, & separatism
3. Countering Epidemic Disease
4. Iran – Pakistan Gas Pipeline
5. Trade: Iran – Pakistan Economic Corridor
6. CPEC
7. Promotion of Tourism
8. Gwadar – Chabhar Junction
9. Marine Investment
10. Defence/Military Relations
11. Energy Sector
12. Counter border Corruption
13. Controlling illegal goods and human trafficking
14. Vocational/Professional trainings
15. Joint working groups on regional strategic stability

To conclude, Pakistan doesn’t want to be part of any game that could have a negative impact on Pakistan. Pakistan, a sectarian sensitive state could have severe internal civil consequences. Being part of U.S. against Iran could have triggered an upsurge in sectarian tensions of the region especially Pakistan and Afghanistan. So, it opted to be neutral. Pakistan, has to work on its foreign policy viz-a-viz Middle Eastern states. Both Pakistan and Iran as to realize the importance of their positions and relations in the region and also have to reap their full economic potential. It’s time to come to workable agreements and negotiations in order to show need for cooperation and collaboration.