

PAK-TURK RELATIONS DURING IMRAN KHAN'S ERA (2018-2022): AN APPRAISAL

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DEPARTMENT OF PAKISTAN STUDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Muhammad Tahir

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my dissertation work to my family and friends. A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents, my father **Hussain Ahmad (late)** and **my Mother**, for their endless love, support and encouragement. My brothers and sisters without whom none of my success would be possible. I also dedicate this dissertation to my many friends who have supported me throughout the process.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HLCC	High Level Cooperation Council
RCD	Regional Cooperation for Development
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Cooperation
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
MCG	Military Consultative Group
HLMDG	High Level Military Dialogue Group
PATTS	Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey Trilateral Summit
CENTO	Central Treaty Organization
CPEC	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
NESPAK	National Engineering Services Pakistan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
JWG	Joint Working Group
ICCI	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry
JMC	Joint Ministerial Commission
PSQCA	Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
PTJBC	Pakistan-Turkey Joint Business Council
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Banks

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Abstract

This research examines Pakistan-Turkey political, economic, and military relations during Prime Minister Imran Khan's tenure. The research investigates the two nations' bilateral relations, initiatives, and areas of collaboration in key areas. It tries to give insight into the changing dynamics, difficulties, and opportunities that have defined the Pakistan-Turkey relationship over this period. In terms of politics, the research looks at the strengthening of diplomatic connections and the exchange of high-level visits between Pakistan and Turkey. It emphasizes similar values, mutual trust, and common strategic objectives that formed the two countries' strong collaboration. The research also looks into the roles of Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in fostering regional stability and strengthening political collaboration. In terms of economic connections, the paper examines Pakistan-Turkey trade and investment cooperation. It investigates bilateral trade volume, economic relationship expansion, and the implementation of collaborative projects in industries such as energy, infrastructure, and defence. The study examines the impact of this economic cooperation on both nations and the possibility of further strengthening economic connections. Another emphasis of this research is the military dimension of the Pakistan-Turkey relationship. It investigates defence cooperation, such as joint military exercises, training programs, and the transfer of defence technologies. The study also looks at the strategic ramifications of this military partnership and its consequences for regional security. The research concludes by summarizing the important results, emphasising the overall good trajectory of Pakistan-Turkey political, economic, and military relations during the Imran Khan's era. It analyses the two nations' difficulties and recommends possible areas for future collaboration and improved bilateral interaction.

Chapter 1

PAK-TURKEY RELATIONS DURING IMRAN KHAN'S ERA (2018-2022): AN APPRAISAL

1 Introduction

In general, the escalation of political, social, military, and economic ties between nations is used to judge the quality of relations. Mutual interests can also lead to friendly relations between nations. However, relationships between nations, such as those between Pakistan and Turkey, are more a result of similar ideals and a feeling of intimacy between the two populations. Since the two countries first established formal diplomatic ties in 1947, relations between Pakistan and Turkey have been characterized by their striking dynamism and enduring strength.

1.1 Political Relations

In terms of the institutionalization of political connections, the High-Level Cooperation Council (HLCC), which was established in 2010, has been extremely important. Should the HLCC continue to meet frequently, at least once a year, to support concrete projects including multidimensional cooperation, Pak-Turkish relations will further consolidate in a variety of spheres. Since the turn of the century, Turkey and Pakistan have also made significant advancements in institutional cooperation on a regional level. Since the end of the Cold War, a series of succeeding trilateral institutions, including the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), have served as the foundation of an ever-stronger diplomatic tradition on the Iran-Pakistan-Turkey axis.

With Pakistan's independence in 1947 came the beginning of the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey. Since then, as a result of shared cultural, religious, and political aspects, their bond has progressively grown. Both nations have a similar perspective on a variety of regional and

global issues. Turkey and Pakistan remained close allies for more than 50 years. Their close links and similar concerns about many issues solidified their friendship, which represented the same comradely attitude that had pervaded for ages; these were the long-standing ties between Indian Muslims and the Ottoman Empire. The Indian Muslims had formed ties with the Ottoman emperors before the founding of the contemporary Turkish republic in 1923 and Pakistan. Sultan Salem became the Caliph in the sixteenth century, and as the Caliph was regarded as the only Imam of all the Muslims, his influence spread throughout the subcontinent. Indian Muslims fought alongside the later Ottomans in their conflicts. Examples include the Turkish-Greek War (1897), the Balkan Wars (1912), and the Russo-Turkish War (1877–78), all of which the Indian Muslims supported the Ottomans due to their shared religious heritage. Even during the First World War and the Turkish War of Independence, Indian Muslims continued to support their Turkish brethren. The Khilafat Movement was started by Indian Muslims to defend the Caliph against the British allies. To protect Khilafat, the movement launched a massive campaign against the British. During the Turkish War of Independence, Indian Muslims continued to aid Turkey, sending 125,000 British Pounds to that country¹. The killing of the Islamic academics of Meshad by Russia, France's conquest of Morocco, and Turkey's precious Islamic sites all sparked outrage and grief among Muslims in the subcontinent. Muslims in the subcontinent blamed Britain for the oppression of the Turks and Ottoman Empire intrigues. All influential Muslim leaders from the subcontinent, including Maulana Shaukat Ali, Maulana Mohammad Ali, Shibli N'umani, and Abul Kalam Azad, denounced the crimes carried out by the western powers against the Turks. The Indian Muslims held admiration for the contemporary Turkish republic even after the Caliphate system was abolished on March 3, 1924. Turkey gave Pakistan its warmest recognition when it was created

¹Munir Hussain, "Pak-Turkey relations: On the common ties." *Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations* 7, no. 2&3 (2008): 67-85.

in 1947. As a result, even before bilateral relations began, there existed a strong religious affinity between the populations of Pakistan and Turkey. This connection would become stronger over time².

The two states' ideologies were opposed; Pakistan's philosophy was founded on fundamental Islamic tenets, whereas Turkey is a secular state. However, despite their stark ideological divergences, both nations' opinions and ideas on many foreign matters never interfered with the development of cordial relations. Turkey has frequently expressed its appreciation for Pakistan's nation's backing and the Pakistani army's assistance in fighting terrorism at international forums. When Pakistan was in trouble owing to a natural disaster, Turkey also rushed to its aid and went above and above for Pakistan. In addition, Pakistani authorities regularly cite Turkey as a "role model" as Pakistan struggles to deal with the challenges of democratization, the requirements of economic development, and the concerns of political reform.³.

Turkey gave the relationship a high priority after Pakistan was established by designating poet Yahya Kamal as its first ambassador to Islamabad. Muhammad Ali Jinnah welcome Turkish ambassador and stated:

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as the first Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan. But my pleasure is enhanced as there is a unique significance about today's ceremony to the people of Pakistan, for historical reasons. Your Excellency, have you observed that many spiritual and sentimental ties, born and grown in the course of a long history, bind the people of Turkey to the people of Pakistan? Not only this but

²M. Almas, G. Ahmad, and M. Khurshid, "Pakistan Turkey Cordial Entente (1947-2013): A Diachronic Review," *Global Regional Review VI*, no. 6 (2021): 37-44.

³Muhammad Hanif, "An Analysis of International Trade of Pakistan: With a Focus on Exports." *Paradigms: A Research Journal of Commerce, Economics, and Social Sciences 12*, no. 1 (2018): 22-30.

by a turn of the world situation during the past 50 years or more, Turkey has been in our thoughts constantly and has drawn our admiration for the valour of your people and how your statesmen and leaders have struggled and fought almost single-handed in Europe for your freedom and sovereignty which have been happily maintained.”

When it comes to the Muslims world, Turkey and Pakistan are at the forefront. Both countries were also instrumental in establishing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Although Turkey is widely recognized as a rising economic power in the Middle East, Pakistan has the distinction of being the only Nuclear Islamic nation and having the world's thirteenth most powerful military. With a powerful military and the world's nineteenth-biggest economy, Turkey is a major international power. As a result, both nations have significant status in the eyes of the Muslim community. Due to their shared beliefs, same history, and common culture, these two nations are well-suited to cooperating to resolve civil problems and sectarian conflicts throughout the whole Muslim world. Both nations have consistently supported each other on contentious issues like Kashmir and Cyprus, and this mutual support is expected to continue.⁴ According to Gunerigok (2019), the Kashmir dispute is the most divisive in Pakistan's history. On this issue, Turkey has shown its complete solidarity with Pakistan. The Turkish government agrees with Pakistan's stance and strongly denounces any Indian brutality in Indian-occupied Kashmir. This problem, according to Turkey, should be solved by granting Kashmiris full autonomy. During the UN General Assembly forum for Kashmir, Turkish President Erdogan also criticized and canceled Articles 370 and 35A on occupied Kashmir. Erdogan believes that "events that happened 100 years ago in ankale in Turkey are being repeated in the Indian Occupied State of Jammu and Kashmir and Turkey will continue to raise

⁴Dawn, Turkey, Pakistan back peaceful resolution to Yemen conflict," April 3, 2015, <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173701>.

its voice against the oppression," and he has called on the international community to resolve the conflict through dialogue.

1.1.1 Economic Relations

Pakistan and Turkey have a long history of economic cooperation, but both governments believe that they have not fully exploited the economic potential of the fast-growing bilateral relationship. Therefore, before this part of the bilateral relationship can live up to expectations, two key milestones must be reached. The first hurdle in this situation can only be cleared if protracted talks over a Pak-Turkish Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are successfully concluded, opening the door for reciprocal trade and investment flows. The second hurdle will unavoidably be crossed as China announces various One Belt One Road (OBOR) projects that are complementary to one another. An effective logistical network between Turkey and Pakistan can only be established once OBOR is properly implemented as an instrumental integration strategy for the greater region, which would then spur bilateral investment and trade.

The first and most serious problem that has to be solved between the two nations is the improvement of economic and commercial ties. While both countries have expressed a desire to strengthen their economic connections, they have taken very few concrete steps in that direction. Trade between the two countries has dropped by 40 percent in the last two years, to an annual total remaining far below one billion dollars. These include Turkey's imposition of protection duties on Pakistani textiles since 2011. This has led to a decline in Pakistani exports. At the turn of the previous decade, Turkey's economy has been expanding rapidly; this is largely because of the country's increased political stability and the implementation of much more sound economic policies. Pakistan, on the other hand, has been experiencing a serious economic and political crisis, which has prevented its economy from keeping up with that of Turkey. Yet Pakistan might have benefited from the booming Turkish economy.⁵

⁵ Abbasi, Khatwani, and Kolachi, *"Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions,"* 2020.

Considering the potential for greater firm synergies, there are also considerable indirect advantages, which make it possible to make long-term structural reforms essential to Pakistan's economic success in the long-term. The two countries' shared commitment to bolstering economic and commercial ties stands out as the partnership's defining characteristic. Pakistan needs to maximize its gains from opportunities like the FTA it is negotiating with Turkey. The moment has come for Pakistan to cash in on the goodwill that has built up between the two countries. Pakistan and Turkey recognize the global and regional possibilities of their partnership. This connection may be strengthened via international trade, investment, and business. When it comes to infrastructure, Pakistan is severely lacking, but Turkey is prepared to provide a helping hand. Turkey might help Pakistan in the field of information technology. Because of its fertile plains and lack of water management techniques, Pakistan may learn these methods from Turkey. Pakistan might also benefit from Turkish help in the economic, commercial, and scientific spheres⁶.

Trade between Pakistan and Turkey is now at \$584 million¹, but a well-thought-out and negotiated FTA has the potential to grow this to \$5 billion soon. High-potential exports from Pakistan may increase from \$391 million to \$2,400 million, while high-potential exports from Turkey to Pakistan can increase from \$193 million to \$2,500 million. Yet, it now seems that tariff removal alone may not be sufficient to accomplish this goal. From Pakistan's export standpoint, some of the top potential export items to Turkey already face low tariffs (5%), indicating \$1,331.8 million in potential exports. Concerns about Turkey's non-tariff obstacles, and notably its extensive use of anti-dumping legislation, must be addressed in the (FTA), and the Pakistani negotiation team must make sure this happens. If Pakistan's industrial interests aren't considered during negotiations again, (FTA) that allows Turkish imports into Pakistani markets without a matching boost in Turkish exports to Pakistan might result.

⁶ Ashfaq Ali, "CGE Analysis of Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, "(2017).

1.1.2 Military Relations

A long and complex history has existed in the military ties between Pakistan and Turkey. These two nations, although are geographically apart, have connected via similar historical connections and strategic objectives. Their military collaboration has developed throughout time, resulting in solid and long-lasting ties. It is possible to trace the roots of Pakistan and Turkey's military ties to their shared participation in a number of international organisations, such as the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Both countries have repeatedly shown support for one another on a number of regional and global issues, laying the groundwork for a strong military partnership. Defence cooperation and the sharing of military experience have been conducted between Pakistan and Turkey. Their strategic partnership is supported by a shared understanding of the value of regional stability and the necessity of working together to address changing security concerns. These military ties encompass more than simply defence agreements and joint exercises; they also entail technology transfers, cooperation in the defence sector, and military training programs. With a focus on scientific growth and self-reliance, both countries have worked to improve their military might and defence systems.⁷

Pakistan and Turkey are committed to battling terrorism and extremism, which pose a danger to both regional and international security, in the framework of their military ties. Their combined efforts in this area have improved not just their bilateral military ties but also the stability of the entire region. There is a strong sense of friendship between Pakistan and Turkey's military personnel, and both countries have a similar awareness of the security issues they must deal with. Their military cooperation continues to be a key component of their larger strategic alliance as both countries negotiate the complexity of the modern world. These

⁷ Shehryar Khan, "Dynamics of Pakistan-Turkey Relations." *Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)* 1, no. 2 2020: 14-24.

relationships have endured the test of time and are anticipated to be crucial in determining the security environment inside and outside their respective regions.

The two nations have a long history of working together to combat a variety of security concerns, from the emergence of terrorism and religious extremism in the 2000s to the expansion of communism in the 1950s. In addition, the Turkish and Pakistani armies have developed strong multifaceted ties, including but not limited to cooperative training initiatives and the defense sector. Under the terms of the Treaty of 1954, Turkey and Pakistan began their first-ever defense cooperation. Since then, the Treaty has pushed the armed forces of the two nations to actively cooperate in arming and training. To further their collaboration on military education and the defense sector, Pakistan and Turkey later formed the Military Consultative Group (MCG) in 1988. In June 2003, Pakistan and Turkey created the High-Level Military Dialogue (HLMDG)⁸.

Since the beginning of the millennium, military and defense industry collaboration between the two nations has gotten stronger in the 2000s. During this time, Ankara and Islamabad routinely conducted joint exercises (such as the military drills known as "Anatolian Eagle" and "Indus Viper"), traded weapons and supplies, and shared military expertise. In 2015, a programmer for the exchange of pilots and other air force personnel was also approved. A breakthrough in the two countries' military relations might be facilitated by policy harmonization in the defense sector. Although there has been little progress in this area of collaboration for a while, Ankara and Islamabad have now begun to take actual action.

In addition, a strategic alliance was required if Ankara and Islamabad were to continue their security cooperation over the long term. When Turkey presented its strategy for 2023, Pakistan's geopolitical importance increased. Ankara decided to enhance exports of local defense goods worth USD 25 billion. It requires a prospective international market to reach

⁸ Hussain, "Pak-Turkey relations,"75.

this goal, and Islamabad offers it the biggest market in that regard. Both nations inked strategic alliances in 2016 and indicated an interest in long-term defense cooperation. Although Turkey is widely recognized as a rising economic power in the Middle East, Pakistan has the distinction of being the only Nuclear Islamic nation and having the world's thirteenth most powerful military.⁹

1.2 Statement of the problem

Pakistan and Turkey maintained warm relations during Imran Khan's period, focusing on their shared cultural and religious ties. Imran Khan's efforts improved Pak-Turkey ties, enhanced by regional diplomacy and economic interests, leading to improved cooperation.

The study examines Pak-Turkey relations during Imran Khan's time to understand how politics, economy and military ties work together, find ways to improve them, and see different factors affect the relationship.

The purpose of this study is to conduct an appraisal of Pak-Turkey relations during Imran Khan's era (2018-2022), examining the political, economic and military dimensions, to provide a detailed understanding of the relationship and inform strategies for future progress.

1.3 Aims and objectives

1. To describe Pak-Turkey relations from historical perspectives
2. To analyze the political relation between Pak-Turkey during the Imran Khan's era
3. To examine the economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey
4. To investigate the military ties between Pakistan and Turkey

⁹ Gilani, "Turkey-Pakistan Friendship: From Past to Present." *Daily Sabah*, February 13, 2020, <https://www.>

1.4 Research questions

1. What was the nature of Pak-Turk relations from a historical perspective?
2. How was the political relation between Pakistan and Turkey?
3. How were the economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey?
4. What was the military cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey?

1.5 Hypothesis

Imran Khan's regime tried to have strong ties with Turkey, but due to many reasons, the relationship did not grow up to the level of expectation.

1.6 Theoretical Perspective

The relationship between Pakistan and Turkey dates back many centuries, and Muslims living under the British Raj in the northwest made significant contributions during the Turkish War of Independence. Even after the creation of the Turkish Republic and the Independence of Pakistan, these contributions, which were grounded in a shared Islamic identity, remained to influence bilateral ties.

This thesis looks at the many elements that Imran Khan's leadership has had on the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey. The research uses social constructivism as its theoretical foundation in an effort to provide solutions to these questions. Turkey's foreign relations with Pakistan may be understood on the basis of social constructivism and Neoclassical Realism, which can also be used to analyse the many facets of Turkish foreign policy, including its motives, goals, and outcomes. A closer examination of the foreign policies of both countries is made possible by scrutinizing the ideas and approaches contained in this framework, showing the crucial part that people's views and opinions play in influencing a country's foreign policy. Turkish foreign policy has been dramatically altered by the acceptance of Ahmet Davutoglu's

philosophy of foreign policy, sometimes known as "Neo-Ottomanism," and Turkey's diplomatic status, notably in the Middle East, has increased. Although different from the historical Ottomanism of the nineteenth century, neo-Ottomanism has as its primary objective the promotion of a civic national identity that cuts over racial, linguistic, and religious barriers. This strategy's core entails forming powerful partnerships with rising world powers including China, India, Russia, Pakistan, and other Muslim countries. Turkey prioritizes leading interreligious and intercultural engagement and utilizing its extensive historical and cultural assets.¹⁰

On the other hand, Pakistan's early attempts at foreign policy were heavily influenced by romanticized ideas of Islamic unification. This idealism was progressively replaced by realism. Pakistan didn't completely renounce its Islamic heritage, though; rather, it grew more pragmatic and began assessing the pros and cons while making judgements about its foreign policy. Even if it was ahead of its time, the idea of a single Muslim bloc reflected a progressive and different perspective on how politics and identity interact in international affairs. The (OIC), which was established in 1969, helped bring this vision to reality.

As its analytical framework, the thesis uses social constructivism and Neoclassical Realism, the theories that became popular in the late 1980s. Social constructivism is a social theory that explores the connections between states and global political institutions rather than being a particular theory of international politics. In this framework, the idea of structure is variable and depending on the viewpoint of the observer or theorist, whereas actors are seen as active players in forming the global landscape.

It is critical to look at the factors influencing the development of the Pakistan-Turkey relationship in light of current events in that partnership. The strength of their friendly ties,

¹⁰ Hajrudin Somun, "Turkish Foreign Policy in the Balkans and 'Neo-Ottomanism': A Personal Account," *Insight Turkey* 13, no. 3 (2011).

which have persisted under both democratic and military regimes, is demonstrated by Turkey's support for Pakistan's inclusion to the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Pakistan and Turkey should work closely together to protect their mutual political, economic, and security interests. It would be advantageous for both countries if they acknowledged the contribution that their relationship has made to accomplishing regional objectives that are common. Turkey may pledge to continue its long-term involvement with Pakistan in return.

1.7 Significance of the study

The long-term relations between Pakistan and Turkey will benefit from the research study. The political, security, and economic connections between Pakistan and Turkey are covered in detail. To understand the nature of Pak-Turk ties during the Imran Khan period, students of Pakistan studies, those interested in international relations, and general readers need to read this research. This study provides helpful information for scholars, students, and policymakers seeking to strengthen bilateral ties. Additionally, it offers important findings and recommendations for both countries' policymakers to foster long-lasting ties between Pakistan and Turkey, which are crucial for both countries' economic growth. This study offered fresh angles and topics for an investigation into various aspects of Pak-Turk relations.

1.8 Research Methodology

This study's goal is to examine the relation between Turkey and Pakistan during the rule of Imran Khan. Data were gathered by the researcher using a qualitative research approach. The information gathered was utilized to provide a descriptive study of the two nations' relationship. To learn more about the phenomena of Pak-Turk interactions, both primary and secondary materials, including books, journals, newspapers, reports, speeches, and internet sites, have been studied. Information has also been gathered using other records, such as speeches and

comments from the State Department and the Pakistani Foreign Office. Also from Trade and investment wing Turkey.

It might be quite difficult for a researcher to conduct a qualitative study. The quality of the study the researcher undertakes might be impacted by many things. Researcher might not have all the information required, for example, when collecting data.

The government's policies and the lack of access to primary data at Pakistan's foreign office were two major reasons why the data could not be adequately gathered and examined. Additionally, the researchers' lack of English language proficiency and time restrictions made it difficult for them to conduct a thorough analysis of the data.

1.9 Literature Review

Qualitative research acknowledges the significance of evaluating the literature. This technique has been used in the examination of numerous facets of Pakistani-Turkish relations in the years after Pakistan's independence, particularly under the Imran Khan administration. Literature about the interactions between the two nations spans a wide range of topics. The last period of the relationship is not as thoroughly studied; it is crucial to highlight. The goal of this research is to offer a thorough examination of the relevant literature. This study's goal is to offer an inclusive analysis of Pakistan-Turkey ties during the rule of Imran Khan.

Books

Turkey: A Regional Power in the Making, the book is edited by Kenan Aksu and published in 2013 by Cambridge Scholars.

Razi Ashraf examines the ties between Pakistan and Turkey in this book. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries showed that Central and South Asia shared a similar age. They also covered the Ottoman Mediterranean realm, including the routes coming from Iran. Despite the

geographic differences, there was a very strong sense of a shared kinship among the Islamic and Perzianate cultures that pervaded the Uzbek, Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal empires. In other words, Muslim Asia at this time may be referred to as "one world" since the populace subconsciously or intentionally adopted the ideologies, worldviews, and lingua franca of the prevailing elite culture. Interestingly, if we look at the connections between Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, and Central Asia, we may still observe this current behavior. The connection between Turkey and Pakistan is used in this book as a paradigm to clarify this historical circumstance in Muslim Asian history.

The book *"Turkey and Pakistan beyond Friendship: An Introduction to the History of Pak-Turkey Relations"* published by Khan, G.A.Y., in 2016: Fiction House.

In this article, the authors analyzed Pakistan and Turkey's bilateral ties in depth. Both nations have Muslim majorities. This book analyses the cultural, historical, and geopolitical linkages between the two countries that have influenced their bilateral relations throughout time. From Pakistan's independence until the current day, the book chronicles the development of ties between that country and Turkey in great detail. To illustrate the multifaceted character of the connection between the two countries, the writers have drawn from a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. The common history of the Ottoman Empire and the Mughal Empire, the geographical position of both nations, and the significance of Islam in both countries' political and cultural identities have all been analyzed as potential influences on the relationship. The book's strength lies in its thorough examination of the strategic facets of ties between Pakistan and Turkey.

The writers looked closely at the many strategic alliances that have developed between the two countries over the years, including their work together in the fields of military, intelligence, and security. The book also offers a deep dive into the relationship between Iran, Saudi Arabia,

and the United States, as well as Pakistan and Turkey and their respective roles in the area. The book thorough examination of the economic links between Pakistan and Turkey is another area of excellence. The writers have looked at the opportunities for commerce, investment, and tourism between the two countries and emphasized those possibilities for cooperation. In addition, the book summarizes the consequences of the many recent economic accords made between Pakistan and Turkey. The writers have also offered an outline of the cultural linkages between Pakistan and Turkey, pointing out the shared cultural history and the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering better relations between the two countries. Exchanging scientists, artists, and authors is only one example of the many cultural interactions chronicled in this book.

The lack of a thorough examination of the impact of civil society on Pakistani-Turkish ties is one of the few major flaws in the otherwise excellent book. Although the authors' emphasis on the state's involvement in molding the bilateral relationship is warranted, it would have been fascinating to learn more about the influence of non-state actors. When taken as a whole, *Pakistan-Turkey Relations: From Strategic Engagement to Economic Partnership* provides a deep dive into the bilateral relationship between two significant Muslim-majority nations. This book gives a comprehensive explanation of the cultural similarities and geopolitical links that have formed the relationship throughout time, as well as its historical, strategic, and economic components. Academics, politicians, and everyone with an interest in the tangled history of ties between Pakistan and Turkey should read this book. The writers delivered here. Their analysis is perceptive and stimulating, and the book is an important addition to the canon of work on ties between Pakistan and Turkey.

A book on *Pakistan-Turkey Relations*. Published by Noor-ul-Haq, in 2010

Noor –ul- Haq has published an engaging and instructive book about Turkey and Pakistan that analyses the historical, political, and cultural linkages that exist between the two countries. The book is titled "A book on Turkey and Pakistan." The author of this book contends that the two nations have a long and complicated history together, which has had a significant impact on each of their own identities and fates. Beginning with Turkey's and Pakistan's respective struggles for independence from colonial powers in the middle of the twentieth century, the first chapter of the book offers a concise review of their respective histories. The author then continues to discuss the many political systems that arose in both nations, emphasizing how they are similar to one another as well as how they are distinct from one another. This book gives various instances of the cultural ties between the two countries, such as the impact of Persian and Arabic on the Urdu language and the widespread popularity of Turkish soap operas in Pakistan. The book's examination of the trade between Turkey and Pakistan is another area of excellence. According to the author, boosting trade and investment between these two nations would be very beneficial for both. She argues that there is a lot of room for cooperation in fields like energy, infrastructure, and technology since both nations have booming economies and youthful, active people. In particular, the book dives into the role that religion has had in molding politics in both Turkey and Pakistan, with a specific emphasis on the emergence of Islamic groups over the last several decades. The cultural connections between Turkey and Pakistan are investigated in the book, which is one of the factors that make it one of the most intriguing parts of the book. The author contends that these two nations have a shared legacy that dates back hundreds of years and that this has impacted everything from their language to their food to their music. He or she also claims that this heritage has a significant impact on the history of the country. Throughout the book, the author gives a sophisticated and even-handed assessment of the ties that bind Turkey and Pakistan. She admits

that there are problems and conflicts between the two nations, but she stresses that there are also many areas of agreement and shared interests. She contends that if Turkey and Pakistan cooperate, they would be able to do far more than each country could on their own. All in all, *Turkey and Pakistan: From Independence to Interdependence* was a fascinating and enlightening read for me. The author has a readable style, and she gives a lot of detail on the politics, history, and culture of these two countries. The work is extremely carefully researched, with many footnotes and a bibliography that academics and students will appreciate.

The book has the potential flaw of being too scholarly and difficult to read at points. The in-depth analysis of governmental structures and economic policies may be too technical for some readers. However, I think the writer does a great job of simplifying difficult concepts and presenting them in a way that can be understood by a wide audience. To sum up, I think anyone curious about the political and historical development of these two fascinating countries should read *Turkey and Pakistan: Independence to Interdependence*. This book is an excellent resource that will appeal to academics, policymakers, and the general public. This book is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about Turkey and Pakistan, or in gaining a deeper understanding of the relationship between these two countries.

This book by *Malik Muhammad Ashraf, Abbasi, Khatwani, M. K., & Kolachi, M. R. (2020). "Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions"*

Provides an in-depth examination of the political, military, economic, and cultural facets of ties between Pakistan and Turkey. Anyone curious about the interplay between South Asian and Middle Eastern politics will find Ashraf's book invaluable thanks to his extensive research and smart analysis. Ashraf's emphasis on the history of ties between Pakistan and Turkey is a major quality of the book. Especially relevant to the evolution of Pakistani-Turkish ties are his summaries of the Ottoman Empire and the Khilafat Movement in India. The author also

emphasizes the two nations' attempts to improve their relationship during and after the Cold War. Ashraf's in-depth study of the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Turkey is another major part of the book. He discusses several facets of strategic partnership, including links between the armed forces, sharing of information, and joint efforts to combat terrorism. The author offers a thorough evaluation of the function of the two states in the context of international and regional security. Moreover, he analyses how strategic collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey has affected security dynamics in South Asia and the Middle East more generally. The economics of Pakistan and Turkey's relationship are also explored in this book. Specifically, Ashraf examines the business and investment ties between the two nations in great detail. Among the possible areas of cooperation that he lists are energy, infrastructure, and agriculture. All in all, *Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Rising to the Challenge* is a deep dive into the state of Pakistan and Turkey's relationship. The author's thorough examination of the relationship between the two nations, including their shared history, strategic alliance, economic partnership, and shared cultural traditions, is excellent. This book is a must-read for politicians, scholars, and everyone curious about the interplay between South Asia and the Middle East. Certain parts of the book may be too technical or comprehensive for casual readers, and this is the book's only real flaw. The author may have improved the readability of several passages for a wider audience by using simpler language or offering additional background details.

Identity, Conflict, and Politics in Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, this book is written by Gilles Dorronsoro and Olivier Grojean and was published in 2018 by Oxford University Press.

These theoretically sophisticated chapters are divided into three subject sections and analyze each state using insights from the literature of anthropology and political sociology. The formation of ethnoreligious identities, a hotly contested topic in the Turkish, Iranian, and

Pakistani contexts, is the subject of the first section, while the politicization of these identities, largely the result of state interference and shifting global conditions, is the subject of the second. The third and final section looks at how these "many identities" turned violent at the micro-levels, highlighting how the violent turn is based on the historical development of the three states under consideration.

Articles

Another article written by Shehryar Khan, "*Dynamics of Pakistan-Turkey Relations*" (2020), talks about the warm and cordial relations between Pakistan and Turkey.

His research is shedding light on the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey, and he claims that ever since Pakistan's formation, the two countries have had very warm and cordial bilateral relations. He points out that the two nations have great feelings of friendship that have never existed before, which makes their ties unique. On some global and regional concerns, both nations also hold similar worldviews. He should explain how Pakistan and Turkey are linked historically, culturally, and religiously, as well as how both countries are located in key geostrategic areas. Both are middle powers and significant nations within the Muslim world thanks to their respective political, economic, and military might. He raised the question that, despite their good intentions, neither country was able to turn them into solid economic and commercial ties. This paper examines the development of bilateral connections, shared cultural and religious beliefs, shared security concerns, and the reasons why robust economic relationships between two nations have not been able to thrive.

Qadri and Ahsan published an article on the *Comparative study of local government about Pakistan and Turkey's relationship* published in 2016.

It was explained that there is no question that Pakistan and Turkey have cordial political, historical, and cultural relations, there is still room for trade and commercial potential. Experts agree that the governments and private businesspeople of the two nations have much to do in the commerce arena if they are to improve their diplomatic ties with one another. There is a great deal of room for the two economies to become considerably more intertwined. The situation in Turkey may improve if both nations are committed to eliminating militancy. During a ceremony on November 12, 2015, he shared his ideas at a hotel in Peshawar. Representatives from many different governments and political parties were present for the occasion, including US Consul General William Martin of Peshawar and Turkish Ambassador Sadiq Babur Girgin of Pakistan. As Governor Mehtab put it, "Pakistan and Turkey are one body with two hearts," referring to the longstanding friendship between the two countries. The article discovered that as time goes on, trade and commerce between Pakistan and Turkey gets improved. Both nations were original participants in the Organization for (ECO). In addition to being the OIC's founding members, they are also members of the Developing 8, (D8) (OIC). Turkey and Pakistan established their Joint Economic Committee Mechanism in 1976 under the terms of their Agreement. Since then, they have continued to work together on some accords in Ankara and Islamabad that aim to strengthen their economies and trade ties.

The article *"Turkey-Pakistan Relations: Towards Multidimensional Regional Integration (2016)"* was written by Colakoglu, Selcuk, and Mr. Emre.

This article evaluates the current state of ties between Turkey and Pakistan, their recent developments, and their progressive institutionalization process. They also explained the high degree of bilateral cooperation that has been established in terms of political, military, and economic issues. They also expound on the shared strategy that Pakistan and Turkey have been trying to establish over the last few decades with a focus on regional and global events,

particularly those having political and economic ramifications for the Middle East and Central Asia. In that regard, they looked at the activities that are complementary and coordinated across multilateral forums and international organizations to enhance bilateral cooperation. They are explaining the reasons why maintaining Afghan stability, developing the capacity to respond to a variety of interconnected developments in South Asia and the Middle East, and utilizing many prospective projects on a multilateral basis as envisioned within the framework of China's "OBOR" Initiative have started to rank highly on the bilateral cooperation agenda of the two countries in recent years.

Another important article written by Abbasi, Ishrat Afshan, Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, and Muhammad Ramzan Kolachi "*Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions.*" (2020).

According to this article, relations between Turkey and Pakistan are thought to have existed before the establishment of Pakistan. Muslims have historically displayed compassion and sensitivity toward the Sultanat-e-Usmania on the subcontinent (the Ottoman Empire). Turkey and Pakistan have had friendly political and economic connections since Pakistan gained its independence. This article focuses on the enhanced diplomatic and economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey, as well as their deeply ingrained historical heritage. It also covers current developments in the relations between the two countries, such as the role of both states in combating terrorism across the globe in general and in the Muslim world in particular. This paper is based on a qualitative approach, and descriptive methods have been used to develop an understanding of the given topic. The facts and figures about bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey are concrete and accurate for the readers' information.

The article "*The Proposed Pakistan Turkey Free Trade Agreement. Pakistan Business Council. (2015)*" was written by Samir S. Amir Falak Hadi.

This article explains that significance lies in its analysis of how the growing commerce and solid links have improved the job prospects of Pakistanis in Turkey, who can now go there with relative ease and find work in a wide range of industries. The report also underlined the fact that an alliance between Pakistan and Turkey has evolved based on cultural and religious ideals and mutual support in the fight against terrorism. The growth of multiple bilateral initiatives in which the governments are assisting each other in various sectors indicates that economic cooperation will be crucial in the years to come. Workforce and educational exchange between the two nations have also been recognized as areas of particularly close cooperation. There is a proposal to expand and strengthen cultural and business ties between the two countries by having Turkish corporations spend more than \$1 billion in Pakistan. The leadership in Turkey has made a major initiative to help Pakistan, which bodes well for their future growth and development.

"Economic Relations between Pakistan and Turkey in a Globalized World" (2019) is written by Shehzad and Aisha.

This article explains the phenomenon of a globalized world in which state integration is strengthened as a result of interdependence. To enhance the global community, non-discriminatory commercial ties through liberalization and democratization are required. Additionally, market pressures require governmental actors to work together to strengthen regional harmony and economic links. This article also analyses the mutual commerce among nations, which supports trans nationalization and multilateralism. These economic patterns reinvigorate globalization. This article explains the practical dynamics of the new spirit of commercial ties between Pakistan and Turkey along with the intellectual framework of

globalization. It includes secondary materials, expert interviews, and quantitative methods of descriptive and historical research. This study imagines what could happen if the regional economic Centre's created an atmosphere that encouraged sincere economic integration.

“Pak-Turkish Relations from Geo-Politics Toward Geo-Economics” (2021) is another important article written by Khan, Ozair, & Journal.

This article explains that the governmental reactions of both countries to these expanding issues are similar. Both states have many difficulties and roadblocks as they try to adapt to the new electrical grid. In addition, both nations help one another in their pursuit of common goals as members of many international and regional organizations. From the time of Kamal Atatürk's creation of the Turkish Republic in 1924 until 1991, Turkey pursued an all-around West-world gazing strategy and showed little interest in the nations of the East World. The 1990s, however, saw a period of profound transformation in her approach to international affairs, as she adopted an East world strategy by being actively involved in regional concerns and politics. Last but not least, the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” (CPEC) project enables regional connectivity and commercial links via the OBOR programmer. Turkey has shown an interest in participating in the project, which has the potential to improve trade and transportation in the area. The historical ties between the two countries, as well as their shared religious and cultural traditions, provide the Turkish and Pakistani people with a solid foundation for their close friendship. Institutionalized since 1947, people-to-people contacts between these two sisters' nations date back to before India's independence. The friendly connection between the two countries is evolving into a long-term strategic alliance. The political and interpersonal relations between Pakistan and Turkey are strong, but the economic exchange is minimal. Trade, connectivity, and sectoral cooperation were all discussed and agreed upon during the 6th HLCC, as was the finalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement. Pakistan and Turkey

have common interests with one another on the international stage, including the political, economic, social, security, and other spheres. Statements from both governments' top officials, such as "one country, two states," reveal their attitudes toward one another. Regional organizations, in addition to their bilateral partnership, provide venues and opportunities to advance their common future. This essay is an attempt to understand the complexities of the Pakistani-Turkish relationship, as well as the possibilities and threats presented by the shifting regional and global political forces.

Another article "*Pak-Turkey trade relations*, *The Nation*. published by Hayat in 2019.

It was explained that Pakistan and Turkey are making efforts to broaden and deepen their economic ties, as well as to translate their historically close political ties. Unlike Pakistan, which links Asia to the rest of the continent, Turkey provides access to Europe. The natural riches found in the area stretching from Turkey to Pakistan are vital to the global economy and give the region a high geopolitical profile. Both nations are looking to parlay their military and diplomatic advantages into tangible economic gains. In March of 2021, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey all signed an ECO-related memorandum of agreement. On December 21, 2021, a ceremony was held in Islamabad to celebrate the inauguration of the first freight train. Both countries want to further develop their economic ties as a result of this endeavor. Tendencies and Prospects The neorealist hypothesis states that countries adjust their policies and actions in response to shifts in the international power structure and developing geostrategic, economic, and political realities.

"Economic Relations between Turkey and Pakistan" (2021) is another important article written by Haroon, Anas, and Yunus Ozcan.

This article highlights the economic links between Pakistan and Turkey, particularly in light of their emerging potential since Pakistan's independence. There have been significant cultural,

religious, and economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey. To maintain a dominant position on the international stage and to provide numerous chances for one another to boost their national economies, the two nations have been trying to improve their economic relationships. According to the article, the two countries have a close relationship for improved economic growth in energy, trade, textiles, and a variety of other industries. Additionally, both nations have signed several agreements covering a variety of topics to strengthen their amicable economic and bilateral relations. It was found that Since Pakistan's independence, the country's relationship with Turkey has flourished thanks to deep cultural, religious, and economic ties between the two countries. Two nations have been attempting to strengthen their economic relationships to maintain a prominent place on the global market, and they have created many possibilities for one another to do the same. The energy, commerce, textile, and other industries between the two nations are particularly close. Furthermore, both nations have inked many agreements on a range of issues to further strengthen their cordial bilateral and commercial ties. This article discovered that (FTA) are the primary means by which the expanding economic cooperation between the governments of Turkey and Pakistan is expressed. To guarantee that all issues are handled in the FTAs, it is important to pay extra attention to the numerous anti-dumping actions that Turkey and Pakistan have filed.

"A Socio-economic and historical perspective of Pak-Turk relationship (A content analysis)"
by Ali, Jabbar, Sabir Ahmed, and Afsheen Ekhteyar was published in 2021.

The article analyses and describes the relationships between Pakistan and Turkey. The relationship between nation-states is usually determined by history. On a global chessboard, there are only everlasting interests; there are neither permanent allies nor permanent opponents. The article further explains that the relationships between the two nations go back many

centuries, to the Turkish War of Independence, when Muslims from the northwest British Raj gave financial aid to the waning Ottoman Empire, which was followed by the foundation of the Turkish Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Since Muslims living under the British Raj viewed the Ottoman Sultan as their caliph and the caliph of Islam, and other Muslims did the same, the two countries share historical ties to Islam. As a result, Turkey and the Turks have had a positive perception of Pakistan and Pakistanis for many years. Pakistan and its people since their respective founding in the early 19th century, Pakistan and Turkey have had close cultural, historical, and military links. These relations are now deepening as both countries work to develop their economies. History and religion are the two major pillars on which Pakistan's connections to Turkey are built. In the past, the two countries' shared religion of Islam played a significant role in their relations. But in this article, we'll also look at the evolution of relations, bilateral trade, a shared approach to global issues, and military ties. The relationships between the two Muslim-majority states are also examined in this study.

An article on “*A CGE Analysis of Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement published by Ali, Ashfaq (2017).*”

Using the computable general equilibrium model GTAP, this article examines the potential effects of a Pakistan-Turkey free trade agreement (Pak-Turk FTA) on different sectors of the economies of the two countries under four distinct FTA scenarios. The model developed by the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) is often used in FTAs and other Trade-related studies to assess the possible effects of economic policy changes on the whole economy. The GTAP database was used for this analysis; it contains information on 57 different commodities and 113 different geographical areas. According to their research, the Free Trade Agreement will benefit Turkey more than Pakistan. Trade liberalization has had a positive effect on both economies as a whole, but the liberalization of Pakistan's protected sectors might have an

adverse effect. It was discovered that Turkey and Pakistan have both been instrumental in keeping the peace in their respective regions and the world as a whole. In the wake of 9/11, for instance, both nations publicly voiced their disapproval of the assaults on American territory without identifying themselves. In addition, both Turkey and Pakistan are Muslim nations that are trying to improve ties with the West while being affected by terrorism. There seems to be a shared desire to fight terrorism and improve ties with the West. Both nations have shared information with the United States military and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In particular, both nations have made significant contributions to preserving international and regional stability. Relations between Pakistan and Turkey, as well as those between Pakistan and the rest of the Muslim world, have been taken for granted. With a shared vision for the Muslim world and the ability to bridge relations between the West and the Muslim world, Pakistan understands the need of maintaining tight ties with Turkey. Both Pakistan and Turkey are well-known for their close affinity. The cultural ties between the two nations go back millennia. Turkey and Pakistan's connection has come to the forefront due to their extensive cooperation in the fields of military, culture, and the economy. For the last several years, Turkey has provided significant assistance to Pakistan in the form of construction assistance for large-scale projects like the Metro Bus System of Punjab, infrastructure development including roads and hospitals, and education and training assistance for the Pakistani workforce. Furthermore, the textile and chemical industries have great promise as areas for increased bilateral commerce. Previous research similarly finds that Turkey benefits more from FTA than Pakistan does. Overall, trade liberalization is a good idea for both countries, but opening up Pakistan's protected industries might backfire.

"Pakistan-Turkey Cordial Entente (1947-2013): A Diachronic Review" (2021) is written by Almas, M., G. Ahmad, and M. Khurshid.

This article discusses the fact that Pakistan and Turkey have long had cordial and amicable ties. There is no other way to adequately explain the shared sentiments between the two nations than via their shared cultural legacy. When one of the nations requested assistance, the other provided it in the area of foreign policy. Ankara and Islamabad have worked together so that they may extend a hand of cooperation in a variety of areas, including security and foreign policy. They have stood by each other and defended one another's interests, especially when it comes to foreign affairs. Energy, natural resource extraction, and the education and development of the Pakistani labor force are all important areas of cooperation between the two nations. When private businesses attract greater investment from friendly countries, economic connections strengthen and cultural ties deepen via multimedia collaboration. Understanding the scope of Pakistan and Turkey's collaboration requires zeroing in on these important areas of shared interest. In contrast, Turkey, a member of "North Atlantic Treaty Organization" (NATO), is playing a vital role in the fight against terrorism, while Pakistan is serving as a critical front-line state. Under this model, the prospect of further strengthening the connection between the two nations is quite real. As an example, the fields of collaboration between the two countries are very broad and span a considerable horizontal plane. Both Pakistan and Turkey have shared their strategies ever since the end of the Cold War, particularly regarding the Cyprus and Kashmir issues. This paper attempts to describe the political and economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey, as well as the evolution of such ties from 1947 to 2013. There were also recommendations for strengthening ties between the two Islamic republics.

Shah, Rahat, and Wang Li wrote: "*Rationales behind Pakistan–Turkey relations since September 11, 2001*" (2020).

This article aims to explore relations between Pakistan and Turkey, which have emerged as two strong Muslim powers in military terms since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. This article provides only a general sketch of the bilateral relationship between these countries; an in-depth and systematic analysis is needed. Even though these two governments had historically developed strong relationships, they were not particularly significant in terms of fundamental security and strategic interests until 2001, when the threat of international terrorism compelled the two countries to reconsider their shared obligations. They have collaborated in three main sectors—counterterrorism, Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey Trilateral Summits (PATTS), and long-term defense cooperation—as a result of two essential causes, namely security and strategic goals. However, PATTS, which seeks to improve ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan, still has certain shortcomings.

Reports

This report discussed Turkey-Pakistan ties that have endured the turbulent domestic politics of both countries as well as the insecure nature of international interactions over the years. In the past, Turkey has given Pakistan material backing in some battles with India because of Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir problem. Therefore, Ankara's diplomatic assistance to Islamabad in various international fora following India's decision to abolish Jammu and Kashmir's special status in August 2019 is not particularly noteworthy. However, President Erdogan's recent escalation of the Kashmir issue in front of the UN suggests a more important reason for Ankara's geostrategic calculations. According to the article, Turkey sees Pakistan, a Sunni-Muslim country traditionally recognized for its economic dependence on Saudi Arabia and other gulf nations, as a staging ground in the ongoing struggle for supremacy within the

Muslim world. At a time when the Gulf States are leaning towards India due to its economic potential, Pakistan's identification with its Ottoman Turkish Islamic history serves two reasons. First, it deepens the relationship between Ankara and Islamabad that has already been formed. Second, by distorting history and elevating Ottoman Turkish culture, Pakistan is allowed to renounce the shared Indian civilizational heritage while promoting Islamic values.

1.10 Research gap

A lot of literature is available on Pakistan-Turkey relations, including the historical context, military cooperation, economic, and political links. However, very less work has been done on the Pak-Turk relationship from 2018 to 2022. The gap in literature encourages the researcher to select the specific period of the Imran Khan regime.

1.11 Delimitation

This research is conducted on Pakistan-Turkey relations during Imran Khan's era: 2018-2022. This study is delimited to the three aspects of their ties political, economic, and military aspects.

1.12 Scheme of the study

This thesis will be divided into six chapters.

Chapter No.1

The introduction includes a statement of the problem, aims and objectives of the study, research questions, hypothesis, theoretical framework, research methodology, and literature review.

Chapter No. 2 Pak-Turkey in historical perspective

This chapter describes the historical background of Pak-Turkey relations from 1947 to 2017.

Chapter No. 3 Pak-Turkey political relations during Imran Khan's era 2018-2022

This chapter has analyzed the political relations between Pakistan and Turkey from 2018 to 2022.

Chapter No. 4 Pak-Turkey economic relations during Imran Khan's era 2018-2022

This chapter examined the economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey from 2018 to 2022.

Chapter No. 5 Pak-Turkey military relations during Imran Khan's era 2018-2022

This chapter investigated the military ties between Pakistan and Turkey from 2018 to 2022.

Chapter No. 6 Findings, Conclusion, and Recommendations.

This chapter carry out the findings, conclusion, and recommendations of the thesis.

Chapter 2

Historical perspective of Pak-Turkey relations from 1947 to 2017

2 Introduction

Pakistan's relations with Turkey are very deep and friendly. Geographically, these two countries are located at a considerable distance from each other, but it is an undeniable fact that the hearts of Turkey and Pakistan meet each other. The biggest proof of this was seen in the First World War when the western imperialist forces were determined to destroy Turkey, so in this difficult time, the Indian Muslims provided all kinds of help. This sentiment is still present in the people of both countries. Turkey and Pakistan are linked in Islamic, historical, and cultural ties. For one thing, the religion of these two countries is common, and especially the people of Pakistan consider the holy Hijaz as their religious place. The Turkish government has given full support from the Pakistan movement to the establishment of Pakistan. Turkey is one of the few countries that recognized Pakistan from the beginning. These relationships are getting stronger with time. When Mustafa Kamal pasha announced the end of the caliphate, the Indian Muslims welcomed this new born country. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah expressed good wishes for this new kingdom. From this, it can be estimated that the relations between the two countries are based on a deep foundation.¹¹

The relations between these two countries have been deep and friendly in every era. The treaty of friendship between Turkey and Pakistan was established in 1959. In every hour of difficulty, both nations have helped each other without hesitation. Currently, Turkey and Pakistan are partners in many fields, such as education, health, defense, industry, trade, and agriculture. The researcher is sure that if the representatives of our country's institutions increase cooperation

¹¹ Naveed Ahmad, "Pakistan-Turkey Relations." *Pakistan Horizon* 34, no. 1 (1981): 105-128.

with each other in the above-mentioned fields at a fast pace, then Pakistan will occupy the position that the civilized countries of the world are occupying today.¹²

2.1 ERA OF ALLIANCES 1947 TO 1980

In the history of Asia, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan emerged as a new country on the map of the world, but as soon as it came into existence, this newly born country had to face many problems. Among all the problems, the serious problem is that of Kashmir, which has been going on since the time of partition. Apart from this, the problem of state affairs, the problem of refugees, geographical and defense problems, and economic problems were faced. While the time required to improve the relations with the rest of the countries of the world, especially during the First World War in 1918, the world was divided into two strong blocs i.e. the western bloc and the communist bloc. Finally, Pakistan joined the western bloc. It was a time when Turkey was not a part of any of the two blocs. But Turkey's joining NATO. Therefore, Pakistan also preferred to join the western bloc, which brought Pakistan and Turkey closer to each other. The founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah gave special emphasis on relations with Turkey.¹³

2.1.1 Treaty of friendship 1951

Later, the treaty of friendship between the two countries was settled in 1951. According to this agreement, the governments of the two countries will consider the interests of their own and other peace-loving countries to achieve friendly cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields and review measures for peace and stability. In the 1950s, trade between Pakistan

¹² Razi Ashraf, "Chapter Six: A Study of the Turkey-Pakistan Relationship as a Historical Phenomenon and Its Political," in *Turkey: A Regional Power in the Making* (2014), 92.

¹³ Agha Hussain, "Turkey's Relations with Pakistan: Friends, But Not Allies."

and Turkey was minimal, with a balance of roughly two million rupees in Pakistan's favor, as the Pakistani Minister of Commerce regrettably acknowledged at a news conference in Istanbul on October 15, 1959.¹⁴ The Turkish trade delegation that visited Karachi in October 1959 stated that there were "possibilities" of developing commerce with Pakistan.

2.1.2 Joint Communiqué and Baghdad pact

In a joint communiqué published on February 19th, 1954 in Karachi and Ankara, it was stated that Turkey and Pakistan had reached an understanding to develop mechanisms for increased political, economic, and cultural cooperation. The communiqué between Turkey and Pakistan took real form in a contract that was signed on April 2, 1954. In February 1955, Turkey and Iraq lay the groundwork for the Baghdad pact in the Iraqi capital for "security and Defense". On September 23, 1955, Pakistan joined Iran, Iraq, and Turkey in ratifying the pact of cooperation. The United States did not become a full member, but Britain also joined. With relation to the security and defense of the participants, the Baghdad pact offered a good line of cooperation. This position was taken in opposition to the Russian policy of southern expansion toward the Caspian Sea, the black Sea, and central Asia. On 15th July, President Iskandar Mirza visited Turkey. The two leaders of Pakistan and Turkey spoke on a range of economic and trade-related problems. A joint statement was released regarding this visit after those meetings, in which it was stated that Pakistan and Turkey would exchange solemn assurances, that Turkey would support Pakistan in the resolution of its disputes with India and Afghanistan, and that Pakistan would support Turkey regarding the Cyprus issue.¹⁵

¹⁴ Almas, Ahmad, and Khurshid, "Pakistan Turkey Cordial Entente," *Global Regional Review VI*, no. 6, 42.

¹⁵ Anees Jillani, "Pakistan and CENTO: An Historical Analysis," *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* 15, no. 1 (1991).

Iraq quit being a member of the Baghdad pact in July 1958 after publicly rejecting it. The Baghdad pact Council decided to replace the defunct Baghdad pact with another defensive group during its meeting in London in July 1958. In 1959, the new entity adopted the name Central Treaty Organization or CENTO. On September 22, 1958, Turkish president Ceral Bayar paid a visit to Karachi, the capital of Pakistan, and spoke with President Iskandar Mirza regarding diplomatic ties. A confederation involving Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Iran was proposed at the time by the Turkish President, but Afghanistan decided to remain neutral on the subject. As a result, the Turkish President's visit was referred to as a "courtesy visit." In the Pakistan National Assembly, President Iskandar Mirza voiced his opposition to the confederation.¹⁶

2.1.3 President Ayub Khan's visit to Turkey, in 1959

In November 1959, President Ayub Khan paid a visit to Turkey. Ayub Khan spoke with the Turkish President about recent events and emphasized the crucial role that CENTO plays in ensuring the security and strength of all parties involved, including areas that extend well beyond the borders of the three participating nations. A coordinated, more effective military response was desperately needed. The Ankara-Tehran-Karachi radio-microwave connection, which would connect the three nations via a quick communication system, was put into construction in January 1960 by Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. At the time, the United States sanctioned \$1,837,000 to pay for the engineering and equipment for the CENTO project as a signatory to a bilateral agreement linked in 1959 with Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran.¹⁷

¹⁶ Aziz Ahmad, "Weekes, Pakistan: Birth and Growth of a Muslim Nation (Book Review)," *Canadian Journal of History/Annales Canadiennes d'Histoire*, vol. 2, no. 2 (1967), 113.

¹⁷ Jillani, "Pakistan and CENTO," *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* 15, no. 1 (1991).

2.1.4 Hold the line on Cyprus and Kashmir

Turkey refrained from backing Pakistan throughout the Indo-Pak conflict. Rather, it urged a halt to hostilities. However, it sent Pakistan \$5 million worth of armaments for which a deal had already been negotiated before the conflict. Pakistan did not compel Ankara to take more action either. However, as the Cyprus issue grew worse, Pakistan proposed to Ankara that it was prepared to send soldiers to Turkey if Greece and Turkey went to war. In case the Greeks invaded Turkey, the offer's obvious indicator was based on shared religious and cultural ties with its Turkish brethren.¹⁸ These RCD nations have the same attitude toward Cyprus, Kashmir, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and the Middle East.

2.1.5 Creation of RCD, 1964

In July 1964, the three chiefs of state dubbed the new organization "Regional Co-Operation for Development". The creation of three Ministerial Councils made up of Foreign Ministers and a Regional Planning Committee was decided upon. A permanent Head office was then established in Tehran. Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan decided to build the RCD joint shipping lines a few months later, on March 15, 1965. The Regional Planning Council originally conceived of a joint airline project in March 1965, and it was decided that soon after, the RCD committee on air transport started to establish regular air links. Both Pakistan and Turkey launched technical education initiatives in 1965; 122 fellowships and scholarships were given out, 11 specialists were exchanged, six seminars were held, and five publications were produced. The first RCD flight of Pakistan International Airline (PIA), connecting Karachi with Tehran and Istanbul, began in November 1966. Iran Airlines, on the other hand, discovered this and began jet service to Europe through Istanbul. An RCD joint venture for producing bank notes was

¹⁸ Farrukh Faheem and Wang Xingang, "Pakistan and Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD): A Critical Review," *Pakistan* 58, no. 1 (2021): 1-13.

launched in Karachi on July 1, 1967.¹⁹ In 1967 that time Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Z.A Bhutto pursued strengthening the cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey through RCD. On April 15, 1968, in the 8th meeting of the Council of Ministers, held in Tehran all of these three countries agreed to a sense of satisfaction that the RCD rail link between Iran and Turkey was progressing according to the schedule.

In 1970, at Izmir, at the RCD summit conference, all member nations were directed to take operational steps towards the reduction of quantifiable restrictions and other tariff obstacles to trade. The countries agreed to cooperate in a joint petroleum operation between Iran and Pakistan and the Ahraz Iskenderun pipeline project. At the start of the seventies, it was noted that Pakistan's exports to Turkey which mainly consisted of jute and its products, received a setback after the eastern province abandoned Pakistan in 1971.²⁰

2.1.6 Creation of ECO

ECO was formed in 1985 which brought the two countries closer. In the 1965 and 1971 wars with India, Turkey provided moral and political support to Pakistan. On January 16, 1959, a meeting was held in Karachi in which it was agreed to increase cooperation in projects like telecommunication, free trade, and road development. On May 27, 1960, military martial law was implemented in turkey, but before that, in 1965 Ayub khan implemented martial law in Pakistan that is, the democratic system was abolished in both countries. There were military governments in both countries but despite this, there was no decline in relations. In the 1965 India-Pakistan war, Turkey supported Pakistan's position and provided 5 million worth of arms. Apart from this, medical personnel were also sent to Pakistan, for which Ayub khan

¹⁹ Nilgun Güzel Özgüven, "Regional Disputes and Conflicts: The Vision of Turkey and Pakistan," *Security and Cooperation (Turkey-Pakistan)* (2010).

²⁰ Nadia Mushtaq, "Pak-Turkey Relations: Towards a Cooperative Future," *Strategic Studies* 24, no. 2 (2004): 89-116.

expressed special gratitude to Turkey. And in return, Pakistan supported Turkey on the issue of Cyprus and assured to provide all kinds of help. When the United States and NATO did not support Turkey on the Cyprus issue, Turkey reached out to the socialist bloc.²¹ And Pakistan also extended the hand of friendship to China because during the Indo-Pak War of 1965 America sold arms to India instead of Pakistan.

2.1.7 Turkey's support during the Pak-India wars

In the 1970s, the third war between Pakistan and India took place. Bangladesh was supported by India in this war. India had provided economic and physical support to Bangladesh, as a result of which a major part of East Pakistan was separated from us. This was the period when Turkey itself landed its Army in Cyprus. Despite this difficult situation, Turkey instructed India to return its Army and provided all kinds of help to Pakistan, and during this time, Turkey severely criticized the UN and the United States. In a statement to the UN General Assembly on October 4, 1972, the Turkish Foreign Minister argued passionately for the return of Pakistani prisoners of war who had been held in India since December 1971.²²

November 1975 saw the creation of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation. With the formation of a Pakistan-Turkish Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation in November 1975, the necessity to institutionalize commerce between the two countries was met. Pakistan and Turkey made sincere efforts to raise cooperation in the fields of trade, agriculture, industry, science, and technology. The Izmir Treaty was signed in March 1977 by RCD member nations, which paved the way for the

²¹ Jahangir Khan Achakzai, "Intra-ECO Trade: A Potential Region for Pakistan's Future Trade," *The Pakistan Development Review* (2006): 425-437.

²² Ozguven, "Regional Disputes and Conflicts: The Vision of Turkey and Pakistan," *Security and Cooperation (Turkey-Pakistan)* (2010).

foundation of the RCD Investment and development bank.²³ At the Izmir RCD Summit held in April 1976, the then-Pakistani Premier emphasized the importance of removing all obstacles to the intra-regional trade between these two nations. In 1977 Pakistan and Turkey signed a protocol for enhancing cooperation in agriculture, industry, trade, and technical spheres. In the fields of Agriculture, Turkey agreed to supply technical aid to Pakistan in the production, cultivation, and marketing of olives, rain-fed agriculture, sunflower cultivation, and the production of quality cotton seeds. The protocol also envisaged frequent exchange of trade allocations, and agreed in principle, on joint participation in appropriate international fairs.²⁴

2.1.8 The F-16 Purchase Agreement

On 16 January 1978 Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey decided to increase their inter-lines cargo business on both inter-regional and international routes. On the second side, the national airlines also decided to give a 50 percent discount to students of the three-member countries traveling within the region. This cooperation was seen to be vitally important for promoting the free movement of goods and people between the three countries. In May 1978 Turkey and Pakistan trade between the two countries increased from Rs.301 million in 1977-78 to Rs.242 million in 1978-79. That increase was accounted for by the addition of a wholly new item from Pakistan which were based on import like fuel, oil, and a virtual doubling of Pakistani rice exports to Turkey.²⁵

²³ Zubeida Hasan, "Iran, Pakistan and Turkey—Regional Co-operation for Development," *Pakistan Horizon* 17, no. 3 (1964): 276-285.

²⁴ Anoshirvan Taghipour, "Financial Reform and Liberalization in Iran and Comparison with Two ECO Members: Pakistan and Turkey," in *International Conference on Energy, Regional Integration and Socio-economic Development*, no. 6326 (EcoMod, 2013).

²⁵ Mushtaq, "Pak-Turkey Relations," *Strategic Studies* 24, no. 2, 94.

When the government of Zia-ul-Haq sentenced Bhutto to death in 1977, the Turkish president requested Zia-ul-Haq to release Bhutto, which Zia-ul-Haq did not accept. Bhutto was the same person who had previously pleaded with Turkey's military dictator to pardon Adnan Menderes. But all these incidents did not have a bad effect on the relationship. The friendship between the Turkish president and Zia-ul-Haq grew stronger with time. Military exercises started between the two countries. Apart from this, the F-16 purchase agreement was concluded. General Zia-ul-Haq fully supported the Turkish president's position on the issue of Cyprus and said that "if Cyprus wants independence, Pakistan will be the first country to recognize it. But during these periods, president Zia-ul-Haq died and the Pakistan people's Party (PPP) government came. Turkey also prioritized good relations with this fledgling government.

2.1.9 International recognition of Pakistan and Turkey

In 1979, Pakistan and Turkey received international recognition. There were two reasons for this acceptance. The First was the Iranian revolution, and the second was the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Now there were only two countries in the Islamic world that remained the focus of America. America aimed to defeat the Soviet Union through Pakistan because Afghanistan was like an arena in that era. Apart from this, the entire Islamic world supported Pakistan and the reason for this support was the Afghan refugees. This act of Pakistan was well appreciated in the annual meeting of OIC in 1980 and 1981. At the same time, the war between Iran and Iraq also started. Turkey and Pakistan played a key role in ending this war. However due to this war, there was a negative impact on the economic and cultural relations, and especially due to this war, there was a bad impact on the RCD. Iran itself also wanted to get out of this war due to which ECO came into existence. This organization was also based on the principles of RCD. Turkey and Pakistan signed a procedure for greater economic and technical cooperation between the two countries on November 12, 1981. Pakistan and Turkey noted that

the size of trade was motionless low and therefore identified the constraints, inadequate shipping and telecommunications links, and lack of contacts between businessmen. At the same time in January 1980, Turkey approved a comprehensive economic adjustment program relying heavily on market solutions.²⁶

2.2 PAK-TURKEY RELATIONS BEFORE 9/11

2.2.1 Increasing Strategic Cooperation

A joint venture in the field of engineering consulting was established in November 1982. Formal discussions were held between the Turkish Business Turkish Engineering Consulting & Contracting CO. (TUMAS) and National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK). The governments of the two nations investigated the potential for forming joint ventures in relevant industries such as the production of tractors, automotive parts, and electrical equipment. In the 1990s, the relations between Turkey and Pakistan were downgraded. This downfall also had a bad effect on the economy. The reason for this was that the countries that were independent from Russia were mostly close to Turkey and the problem of Afghanistan was also faced. The reason for this disagreement was that Pakistan was supporting the Taliban and Turkey was supporting the Northern Alliance.²⁷

ECO was a descendant organization of the (RCD) established in 1964 between Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. The main target of this organization was to promote intra-regional trade ties. In the late seventies, important political replacements took place in the Iranian and Pakistani governments. RCD did not play its vital role and became a practically defunct organization. In

²⁶ Zahid Shahab Ahmed and Abdul Basit, "Turkey's Relationship with Afghanistan and the Pakistan Factor: An Examination of Historical and Geopolitical Factors," *Turkey's Asia Relations*, Springer International Publishing, 2022, 113-130.

²⁷ Hasan, "Iran, Pakistan and Turkey-Regional Co-operation for Development," *Pakistan Horizon* 17, no. 3, 281.

1992, ECO members Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also joined. The (ECO) was established in 1992 to achieve its objectives by the year 2000. The most significant outcome of the Ashkhabad summit was an agreement to erect a new railroad connecting all the member states and a project gas pipeline and highway. The members also agreed on the list of items to be traded on the preferential tariffs among the ECO countries and a non-tariff barrier.²⁸

The main accomplishments in the economic and trade sectors under the ECO umbrella include the ECO Reinsurance Company from 1995, the Almaty Outline Plan from 1997, the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) from 2003, the ECO-TDP from 2007, the ECO Freight Train Service from 2009, and the ECO-IRU Silk Road Truck Caravan from 2010. The goal of this journey was to collect data to facilitate road transport in the region.²⁹

The collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey in the military and defense sector is a crucial area of ties. The two nations have a long history of working together on many international problems and supporting one another's positions. The military of Turkey and Pakistan have long-lasting, extensive ties. Joint military training for both armed forces got underway. The Pakistan-Turkey Military Consultative Group was founded in 1988 as a result of the expansion of this military cooperation. The (MCG) goal was to increase collaboration between the defense and military training sectors.

So, in 1992, the prime minister of Turkey came on a visit to Pakistan and discussed the issue of Kashmir, Bosnia, and Afghanistan, including the economy. Apart from this, the Motorway project was agreed upon, but this project terminated simply because when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited Turkey, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Cillar did not come to receive Benazir Bhutto. However, the relations between the two countries improved somewhat in 1994.

²⁸ Achakzai, "Intra-ECO Trade," *The Pakistan Development Review*, 430.

²⁹ Rear Admiral Rtd Pervaiz Asghar, "A Floating Testament to Pak-Turkey Naval Collaboration," *Defence Journal* 20, no. 3 (2016): 19.

The reason for this was the war in Bosnia. Both countries protested by standing on a platform in favor of Bosnia.

2.2.2 The President of Turkey visits Pakistan in November 1985

In 1985, Islamabad (Pakistan) enhanced 40 different industrial projects to be set up in Pakistan as joint ventures with Turkey. Two joint ventures were a Sugar Mill in Toba Tek Singh and a compressor factory in Faisalabad. The major achievement of President General Zia Ul Haq's visit to Turkey was that the two countries got a mutual understanding of cooperation in defense production. By concentrating attention on defense production, both countries took an important step forward. In 1983-84 their total trade amounted to Rs.453 million with Pakistan's deficit standing at 161 million and the balance had been unfavorable for Pakistan. In 1989 the new Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto visited Ankara and called for reinforcing brotherly ties between the two countries. The two sides again stressed that the level of bilateral trade did not fully reflect the real potential of both countries.

2.2.3 Turkish Prime Minister visit to Pakistan 1992

In October 1992, Pakistan and Turkey decided to consider several measures to bring their trade relations to par. Both Governments also decided to encourage the participation of the private sector. The Turkish Prime Minister announced that the antidumping duty imposed on Pakistan cotton yarn by Turkey would be withdrawn from December 10, 1992. They agreed to hold the ninth session of the Pakistan-Turkish Joint Ministerial Commission in February 1993. Pakistan and Turkey decided to grow their volume of trade from \$100 million to \$200 million (for the year 1993). A protocol signed by the two countries foresaw greater bilateral cooperation. Both countries decided that Turkey would offer transit services in communication equipment. In the

same year, the Turkish government lifted the antidumping duty imposed on the imports of Pakistan Export of cotton yarn required.³⁰

2.2.4 Private investment

In 1993, the Turkish highway construction company (STFA) was awarded a contract by the Government of Pakistan for part of the Indus Highway project. On March 1993, the contract for the construction of the Islamabad-Peshawar section of the Pakistan Motorway was awarded to Messieurs Byinder Holding Construction of Turkey. In 1994, a joint venture agreement was signed between Tutan Bank which belongs to Yasar Group (Turkey), and the Fidelity Investment bank of Pakistan to set up a Universal Trading Bank. In March 1995, both countries signed two accords for the endorsement and safeguard of investment and agricultural cooperation. In March 1995, a Turkish company won the bid for the construction of the Ghazi Brotha Dam. Turk Semen has won the contract for the supply of \$30 million worth of cables to Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation. Argo Auto of Pakistan and Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Mason of Turkey entered into a technical cooperation agreement to manufacture motor bikes in Pakistan. In 1996, Turan Esen said that Pakistan-Turkish relations were time-tested and required to set an example of friendly relations.³¹

2.2.5 President Demirel visit to Pakistan, 1997

President Demirel visited Pakistan on 18 and 19th of December 1997 for the inauguration ceremony of the Islamabad-Peshawar motorway. The Turkish President similarly witnessed the signing ceremony of the Pehur High-Level Canal Project in Peshawar, which was

³⁰ Ashraf, "A Study of the Turkey-Pakistan Relationship," Turkey: A Regional Power in the Making, 92.

³¹ Asha Gul, "Analyzing Pakistan's Trade Opportunity with Turkey," *The Lahore Journal of Economics* 19 (2014): 349.

sanctioned to another Turkish company M/S STFA. Pakistan's Foreign Minister visited Turkey from the 6th to the 9th of August 1997. In April 1998, the Turkish Foreign Minister Visited Islamabad and stated that the trade volume of the two countries with the rest of the world is some \$100 billion.³²

2.3 PAK-TURKEY RELATIONS AFTER 9/11

2.3.1 Pak-Turk relations during Musharraf Era

Relations were not much better during Musharraf's tenure, but the reason for this was political chaos. On 9/11 when the terrorist incident happened in America, and America attacked Afghanistan, the eyes of the whole world were focused on Pakistan. This was the period when the situation in Pakistan was very bad. One of the reasons for this was natural disasters and on the other hand, terrorist organizations also raised their heads. Turkey not only helped Pakistan in these situations but also emphasized cooperation. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey began in 1999 when President General Pervaiz Musharraf visited Turkey. Since then several high-level bilateral visits have taken place between the two countries. A unanimous opinion was developed on different regional and international issues during these visits. In 1999 General Parvez Musharraf appreciated Turkish companies' participation in the development of infrastructure in Pakistan and invited Turkey to bring more investment in this field. Incidentally, Turkish investment in infrastructure projects in Pakistan amounted to about US \$ 1.6 billion, while the trade between the two countries was around \$ 133 million. Pakistan-Turkey special Ambassador Candan Azer visited Pakistan in February 2000 to communicate a message from the Turkish President to the Chief Executive of Pakistan. Turkish Minister of State and Chairman Turkey-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission also visited Pakistan from

³² Abbasi, Khatwani, and Kolachi, "Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions." 2020.

10-14 April 2000.³³ A high-level Turkish delegation has participated in Pakistan Military Hardware Exhibition, International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2000, held in Karachi. In the year 1999-2000, the trade between Pakistan and Turkey was worth US \$67 million only. Pakistan exported to Turkey cotton yarn, cotton fabrics, synthetic fabrics, finished leather, sports goods, toys, carpets, oil seeds, rice, etc. The main items of import from Turkey were machinery parts and vegetable preparations.

2.3.2 Visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, 2003

On 15 June 2003 Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his three days' visit to Pakistan discussed enhancing the regional security and trade and economic links and Turkey and Pakistan need to strengthen their economic ties as well. To aid in high-level military operations, the High-Level Military Dilute (HLMD) was established in June 2003. The importance and relevance of Pakistan and Turkey's bilateral defense and military cooperation have increased since 2000. Pakistan and Turkey have regularly carried out military drills, traded weaponry, and shared military experience.³⁴

The trade between the two countries stands at a meager \$170 million in a year. Turkish premier brought with him a team of more than one hundred business persons in search of some new trade treaties and promoting new markets. Three Memorandum of Understanding on road transport, drug trafficking, and environment were signed between Turkey and Pakistan. In 2003, Tayyip Erdogan played an important role in improving the relations between the two countries. The end of terrorism was discussed between the two countries and a military

³³ Kiran Nayyar, Dr. Muhammad Salim, and Syeda Afshan Aziz, "Pak-Turk Relations: Through the Spectrum of Regional Integration," *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 2 (2022).

³⁴ Hasan, "Iran, Pakistan and Turkey-Regional Co-operation for Development," *Pakistan Horizon* 17, no. 3, 281.

agreement was also reached. In January 2004, an investment company was signed between the two countries.³⁵

2.3.3 Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Visit Turkey, May 2005

On 31 May 2005, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz paid a formal trip to Turkey at the request of the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The two countries signed an accord on collaboration in the areas of science and technology and agreed to grow air traffic to four flights a week and start direct flights between Istanbul and Karachi. At a special congregation of Turkish businessmen, the Prime Minister invited Turkish businesspersons to focus on Pakistan due to its strategic place and growing economy policy.

2.3.4 Turkey's aid during the earthquake in 2005

On October 20, 2005, Turkey offered a \$150 million aid package for Pakistan's earthquake victims. The plan would include \$50 million in humanitarian supplies and \$100 million in cash support. Construction and housing specialists were invited by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to offer technical assistance in several other industries. He said that his nation has excellent technology for creating quake-proof structures and that they would want to share their knowledge with Pakistan.³⁶

2.3.5 Trilateral Summit April, 2007

Presidents General Pervez Musharraf, Hamid Karzai, and Ahmet Necdet Sezer met in Ankara on April 29, 2007, to discuss local and global concerns. In the Ankara Declaration, the

³⁵ Farhat Mahmood and Juthathip Jongwanich, "Export-enhancing Effects of Free Trade Agreements in South Asia: Evidence from Pakistan," *Journal of South Asian Development* 13, no. 1 (2018): 24-53.

³⁶ Shehryar Khan, "Dynamics of Pakistan-Turkey Relations," *Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)* 1, no. 2 (2020): 14-24.

presidents of Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to continue their conversation and collaboration in all areas to increase the prosperity of their respective peoples. To oversee development and coordinate confidence-building measures and methods, they formed a "Joint Working Group (JWG)" with the involvement of high-level members from the three nations.³⁷

2.3.6 Visit of PM Yousaf Raza Gilani to Turkey October 2008

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, the premier of Pakistan, visited Turkey on October 27, 2008, and spoke with Turkish officials on a comprehensive strategy to promote cooperation in the fields of military, science, technology, trade, and culture. They also decided to improve communication and transportation ties, including more air links. Turkey offered to develop collaborative ventures in defense manufacturing with Pakistan on February 24, 2009. The third Turkey-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral summit, where the leaders of the three countries will discuss how to improve assistance on security, economic, and development issues, was attended by President Asif Ali Zardari on March 31, 2009. There will be an exchange of views about the security situation in the area, the Pakistan Foreign Office said in a statement reiterating one from the office of Turkish President Abdullah Gul.³⁸

2.3.7 Turkey's assistance for IDPs in 2009

Islamabad expressed gratitude to Turkey for helping Pakistan's almost 3 million internally displaced people (IDPs). At the Tokyo Donor's Conference, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmed Davutoglu, made a \$100 million donation commitment. He also paid a visit to Punjab Chief Minister Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Lahore. The

³⁷ Ashfaq Ali, "A CGE Analysis of Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement" (2017).

³⁸ Rahat Shah and Wang Li, "Rationales behind Pakistan-Turkey Relations since September 11, 2001," *The Round Table* 109, no. 5 (2020): 559-573.

Turkish Foreign Minister, Prof. Ahmad Davutoglu, stated that supporting and aiding the IDPs is a moral obligation of the Turkish people. The two nations also addressed trade and commercial cooperation and the rehabilitation process of the IDPs of the Swat region. A Turkish defense company named Tusas signed a deal for around \$75 million to upgrade Pakistan's fleet of 42 F-16 jets. In a 2006 agreement, Tusas had also updated Jordan's F-16 aircraft. On September 8, 2009, Mian Shaukat Masood, the president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), urged that joint initiatives between Pakistan and Turkey be supported in the production, processing, and export of ceramic tiles, marble, and other precious stones.³⁹ General Ilkar Basbug, commander of the Turkish Armed Forces, visited Mingora, Swat, on October 14, 2009, and was briefed on the army's successful operation in Swat. The commander of the Turkish Armed Forces praised the bravery and spirit of the Pakistani Armed Forces soldiers and commanders who made significant sacrifices during operation Rah-i-Rast to bring peace and security to that area. This demonstrates the close ties that exist between the two sibling nations' militaries and civilian populations.

2.3.8 Pak-Turkey JMC meeting October 2009

On October 15, 2009, Pakistan and Turkey agreed to finalize the FTA because they thought that by the end of 2012, their bilateral trade may increase to \$2 billion. Mehmet Aydin, the Turkish Minister of State for Science and Technology, and Makhdoom Amin Fahim, the Pakistani Minister of Commerce, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Pak-Turkey Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting in Islamabad to continue negotiations to complete the FTA as soon as possible. However, no deadline had been set for this. The Pakistani-Turkish Business Council's meeting will now be held in the first half of 2010, as both

³⁹ Aisha Shahzad, "Economic Relations between Pakistan and Turkey in a Globalized World," *Eurasian Journal of Social Sciences* 7, no. 3 (2019): 30-40.

countries prioritize effective performance of private sector platforms in fostering bilateral commerce, according to the JMC decision.⁴⁰

2.3.9 Turkish PM Visit Pakistan in October 2009

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister of Turkey, and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, the prime minister of Pakistan, met in Islamabad on October 25, 2009, to explore ways to enhance their strategic alliance and increase political, economic, and commercial relations. Erdogan, the prime minister of Turkey, stated his expectation that in the next years, commerce between the two nations would increase to \$2 billion. The four-point approach outlined by Prime Minister Gilani aims to strengthen connections in commerce, business, and investment. He also spoke at the Pakistan-Turkey CEOs Forum's opening ceremony, which was attended by 80 CEOs of private enterprises from Pakistan and Turkey. Gilani claimed that the level of commerce between Pakistan and Turkey did not match its potential. The Turkish Prime Minister spoke to a crowd in Islamabad about the importance of hastening the completion of the Free Trade Agreement between the two nations, a common Eurasia marketing and market development strategy, a train connecting Islamabad and Istanbul, and investments in Pakistan's tourism and alternative energy industries. He asserted that both nations have a long history of good ties with one another, which need to be reflected in other areas like commerce and the economy. Political leaders should work to strengthen economic cooperation, which is beneficial for both countries, he continued.⁴¹

⁴⁰ Ishtiaq Ahmad, "Turkey and Pakistan: Bridging the Growing Divergence," *PERCEPTIONS: Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 3 (2000).

⁴¹ Achakzai, "Intra-ECO Trade," *The Pakistan Development Review*, 430.

2.3.10 Turkish Prime Minister Addressed the Parliament House

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister of Turkey, pledged his nation's assistance in Pakistan's fight against terrorism and extremism and reiterated his aim to increase commerce to \$2 billion by the end of 2012. He met with President Asif Ali Zardari during the Presidency where they spoke about the important issues of shared partnerships, strategic alliances, and the expansion of economic activity. Erdogan visited the capital of Azad Kashmir on October 26, 2009, and he toured many facilities his nation constructed in the wake of the 2005 earthquake. In addition, he planted a seedling on the grounds of the Khurshid National Library to mark its opening. He thanked Turkey for taking the initiative to create a Common Asia Policy and for supporting Pakistan's efforts to improve ties with Central Asian nations.⁴²

2.3.11 Establishment of Joint Project Group

To examine major areas of collaboration for the promotion of investment in mining, oil and gas, textiles, agriculture, livestock and dairy, energy, infrastructure, and construction, Pakistan and Turkey established a joint project group on October 27, 2009. This came after the Pakistan-Turkey CEO Forum conference, which was held in Islamabad to promote trade and investment between the two nations. Senator Waqar Ahmed, the federal minister for investment, and Zafar Caglayan, the visiting minister of state for foreign trade of Turkey, had in-depth discussions on promoting cooperation in many fields and bolstering economic ties. The two nations emphasized the significance of increasing investment in all sectors, which is below the level of their close historical connection and below Pakistan's demanding order to hasten the flow of enterprises in both directions, it was also agreed to speed up the visits of influential

⁴² Anas Haroon and Yunus Ozcan, "Economic Relationship Between Turkey and Pakistan," *İsletme* 2, no. 2 (2021): 1-13.

businesspeople.⁴³ At President House in Islamabad on December 9, 2009, President Asif Ali Zardari met with General Hasan Aksay, Commander of the Turkish Air Force. At the project's trial chapter's inauguration ceremony on August 14, 2009, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani expressed his opinion that the Islamabad-Istanbul container train service would result in the integration of Pakistan's railway tracks into the region's network and the opening up of a trade route between Europe and South and Central Asia. Government representatives and chambers of business are expected to collaborate to establish an effective climate for expanding regional trade, according to Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, Federal Minister for Pakistan Railways. The freight train traveled 6,506 kilometers in 15 days from Islamabad to Istanbul through Tehran under the auspices of the ECO. On August 28, 2009, it reached its destination. The Turkish Chief was awarded a Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) in recognition of his efforts to deepen bilateral strategic and defense cooperation. In 2009, the HLCC was formed between the two countries to improve the economic strength between the two countries. HLCC was a project that benefited both countries.⁴⁴

2.3.12 A visit by President Zardari to Turkey, in 2010

The Trilateral Summit was held in Istanbul on January 20, 2010, and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari participated. Both nations agreed on January 24 to increase a US \$ 20 billion investments in a project to upgrade a railway link from Islamabad to Istanbul, with the primary goal of transferring freight between Pakistan to Turkey and subsequently to Europe. President Zardari stated that since maritime trade is often slow and air freight is highly expensive, the only rapid way to strengthen economic connections is through a cargo rail link. Turkish

⁴³ Essay, U. K. "Pakistan-Turkey Relations in A Historical Perspective." (2019).

⁴⁴ Asha Gul, "Analyzing Pakistan's Trade Opportunity with Turkey," *The Lahore Journal of Economics* 19 (2014): 349.

President Abdullah Gul stated on March 10, 2010, that Turkey will continue to help Pakistan because of the importance of their partnership. According to Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker Fahmida Mirza, the two nations are determined to increase their level of bilateral commerce from \$690 million to more than \$1 billion by 2010.⁴⁵

2.3.13 Three Memorandum of Understandings Signed in March 2010

Three Memorandums of Understanding covering investment, agricultural, and economic cooperation were signed by Pakistan and Turkey on March 31st, 2010. To promote investment in corporate cattle farming, dairy industry, fisheries, poultry farming, cold storage facilities, commercial seed production, and nursery operations, the MoUs encourage and assist private sectors to establish proprietary companies and joint ventures. The two nations also agreed to increase their current \$690 million commerce to over \$1 billion this year. At the Pakistan-Turkey CEO Forum, Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that economic cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey might result in a considerably bigger amount of commerce than is now the case. If Pakistan's responsible authorities support and aid them in their efforts, they may be able to reach the bilateral trade goal of US \$ 2 billion by 2012.⁴⁶

2.3.14 Major developments during Turkish officials' visit

For their geo-economic advantages to be built on firm foundations, Turkish President Abdullah Gull and Pakistani President Zardari decided to intensify their special ties on April 1, 2010. They also agreed to work closely together to encourage periodic cargo train service between the two nations, improve and reestablish road, air, and rail connectivity, and foster financial

⁴⁵ Mahmood and Jongwanich, "Export-enhancing Effects of Free Trade Agreements," *Journal of South Asian Development* 13, no. 1, 30.

⁴⁶ Mushtaq Ahmad Klasra, "Foreign Direct Investment, Trade Openness and Economic Growth in Pakistan and Turkey: An Investigation Using Bounds Test," *Quality & Quantity* 45 (2011): 223-231.

sector cooperation by encouraging Turkish and Pakistani commercial banks and financial institutions to open branches in the other nation. A Plan of Action on Cooperation in the Field of Energy, strengthening bilateral tourism cooperation, finalizing the Protocol on the Establishment of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) Office in Islamabad, and accelerating the pace of ongoing cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan in the Area of Military Training and Education were also agreed upon.⁴⁷

2.3.15 Pakistan Offered 225-acre Land to Turkish Investors

Turkish and Pakistani representatives agreed on 5 April 2010 to form a cooperation based on Turkish investments in Pakistan. Turkish businesses received 225 acres of property from C.M. Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif to be used for industrial development in Faisalabad. At the Friends of Democratic Pakistan event, Turkey provided a donation of \$10 million and made a further pledge of \$100 million. Pakistan's first wind-based power facility was established by the Turkish Zorlu Energy business at Jhimpir, and Karkey Karadeniz supplied Karachi with 500MW of barge-mounted leased electricity. A deal opening the door for Turkish investments in the region was authorized by the Lahore industrial zone.⁴⁸

2.3.16 Turkish donations during the flood in 2010

Several Turkish organizations and agencies helped with post-disaster support during the 2010 flood in Pakistan. Egemen Bag, the state minister of Turkey, gave \$5 million to Pakistan's flood victims, and Turkish businesspeople also donated 40 tons of food, blankets, tents, clean water, and medical equipment. Asif Ali Zardari and Abdullah Gul, both heads of state, reached an

⁴⁷ Haroon and Ozcan, "Economic Relationship Between Turkey and Pakistan," *Isletme* 2, no. 2, 5.

⁴⁸ Shehryar Khan, "Dynamics of Pakistan-Turkey Relations." *Pakistan Review of Social Sciences (PRSS)* 1, no. 2 2020: 14-24.

agreement on February 26, 2011, to accommodate their private sectors for improvements in collaborative ventures in commerce and communication and to gain the most out of their geostrategic locations. According to Husnu Dilemre, Director General, of Turkish Foreign Trade under the Secretariat, Directorate General of Agreements, Turkey would make Pakistan a parallel offer if the European Union executes its market access offer for Pakistan. In the most recent meeting, Pakistan asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to grant Generalized System of Preference (GSP) Plus, a request that had the full backing of Turkey. Turkish exports to the European Union (EU) may be affected by the EU's offer to Pakistan, but Turkey still supports Pakistan as a friendly nation.⁴⁹

2.3.17 President Asif Ali Zardari visit Turkey in April 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari thanked President Abdullah Gul for presenting him with the "Devlet Nishan" during a trip to Turkey on April 11, 2011. President Zardari and President Gul decided during their discussion to make use of these nations' great potential in the industrial, energy, communication, and infrastructure sectors to develop dazzlingly rising economies. They also decided to enhance trade and commerce between Turkey and Pakistan by improving the existing Islamabad-Istanbul railway route, creating five Turkish bank branches in Pakistan, and planning a currency exchange arrangement. At a luncheon, the Turkish Prime Minister hosted at his official house, President Asif Zardari stated his intention to strengthen the institutional frameworks that would support the well-coordinated completion of projects conceived by the two neighboring nations. The Turkish Union of Chambers stated on May 19, 2011, that it will establish a firm to manage a project to recover 2.5 million acres of undersea land through a public-private partnership. On July 19, 2011, Pakistan and Turkey's foreign secretaries began holding bilateral political meetings. Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and Turkish

⁴⁹ Essay, U. K. "Pakistan-Turkey Relations in A Historical Perspective." (2019).

colleague Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu agreed to negotiate the terms of a preferential trade agreement on August 11, 2011.⁵⁰ Both nations also agreed to explore the potential for success in bilateral commerce in local currencies, which will improve nearby business operations. According to the foreign minister of Pakistan, our future is guaranteed by our economic dependence, and the freight train project between Islamabad and Istanbul has to be actively pursued. Hina Rabbani Khar proposed that the best Turkish universities establish campuses in Pakistan through public-private partnerships to strengthen relations between the two countries' cultures and educational systems. The Pakistan-Turkey Joint Business Council (PTJBC) decided to increase bilateral commerce by US \$2 billion by 2012 October 20, 2011.⁵¹ Top businessmen from Pakistan were among the several PTJBC members who represented the Pakistani side. The PTJBC's co-chairman, Mr. Amjad Rafi, emphasized the organization's initiatives and how they have increased bilateral commerce. The visiting group was briefed on the industries of broad significance for bilateral commerce between the two nations, including the textile, energy, chemical, agricultural, fertilizer, food and food processing, auto parts, and machinery and equipment industries. Turkish businesses are willing to cooperate with their Pakistani counterparts in the construction, energy, textile, dairy farming, and food processing industries, according to Huseyin Akin, Co-Chairman of the Turkey-Pakistan Joint Business Council. The majority of participants from Turkey and Pakistan expressed worry that the safeguard tariff imposed by the Turkish side will negatively influence Pakistani textile raw material exports to Turkey, which is currently creating favorable circumstances for both countries.

⁵⁰ Mushtaq, "Pak-Turkey Relations," *Strategic Studies* 24, no. 2, 94.

⁵¹ Yatharth Kachiar, "Decoding the Turkey-Pakistan Alliance," *Vivekananda International Foundation*, New Delhi, 2021.

2.3.18 Currency Swap Agreement November 2011

During President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Istanbul, the State Bank of Pakistan and the Central Bank of Turkey struck a \$1 billion currency exchange agreement. For three years, the agreement intended to support bilateral commerce in local currencies. A consensus was reached on November 19, 2011, to promote cooperation in the agricultural, industrial, commerce, scientific, and other fields. The Turkish delegates expressed confidence that the two nations' economic links would deepen and support the emergence of relations that would be advantageous to both parties. Vice President of the Business Tuskon Organization and head of the Turkish delegation Dogan Kaynak expressed his admiration for Pakistan while receiving thorough information on potential business opportunities. The London Chamber Commerce Industry (LCCI) President, Mr. Shehzad Ali Malik, praised the Turkish delegation's generosity in celebrating Eid with Pakistan's flood victims. The LCCI was attempting to increase the volume of trade between the two nations from its present \$663 million level to the benchmark of 2 billion dollars.⁵²

2.3.19 Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressed the Pakistani parliament in May 2012

On May 21, 2012, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke to the joint session of the Pakistani parliament for the second time in four years, making history as the first foreign leader to address the country's lawmakers twice. Yousaf Raza Gilani, the prime minister of Pakistan, and Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the leader of the opposition in the national assembly, both spoke at this session. The Turkish prime minister extended his thanks for the distinction to National Assembly Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza and other lawmakers. He also emphasized

⁵² Shahzad, "Economic Relations between Pakistan and Turkey," *Eurasian Journal of Social Sciences* 7, no. 3, 36.

the necessity of a swift increase in bilateral commerce to \$2 billion for prosperity.⁵³

2.3.20 Pak-Turkish Cultural Year, 2013-14

The working committee on cultural cooperation was informed that 2013–2014 will be recognized as Pak–Turkish Cultural Year. Taner Yildiz, the Turkish minister of energy and natural resources, made a formal pledge to assist Pakistan's energy industry. He extended an invitation to a Pakistani ministerial delegation from the ministries of water and power to visit Turkey and inform potential investors via setting up seminars and meetings. The trade volume between Pakistan and Turkey was \$175 million nine years ago; it has since grown to \$1 billion and according to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, he hopes it will soon reach \$2 billion. The Quaid-e-Azam University conferred an honorary doctor of philosophy in international relations upon him.⁵⁴

2.3.21 Wind Power Project by the Turkish Company

The financial closing agreements for a 56.4 MW wind power project, which would begin producing electricity starting in December 2012, were signed by the two friendly states. Development on the project has already begun once the project's machinery and generators reached Karachi. The ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Mustafa Babur Hizlan, predicted on September 16, 2012, that the two nations will be able to reach their \$2 billion trade goal by year's end. He expressed displeasure that no favorable trade agreement had been reached between the two countries and that the flow of textiles from Pakistan into Turkey had been restricted. He said that commercial relations are not as good as they may be.

⁵³ Hussain, "Pak-Turkey relations,"75.

⁵⁴ Rahat Shah, "Pakistan-Turkey Relations During Cold War Decades: Beyond Religion and Cultural Dimensions," *Gomal University Journal of Research* 36, no. 2 (2020): 37-47.

2.3.22 Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding

To improve and expand trade and economic relations, the governments of Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It laid the groundwork for the creation of the Trilateral Trade Council, which will aid in advancing foreign investment, strengthening and expanding commercial connections, and exploring opportunities for collaboration in the services sector. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was initially signed for a year and will automatically be renewed for further one-year terms with the permission of the three nations.⁵⁵ On December 11, 2012, the two nations decided to forward the execution of collaborative initiatives that would support the private sector and offer trade facilitation tools. While President Gul continued to insist on the need for the early completion of bilateral agreements and joint ventures between the two countries to expand trade and economic ties in all relevant fields, President Zardari emphasized the importance of the early completion of the Pakistan-Turkey Preferential Trade Agreement.

2.3.23 Inauguration of the Metro Bus System

At a ceremony where Bekir Bozdag, the deputy prime minister of Turkey, Mian Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the PML-N, and ambassadors from several nations were present, Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif launched the Metro Bus System, Pakistan's first fast mass transit bus project. 110,000 people in Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, will be served by metro bus lines constructed by Turkish businesses in partnership with local Pakistani authorities. Additionally, Turkey secured financing from a renowned Turkish company for the procurement and running of flexible 45-foot buses that are 18 meters long (Volvo China). The vice prime minister of Turkey said that his nation will continue to aid Punjab and other Pakistani provinces in

⁵⁵ K. H. A. N. Mahmood-ul-Hassan, "New Trilateral Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Turkey Cooperation," *Defence Journal* 21, no. 6 (2018): 54.

undertaking such significant, ground-breaking initiatives. He desired strong commercial ties with Muslim-majority nations.

2.3.24 Agreement about Lahore City's waste collection

Three Turkish businesses won a tender for solid waste collection in Lahore city, and Turkish enterprises fully cooperated with the Pakistani local administration to create the Metro Bus System in Lahore, Punjab. On February 10, 2013, Turkey pledged further assistance and financial contributions to ensure the successful operation of the Metro Bus Service in Karachi and other Pakistani cities. Pakistan and Turkey reviewed the possibility of local manufacture, co-production, and technology shift for security items as per the requirements of the two nations on March 1, 2013. Taner Yildiz, the Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, promised on September 9, 2013, that his administration will fully cooperate with the start of various energy-related economic and investment initiatives.⁵⁶

2.3.25 Visit of PM Nawaz Sharif to Turkey September 2013

On September 16, 2013, the Prime Minister of Pakistan scheduled a three-day visit to Ankara to meet with the Turkish government to address several crucial topics. He was awarded the "Medal of Democracy," the highest civil honor in Turkey. He signed many important agreements and memos of agreement with the Turkish government during his trip. Additionally, he set up exclusive meetings with influential Turkish companies and investors to discuss profitable business ideas. Twelve Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and contracts were signed by the two nations on September 17, 2013, to increase their combined assistance in various areas of mutual interest. The Joint Declaration of the third High-Level

⁵⁶ Baser, "China's Zouchuqu Policy and Turkey-Pakistan Economic Relations," *The News Turkey*, January 29, 2021.

Cooperation Council, which was also signed by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his Turkish opponent Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was also released.⁵⁷

2.3.26 Meeting of Third High-Level Cooperation Council (HLCC), 2013

The third HLCC meeting between Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was successful on 16-18 September 2013. The two nations decided to strengthen their partnership in many sectors of shared concern, including commerce, energy, infrastructure development, military, education, culture, science, and technology, as well as stepping up efforts to bring about peace in the area. Additionally, both parties agreed to boost the frequency of flights between the two nations, and Nawaz Sharif traveled to Istanbul for a business roundtable to encourage Turkish investment. Deepening economic links between Turkey and Pakistan, according to Guner Ozkan, an expert at the International Strategic Research Organization in Ankara, would contribute to stabilizing the area when NATO withdraws from Afghanistan the following year. He continued by saying that establishing an economically robust Pakistan in the area will ultimately ensure peace and security in Afghanistan.⁵⁸

2.3.27 Military Cooperation Protocol

Pakistan and Turkey have inked a contract to upgrade Pakistan's law enforcement by updating recruiting, training, command and control systems, and tools, as well as creating a reliable CCTV-based security and surveillance system. Turkish security and police expertise would help Pakistan build up ideal security and surveillance systems in key cities, revamp the hiring

⁵⁷Mahmood, "Export-enhancing Effects of Free Trade Agreements," *Journal Of South Asian Development* 13, no. 1, 30.

⁵⁸ Ali, "Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement," (2017).

and training processes for police in all of the provinces, and adopt innovative ways to combat crime, terrorism, and anarchy.⁵⁹

2.3.28 MOU for a Wind Power Project

In a ceremony conducted at the CM House in Karachi, the Government of Sindh and STFA Yatirim Holding A-S, a Turkish firm, inked a Memorandum of Understanding for the completion of a Wind Energy Project. The MOU was signed by the Secretary of Energy and the Project Development Director, who also gave the corporation two months to select the site and conduct studies for setting up wind towers at the survey's identified locations. The project business was also instructed to start a wind capability survey for the Wind Energy Project's operational timetable.⁶⁰

2.3.29 Visit of Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan December 2013

Instead of his official visit to Pakistan, Turkish Premier Tayyip Erdogan traveled to Lahore on December 22, 2013. At the Allama Iqbal International Airport, the chief executive of Turkey was welcomed by Punjab's chief minister, Mian Shahbaz Sharif. Both officials declared that a new chapter in commercial relations between Pakistan and Turkey will begin on December 23, 2013. They also pledged to strengthen the bilateral commercial, social, political, and financial connections. Three Memorandums of Understanding were also signed by the two parties: one between the Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and the Turkish Standard Organization, and the other between Pakistan Railways and the Turkish Logistics Organization and the third Punjab Industrial Department and Turkey Cooperation Agency. According to the Turkish Prime Minister, Turkey is properly prepared to provide Pakistan with its economic

⁵⁹ Nawaz Ahmed, and M. Phil Scholar, "Military and Politics: A Comparative Study of Pakistan and Turkey." n.p.

⁶⁰ Klasra, "Foreign Direct Investment," *Quality & Quantity*, 45, 2011, 230.

growth blueprint to set Pakistan on the path to rapid development. Nawaz Sharif praised the 23 Pak-Turk schools for encouraging intercultural dialogue and goodwill among young people from Pakistan and Turkey.⁶¹

The Preferential Commerce Agreement (PTA), which was signed on September 24, 2013, by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif aims to expand trade relations. Additionally, Nawaz Sharif invited Turkish entrepreneurs and industrialists to invest money or form joint projects in the lucrative and developing industries of tourism, food processing, agro-based goods, dairy development, hotel/restaurant development, resort development, and tour operations. In Islamabad, the two parties also signed two Memorandums of Understanding for strengthening sports cooperation and dealing with natural catastrophes. Following the visit of Turkish Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the two countries expressed their intention to strengthen their social sector cooperation, particularly in the areas of culture, education, and tourism, as well as to provide for and promote private sector investments in both nations. Pakistan would encourage Turkish private investors to invest in vital infrastructure, municipal, and power sectors. Both parties will enhance support for academic institutions and the number of student scholarships. The partnership between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Premier Mian Nawaz Sharif will grow in areas of defense planning and antiterrorism initiatives. Following the visit, a joint statement was released along with the signing of a security cooperation pact.⁶²

⁶¹ Ahmed, "Turkey's Relationship with Afghanistan and the Pakistan Factor," *Turkey's Asia Relations*, 113-130, 2022, 120.

⁶² Farhat and Jongwanich, Export-enhancing effects of free trade agreements in South Asia: Evidence from Pakistan

2.3.30 Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Turkey in February 2014

To attend the eighth Pakistan-Afghanistan-Turkey Trilateral Summit in Ankara, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif traveled to Turkey during February 12–14, 2014. “Sustainable Peace in the Heart of Asia” was the theme of the summit. The three nations agreed to strengthen their collaboration for regional security, stability, and prosperity as the summit ended. Security challenges will also be handled urgently. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif spoke with Turkish President Abdullah Gul about a variety of shared interests and bilateral relations. Separate discussions with the commander of the Turkish Army Personnel, General Hulusi Akar, and the head of the Turkish General Staff, General Necdet Ozel, were conducted by Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif. Turkish entrepreneurs were encouraged to join Pakistan as development partners, and Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif promised them the strongest support possible from the government of Pakistan. During a meeting with prominent investors from Turkey, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif discussed bilateral collaborations in both the public and private sectors. He met with executives from top corporations, including Mustafa Koc, chairman of Koc Holding, and Oguz Carmikli, vice chairman of Nurol Group. According to the prime minister, Turkish businesses would receive all practical support for establishing power plants and building highways on a build-operate-transfer basis. Strong logistical relations between these nations are required, according to the Istanbul Forum for Commercial Cooperation between Pakistan, Turkey, and Afghanistan, to boost trade and economic activity in the area. If both governments made decisions for the good of the population in both nations in the areas of economics, commerce, health, and education, then both countries Pakistan and Turkey could play a crucial part in each other's future development. The Turkish administration is eager to establish positive ties with the Muslim world and is particularly interested in doing business with Pakistan.⁶³

⁶³ Shah and Li, "Rationales behind Pakistan–Turkey Relations," *The Round Table* 109, no. 5, 562.

2.3.31 Pakistan supports Turkey over Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Gulen Network

In its war with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, Pakistan supports Turkey (PKK). In the second half of 2015, when the Turkish military stepped up its operations against the PKK, it asked Pakistan for information and material assistance. Pak-Turk schools, which were established by Fethullah Gulen, a powerful preacher and former supporter of Erdogan, have been one of the most significant concerns that have plagued Pakistani-Turkish ties. Erdogan urged foreign nations to close their schools and label Gulen and his supporters as terrorists after the failed coup attempt in 2016. In retaliation, Pakistan refused to renew the employment and residency visas of the Turkish teachers at the schools, forcing many of them to leave and subjecting some to life in jail.

2.3.32 Turkey over Northern Alliance

Due to their same Turkic ancestry, Turkey saw the ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks that made up the Northern Alliance as natural allies. Some Turkish-backed Afghan insurgents, most notably Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek with strong links to Turkey, continue to maintain great mistrust and enmity against Pakistan after the American invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Dostum expressed his fervent dislike for Pakistan in 2015, saying, "If Pakistan is playing with us for many years, we must also cut our diplomatic relations with them." Despite Dostum's warnings, Turkey hasn't indicated that it will stop supporting him and even provided him with housing after he was banished.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Baser, "China's Zouchuqu Policy and Turkey-Pakistan Economic Relations," *The New Turkey*, January 29, 2021.

2.3.33 Failed Military Coup in Turkey, 2016

The commercial's Pakistani part honors the close ties between Turkey and Pakistan, which were forged following the failed coup attempt in Turkey in July 2016. In the middle of the coup, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif spoke with the troubled Turkish president, and he later paid a visit to the Turkish parliament. Since then, Erdogan has intensified his attempts to improve ties with Pakistan.⁶⁵

2.3.34 Cooperation in Pakistan Aeronautical Complex

Throughout the past few years, Pak-Turkey defense cooperation has had substantial growth. Since 2013, agreements in the defense industry have been inked annually. Pakistan and a Turkish business inked a \$80 million contract to build tankers for the Pakistan Navy. The two nations decided to work together to produce unarmed aerial vehicles in 2015. This agreement calls for the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex to provide components to the Turkish Aerospace Industries for the manufacture of unarmed aerial vehicles. The same year, an agreement was reached between the Pakistani secretary of defense and the Turkish deputy chief of general staff about the free transfer of 34 T-37 fighter/training aircraft with spare parts. Similarly, to that, Turkish Aerospace Industries agreed to pay \$75 million to upgrade Pakistan's Air Force's fleet of F-16 fighter planes in 2016. Turkey produces engines for F-16 aircraft in addition to other replacement components, which is said to provide it an advantage over other aviation companies throughout the world.⁶⁶

2.3.35 Developments in Free Trade Agreement (FTA), 2017

In 2017, Turkish investment in Pakistan reached \$1 billion, and Turkey has kept working on projects there. The two nations' ongoing (FTA) proposal anticipates an increase in bilateral

⁶⁵ Mahmood, "Free Trade Agreements," *Journal of South Asian Development* 13, no. 1, 30.

⁶⁶ Asghar, "A Floating Testament to Pak-Turkey Naval Collaboration," *Defence Journal* 20, no. 3 (2016): 19.

commerce from \$900 million to \$10 billion by 2022. Turkey is trying to increase tourism from Islamic nations to make up for a decline in Western European visitors, and Pakistanis are flying on Turkish Airlines more frequently and stopping in Turkey on their way to the West. Both nations authorized a bilateral training program and an air force personnel and pilots exchange in 2015. Unprecedented levels of collaboration exist between the two nations, and in recent years Pakistan and Turkey have finally taken significant steps to deepen their partnership. Pakistan has traditionally looked to Turkey as a political and economic role model, and General Pervez Musharraf praised Mustafa Kamal Atatürk for his uncompromising leadership and secular reforms. However, Musharraf's adoration for Atatürk came at a time when the comparatively democratic first decade of Erdoğan's tenure in Turkey was challenging the era of military tutelage.⁶⁷

2.3.36 5th High-Level Consultative Committee (HLCC) meeting, 2017

In February 2017, the then-prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, traveled to Turkey to attend the 5th HLCC meeting between the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). During his visit, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with his Turkish counterpart, Binali Yıldırım, and they discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields, including defense, trade, and culture. The two leaders also emphasized the need for greater collaboration to address common challenges such as terrorism and extremism. At the 5th HLCC meeting, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif highlighted the significant progress made by Pakistan in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reiterated his government's commitment to implementing the JPA. He also appreciated the

⁶⁷ Ali, A CGE Analysis of Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, 2017.

support provided by UNDP in different sectors, including poverty reduction, education, and health.⁶⁸

Overall, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Turkey and participation in the 5th HLCC meeting was an opportunity to strengthen Pakistan's partnership with UNDP and to deepen the country's ties with Turkey. The meeting provided a platform for Pakistan to showcase its achievements in the implementation of the JPA and to explore new areas of cooperation with UNDP and Turkey.

2.3.37 Defense Cooperation

In 2017, defense cooperation continued to grow stronger with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries to enhance cooperation in the field of defense. The MoU was signed during the visit of the Turkish Chief of General Staff, General Hulusi Akar, to Pakistan in November 2017. The MoU envisages cooperation in areas such as military training, defense production, and joint exercises. In addition to this, Pakistan and Turkey also hold joint military exercises, named Erciyes, in Pakistan in 2017. These exercises were aimed at enhancing the interoperability between the two countries' armed forces and sharing experiences in counter-terrorism.⁶⁹

2.3.38 Trade and Cultural Relations

Trade relations between Pak-Turkey have been growing steadily over the years. In 2017, the two countries signed FTA to enhance bilateral trade. The FTA was signed during the visit of the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to Pakistan in May 2017. Under the FTA,

⁶⁸ Pakistan Embassy, "Pakistan-Turkey Relations Growing in All Fields: Envoy," December 5, 2017, <https://www.pakembassyankara.com/pakistan-turkey-relations-growing-in-all-fields-envoy>.

⁶⁹ Essay, U. K. "Pakistan-Turkey Relations in A Historical Perspective." (2019).

Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to gradually reduce tariffs on a range of products for 10 years. The FTA is expected to give a boost to bilateral trade, which stood at around \$600 million in 2016.⁷⁰

2.3.39 Regional Cooperation

Pakistan and Turkey also cooperate in regional forums, such as the OIC and the ECO. In 2017, both countries continued to work closely in these forums to promote cooperation among member states. In addition to this, Pakistan and Turkey also played an important role in the Afghanistan peace process. Both countries have been working together to promote a political settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan.⁷¹

2.3.40 Conclusion

The relationship between Pakistan and Turkey continued to grow stronger. Both countries took concrete steps to enhance their bilateral ties in areas such as defense, trade, cultural, and education. The growing relationship between Pakistan and turkey reflects the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two countries. It is expected that this relationship will continue to grow and stronger in the years to come and will help to promote peace and stability in the region.

⁷⁰ Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Defense Production, "*Three Years' Performance Report (August 2018 to August 2021)*," <https://modp.gov.pak/SitelImage/Publication/Three-Years-Performance-Report-MODP.pdf>.

⁷¹ Ahmad, "Bridging the Growing Divergence," *PERCEPTIONS: Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 3 (2000).

Chapter-3

Pak-Turkey Political Relations During Imran Khan's Era, (2018-2022)

3 Introduction

Pakistan and Turkey share a long history of diplomatic relations. The relationship has remained stable throughout the years, and both countries have shown great interest in deepening their cooperation. The Imran regime in Pakistan, which began in 2018, has taken significant steps to strengthen the political and economic relationship between the two countries. This part of the chapter will provide a comprehensive analysis of the political relations between Pakistan and Turkey during Imran Khan Regime.

Due to the unstable nature of both local and international politics, ties between Turkey and Pakistan have been strained over time. Turkey has unquestioningly supported Pakistan since its founding in 1947, irrespective of who is in power in Ankara. The Justice and Development Party (AKP) administration in Turkey has placed a special emphasis on fostering ties with Islamabad since taking office in 2001. The political ties between Pakistan and Turkey have improved since Imran Khan took office as Pakistan's prime minister in August 2018. Imran Khan travelled to Turkey in September 2018 for the first time since gaining government. He met with Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, during the first trip in January 2019, and they spoke about a number of topics of shared interest. The two presidents reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in a number of areas. After Imran Khan's trip to Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, travelled to Pakistan in February 2020. Turkey's support of Pakistan in recent years has been crucial for Islamabad on the international stage, particularly with regard to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Kashmir problem. Under Erdogan, Turkey's historically positive relations with Pakistan have improved. Turkey continues to be one of Pakistan's most loyal friends, standing with it on the Kashmir issue in all international fora. This is in addition to China. Recently, Pakistan also

escaped being included to the Financial Action Task Force's "blacklist" by the International Monetary Fund, partly due to the unquestioning backing it got from both China and Turkey. Even now, the former has pushed for the latter's acceptance into the Nuclear Supplier Group. To be successful, Turkey has used a variety of strategies, including extending diplomatic support to Pakistan on important issues at international fora, bolstering economic and trade ties, acting as a mediator between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and strengthening ties in the fields of culture and education. Turkey is assertively defining numerous non-religious problems, such as Kashmir and support for Pakistan, in terms of religion in an effort to overthrow Saudi Arabia's domination and maintain its position as the head of the Islamic world.⁷²

3.1 Dual Citizenship

On March 14, 2021, Pakistan and Turkey signed a deal that eased the procedure for Pakistanis to acquire Turkish nationality and vice versa, creating a win-win situation for the two nations. This deal was especially important for Pakistan because of its struggles with political unrest, economic hardship, and a decline in commercial activity at that time. The agreement provided businesspeople and real estate investors from Pakistan with opportunity to grow their businesses. Particularly, real estate investments gave the additional benefit of obtaining residency and citizenship, as in the case of Turkey, in addition to offering substantial profits. High-Net-Worth people with Turkish citizenship can travel without a visa, have access to first-rate medical care, receive a top-notch education, and have a variety of economic opportunities for themselves and their children.

Turkey was a significant emerging market on the international stage. It was a desirable place for investors globally due to its advantageous geographic position and strong economic

⁷² Yatharth Kachiar, "Decoding the Turkey-Pakistan Alliance," *Vivekananda International Foundation*, New Delhi, 2021.

strength. Turkey, which has the 17th-largest economy in the world with a nominal GDP of USD 840 billion, was on track to enter the Trillion-Dollar Club in 2020. The agreement helped Pakistan by giving its people a way to take advantage of Turkey's economic potential.

acquiring a property with a minimum \$250,000 worth, or its equivalent in foreign cash or Turkish lira, and a minimum three-year resale limitation. Establishing a company that produced at least 50 job possibilities. Depositing in Turkish banks at least \$500,000, or its equivalent in foreign cash or Turkish lira, with the need that it be kept there for at least three years before being removed. Putting down a minimum of \$500k, or its equivalent in foreign cash or Turkish lira, in bonds issued by the government that couldn't be resold for at least three years. Investing at least \$500,000, or its equivalent in another currency or Turkish Lira, in shares of a venture capital investment fund or real estate investment fund, with a minimum three-year selling restriction.

This agreement provided Pakistan and Turkey with the opportunity for prosperity and stability while fostering an atmosphere that was conducive to cross-border collaboration.⁷³

3.2 Kuala Lumpur summit, 2019

In December 2019, when the summit in Kuala Lumpur was planned and Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan were supposed to participate, a significant point in the development of alliances occurred. Pakistan, however, decided to withdraw at the last minute due to Saudi Arabia's diplomatic pressure. Erdogan recognized that this was a result of Saudi Arabia, which was perceived as a new regional powerhouse, issuing economic threats to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. As a result, Erdogan had further misgivings about Saudi Arabia. India repealed Kashmir Article 370 on August 5, 2019, eliminating this unique protection for

⁷³ Jeremy Savory, "Pakistan & Turkey to Sign a Dual Citizenship Agreement," *Savory & Partners*, March 4, 2020, <https://www.savoryandpartners.com/blog/pakistan-turkey-to-sign-a-dual-citizenship-agreement/>.

Kashmir. Turkey was one of the very few countries to express its active condemnation of India's conduct and to discuss it with Prime Minister Imran Khan. In September 2019, during the UN General Assembly (UNGA), President Erdogan did not publicly denounce India. Instead, criticism was levelled at the United Nations for not paying more attention to the Kashmir conflict, which has persisted since 1948 despite many resolutions. Unfortunately, such a stance did not sit well with New Delhi, and Prime Minister Narendra made the decision to postpone his October 2019 trip to Ankara.⁷⁴

Erdogan and Prime Minister Khan share certain similarities. He is an outspoken Muslim whose hostility to the United States is occasionally fairly obvious. When he supports Erdogan despite knowing that doing so will anger the Arabs, he demonstrates his ambivalence towards the strategically and economically significant Gulf Arab states. He is aware of Iran's critical significance for Pakistan and the need to walk a fine line between the Arabs, his neighbor's Shia Islam, and Pakistan's deeply ingrained literary and linguistic ties to Iran. Because of CPEC, Iran is vital to Pakistan since China already has a larger economic footprint there than Pakistan does.⁷⁵

Islamabad is a component of China's plan to establish a commercial route between China and Iran "via Pakistan." While Turkey is more concerned with the dispute between Iran and Azerbaijan, where it favors Azerbaijan, China has \$400 billion worth of investments in Iran. In spite of the neighboring powerhouse Russia, Azerbaijan drove Armenia out of the Nagorno-Karabakh area in December 2020, with Turkey supporting it militarily. Due to this conduct, Azerbaijan and its neighbor Iran are now at odds with one another. Surprisingly, Pakistan,

⁷⁴ Muhammad Akram Zaheer, "Pakistan and Turkey Are Shaping New Era of Cooperation," *Pakistan Today*, June 22, 2022, <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/06/22/pakistan-and-turkey-are-shaping-new-era-of-cooperation/>.

⁷⁵ Khaled Ahmad, "Erdogan and Imran Khan," *Asia Specific*, December 6, 2021, <https://www.newsweekpakistan.com/erdogan-and-imran-khan/>.

which has friendly relations with Iran despite its internal sectarian problems, chose to enter the conflict on the side of Turkey.⁷⁶

3.3 Unofficial Non-Arab Alliance between Turkey and Pakistan.

When the Indian foreign minister was invited to the OIC in March 2019, Pakistan got irritated. By interacting with Arab nations like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, India developed strong ties and weakened Pakistan's historical support for the Kashmir problem. As a result, an unofficial non-Arab coalition developed in which Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, and Iran positioned themselves in opposition to the so-called "Quartet" of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt in order to undermine their dominance in the OIC. Additionally, Russia and China began to back the unofficial alliance. As Chinese and Russian interests in the Middle East increased, they began to align themselves more closely with Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. China also emphasized the significance of these nations to its Central Corridor aspirations.⁷⁷

3.4 Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu 2021

On January 13, 2021 in Islamabad, Mevlut Cavusoglu, the foreign minister of Turkey, met with Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Arif Alvi. The discussion covered bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey as well as local, national, and international concerns. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the extraordinary nature of the political ties between Pakistan and Turkey and emphasized the need to develop them into a strong economic alliance. It was reiterated that both parties are committed to improving their mutually beneficial commercial, investment, defence, educational, and cultural relations. The Prime Minister praised Turkey for its

⁷⁶ Khaled, Erdogan, 21

⁷⁷ Ali Ahsan. "Turkey–Pakistan Relations." Blog post. *Russian International Affairs Council*. September 14, 2023.

unwavering support in the Jammu and Kashmir conflict and emphasized the negative Indian activities endangering global stability. The Pakistani president said the Turkish leadership has taken a firm stance on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The prime minister thanked Turkey for its steadfast support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and highlighted the detrimental Indian actions posing a threat to peace and security. President Arif Alvi requested the Turkish foreign minister to thank Recep Tayyip Erdogan for speaking out for Kashmiris during his recent address to the UN General Assembly.

3.5 Erdogan visits to Pakistan. 2020

On February 13–14, 2020, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid a two-day visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed him warmly. The purpose of the visit was to improve bilateral ties and cross-sectoral collaboration. Meetings were conducted, President Erdogan and Prime Minister Khan served as co-chairs of the Pakistan-Turkey High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, and they discussed crucial subjects including combating Islamophobia and advancing regional peace and stability. Increasing commercial and economic relations between the two nations was a topic of conversation during the visit. With ambitions for a free trade agreement and technology transfer, the \$900 million in yearly commerce was considered as having room to increase. The Turkish-initiated Strategic Economic Framework, which included defence cooperation, capacity building, and a focus on important sectors like energy, transport, and tourism, was emphasized as being crucial by both leaders.⁷⁸

Considering the close relations between Pakistan and Turkey, President Erdogan's visit was welcomed as historic. On a number of fronts, including the Kashmir problem and the Cyprus crisis, the two nations have backed one another. The Pakistan Armed Forces received critical

⁷⁸ Mahmood Arshad, "Erdogan Visits Pakistan to Sign Defense, Trade Agreements," *The Media Line*, February 13, 2020, <https://themedialine.org/top-stories/erdogan-visits-pakistan-to-sign-defense-trade-agreements/>

support from Turkey in the past when it assisted with equipment upgrades at times of difficulty. Their defence cooperation reached a crucial turning point with the signing of the 2018 defence agreement, which included the acquisition of Turkish attack helicopters. On global stages like the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, Pakistan and Turkey have both shown solidarity and support. They are well-positioned to lead the Islamic Ummah in addressing common problems like radicalization and terrorism thanks to their strategic positions and leadership ability.

3.6 Visits of Turkey's Defence Minister, 2021

On August 12, 2021, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan asked for direct communication between Turkish authorities and the Taliban in response to the increasing civil conflict in Afghanistan after meeting with Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar in Islamabad. Hulusi Akar underlined Turkey's upcoming proposal to safeguard Kabul's international airport once NATO withdrew, and Imran Khan stated his determination to promote discussions. The Taliban, though, turned down Turkey's offer, raising fears that Kabul would indeed fall. The Taliban had gained significant territory, according to the US military, and this might happen in 90 days. Turkish authorities were receptive to the idea of keeping about 500 troops at the Hamid Karzai International Airport despite the difficulties. To try to end the current war, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has urged direct discussions with the Taliban leadership. Imran Khan and Hulusi Akar discussed a variety of subjects during their discussion, including Turkey's attempts to find a diplomatic solution to the Afghan conflict. The importance of a negotiated settlement and Pakistan's unflinching support for the Afghan peace process were also underlined by Imran Khan. Imran Khan sent condolences to President Erdogan and expressed sympathy with him about the forest fires in Turkey, underscoring the close relations between Pakistan and Turkey. Both parties agreed to increase their collaboration, especially in the

defence sector.⁷⁹ The visit of Hulusi Akar to Islamabad was a part of the frequent high-level discussions between the two nations, which centered on significant bilateral and regional issues. During their meeting, he reaffirmed their commitment to bilateral cooperation and extended an invitation for President Arif Alvi to visit Turkey. Hulusi Akar's comprehensive activities during his tour included discussions with the defence minister Pervez Khattak, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, and other top officials, strengthening the complex connection between Pakistan and Turkey.

3.7 Pakistan and Turkey over Afghanistan issue

The Prime Minister emphasized Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Afghan issue in the context of the region. In this context, he emphasized Pakistan's beneficial role in the peace process in Afghanistan and the necessity for all Afghan parties to strive towards reducing bloodshed, achieving a ceasefire, and reaching a comprehensive and inclusive political settlement. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a negotiated political settlement during a meeting between the leaders of Pakistan and Turkey over the current Afghan peace process. Khan emphasized the importance of a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan during a phone discussion with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, particularly in light of the US military departure plans. The US-Taliban Peace Agreement and following intra-Afghan Negotiations were greatly aided by Pakistan.⁸⁰

The foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan met in April 2021 and released a joint statement pleading with the Afghan Taliban to reaffirm their commitment to bringing

⁷⁹ "Turkey's defense minister discusses Afghan security in visit to Pakistan" *Al-Monitor*: Independent, trusted coverage of the Middle East August 12, 2021., <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/08/turkeys-defense-minister-discusses-afghan-security-visit-pakistan>.

⁸⁰ Asad Hashim, "Turkey's Erdogan, Pakistani PM talk before Afghan peace summit," *Al Jazeera*, April 16, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news>.

about a permanent peace. They emphasized the urgent necessity for a ceasefire to foster a welcoming atmosphere for peace negotiations. The Taliban's non-participation forced the U.S. to postpone the eagerly awaited Afghan peace conference in Istanbul. Following the news of the US troop departure, the ministers concentrated on the scheduled conference in an effort to hasten a deal between the Afghan government and the Taliban. They urged all parties, especially the Taliban, to reiterate their dedication to an open and amicable negotiation. The rising levels of violence in Afghanistan deeply concerned the ministers. Mevlut Cavusoglu, the foreign minister of Turkey, reaffirmed Ankara's unwavering support for the peace process and initiatives to set up the Istanbul meeting. In the wake of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover, Turkish and Pakistani diplomats were at conflict as they each attempted to protect their interests in the new Afghan administration. Turkey was dissatisfied with Pakistan's perceived lack of support in exerting influence in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, as evidenced by their lack of communication in recent months, which contributed to the strained relations between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan. Turkey had anticipated that Pakistan would use its sway over the Taliban to support Turkish involvement and win the right to guard Kabul's airport.⁸¹ Despite the close military, economic, and religious links between the two nations, Islamabad saw Turkey's efforts to develop strategic clout in Afghanistan as a possible danger to Pakistan's interests. Given its limited diplomatic role in the Afghan transition, Galip Dalay, a scholar at the University of Oxford, said that Turkey's best practical way to get involved in the new Afghanistan was by taking on responsibility for airport security. But Pakistan was hesitant to give up its own substantial influence in Afghanistan to Turkey, especially in light of China's and Russia's wary attitude regarding Turkey's Western participation. Pakistan, which has close

⁸¹ MEE correspondent, "Turkey and Pakistan vying for influence in Afghanistan after Taliban's takeover," *Middle East Eye*, November 21, 2021, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-pakistan-influence-afghanistan-taliban-takeover>.

ties to China and Russia, wanted to prevent any unease by forbidding Turkey from entering. Galip Dalay added that Turkey had anticipated both the Taliban and Pakistan to be more helpful. Turkey used words that it thought the Taliban may support, but it did not have the desired impact. The role that Pakistan was supposed to play was not played, as it refrained from utilizing its power to influence the Taliban. Turkey was unavoidably disappointed as a result of these circumstances, which heightened hostility between the two nations.

3.7.1 Kabul Security

As part of a NATO deployment, the Turkish military has been manning Kabul Airport security since 2013. Turkey and the US verbally agreed that once the majority of NATO soldiers departed, Turkey would be responsible for the airport's security, two months before the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. However, the Taliban quickly took control in August, and as a result Turkey was forced to remove its forces when the Taliban refused to accept their presence. Despite Turkey's long-standing ties to Afghanistan, the Taliban repeatedly criticized and cautioned against Turkey's presence in Kabul. Despite Turkey's long-standing ties to Afghanistan, the Taliban repeatedly criticized and cautioned against Turkey's presence in Kabul. Kabul was taken over by the Taliban before a definitive deal could be reached. An earlier meeting of American and Turkish diplomats had concerns about safeguarding the airport. In order to carry the weight, Turkey requested aid, intelligence collaboration, and military help. Despite being brought up in conversation, neither Pakistan nor Hungary were actively involved in the US and Turkey's conversations on airport security. Turkey considered Pakistan's assistance to be essential owing to its historical ties with the Pashtun community and madrassas in Afghanistan, as well as its ongoing links with important Taliban officials.

Although it has been claimed that Pakistan has influence on the Taliban, Pakistan denies having authority over them.⁸²

3.8 Turkey Support on Covid-19

During the worldwide COVID-19 epidemic, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) worked with the Kiran Foundation in Karachi, Pakistan, to distribute vital food aid to 1,000 needy households, the majority of them were made up of workers who earned a daily pay. The epidemic had negative economic effects on the Republic of Pakistan, especially on those that depended on daily wages. Many employees experienced financial troubles as a result of the government's precautionary actions that led to the closure of many enterprises. As a friend country, TIKA furthered its support for Pakistan by demonstrating everlasting solidarity with that country. TIKA promised to extend food assistance to an extra 3,000 people in Sindh and Baluchistan, two of the nation's most economically depressed provinces, in collaboration with the Pakistan Navy. The timing of this project was chosen to highlight TIKA's dedication to helping people in need and developing collaboration between Turkey and Pakistan during the holy month of Ramadan.⁸³

On April 12, 2020, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan sent his condolences to Turkey for the fatalities lost to the new coronavirus. Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke over the phone, and Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching solidarity and support for Turkey, especially its efforts to fight the COVID-19 epidemic. Both leaders understood how crucial it was to work together and reinforce one another's efforts in

⁸² Hashim, "Afghan peace summit," *Al Jazeera*, April 16, 2021,

⁸³ "Turkey Continues to Support Pakistan's Fight against the COVID-19 Outbreak," *Relief Web*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/turkey-continues-support-pakistan-s-fight-against-covid19-outbreak>.

the fight against the virus. Imran Khan thanked Erdogan for the Turkish government's support in easing returning of stranded Pakistanis when flights were suspended.⁸⁴

To support Pakistani doctors in their fight against the coronavirus, Turkey sent crucial medical protective equipment as a show of solidarity. To ensure the safety of our Pakistani brothers and sisters, a special Turkish Airlines flight was used to bring 20,000 masks, 50,000 protective suits, and 100,000 face shields. The National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan was responsible for providing the medical relief. The same aircraft also made it possible for 140 Turkish people living in Pakistan to return home, after which they were required to spend 14 days in quarantine in the province of Eskisehir in the center of Turkey. In return, Turkey received one million chloroquine pills, an anti-malarial medication, from Pakistan through Turkish Airlines flight for use in treating coronavirus patients.⁸⁵

President Arif Alvi praised Turkey for taking the lead in the international fight against the COVID-19 epidemic by offering support and help to Pakistan and other nations. In order to combat the deadly corona virus during the epidemic, Turkey has provided medical aid to over 150 nations. Cavusoglu gave the assurance that Turkey would keep assisting Pakistan in forums throughout the world. To the mutual benefit of the two nations and peoples, it was decided to maintain high-level interactions and further develop the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Turkey.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Islamuddin Sajid, "Pakistan condoles with Turkey over COVID-19 demises," *Anadolu Agency*, April 7, 2020, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistan-condoles-with-turkey-over-covid-19-demises/1796270>.

⁸⁵ Islamuddin Sajid, "COVID-19, Turkey donates medical equipment to Pakistan," *Anadolu Agency*, April 22, 2020, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/covid-19-turkey-donates-medical-equipment-to-pakistan/1814177>.

⁸⁶ Islamuddin Sajid, "Pakistan Stresses Boosting Trade Ties with Turkey," *Anadolu Agency*, January 13, 2021, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-specific/pakistan-stresses-boosting-trade-ties-with-turkey/2108704>.

3.9 Turkey's support during flood 2022

Half of Pakistan submerged under water during the mid-2022 flash floods, which brought the nation to its knees. Turkey made an immediate effort to assist by giving flood victims tents, food, sanitary items, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, and infant nutrition. To assist the casualties on the ground, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and other NGOs were dispatched. For flood aid, Ankara sent 13 trains and 15 aircraft to Pakistan. Given that climate change was one of the cause of the flood, Turkey has publicly backed Pakistan in regards to the significance of the climate change agenda, as expressed in the November 2022 Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC/COP27 summit, and has backed Pakistan's position on the Loss and Damage Fund for the less resource-rich states or states in the Global South.⁸⁷

3.10 Kashmir and Other Territorial Disputes

Since India gained its independence, ties between Turkey and India have been tense since Ankara has consistently sided with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Despite Erdogan's leadership, the bilateral relations between Turkey and India appear to have broken down despite efforts to resolve their disputes. Erdogan proposed a "multilateral conversation" to settle the Kashmir conflict, which went against India's long-held stance that the dispute is a matter of bilateral relations with Pakistan. Erdogan reiterated Turkey's support for India during his visit to India, although his silence on Pakistani-perpetrated cross-border terror incidents was noted. Also, he stressed the requirement for bilateral commerce to reach at least US\$10 billion.

Turkey was one of the few nations to criticize India's decision to repeal Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in early August 2019, although Erdogan was careful to avoid doing so. The

⁸⁷ Ali Ahsan. "Turkey–Pakistan Relations." Blog post. *Russian International Affairs Council*. September 14, 2023.

UN General Assembly heard remarks from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in September 2019 that the Kashmir dispute has not received enough attention from the international community. As a result of his comments, Modi's two-day state visit to Turkey in October 2019 was cancelled by New Delhi. Erdogan promised to continue supporting Islamabad's position on Kashmir during his visit to Pakistan in February 2020 and compared it to Turkey's own 1915 Gallipoli battle. India responded vehemently, contending that such statements show little comprehension of either history or diplomatic protocol. On September 22, 2020, New Delhi slammed Erdogan for his critical comments regarding Kashmir, calling them "totally unacceptable" since they interfered with India's internal affairs. Erdogan has become more outspoken in his support of Pakistan's Kashmir policy, in part as a result of his efforts to portray himself as the voice of Muslims everywhere. The several separatist leaders in Kashmir have grown particularly fond of Erdogan, and India's intelligence community has uncovered certain actions of non-governmental groups with connections to Turkey in Kashmir that attempt to radicalize Indian Muslims there.⁸⁸

3.11 Pakistan Support over Turkey's Operations

Pakistan has repeatedly backed Turkey in its operations against the PKK, also known as the Kurdistan Workers Party, and its YPG, or People's Protection Units, affiliates in Iraq and Syria. This group represents a serious security risk for Turkey. Operating out of south-eastern Turkey since the late 1980s, the PKK has carried out several terrorist acts in Turkey, killing more than 40,000 Turkish nationals since 1984. Many groups took use of the Syrian Civil War to target President Bashar al-Assad and his soldiers. New non-state actors like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) proliferated. Much to the displeasure of Turkey, America supported, helped,

⁸⁸ Kiran et al, "Pak-Turk Relations: Through the Spectrum of Regional Integration," *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 2 (2022).

and trained Syrian Democratic Forces (a rebranding of the YPG) to fight against the Islamic state active in Syria. The Islamic State and Syrian Democratic Force (SDF) were the major objectives of a prior operation in 2016–2017 called Euphrates Shield, which was only conducted along the country's border with Syria. The Turkish actions heightened the diplomatic tension with the United States and its Western allies. Despite the PKK being designated as a terrorist organisation, Turkey objected to supporting the Syrian Democratic Forces, or YPG. In March 2018, the Syrian National Army and Turkish Armed Forces launched Operation Olive Branch in opposition of American warnings due to growing security concerns. The Syrian National Army took control of Arfin once the aircraft bombardments and artillery battles were concluded. The SDF was forced back with Operation Olive Branch, but it persisted in its insurgency in Northern Aleppo. Turkey launched Operation Peace Spring in October 2019 to entirely push out the organisation, escalating tensions with the United States, Canada, and its other Western Allies. Pakistan supported the Turkish onslaught throughout the whole battle when SDF fighters drew close to the Turkish border. Turkey warned at another massive military campaign in June 2022, but because to opposition and pushback from its strategic allies Russia, Iran, and the U.S., who all have substantial influence in Syria, it was only able to conduct aerial strikes and shelling.⁸⁹

3.12 Nagorno-Karabakh War 2020

The Nagorno-Karabakh War in 2020 was a relatively recent event that marked a pivotal turning point in Pakistan-Turkey ties. In September 2020, a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh area erupted. It was widely acknowledged that this area belonged to Azerbaijan. But Armenia had taken control of it. The Nagorno-Karabakh territory

⁸⁹ Ali Ahsan, Turkey-Pakistan Relations, *RIAC*, September 14, 2023.

was liberated by Azerbaijan as a consequence of this war's clear triumph for that nation. Both Turkey and Pakistan provided Azerbaijan with a great deal of military and diplomatic support during the conflict. Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan are frequently referred to as the "three iron brothers." On the international scene, this group of governments has established itself as a powerful alliance. Pakistan and Turkey's united backing has improved relations between the two nations diplomatically and militarily. Due to their successful usage in the Nagorno-Karabakh war, the Bayraktar drones gained attention. Later, Pakistan also expressed a willingness to purchase a number of Turkish units. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict gave Pakistan and Turkey the chance to work together on a huge scale. It also made it possible for Pakistan and Turkey to work together on defence in a significant way. Following the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War, Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan also participated in a number of joint military drills, further solidifying their relations and opening the door for future defence cooperation.⁹⁰

3.13 Pakistan-Turkey-Qatar political triangle

Geopolitical changes in the larger Middle East and South Asia have significantly increased Turkey, Qatar, and Pakistan's political, military, and economic cooperation during the past ten years. Pakistan's internal political scene changed in 2017 as a result of the country's leader becoming involved in a court case involving the Panama Papers leak. Due to the leader's refusal to reveal a work visa supplied by the Emirati government, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disqualified the leader, which resulted in strained ties between Pakistan and the UAE. However, when Imran Khan became office in July 2018, the situation changed. In spite of the repercussions of Khashoggi's murder, Imran Khan's government placed a priority on improving

⁹⁰ Abdul Moiz AWAN and Reham TARIQ, "From the perspective of two States one nation; An analysis of turkey-Pakistan relations in the context of the defense industry (2001-2021)," *SDE Akademi Dergisi* 3, no. 2 (2023): 170.

relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. He even went to the Future Investment Initiative Summit in Riyadh. During this time, Pakistan received financial assistance packages from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, initially affecting its relations with Turkey and Qatar. Imran Khan's administration progressively started making attempts to communicate with both the capitals after seeing the necessity to mend tense ties with Qatar and Turkey. Imran Khan's trip to Qatar at the beginning of 2019 reignited Pakistan's ties with Qatar, as evidenced by the prime minister's cordial welcome of the Emir of Qatar on his subsequent visit. Imran Khan's formal visit to Turkey was made possible by Pakistan's categorization of the Gulen movement as a terrorist organisation, which further boosted ties with Turkey.

When Pakistan requested assistance from its friends to oppose India's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status, it created difficulties for Pakistan in maintaining its delicate balance between rival Middle Eastern nations. Turkey showed a lot of support, while Riyadh and Abu Dhabi were largely mute. An agreement to host a special summit in Kuala Lumpur was reached after a meeting between the leaders of Malaysia, Turkey, and Pakistan. Saudi Arabia was left out of this conference, which inflamed political tensions in Riyadh. Pakistan withdrew from the Kuala Lumpur conference because Saudi Arabia, which saw the proposal as a potential rival to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, reacted aggressively. Due to Pakistan's substantial economic dependency on Saudi Arabia and the UAE, this episode highlighted the country's erratic position within the Turkey-Qatar-Pakistan political triangle.⁹¹

3.14 2nd Trilateral Meeting, 2021

On January 13, 2021, the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan gathered for the second trilateral dialogue in Islamabad. The ministers expressed their intention to

⁹¹ Umar Karim, "Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan: A Strategic Triad in the Making," *Al Jazeera Centre for Studies*, November 30, 2021, <https://studies.aljazeera.net/en/analyses/qatar-turkey-and-pakistan-strategic-triad-making>.

strengthen cooperation in politics, commerce, economy, peace and security, science and technology, and culture while highlighting the strong ties that exist between their nations based on historical, cultural, and brotherly links. They agreed that Muslim communities face difficulties due to terrorism, cyberattacks, hybrid warfare, misinformation efforts, and increased Islamophobia. The ministers spoke worry about the COVID-19 epidemic, the effects of climate change, and human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed against Muslims worldwide. They pledged to forge a regional consensus for peace and prosperity and expressed support for Azerbaijan's efforts to restore freed areas. The ministers reaffirmed their support for Pakistan's facilitation of a political resolution to regional concerns and the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in fostering peace and development in Afghanistan. They agreed to increase their coordination in the fight against cybercrimes, trafficking in illegal drugs and people, organized crime, and terrorism. A peaceful resolution in accordance with pertinent UN Security Council resolutions was supported by the ministers, who also voiced concern over human rights abuses and demographic shifts in Jammu and Kashmir.⁹²

They underlined their support for a fair resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the Cyprus problem based on international law and pertinent UN resolutions. Cooperation in the areas of defence and security was given priority, and this included best practices exchange, capacity building, and research into upcoming technologies. To combat the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly for developing nations, the ministers advocated for stronger international collaboration. With specific proposals to lower obstacles, improve coordination among financial sectors, and protect shared investments, trilateral trade and investment were to be promoted. Transport, trade, energy, education, tourism, and ICT regional

⁹² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, "2nd Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey," accessed January 13, 2021, <https://mofa.gov.pk/2nd-trilateral-meeting-of-the-ministers-of-foreign-affairs-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-and-the-republic-of-turkey>.

interaction were highlighted. Cooperation on climate change, the preservation of the environment, food and energy security, sustainable development, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals was also pointed out, seeking for further global cooperation.

3.15 Bilateral Political Consultations, 2022

On February 1, 2022, Pakistan and Turkey had bilateral political consultations at the Foreign Office, with Sohail Mahmood serving as the delegation from Pakistan and Sedat Onal serving as the representative from Turkey. Warm welcomes were given as the meeting got underway, recognizing the excellent brotherly ties between the two nations, which are characterized by mutual trust, similar viewpoints, and close collaboration on a variety of bilateral, regional, and global issues. The meetings covered a wide variety of subjects, including a thorough analysis of the two countries' relations and potential directions for strengthening economic, trade, and investment cooperation. The Foreign Secretary emphasized Pakistan's geo-economics focus, emphasizing the significance of peace, development partnerships, and connectivity as essential elements of their strategy.

The execution of the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF), which was signed in February 2020, and the ongoing preparations for the 7th session of the HLSCC were both topics of discussion. It was highlighted that the Joint Working Groups operating under the HLSCC were making good progress, demonstrating their commitment to fostering closer connections between the two countries. The discussions also centered on regional concerns, especially the state of situation in Afghanistan. Increased humanitarian aid is urgently needed, and the Foreign Secretary emphasized the need for policies to help Afghanistan's economy. Pakistan expressed its commitment to provide humanitarian help to Afghanistan and highlighted the significance of ongoing practical involvement to establish a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, particularly the release of frozen assets as a method to support long-term sustainable

development. The Turkish side was also informed of the serious human rights abuses occurring in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and Pakistan expressed its thanks for Turkey's steadfast and moral support of its position in the Jammu and Kashmir conflict. At global venues like the UN, OIC, ECO, and D-8, both nations expressed delight with their close cooperation. They reiterated their dedication to continuing to work together on regional and international topics of shared concern.⁹³

3.16 Pak-Turk Sign Protocol to strengthen interparliamentary ties, 2021

On June 1, 2021, while Mustafa Sentop, the speaker of the Turkish parliament, was visiting Pakistan on official business, Turkey and Pakistan signed an agreement to improve cooperation between their respective legislatures. Sentop and Asad Qaiser, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, signed the document in Islamabad on the eve of the second General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organisation (PAECO). The protocol stated the agreement in principle for the two parliaments to exchange data and viewpoints on bilateral, regional, and global issues. The agreement also placed emphasis on establishing ties between the Standing Committees of both parliaments and supporting and encouraging reciprocal visits and exchanges among delegations of parliamentarians. Supporting the Pakistani and Turkish interparliamentary friendship organisations was another component of the agreement. The protocol went into effect when it was signed and will last forever until either parliament decides to end it. Qaiser expressed appreciation to Turkey for standing with Islamabad in a number of regional and international fora. Sentop stressed the significance of investigating opportunities for reciprocal collaboration among regional governments as a necessity for development and prosperity during meetings with his Pakistani

⁹³ "Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Turkey," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan*, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://mofa.gov.pk/bilateral-political-consultations-between-pakistan-and-turkey-2/>.

counterpart. He underlined Turkey's priority in resolving the Cyprus, Palestine, and Kashmir conflicts via peaceful means and vowed to continue to support this cause on the diplomatic and moral fronts. Sentop highlighted Turkey's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people and expressed the wish for Pakistan and India to engage in discussion to address the Kashmir dispute in accordance with pertinent U.N. resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.⁹⁴

3.17 Pakistan support Turkey on Cyprus

Given the ongoing tension between the two countries and efforts at international mediation, Greece has worries about Pakistan's backing for Turkey's claim to Cyprus. In the Cyprus dispute, Greece enjoyed the support of every member of the European Union, while Pakistan took the lead in defending Turkey's assertion. Greece was concerned about the expanding bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey, especially on the military front. They worried that Pakistan's partnership with Turkey demonstrated its support for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamist aspirations, which include restoring the Ottoman Empire and staking claims to Cyprus. Greece has voiced its worry about a possible China-Pakistan-Turkey nexus on nuclear proliferation, noting Erdogan's ambitions for a "Caliphate atom bomb" in accordance with his neo-Ottoman objectives. Turkish authorities requested the Pakistani government for F-16 training pilots in response to their demand for fresh pilots after firing fighter jet pilots in the wake of the failed coup attempt in 2016. The Pakistani pilots had operated Turkish fighter planes during joint military drills in November 2019.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ *Daily Sabah*, "Turkey, Pakistan sign protocol to improve interparliamentary ties," Istanbul, June 02, 2021, <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-pakistan-sign-protocol-to-improveinterparliamentary-ties>.

⁹⁵ *Daily Sabah*, "Pakistan Pledges Solidarity with Turkish Cyprus," Istanbul, August 16, 2021, <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/pakistan-pledges-solidarity-with-turkish-cyprus>.

Greece's worries were increased in November 2019 when a Pakistani P-3 Orion Naval Co-operation and Information Collection Aircraft entered Greek airspace without submitting a flight plan. When revealing Pakistan's meddling in Cyprus in 2018, ex-Lt. Gen. Karamat Ahmed of the Pakistani Army emphasized the strong ties between Turkey and Pakistan as "two countries and one nation."⁹⁶

3.18 Mutual Support on Azerbaijan

Pakistan has a long history of support for Turkey, which is seen in its stance on matters that are delicate for Ankara. Azerbaijan, a shared ally, and Pakistan are closely related in their relations with Turkey. Armenia suffers as a result of the Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan axis; Pakistan is the only nation to not recognize Armenia. In other words, Pakistan's choice to not recognize Armenia was undoubtedly influenced by its close links to Turkey and Azerbaijan. Islamabad does, however, acknowledge Azerbaijan's claims to Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's support for Pakistan's perspective on the Kashmir problem is not surprising if Armenia has offered its unquestioning support to New Delhi on the matter. India does not want Turkey to be involved in the latest flare-up beyond providing moral support to Azerbaijan.⁹⁷

The two countries are much worried about the Muslim deterioration and always claimed to fight for the rights of Muslim world and their territorial disputes. Nowadays both the countries are openly voicing for the Palestinian people in the UN General Assembly and other international forums.

⁹⁶ Federico Giuliani, "Pakistan-China-Turkey Nexus: A Concern for Greece," *InsideOver*, January 15, 2022, <https://www.insideover.com/politics/turkey-pakistan-nexus-a-concern-for-greece.html>.

⁹⁷ Vinay Kaura, "The Erdogan Effect: Turkey's Relations with Pakistan and India," *Institute of South Asian Studies*, October 16, 2020, (<https://www.isas.nus.edu.sg/papers/the-erdogan-effect-turkeys-relations-with-pakistan-and-india/>).

3.19 Gulen Network

Fethullah Gulen and his Hizmet organization were accused of being behind the purported coup attempt in Turkey in 2016. In response, Pakistan refused to renew the visas of the Turkish employees of the Pak-Turk International Cag Education Foundation (PTICEF), and in late 2018, the PTICEF was subsequently outlawed by Pakistan's Supreme Court. Erdogan thanked Pakistan for designating PTICEF as a terrorist organization and reaffirmed their commitment to combating the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Group. The aloof position taken by New Delhi regarding the Gulen network in India may possibly be the cause of Ankara's iciness. Following the coup, the Turkish president started calling for foreign nations to declare Gulen's supporters' terrorists and close down their institutions.⁹⁸

Erdogan has also backed Pakistan's effort to play a bigger role in Afghanistan once US forces withdraw since Pakistan is seen to have significant influence over the Afghan-Taliban settlement. As well as urging Islamabad and Kabul to settle their disputes amicably, Turkey has held a number of regional conferences on Afghanistan. But, Turkey's long-standing ties to Afghan Uzbek authorities, in especially Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum, are expected to have a significant impact on Ankara's future policy towards Islamabad. Dostum, who is well known for having strong anti-Pakistan sentiments, recently said that the Afghan territory should legitimately stretch all the way up to Islamabad and should not be constrained by the contentious Durand Line. Dostum was in New Delhi to speak with the Indian authorities a few days after direct negotiations between the Afghan Taliban and the Kabul administration started in Qatar. It is highly probable that New Delhi's approach to a non-Pashtun Afghan heavyweight

⁹⁸ Kachiar, "Decoding the Turkey-Pakistan Alliance," *Vivekananda International Foundation*, New Delhi, 2021.

is partially intended to undermine Turkey's clout with the Uzbek strongman because Turkey has made no indications that it would forsake Dostum.⁹⁹

3.20 Special relationship

Pakistan agreed with Turkey's demands by refusing to renew the work and residency visas of Turkish employees of Pak-Turk schools. 2019 saw the Pakistani Supreme Court proclaim Fethullah Gulen's PTICEF a terrorist organization and order the Turkish government's Maarif Foundation to assume control of the Pak-Turk schools. The Maarif Foundation is actively supporting religious education in the Turkish tradition by providing scholarships, erecting schools and dorms, and providing teacher training. In response to Islamabad's efforts to designate the Gulen Movement as a terrorist group, President Erdogan accepted Islamabad's efforts to designate PTICEF as a terrorist organization. Since that time, Turkey has provided unwavering support to Pakistan in FATF and the Kashmir dispute.

3.21 Visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan 2019

On January 3-4, 2019, Prime Minister Imran Khan travelled to the Republic of Turkey for official business. He met with President Erdogan one-on-one while being accompanied by a high-level delegation. According to PM Khan, it is past time for Pakistan and Turkey to increase their bilateral commerce. He cited Pakistan's prime geostrategic location and the country's enormous investment potential in infrastructure and tourism. He also expressed the optimism that the problem will be resolved in the upcoming years because Pakistan is a part of China's Belt and Road plan. Pakistan has "vast mineral riches," including natural gas, copper, and cobalt, according to Prime Minister Imran Khan, but these resources have been ignored.

⁹⁹ Eltaf Najafizada, "Taliban Warns Turkey of Consequences for Securing Kabul Airport," *Bloomberg*, July 13, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-13/taliban-warns-turkey-of-consequences-for-securing-kabul-airports>.

In order to identify potential areas of economic and commercial interests for the two nations and remove barriers to increased trade and investment, President Erdogan and PM Khan decided to build a combined economic strategy framework. The sale of ATAK helicopters and MLGEM corvettes is expected to be completed in the next several years, signaling an improvement in commercial relations between Turkey and Pakistan. Turk Stat data show that Turkey's exports to Pakistan have dramatically increased over the previous ten years, rising from \$155 million in 2008 to \$352 million in 2017. Exports from Pakistan to Turkey reached their highest level that year (\$873 million), but the following years saw a decline. According to Prime Minister Khan, the international world should support the Afghan peace process.¹⁰⁰

3.22 Pakistan and Turkey Held their 6th HLSCC Meeting

On February 14, 2020, Pakistan and Turkey held their 6th HLSCC session, which is the most senior political consultative forum between the two nations. The co-chairs of the meeting were the Foreign Ministers, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Mevlut Cavusoglu, who led their respective delegations consisting of high-level officials from various ministries, such as foreign affairs, trade, energy, transportation, culture, and tourism. During the meeting, the two sides assessed the full range of bilateral relations and expressed contentment with the growing cooperation in political, economic, trade, defense, cultural, and educational domains. Additionally, the leaders discussed key global and regional matters of mutual interest and concurred to reinforce cooperation in all international forums. The HLSCC working groups also held meetings at the technical level on politics, economy, culture, education, science, technology, and military. They examined fresh avenues and initiatives to concretize the brotherly relations into a significant partnership across various sectors and submitted recommendations for the approval of the leaders. The HLSCC meeting culminated with the signing of a joint declaration,

¹⁰⁰ Kachiar, Decoding the Turkey-Pakistan Alliance, 2021.

reaffirming their mutual aspiration to reinforce the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Turkey. In his concluding remarks, Foreign Minister Qureshi highlighted the importance of the HLSCC mechanism as an essential institutional framework to realize the vision of the leadership of both nations for a robust and multi-dimensional partnership to benefit their respective peoples. The next HLSCC session is planned to be held in Ankara on mutually agreed dates. Overall, the sixth HLSCC meeting underscored the profound eagerness of Pakistan and Turkey to strengthen their historic bonds of friendship and brotherhood in different spheres.¹⁰¹ The MOUs and agreements signed during the 6th HLSCC meeting are as follows.

1. Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms
2. Counterterrorism Efforts
3. Efforts against Islamophobia
4. Regional and International matters
5. Cooperation in Multilateral Forums

3.22.1 Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms

Overseeing bilateral ties, the HLSCC will continue to be the principal political body. When agreements and protocols are reviewed and updated as necessary, both parties hope to improve their implementation. Both countries' foreign ministries will interact more thoroughly and extensively.

¹⁰¹ Syed Baqir, "Pakistan, Turkey to Transform Ties into Economic Partnership," *Dawn*, February 15, 2020. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1534568>.

3.22.2 Counterterrorism Efforts

The two nations have pledged to cooperate in the fight against terrorism and to exchange best practices in legislation, law enforcement, capacity building, and anti-money laundering. They stress how committed they are to fighting the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organisation (FETO) and advancing openness in global counterterrorism initiatives. Additionally, they plan to address laws that discriminate against Muslims.

3.22.3 Efforts Against Islamophobia

The two countries will work together to counteract discriminatory practices directed at Muslims, such as hate speech, stereotypes, and attempts to link Islam to terrorism. They suggest an observatory to monitor and handle hate speech, Islamophobia, and incitement to violence, and they back the UN's hate speech strategy. They demand that Islamophobia be the subject of a Special Rapporteur.

3.22.4 Regional and International Matters

The document discusses tensions in the area and emphasizes the necessity of having long-term discussions and adhering to pertinent UN resolutions in order to resolve conflicts, such as the Kashmir problem. It emphasizes support for non-proliferation goals, a comprehensive resolution to the Cyprus problem, and peace efforts headed by Afghanistan. They support the UN Security Council's reform.

3.22.5 Cooperation in Multilateral Forums

In regional and global fora, like the UN, OIC, ECO, and D-8 Organisation, both countries promise to keep working together and support one another's ideas, policies, and candidatures.

3.23 Trilateral Summit Between Pakistan, Turkey, and Afghanistan

Turkey and Pakistan recognized that all facets of Afghan society might be reconciled with the help of the surrounding nations and the international community, leading to long-term peace and stability in the country. Following the conclusion of the municipal elections in Turkey in March, President Erdogan declared that a trilateral summit between Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan will take place in Istanbul. The Muslim world suffers disproportionately from anti-Islam attitudes, according to President Erdogan, who has made this claim countless times. The most significant information in this thesis is that racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia are illnesses that jeopardize societal harmony and weaken the culture of cooperation. A blasphemous caricature that was scheduled to be published in the Netherlands has been strongly condemned by Pakistan, and Turkey has backed similar actions. The most pressing need of the Muslim world today is to put a stop to these threats against Muslims. While bilateral ties are crucial, more aggressive measures must be done to present the right image of Muslims to the rest of the world. Recent investigations have demonstrated that xenophobia and Islamophobia are on the rise, and the governments in authority are not doing enough to combat these issues. Given the special bond that unites Turkey and Pakistan, both nations may act more forcefully to ensure that the oppressed receive the best possible treatment.¹⁰²

The future of Muslims is a concern for both Pakistan and Turkey since there are about 50 Muslim countries, yet none of them are permanent or nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council. In any situation, Muslims must continue to stand by one another and function effectively as Security Council members. Imran Khan's foreign agenda is in the best interests of Turkey; hence Turkey will undoubtedly support it. In order to advance and further its national interests—namely, to take an active position in the UN Ankara makes an effort to

¹⁰² Rahat Shah, "Explaining Pakistan-Turkish Relations: Islamism and Naya Pakistan," *Asian Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies* 16, no. 1 (2022): 113-125.

speak up for global justice and fairness. Turkey holds that a global order based on cultural uniformity has not succeeded in establishing a system of justice and equality for everyone, especially for Islamic nations. The United States, whose reform is insufficient and does not address the issues facing Muslims, is the dominant power in this period. We must first believe in ourselves, Erdogan said. As the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), we must recognize our influence, understand who we are, and adopt the appropriate mindset. The United Nations will not resolve our issues after failing to do so in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda, and Syria.

3.24 Islamophobia

Islamophobia and terrorism, in the opinion of Pakistan and Turkey, are mostly brought on by Western misconceptions of Islam, which will persist until Muslim leaders enlighten the West that Islam has nothing to do with terrorism. Instead, it has to do with political injustices and motives. Because of Western misperceptions of Islam, Islamophobia deteriorates ties between Muslims and the West. Between Muslims and the West, there will undoubtedly be peace and love if they cease their blasphemous practices. The ultimate answer to both nations' issues is for Muslim leaders to unite. In order to debate their own issues rather than searching for solutions in the West, they want to establish a distinct Islamic bloc that unites all Islamic nations. Their ability to support one another politically and ethically while fostering their relationship is made possible by their shared ideologies.¹⁰³ The prime minister stressed the need of battling Bigotry and fostering a greater understanding of Muslims' veneration for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The need to collaborate closely on projects to combat Islamophobia, hate speech, and other forms of hatred towards Islam was emphasized by both parties.

¹⁰³ Rahat, "Islamism and Naya Pakistan", 119.

3.25 Joint Cultural Committee

In 2020, Pakistan and Turkey signed an agreement to establish a joint cultural committee to promote their cultural ties. The committee is tasked with organizing cultural events, festivals and exhibitions in both countries. The two countries have also collaborated on several projects to preserve their shared cultural heritage. For example, in 2021 Turkey helped Pakistan restore a 900-year old mosque in the northern city of Peshawar. Turkish soft power was further strengthened, particularly when Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan supported the Islamic TV program Ertugrul, which helped establish Turkish culture and opened the door for Turkish soft power there. By promoting Ottoman customs and conventional Islamic beliefs, the program increased the number of Turkophones in Pakistan, enhancing Turkish soft power. An increase in Turkish TV series being broadcast on Pakistani screens as a result of their popularity also encouraged increased communication between Pakistanis and Turks. The effect was so great that the Ertugrul team even travelled to Pakistan, which helped boost Turkish media morale and encourage the screening of additional Turkish programming. As a result, interest in Ottoman history was rekindled and Pakistan-Turkey social engagement grew.

Additionally, Turkey's higher education system has become well-known around the world because to elite universities like Koc, Ozyegin, and Sabanc University. Given Pakistan's underdeveloped higher education system, it is worthwhile to consider these Turkish institutions setting up campuses there. Pakistan may help Turkey in return by creating its own educational institutions and establishing campuses there that provide English-language courses, like Karachi Institute of Business Administration (IBA), and Quaid-e-Azam University. Over the past ten years, Turkish culture, media, and language have been increasingly prevalent in Pakistan, sparking a growing interest in studying the language. The absence of specialized language schools in Pakistan is a problem, though. Turkey could support language-learning projects in Pakistan to remedy this, much like China has done in various regions of the nation.

Turkey is already a top choice for Pakistani students to study abroad, and many of them have been awarded scholarships to do so. By maximizing these possibilities, both nations would be able to benefit from chances for professional development and education. Pakistan should also provide scholarships to Turkish students who are interested in undertaking study there, offering incentives and further assistance to access various historical archives. Both countries may promote research and education while promoting their cultural relations by putting new academic exchange programs into place.

3.26 Advantages of Pak-Turk Relations

A lack of collaboration with Turkey and Pakistan on migration concerns, as well as ideological and political disagreements, have caused Washington and the European Union to distance themselves from the two countries. Due in part to this estrangement from the United States and the European Union, Turkey has been forging its own relationship with Pakistan under President Erdogan. Instead, they began to associate themselves with Russia in an effort to increase communication, understanding, and support. Pakistan's foreign policy changed under former Premier Imran Khan, reflecting a non-alignment stance that may have had some similarities with Turkey. Along with Turkey, a longtime customer, Pakistan benefits from cheaper pricing when purchasing Russian oil. The agreement between Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran to resume cargo train shipments would help trade and business between the three countries. The "Naya Pakistan" initiative adopted by the Imran Khan administration increased economic security and attracted more foreign investment from global corporations, particularly Turkey. Trade, oil and gas, food processing, dairy products, infrastructure, and communications are just a few of the industries in which the two countries have economic cooperation. The "Free Trade Agreement" has stabilised economic growth for the past ten years and is still being formalised today. Both Pakistan and Turkey are members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation, the

Developing Eight, and a prospective new Quad alliance made up of Turkey, Iran, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Improving relations between Pakistan and Turkey was made possible by the Economic Cooperation Organisation, which funded goods trains from Islamabad to Tehran and Istanbul (ITI). A railway line between Kashgar, Islamabad, and Gwadar has been allocated 58 billion dollars under CPEC and is expected to be finished by 2030. This railway has the potential to significantly advance Pakistan's economic and geopolitical connections with China and Turkey. The Preferential Trade Agreement, which Pakistan and Turkey signed on August 12, 2022, has detailed terms on bilateral protection, dispute resolution, and balance of payments variations. The PTA provided Pakistan with reductions on 261 tariff lines, including the main goods that Pakistan is interested in exporting to Turkey in both agriculture and industry.

3.27 Relationship Difficulties

Due to their central locations in the area, Pakistan and Turkey frequently deal with challenging security situations. Both have fallen prey to current security and geopolitical dynamics as well as Cold War, post-Cold War, and post-9/11 dynamics. Even if the relationships between the two countries are friendly, cozy, and trustworthy, there was once a period when neither country genuinely lived up to its rhetoric of being a brotherly nation. The most challenging connection that these nations have to deal with is that of commerce, economy, and trade. Despite an increase in trade, trade flows remain below \$1 billion. There might be several causes for the low trading volumes. First, since 2011, Turkey has imposed safeguard taxes on textiles from Pakistan, which has caused a fall in exports from Pakistan. Second, the introduction of extra taxes on rugs and carpets has had a greater impact on Pakistani exports. Turkey has declined to add Pakistan to its GSP Plus Status and to prolong it. India's democratic institutions and stronger economic policies, in contrast to Pakistan's ongoing economic, political, and monetary crises, have led to the two nations' astonishing 5-billion-dollar trade volume, despite Turkey's

public disagreement with India's policies. Pakistan also frequently experiences these same difficulties. Despite the possibility that everything would turn out in Pakistan's favor, the Free Trade Agreement is still in the "under-negotiation" stage and Turkey will need to take concrete steps to reverse this.

In spite of the fact that Turkey and Pakistan have cordial interstate ties, there is also less interpersonal interaction between the two countries. Due to their dependence on skewed and unfavorable Western sources, a large portion of Turkey's young mistakenly believes that Pakistan is an Arab nation or just doesn't know much about Pakistan. Thus, there are various stereotypes of Pakistanis in Turkey. There is also a cultural difference because Turkey is more liberal with some conservative features whereas Pakistan is quite traditional. When they learn about the personal lives of actors in Islamic and non-Islamic TV series, many Pakistanis go through a culture shock. Academically, there is a dearth of knowledge regarding Pakistan-Turkey ties, which contributes to a lack of comprehension of the real historical and present connections between the two states. Additionally, there are no cultural or language learning centers between the two states, which adds to the linguistic issues that exist between the two populations. Under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Turkey adopted liberalism and secularism, and subsequent Turkish governments have continued in his ideological wake. On the other hand, Pakistan had been much more reticent since President Zia-ul-Haq's Islamist policies, supported by Saudi Arabia, catalyzed events by utilizing Islam in its politics, while President Pervez Musharraf's liberal approach was greeted with opposition by the Islamists. Although Pakistan and Turkey may cooperate diplomatically and politically, both countries have separate cultural, political, and social systems. A change in Turkish leadership might harm Pak-Turk ties since President Erdogan cherishes Turkey's connection with Pakistan. In a similar vein, Pakistan and Turkey's collaboration fluctuates depending on the Turkish leadership.

The two states also struggle to keep up their commercial connections. At the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank, two Turkish waste management companies, Al-Bayrak and Ozpak, brought a claim against Lahore Waste Management Company in 2022. The case involved the Lahore trash management firm breaking into the offices of the different Turkish enterprises on December 20, 2020, and taking their property. The respondents in the lawsuit were the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Law and Defence, the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, and others. The case, which contained a 230-million-dollar claim against the damages, is now undergoing trial at the international court. Even though the case received little public notice, it seriously harmed the commercial ties between two states. In addition, Pakistan and Turkey reached an agreement on the purchase of helicopters, but the contract remains in limbo because of U.S. sanctions against Turkey as a result of that country's choice to purchase a Russian-made S-400 missile system.

3.28 Conclusion

The political relationship between Pakistan and Turkey saw a significant shift under Imran Khan's era, which lasted from 2018 to 2022. With a foundation in shared history and culture, their collaboration grew into a strategic alliance that tackled a variety of joint projects. Important components were the dual citizenship deal, strengthening people-to-people ties, and the 2019 Kuala Lumpur Summit, where they worked with other Muslim countries to address shared concerns. Uniting around common interests, the Unofficial Non-Arab Alliance between Pakistan and Turkey became a powerful force in regional affairs. High-level visits, including those by President Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, strengthened this alliance, and the visit of Turkey's Defence Minister highlighted the strengthening military cooperation. Regarding the Afghanistan problem, both countries unified in their support of peace and

stability. Their cooperation extended to international matters, as they consistently backed one another on matters pertaining to Turkey's Nagorno-Karabakh operations or Pakistan's position on Kashmir. The triangle involving Pakistan, Turkey, and Qatar expanded their cooperation, and their multifarious alliance was further strengthened by bilateral talks and interparliamentary relations. Their assistance to one another extended to global issues such as Cyprus and Azerbaijan. Their close connections were reinforced in 2020 at the 6th High-Level Cooperation Council Meeting and during Prime Minister Imran Khan's 2019 visit to Turkey. The trilateral summit with Afghanistan demonstrated partnership for peace initiatives. They collaborated on global platforms, addressed shared problems, and opposed Islamophobia. The Joint Cultural Committee reaffirmed its dedication to promoting intercultural understanding and interpersonal relationships. The political ties between Pakistan and Turkey saw a notable period of growth and consolidation throughout this era, which is indicative of the strength and significance of their strategic relationship.

Chapter 4

Pak-Turkey Economic Relations During Imran Khan's Era, (2018-2022)

4 Introduction

Despite being smaller in terms of area and population than Pakistan, Turkey has a more developed economy, and as a result, expanding commerce benefits Pakistan. The second-most significant Islamic nation after Saudi Arabia is renowned and respected for being the contemporary Muslim state of Turkey. Both countries have friendly and tight ties as their connections with one another are moving in the correct manner. The numerous similarities between the two nations are also strengthening friendship and collaboration. These include Turkey and Pakistan's geographical position and their long-standing political relations, which date back to when Britain ruled India and Turkey demonstrated Islamic unity to the Muslims of India. The two nations also have great economic links, which is unexpected given that historical ties do not necessarily translate into more effective trade and economic collaboration. Even though Turkish businesses like Enka, Bayinder, and Tekser have made investments in Pakistan for a variety of projects, there is still a need for Pakistani businesses to expand in Turkey. Additionally, further preparations are being made to advance suitable transportation services, such as combined cargo and regular line vessel services from Karachi to Istanbul. Additionally, Pakistan's infrastructure for Islamic banking is compatible with Turkey's, strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

In this portion of the study, the material that has already been published on the close links and mutually beneficial relationship between Pakistan and Turkey and how that relationship contributes to economic stability is critically and comprehensively reviewed. This section of the chapter offers an overview of the numerous factors promoting greater economic stability between Pakistan and Turkey. Additionally, a summary of how economic interactions have affected Turkey and Pakistan will be provided, highlighting outcomes from a global

perspective. Following a discussion of the new chances that might boost the future growth of the nations with regard to bilateral projects, advantages and disadvantages received by the two countries as a result of the development of solid bilateral relations will also be covered.

Pakistan and Turkey established diplomatic relations in April 1954, which were based on historical ties, common adversaries, mutual goals and a similar vision of foreign policy. Pakistan has a larger population than Turkey, but is classified as a lower-middle income country with a share of 29.5% by industry in its GDP. In terms of trade, Turkey trades approximately 4.6 times more than Pakistan, with global trade worth \$391.0 billion and Pakistan's global trade worth \$ 83.8 billion in 2018. In December 2013, the EU granted Pakistan GSP+ status, but due to the latter's reluctance, the two countries reached a compromise and agreed to negotiate a bilateral FTA.

Pakistan's imports from the world have been higher than its exports for a number of years, with the trade deficit in 2018 amounted to \$37.0 billion. At HS-06 level, "Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed" (HS-100630) was the leading export of the country with an export value of \$1.8 billion. Imports from the world amounted to \$60.2 billion in 2018, with a growth rate of 7.4% for the last ten years. Six of the top 25 items belonged to the mineral fuels and oils group, contributing 27.7% to total imports. USA, China and UK were Pakistan's top three export destinations, while China, the UAE and Saudi Arabia were the top three import sources in 2018. Turkey's trade balance with the EU had been in the negative since 2009, but turned favorable in 2018 and 2019. Pakistan's imports from Turkey have seen an increasing trend since 2013, while its exports have decreased slightly. In 2018, Pakistan's exports to Turkey were \$303.0 million while imports were worth \$358.0 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$55.0 million. Pakistan has the highest advantage in the export of "Denim",

with an indicative trade potential of \$2.3 billion, while Turkey exported a mere \$137.4 million. Textile products, mostly with low value-addition, are among the top 25 items for Pakistan.¹⁰⁴ Turkey's TURQUALITY program aims to prepare Turkish companies for the global arena by improving production, marketing, sales, and after-sale services. It also seeks to create a positive image of products produced in Turkey. 312 companies with 325 brands are being supported and the most significant indicator of the program's results is that the unit price of Turkish exports in 2018 was \$1.33, while the unit price of exports of the companies that benefited from design support was \$13.1. Turkey's automotive industry and its potential in a possible Pakistan-Turkey FTA have been reviewed. The automotive industry is the largest contributor to Turkish exports; with the potential for Turkey to export the top 25 automotive commodities to Pakistan amounted to \$2.2 billion in 2018. Pakistan is the 8th largest exporter of textile products in Asia, and has the potential to export textile goods worth \$10.3 billion to Turkey. The analysis indicates that Pakistan holds high potential in commodities with low value addition, while Turkey holds the potential to export machinery or goods from the auto industry which involve high value addition. PBC recommends that Pakistan disassociate itself from the FTA negotiations and instead insist that Turkey allow Pakistan unilateral market access to which it is entitled under the GSP+ program.¹⁰⁵

4.1 EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

4.1.1 Export from Pakistan to Turkey, 2018

Heavy pure woven cotton (\$112 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$43 million), and light pure woven cotton (\$28.6 million) were Pakistan's top exports to Turkey in 2018, accounting

¹⁰⁴ *Pakistan Business Council*, "Potential for a Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement," June 2020, <https://www.pbc.org.pk/research/potential-for-a-pakistan-turkey-free-trade-agreement/.pakistan>

¹⁰⁵ *Pakistan Business Council*. "PCB Activity Report, October to December 2021." Dawood Center, Karachi, Pakistan. www.pbc.org.pk.

for a total export value of \$354 million. But compared to the year before, Pakistan's exports to Turkey fell at an annualized rate of 6.35%, from \$378 million in 2017 to \$354 million in 2018.

4.1.2 Export from Turkey to Pakistan, 2018

Turkey exported \$523 million worth of goods to Pakistan last year. Raw cotton (\$13.1 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$41.9 million), and refined petroleum (\$2.54 million) were the main exports from Turkey to Pakistan. Notably, Turkey's exports to Pakistan significantly increased from \$393 million in 2017 to \$523 million in 2018, growing at an annualised rate of 33.10%.

These numbers demonstrate the various trade patterns between the two nations in 2018. Turkey had a large increase in exports to Pakistan whereas Pakistan saw a fall in exports to Turkey. The fact that Turkey's exports to Pakistan outpaced Pakistan's exports to Turkey in terms of value and growth rate suggests that there is a trade imbalance in Turkey's favour.

4.1.3 Export from Pakistan to Turkey, 2019

Exports from Pakistan to Turkey were \$348 million in 2019. Heavy pure woven cotton (\$90.6 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$45.5 million), and light pure woven cotton (\$22.8 million) were the main exports from Pakistan to Turkey. However, Pakistan's exports to Turkey fell slightly, from \$354 million in 2018 to \$348 million in 2019, at an annualised rate of 1.69%. These drop-in exports suggest a little decline in commerce between the two nations during that time.

4.1.4 Export from Turkey to Pakistan, 2019

Turkish exports to Pakistan totaled \$580 million in 2019. Refined Petroleum (\$2.2 million), Non-Retail Pure Cotton Yarn (\$18.7 million), and Raw Cotton (\$24.6 million) were Turkey's

top exports to Pakistan. Notably, Turkey's exports to Pakistan increased significantly in 2019 from \$523 million in 2018 to \$580 million in 2019, growing at an annualised rate of 10.90%. This increase in exports demonstrates the expanding commercial ties between the two nations and points to a favourable trend in bilateral commerce during that time.

Exports from Pakistan to Turkey totaled \$348 million, a minor decline of 1.69% over the previous year. Heavy pure woven cotton, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and light pure woven cotton were among Pakistan's top exports. These drop-in exports indicated a slight fall in commerce between the two countries during that time. On the other hand, Pakistan received \$580 million worth of Turkish exports in 2019, a considerable rise of 10.90% from the year before. Refined Petroleum, Non-Retail Pure Cotton Yarn, and Raw Cotton were Turkey's top exports to Pakistan. This increase in exports showed a favourable trend in bilateral commerce and reflected Turkey and Pakistan's growing commercial ties. Turkey was able to increase its export volume to Pakistan whereas Pakistan saw a fall in exports, demonstrating the contrasting trade results between the two nations during that time.

4.1.5 Export from Pakistan to Turkey, 2020

Exports from Pakistan to Turkey were \$394 million in 2020. Heavy pure woven cotton (\$79.7 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$31.9 million), and light pure woven cotton (\$19 million) were the biggest exports from Pakistan to Turkey. An important development was Pakistan's exports to Turkey, which increased significantly from \$348 million in 2019 to \$394 million in 2020 at an annualised rate of 13.22%. This increase in exports demonstrates the growing trade ties between the two nations, pointing to a favourable trend and the possibility of further future commercial cooperation.

4.1.6 Export from Turkey to Pakistan, 2020

Exports from Turkey to Pakistan totaled \$631 million in 2020. Refined Petroleum (\$4.79 million), Non-Retail Pure Cotton Yarn (\$36.3 million), and Raw Cotton (\$28.6 million) were Turkey's top exports to Pakistan. Particularly, Turkey's exports to Pakistan increased significantly from \$580 million in 2019 to \$631 million in 2020, growing at an average yearly rate of 8.79%. This increase in exports represents the two countries' expanding economic relations, demonstrating a beneficial trend and the possibility for future trade cooperation.

In the past year, Pakistan's exports to Turkey have increased significantly, by 13.22%, reaching \$394 million. Heavy pure woven cotton, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and light pure woven cotton were among the main exports of Pakistan. This increase in exports highlighted the growing trade ties between the two nations, pointing to a good trend and laying the groundwork for potential future trade collaboration. The exports from Turkey to Pakistan, on the other hand, totaled \$631 million in 2020, a significant rise of 8.79% from the year before. Refined Petroleum, Non-Retail Pure Cotton Yarn, and Raw Cotton were Turkey's main exports to Pakistan. This increase in exports indicated the expanding commercial links between the two countries, showing a good trend and highlighting the possibility for greater trade cooperation. While Pakistan's exports grew significantly, Turkey also took advantage of the chance to boost its exports to Pakistan, strengthening commercial ties between the two nations.

Bilateral Trade (million USD). Table 3.1

Indicator	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Export	462	550,1	620,1	867,8	266,5
Import	330	306,3	268,7	271,3	111,1

Volume	792	865,4	888,9	1139,1	377,6
Balance	+132	+243,8	+351,4	+596,6	+155,4

Source: Pakistan Business Council. "PCB Activity Report, October to December 2021." www.pbc.org.pk.

4.1.7 Export from Pakistan to Turkey, 2021

Pakistan exported \$325 million worth of goods to Turkey in 2021. Heavy pure woven cotton, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and light pure woven cotton made up the bulk of Pakistan's exports to Turkey, each worth \$113 million. However, at a rate per year of 17.51%, Pakistan's exports to Turkey fell noticeably, from \$394 million in 2020 to \$325 million in 2021. The decline in exports reflects many variables that affected the dynamics of commerce between Pakistan and Turkey during that time, indicating a considerable contraction in trade between the two nations.

4.1.8 Export from Turkey to Pakistan, 2021

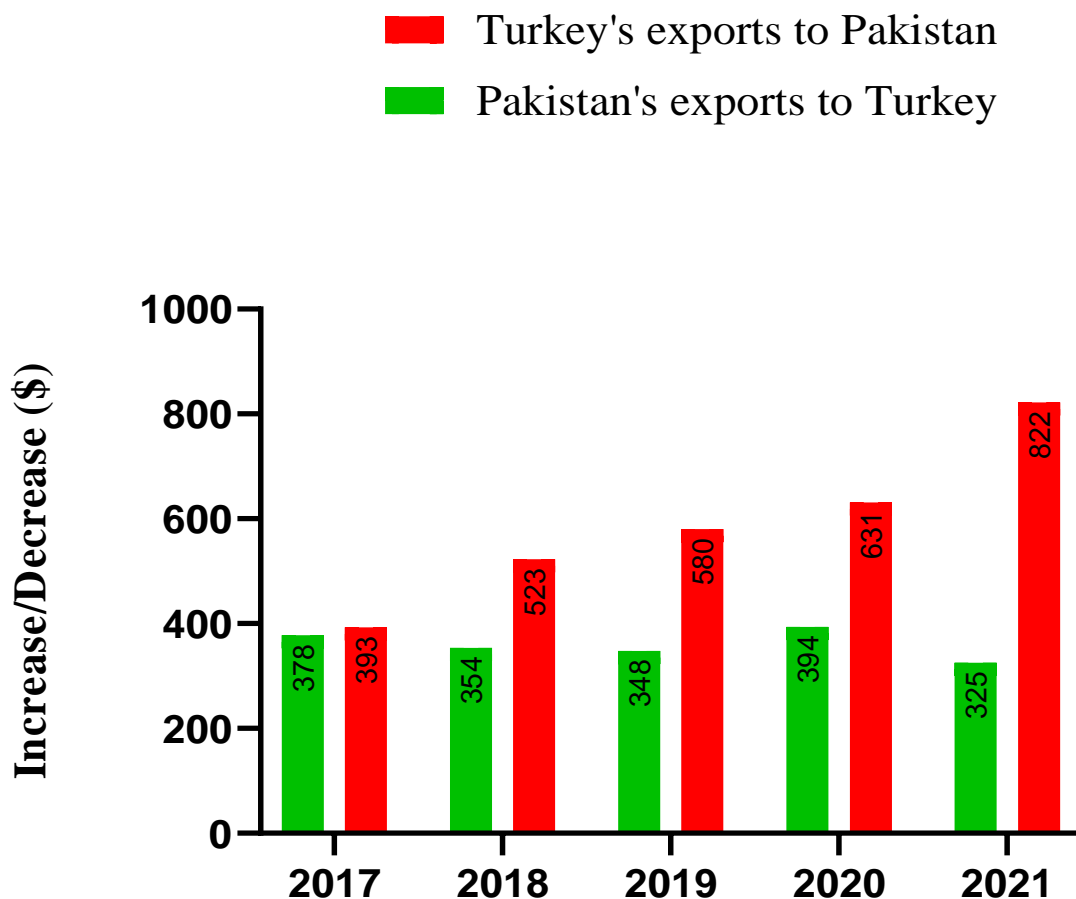
Exports from Turkey to Pakistan totaled a sizable \$822 million in 2021. Raw cotton (\$115 million), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$48.1 million), and petroleum gas (\$45 million) were the primary exports from Turkey to Pakistan. Notably, from \$631 million in 2020 to \$822 million in 2021, Turkey's exports to Pakistan had a spectacular growth at an annualised rate of 30.27%. The growth in exports demonstrates the growing trade ties between the two nations, pointing to a promising development and a large rise in bilateral commerce at that time. The growth in exports reflects Pakistan and Turkey's productive commercial relationship and the possibility of further cooperation.

The export performance of Turkey and Pakistan in 2021 can be compared. In that year, Pakistan's exports to Turkey were \$325 million, a considerable drop of 17.51% from the year before. Heavy pure woven cotton, non-retail pure cotton yarn, and light pure woven cotton

were among Pakistan's top exports. The decrease in exports revealed a considerable contraction in bilateral trade, indicating a number of variables that affected the dynamics of trade between Pakistan and Turkey.

On the other hand, exports from Turkey to Pakistan in 2021 were \$822 million, a significant rise of 30.27% from the year before. Petroleum Gas, Non-Retail Pure Cotton Yarn, and Raw Cotton were Turkey's main exports to Pakistan. This increase in exports showed the growing trade ties between the two nations, pointing to a promising development and a substantial rise in bilateral commerce at that time. Turkey's exports increased as a result of excellent economic relations and the possibility of further cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey. Overall, exports from Pakistan to Turkey decreased significantly, whilst imports from Turkey increased significantly, highlighting the different trade results between the two nations in 2021.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ "Pakistan (PAK) and Turkey (TUR) Trade," *OECD - the Observatory of Economic Complexity*, 2018-2021, <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-country/pak/partner/tur>.



Source: Pakistan Business Council. "PCB Activity Report, October to December 2021," www.pbc.org.pk.

Figure 3.1

4.1.9 Pakistan-Turkey Pharmaceutical Trade: Analysis of Imports and Exports (2018-2021)

Pharmaceutical products were \$492 thousand in value in 2021 when they were imported into Pakistan from Turkey. In comparison with 2020, when Turkish pharmaceutical exports to imports made for 0.092% of Pakistan's \$533 million total goods imports from Turkey in 2021. In comparison to 2020, when it stood at 0.054% and overall imports from Turkey to Pakistan were worth \$400 million, the proportion of pharmaceutical items increased by 0.038%. Pharmaceutical products made for 6.87% of Pakistan's overall imports from Turkey in 2021, with an import value of \$7.17 million. In comparison to 2020, when it was at 4.93%, this

represented a 1.93% rise in the percentage of purchases, and \$4.41 million worth of pharmaceutical products were imported from Turkey.¹⁰⁷

In 2021, Turkey contributed 2.06% of Pakistan's total imports of pharmaceutical products, or \$492k out of a total import value of \$23m. The overall value of pharmaceutical imports from Turkey to Pakistan was \$15.4 million, a rise of 0.656% from 2020 when it was at 1.4%.

Pakistan-Turkey Pharmaceutical Trade: Exports and Imports (2018-2021)

Commodity	Reporter	Partner	Trade flow	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pharmaceutical goods	Pakistan	Turkey	Exports	Value (US\$)	237.49		15,169.94	
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	-4.01			
			Imports	Value (US\$)	6,820.52	92,435.93	217,807.71	492,938.64
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	-56.55	1,255.26	135.63	126.31

Source: Trend Economy, Pakistan and Turkey Imports and Exports of minerals (2018-2021).

Table 3.2

4.1.10 Pakistan-Turkey Trade Analysis: Imports and Exports of Salt, Sulphur, Earths and Stone, Plastering Materials, Lime and Cement, Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils, Bituminous Substances, Mineral Waxes, (2018-2021)

Exports of "Salt; Sulphur; Earths and Stone; Plastering Materials, Lime and Cement" from Pakistan to Turkey were worth \$6.07 million in 2021. In comparison to 2020, when exports of the same commodity category were valued at \$4.09 million, this marked a considerable rise of

¹⁰⁷ "Pakistan and Turkey Imports and Exports Pharmaceutical Goods (2018-2021)," *Trend Economy*, May 14, 2023, <https://trendeconomy.com/data/h2/Pakistan/3006>

48%. These exports represented \$293 million, or 2.07%, of Pakistan's total 2021 product exports to Turkey. The cumulative exports from Pakistan to Turkey were worth \$357 million, an increase of 0.926 percentage points from 2020 when the commodities proportion of total exports to Turkey was at 1.14%. In 2021, Turkey's contribution to Pakistan's total exports of the product "Salt, Sulphur, earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement" was 1.25%, or \$6.07 million out of the \$483 million in exports. In value terms, this proportion increased from 0.967% in 2020 to 0.29 percentage points, and Pakistan's total exports of goods was \$423 million.

On the other side, the value of imports of "Salt; Sulphur; Earths and Stone; Plastering Materials, Lime and Cement" from Turkey to Pakistan in 2021 was \$3.51 million. With imports of the same goods valued at \$1.98 million in 2020, this marked a massive increase of 77%. The products were imported for 0.659% of Pakistan's \$533 million total imports of commodities from Turkey in 2021. When compared to 2020, when it stood at 0.495%, the percentage of all imports from Turkey to Pakistan that were commodities grew by 0.164 percentage points, totaling \$400 million.

In 2021, Turkey's contribution of Pakistan's total imports of "Salt; Sulphur; Earths and Stone; Plastering Materials, Lime and Cement" was 1.58%, or \$3.51 million out of the \$222 million total. The value of this share fell by 0.244 percentage points from 2020, when it was 1.82%, and the total value of the items imported into Pakistan was \$108 million.

In addition, \$53 million was spent on the importation of "Mineral fuels, Mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes" from Turkey to Pakistan in 2021. In comparison to 2020, when imports of the same items were valued at \$2.39 million, this marked a significant rise of 2.13 thousand percent. The products' imports made almost 10% of Pakistan's \$533 million total item imports from Turkey in 2021. In comparison to 2020, when it stood at 0.596%, the percentage of products in all imports from Turkey to Pakistan

climbed by 9.42 percentage points. The total value of imports from Turkey to Pakistan was \$400 million.¹⁰⁸

In 2021, Turkey's contribution to Pakistan's overall imports of "Mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes" was 0.276%, or \$53 million, out of the \$19.3 billion total. In comparison to 2020, when it was 0.023%, this proportion climbed by 0.253 percentage points. The total value of products imported into Pakistan in that year was \$10.3 billion.

¹⁰⁸ "Pakistan and Turkey Imports and Exports All products (2018-2021)," *Trend Economy*, May 14, 2023, <https://trendeconomy.com/data/h2/Pakistan/3006>"

Commodity	Reporter	Partner	Trade Flow	Indicator	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total All Commodities	Pakistan	Turkey	Exports	Value (US\$)	302,756,477.79	295,733,647.22	357,439,212.68	293,577,783.60
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	-7.51	-2.31	20.86	-17.86
			Imports	Value (US\$)	357,864,248.38	375,998,537.92	400,976,035.78	533,104,230.75
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	33.16	5.06	6.64	32.95
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances, mineral waxes	Pakistan	Turkey	Imports	Value (US\$)	2,732,368.98	5,338,569.61	2,391,384.78	53,407,275.02
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	-71.71	95.38	-55.20	2,133.32
Salt, sulfur, earth and stone, plastering materials, lime and cement	Pakistan	Turkey	Exports	Value (US\$)	1,912,391.71	1,508,826.12	4,091,541.49	6,079,424.04
				Value Growth, YoY (%)	-28.05	-21.10	171.17	48.58
			Imports	Value (US\$)	2,372,771.23	2,221,037.95	1,984,998.80	3,517,307.27

Source: "Pakistan and Turkey Imports and Exports All products (2018-2021)," *Trend Economy*, May 14, 2023, <https://trendeconomy.com/data/h2/Pakistan/3006>"

Table 3.3

4.2 Rice Trade between Pakistan and Turkey: A Growing Partnership

Exports of rice from Pakistan to Turkey have been rising gradually over the past five years, according to trade statistics from the UN Comtrade database. In 2018, Pakistan exported Turkey 25,000 metric tons of rice for \$12.5 million in exports. By 2021, the value of rice exports had increased by more than double to over 60,000 metric tons. Pakistan has already shipped 47,000 metric tons of rice to Turkey in the first three quarters of 2022, topping the

quantity for the entire year of 2021. Competitive rates and high quality are two reasons for the increased demand for Pakistani rice in Turkey. Pakistan is able to provide reasonable international rates for its famed Basmati and other long-grain aromatic types since it is one of the biggest rice exporters in the world. At the same time, Pakistani rice dominates other competitors in the Turkish market due to its higher grain quality and flavor. Due to consumer preferences for the flavor and scent, one of the biggest importers of rice in the nation, Jazeera Rice, located in Turkey, receives more than half of its supply from Pakistan. The majority of Pakistan's exports to Turkey are of the Basmati kind, focusing on the well-known brand name of Pakistani Basmati around the world. According to data from the Pakistani Rice Exporters Association (PREA), around 90% of all the rice shipped from Pakistan to Turkey in 2021 was basmati. Urban Turkish customers who value health and gourmet food trends have also grown fond of other fragrant long-grain kinds like Sella and Texmati. However, to satisfy the demand from its rice processing business, Turkey also imports non-Basmati kinds from Pakistan. Geographically, large ports like Istanbul, Mersin, and Izmir are the main hubs for Turkish imports of Pakistani rice. According to the Istanbul Rice Exporters Association, major importers and dealers with headquarters in and around the city are responsible for over 70% of all rice imports. Rice is delivered to Turkish stores as well as transported again to Europe and other nations from the ports. Recent bilateral discussions have emphasised the importance of improving commercial infrastructure, such as border facilities, to guarantee timely delivery. Turkey has recently grown in importance as a market for Pakistan's exports of rice on a worldwide scale. In 2021, it was one of the top 10 places to export Pakistani rice. Additionally, during the past five years, the growth rate of rice exports to Turkey has outperformed that of other significant markets including Iran, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia. This highlights the rising relevance of Turkey for Pakistani rice dealers and farmers looking to expand outside the country's traditional Middle Eastern and Asian markets. Both nations are aiming to further

streamline trade and increase agricultural cooperation in order to maintain the momentum. To enable higher rice imports from preferred trading partners like Pakistan, the Turkish government has enacted trade policy changes and tariff reductions. Pakistan Leverages Free Trade Agreement to Address Non-Tariff Barriers and Promote Value-Added Rice Varieties with Turkey. Direct Engagements Strengthened Business Ties between Producers, Millers, and Traders from Both Sides.¹⁰⁹

4.3 Strategic Economic Framework, 2019

Pakistan and Turkey signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in June 2019 with the aim of Pakistan offering the lowest rate on all tariff lines Turkey offers to its other trade partners. The Free Trade Agreement was built on the Pak-Turkey Strategic Economic Framework Plan of Action. Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, endorsed the suggested draught Plan of Action, approving it to begin talks with Turkey. The draught Strategic Economic Framework and Plan of Action were finalized by committees during Prime Minister Khan's visit to Turkey in January 2019, during which both nations decided to formalize a strategic economic framework.

The draught Strategic Economic Framework was provided to Turkey in February 2019, and a Plan of Action was obtained in March 2019. After holding discussion sessions, the draught was accepted by the finance minister in April 2019. Trade, textile production, defence manufacturing, tourism and culture, investments in industrial collaboration, the auto sector, banking and finance, and agriculture were all mentioned as areas of cooperation. Trade and textile cooperation include signing a Mutual Recognition Agreement, streamlining customs processes, removing non-tariff obstacles, and Turkey awarding Pakistan GSP Plus status. The

¹⁰⁹ *Trade & Investment Wing Istanbul*, "Potential of Rice in Turkish Market," March 2023, <https://tdap.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Potential-of-Rice-Export-in-Turkish-Market-by-TI-Section-Istanbul.pdf>.

trade and textile industries also suggested combined business councils, the development of textile infrastructure, knowledge transfer, and joint ventures.

The Board of Investment (BoI) and the Turkish Investment Authority signed a memorandum of understanding for investment and industrial cooperation, with an emphasis on facilitation, information sharing, joint ventures, and technical cooperation across several industries. Cooperation in banking and finance included currency exchange agreements, credit lines, the opening of bank branches, technical assistance, support for small and midsize enterprises (SMEs), and anti-money laundering measures.¹¹⁰

4.4 Economic Developments of Pakistan and Turkey

The expansion of economic cooperation between governments in areas including energy, communications, textiles, infrastructure, food processing, vehicles, industry, agriculture, information technology, commerce, oil, and gas has improved relations between Turkey and Pakistan. The prime ministers of both countries signed 13 Memoranda of Understanding in 2019 to make a joint statement following the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council meeting. By growing bilateral commerce to \$5 billion by 2023, a Strategic Economic Framework was authorized to promote economic stability. To strengthen commercial links and reach the shared goal of trade of \$2 billion for the economic stability of both nations, a preferential trade agreement was suggested. Pakistan is a far larger state than Turkey, having a population of 212.2 million in 2018, compared to 82.3 million for Turkey. Whereas Turkey is a lot more industrialised nation with a stable economy and a share of 29.5% in GDP, Pakistan is still categorized as a lower-middle-income country.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ M.A. Zuberi, "Pakistan, Turkey hold consultations on strategic economic framework," *Business Recorder*, May 12, 2019, <https://www.brecorder.com/news/4691894/pakistan-turkey-hold-consultations-on-strategic-economic-framework-20190512472543>.

¹¹¹ Haroon and Ozcan, "Economic Relationship Between Turkey and Pakistan," *İsletme* 2, no. 2, 5.

4.5 Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan, Trilateral economic engagement, 2020

Qatar is in a stronger economic situation than its friends Pakistan and Turkey as a result of its position as a large LNG producer. This has given Qatar substantial negotiating power in the energy sector and given it the money it needs to maintain its friends while engaging in active political and diplomatic activity in the area. This financial dynamic serves as the driving force for Qatar's economic relations with Pakistan and Turkey. In response to Pakistan's 2018–2019 balance of payments issue, Qatar offered a \$3 billion package of deposits and direct investments. Similar to Turkey, which had a balance of payment problem as a result of its expanding current account deficit, Qatar significantly helped to resolve it by announcing \$15 billion in direct investments and a currency swap agreement with Ankara that will be worth \$15 billion by 2020. The necessity for economically stronger allies in Pakistan and Turkey is highlighted by these economic instabilities. During the 2017 embargo, Turkey's assistance to Qatar brought about economic gains for Turkey. Due to the fact that Qatar only has borders with Saudi Arabia, it became the emirate's main commerce route. Qatar was forced to rely on products shipped from Turkey and Iran as a result of the blockade, which disrupted this balance. Turkish contractors and businessmen now have prospects to establish themselves in the Qatari market. In 2019, Turkish companies worked on \$1.5 billion worth of construction projects in Qatar, a sizable sum given the tiny area of Qatar.

Pakistan and Turkey also import a sizable quantity of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), from Qatar, making it another important energy provider to those two nations. However, Turkey is less reliant on Qatar and is increasingly reliant on gas from pipelines coming from Russia and Azerbaijan. Pakistan, on the other hand, is more dependent on Qatari LNG supplies. The \$16 billion LNG agreement that Pakistan and Qatar inked in 2017 under Sharif's leadership caused political uproar since the opposition charged that the government had committed to a pricey contract without renegotiation clauses in place for at least ten years. This emphasizes Pakistan's

partisan domestic politics, where disagreements between the government and opposition can impede cross-border cooperation. Even though it originally opposed the LNG agreement reached by the previous administration, Prime Minister Khan's administration reached its own LNG agreement with Qatar in 2021. The clauses are more favourable for Pakistan this time around, allowing for renegotiation of the LNG price after four years and putting the price at 10.20% of Brent as opposed to the previous agreement's 13.37%. This shows that despite their divergent political ideologies, the leaders of both nations retain strong contacts and collaborate to further their strategic alliance.¹¹²

4.6 Pak-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, 2022

As founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation and the Developing 8 Countries organisation, Turkey and Pakistan have a close economic relationship. To increase trade and investment in a variety of industries, including transportation, telecommunications, manufacturing, tourism, and more, the two countries have been actively involved in the negotiation of a preferential trading agreement. By 2010, they wanted to boost bilateral commerce from \$690 million to over \$1 billion. A variety of items, including rice, sesame seeds, leather, textiles, fabrics, sporting goods, and medical equipment are exported from Pakistan to Turkey. In the meanwhile, Pakistan receives exports from Turkey include wheat, chickpeas, lentils, diesel, chemicals, transport equipment, machinery, and energy items. The development of roads, pipelines, and canals has been aided by considerable investments made in industrial and construction projects by Turkish private companies.

The Turkey-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement is being negotiated by Pakistan and Turkey to enhance economic activity. A Preferential Trade Agreement was signed between the two nations in August 2022, allowing for reductions in a number of tariff areas. Pakistan granted

¹¹² Karim, "A Strategic Triad in the Making," November 30, 2021.

reductions on 130 tariff lines, whereas Turkey provided concessions on 261 tariff lines, including both the agricultural and industrial sectors. The partnership goes beyond trade, as Turkey has seen a rise in Pakistani tourists who support the local tourism sector. Additionally, Pakistanis have invested in Turkey, mainly through real estate purchases and participation in other economic activities as citizens. Turkish Airlines is regularly used by travelers from Pakistan, which promotes transit and benefits Turkey's transportation sector. The depth and potential for greater cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan is shown by the fact that their economic links are complex and cover commerce, investment, tourism, and transportation.¹¹³

4.7 Bilateral trade

Pakistani Embassy in Ankara and the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges (TOBB) to discuss the extent of bilateral commerce between the two nations. The Chinese Belt and Road (One Belt, One Road) plan, according to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, could help resolve the problem in the ensuing years. To identify potential areas of economic and trade interests of the two nations and remove barriers to increased trade and investment, President Erdogan and Prime Minister Imran Khan decided to create a joint economic strategy framework. During the previous ten years, Turkey's exports to Pakistan have increased dramatically, rising from \$155 million in 2008 to \$352 million in 2017. Exports from Pakistan to Turkey reached their highest level that year (\$873 million), but the following years saw a decline. The first 11 months of last year saw Turkey's exports to Pakistan reach \$415 million, which was a record high for the last ten years.¹¹⁴

¹¹³ "Pakistan, Turkey sign Preferential Trade Agreement," *The Nation*, August 12, 2022, <https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Aug-2022/pakistan-turkey-sign-preferential-trade-agreement>."

¹¹⁴ Arbab Murad, "Bilateral Trade Analysis of Turkey and Pakistan," *Trade Development Authority of Pakistan*, January 3, 2022, <https://tdap.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/3.2-Country-report-Turkey.pdf>.

By 2017, Turkish investment in Pakistan had surpassed \$1 billion USD. Free Trade Agreement would also improve travel between the two nations as Turkey is actively promoting this sector. In this context, Turkey made a proposal for an agreement on travel to Pakistan, which was gratefully accepted by Pakistan. The Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Imran Khan, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on tourism during his first trip to Turkey in 2018, significantly advancing the Strategic Economic Framework. Under the Pact, Turkey will give Pakistan full technical help for expanding Pakistan Turkish Tourism Council's initiatives to improve tourism (PTTC). Both countries are discussing visa-free travel to facilitate hassle-free and convenient tourism. Erdogan has recommended the establishment of dual nationality for the citizens of both states in order to encourage tourism, business, and investment.¹¹⁵ There are 71 key components that make up the Strategic Economic Framework, including a free trade agreement, technology transfers, capacity building, and defence cooperation. We will use Turk Eximbank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as funding sources for those projects, according to Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan. Pakistan has requested Turkey to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in order to make the economic zone sustainable. To improve relations with China and Pakistan, Turkey is also interested in joining the CPEC. Turkey plans to invest in the CPEC to strengthen the economic zone. Turkey will also create air routes that connect Pakistan with Central Asian nations. The most favored job for extending future interactions is to develop commercial partnerships. Pakistan plans to encourage Turkish investment in the fields of agriculture, surveillance, and health in this regard. 158 Pakistani businesses are now making investments in Turkey totaling almost \$100 million USD. Nonetheless, 17 Turkish businesses are active in Pakistan, working in industries such as nutrition, energy, and infrastructure.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵ Irfan Ashraf, "Turkey and Pakistan's Mutually Beneficial Economic Alliance," *Daily Sabah*, July 24, 2019, <https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2019/07/24/turkey-and-pakistans-mutually-beneficial-economic-alliance>.

¹¹⁶ Abbasi et al, "Pakistan-Turkey Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions," 2020.

4.8 Reopening of the rail freight route

After a ten-year absence, the first goods train from Pakistan to Turkey via Iran exited the station on December 21, 2021, greatly enhancing trade between the three members of the ECO. The train, which can carry 80,000 tons of freight, can travel 1,990 kilometers via Pakistan from Quetta to Tafton at the Iranian border, then another 2,603 kilometers through Iran to Tehran and Tabriz before making its way via Ankara to Istanbul. The fastest and most economical way to ship products from Asia to Europe is via this route. The three countries started the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul container train service in 2009, but it never advanced past the testing stage. Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey had planned to start passenger services on the ITI transnational line after the first goods trains were running in order to increase connectivity with China's Belt and Road Initiative. The start of sending container trains from Pakistan to Iran and Turkey was a long-held goal for the nations in the region, according to Pakistan's railway minister. He thinks that expanding and enhancing ECO rail cooperation will contribute to the region's continued peace and stability.

The United Nations Charter recognizes the Economic Cooperation Organization, an ad hoc group with the mission of creating a single market for all goods and services. Iran has the organization's secretariat and cultural branch, while Turkey and Pakistan are home to the economic and scientific departments. The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul railway, according to the Pakistani Foreign Minister, is urgently required to foster regional economic cohesiveness, and the ECO train, according to Abdul Razaq Dawood, may aid in boosting exports, imports, and commerce among the member nations.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ Nayyar et al, "Pak-Turk Relations: Through the Spectrum of Regional Integration," *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 2 (2022).

4.9 Cooperation among Institutions

The political ties between Pakistan and Turkey have always been cordial and cooperative, but in recent years, attempts have increased to elevate the partnership. Ankara and Islamabad have been collaborating to enhance each other's institutions since the turn of the millennium. To provide a strong institutional framework for the bilateral relationship between the two countries, the High-Level Cooperation Council mechanism was created in 2009. Since then, this format has been used for four meetings, all of which were presided over by the current prime leaders of both nations. In 2021–2022, trade between Pakistan and Turkey was worth \$883 million, with \$366 million in exports to Turkey and \$517 million in imports from Turkey. Due to the significant economic complementarities between Turkey and Pakistan, a free trade agreement between the two nations will probably increase trade between the two nations. Almost 73% of Pakistan's exports to Turkey are textiles, but Turkish exports to Pakistan are more high-tech and have a higher value added.¹¹⁸

4.10 Creating a New Era of Cooperation

The leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey has aided in fostering better ties between the two nations throughout time. President Erdogan became the first foreign head of state to address Pakistan's parliament four times on February 14, 2020, as part of a two-day trip to Islamabad. He underscored the long-standing bilateral relationship's history. Khan's foreign policy has started to include Turkey significantly, particularly in terms of security and defence cooperation. Yet, Turkey can and ought to be more than merely a protective ally. The economic potential of these expanding bilateral partnerships has not yet been fully appreciated by the Khan government. Pakistan will need to give economic aims equal weight with defense-related ones in order to explore this

¹¹⁸ Nayyar, "Pak-Turk relations, 2022.

frontier that appears to be mutually beneficial. Although it will be difficult, Pakistan must battle the forces of its collapsing economy. For Pakistan to prosper in the long run, it is not only necessary but also crucial to have a foreign policy that emphasizes economic goals. In January 2020, Pakistan and Turkey agreed to a Strategic Economic Framework that calls for extensive military, business, and investment cooperation as well as collaboration in the fields of research, technology, medicine, tourism, and culture.¹¹⁹

In February 2020, the two countries' leaders agreed on a free trade agreement. Resuming cargo rail service, signing a citizenship agreement, and establishing an E-visa system have all been agreed upon by Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Both parties are making efforts to create a focused and balanced bilateral cooperation relationship. Mevlut Cavusoglu, the foreign minister of Turkey, said that the \$800 million in bilateral commerce between Pakistan and Turkey is insufficient and that both nations should be encouraged to reach their full potential. In addition to student exchange programs, conferences devoted to business and governmental partnerships, and seminars to support entrepreneurs, both parties are open to establishing new relationships between individuals. Six bilateral memorandums of understanding on public debt management, cooperation between credit guarantee institutions for the financing of small and medium enterprises, housing, public-private partnership models, knowledge sharing in transportation and health, economic and social policy planning, and technical were signed by the leaders of Pakistan and Turkey.¹²⁰

4.11 Putting the economy first

They do not, however, contribute to the basic problem of Pakistan's ailing economy. Instead, they strengthen Pakistan's regional security standing by working together on the military and

¹¹⁹ IRFAN ASHRAF, "Erdogan's Pakistan visit gives impetus to bilateral ties," *Daily Sabah*, FEB 20, 2020, <https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2020/02/20/erdogans-pakistan-visit-gives-impetus-to-bilateral-ties>.

¹²⁰ Zaheer, "Pakistan and Turkey Are Shaping New Era of Cooperation, June 22, 2022.

supporting territorial conflicts diplomatically. Prime Minister Khan's domestic and diplomatic policies have been influenced by Pakistan's economic problems, which have been made worse by the COVID-19 outbreak. Khan's economic objectives and tactics are widely criticized, and calls for reform are becoming more frequent. Prime Minister Khan has so concentrated on Pakistan's neighbours and regional allies in order to grow the country's economy; most recently, Turkey has played a vital part in this strategy.

Pakistan has to do more to give this vital aspect of the bilateral relationship a higher priority, notwithstanding recent economic developments. The successful completion of ongoing projects with Turkey, such as the Trans-Afghan Railway Project, CASA-1000, and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) petroleum pipeline, might significantly improve Pakistan's connection with Western Asia and Europe. According to the Turkish foreign minister, more commerce should be conducted between the two countries to realise its full potential, which now stands at \$800 million. The Khan administration believes that Turkish companies should be participating in CPEC projects, especially those involving energy and transit infrastructure. Despite the possibility of tense ties with Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia will want to avoid provoking Pakistan due to its own interests in the CPEC and the worsening in relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia following the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Additionally, the FTA that promotes foreign investment and infrastructure development initiatives advantageous to both countries should be negotiated. Given how eager they are for their publics to interact, both countries should host more in-person exchanges, such as student exchange programs, conferences focused on public-private partnerships, and seminars designed to help businesses.¹²¹

¹²¹ Syrus Sajjad Qazi, "Pakistan-Turkey Friendship Backbone of Economic Success," *Daily Sabah*, March 23, 2021, <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/pakistan-turkey-friendship-backbone-of-economic-success>.

4.12 Sixth HLCC Meeting

The High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council met for the sixth time on February 14, 2020, in Islamabad. The HLSCC serves as Pakistan and Turkey's highest-level political consultation platform. The discussion covered every aspect of bilateral ties as well as global and regional topics of shared concern. Both parties concurred on the need to expand high-level interactions, economic cooperation, trade, investments, and joint ventures in the industries of tourism, education, culture, and science & technology.

In order to strengthen their cooperation in a variety of areas, including trade, transportation, tourism, education, and culture, Pakistan and Turkey have signed a number of MoUs and agreements.¹²² The MOUs and agreements signed during the 6th HLSCC meeting are as follows.

1. Trade and Investment
2. Energy Partnership
3. Banking and Finance
4. Transport and communication cooperation
5. Culture and Tourism collaboration
6. Education cooperation

4.12.1 Trade and Investment:

Both nations want to expand trade and investment while also deepening their economic ties. In order to further economic integration, they are working to complete a Free Trade Agreement and are doing a Joint Scoping Study to find areas where they can collaborate more.

¹²² Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Turkey-Pakistan Relations," June 20, 2021, <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-pakistan-relations.en.mfa>.

Additionally, a commitment has been made to support cooperative ventures in e-commerce and industrial sectors.

4.12.2 Energy Partnership:

Building human capacity in the energy sector, utilizing Turkish knowledge to enhance Pakistan's energy infrastructure, and fortifying the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) are the main objectives of the partnership. The cooperation includes investments in hydrocarbon activities, electrical transmission, and distribution.

4.12.3 Banking and Finance:

A 350-million-dollar credit line facility for Pakistani projects that qualify is being discussed by both nations. Their objectives are to promote technical assistance, collaboration between central banks, and banking and finance cooperation. The collaboration encompasses a number of areas, such as information sharing in Islamic banking, risk-based supervision, and anti-money laundering.

4.12.4 Transport and Communications Cooperation:

All forms of transportation are covered under cooperative agreements, which are designed to improve bilateral trade. The two nations want to enhance their efforts in communications and transportation, promote the implementation of transportation accords, and even carry out an experimental truck run along the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor. Prospects for collaborative efforts in the railway industry are also explored.

4.12.5 Culture and Tourism Collaboration:

collaborative tourism meetings are planned, media exchanges are encouraged, information sharing, culture, tourism, film, and theatre collaboration are strengthened, collaborative film production ventures are started, and cultural groups and tourism festivals are exchanged. The two countries will collaborate on the preservation of cultural assets as well.

4.12.6 Education Cooperation:

With an emphasis on teacher training, technical and vocational education, and higher education scholarships, both nations are encouraging educational exchanges. They are completing agreements for collaborative education and intend to create a Centre of Excellence for Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Additionally, new Joint Working Groups on Defense Industry and Agriculture and Water are to be established as part of the ongoing work of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council's Joint Working Groups. These groups will focus on developing specific programs and projects.

4.13 Economic Advisory Council (EAC)

The Economic Advisory Council, which had 25 members initially, was reinstated on April 4, 2021, demonstrating Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment to domestic economic reform. The EAC would be under the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan rather than the finance minister. Some may find it unwise and perhaps irresponsible to put Pakistan's economic objectives ahead of its defence objectives. Unquestionably, Pakistan's location in a dangerous area necessitates ongoing defence cooperation, but the country's persistently poor economy requires it to take precedence. In other words, Pakistan's economic woes are becoming more of a global concern than just a domestic one. Given how close of an ally Turkey is, it is

reasonable to look at the economic facets of the two-way relationship. If the Khan government is able to shift its focus from internal security to foreign concerns, it will be intriguing to see. On the basis of enhanced connectivity and geo-economic cooperation, Islamabad places a strong emphasis on inclusive and cooperative initiatives. Pakistan is standing up and giving its geo-economic location to consolidate global and regional economic interests as our area goes through revolutionary changes. The long-standing political ties that exist between Pakistan and Turkey also present a once-in-a-lifetime chance for the two countries to collaborate and take advantage of this connectedness while focusing on economic cooperation. Despite the present modest level of bilateral commerce (about \$750 million in 2020), there is a significant opportunity to identify and take advantage of economic synergies between the Turkish and Pakistani economies. In order to enhance trade in previously existing industries, both nations are considering ways to foster it in nontraditional ones. Through a Joint Scoping Study (JSS), both countries are aiming to pinpoint a variety of goods and services where they may complement one another. The JSS will open up a plethora of previously unrealized economic opportunities for both parties, which could dramatically increase bilateral trade numbers.¹²³

The Imran Khan administration's Naya Pakistan strategy prioritizes economic security. Even at its most trying times in the preceding 20 years, Pakistan has produced profits that have been much higher than the global average because of its favourable economic environment. As a result, investors' faith in the prospective economy has grown. In Pakistan, more than 100 Turkish companies are prospering. In 2020, the pandemic had a detrimental impact on international commerce and economic activities. Turkey successfully absorbed the shock, achieving 1.5% GDP growth and aiming for considerably higher rates in 2019. Pakistan has been able to reestablish macroeconomic stability despite going through a challenging but essential phase of economic stabilization during the past three years. This has laid the

¹²³ Syrus Qazi, "Pakistan-Turkey Friendship Backbone of Economic Success," 2021.

groundwork for more development, more employment, and a higher quality of living for its inhabitants. Turkey is our natural partner at this stage of economic change in Pakistan and the surrounding region.¹²⁴

4.14 Improving trade between Pakistan and Turkey

On January 13, 2021, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed that ties with Turkey are "exceptional" and emphasised the significance of turning them into a strong economic cooperation. Mevlut Cavusoglu, the visiting Turkish foreign minister, met with Imran Khan in Islamabad and they talked about bilateral ties as well as regional and global challenges. The prime minister emphasised the significance of developing a strong economic alliance while reiterating the extraordinary character of the political connection between Turkey and Pakistan. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in commerce, investment, defence, education, and culture. Pakistani President Arif Alvi urged increased commercial and cultural ties with Turkey during a meeting with Cavusoglu. For the mutual advantage of the two nations, Pakistan and Turkey should continue to strengthen their strong economic and cultural ties. Turkish businessmen should take advantage of investment prospects in Pakistan, according to President Arif Alvi, who noted that Pakistan's position for "Ease of Doing Business" had improved. According to the Turkish foreign minister, Turkey is likewise eager to strengthen its business ties with Pakistan. A high-level team led by Cavusoglu was in Pakistan on a three-day visit to assess the country's bilateral, regional, and global ties. In addition, the two sides will get ready for the 7th High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, which will be held in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, and will be the highest-level decision-making forum between the two nations since 2009. According to the statement, Turkish businesses have increased their investments in Pakistan by more than \$1 billion. The agreement

¹²⁴ Philip Kowalski, "Turkish-Pakistani relations: a burgeoning alliance," *Middle East Institute* (2019).

between the two parties was to "further strengthen and broaden bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and culture."¹²⁵

The strong bonds between Pakistan and Turkey offer a solid foundation for further fortifying their unbreakable relations and producing substantial economic gains for the inhabitants of both countries. Numerous Turkish companies are currently running prosperous operations in Pakistan. There is room for many more. Two nations have been seeking to strengthen their economic ties in order to maintain a leading position on the global arena and to provide various opportunities for one another to develop their national economies. Energy, trade, textiles, and a number of other industries have fostered economic progress between the two countries. In an effort to cement their cordial commercial and bilateral ties, both nations have also inked a number of accords on a range of subjects. The main way that the developing economic cooperation between the governments of Pakistan and Turkey is reflected is through free trade agreements. After being the subject of several anti-dumping cases brought by Turkey, Pakistan should take special care to ensure that all problems are addressed in the FTAs.

4.15 Conclusion

The economic connections between Pakistan and Turkey saw a dramatic transition from 2018 to 2022 under Imran Khan, beyond the boundaries of conventional trade. Significant increase was observed in both exports and imports between the two countries, especially in the pharmaceutical industry where trade volume soared. To further emphasize the variety of their economic relationships, their commercial cooperation also involved a broad range of goods, such as minerals, Sulphur, salt, and more. The trade of rice continued to be active, as both nations saw its significant potential. The Strategic Economic Framework, which was

¹²⁵ Islamuddin, "Pakistan Stresses Boosting Trade Ties with Turkey," 2021.

established in 2019, emphasised their commitment to increasing trade and investment and set the foundation for organised economic development. 2020 saw Pakistan, Turkey, and Qatar engage in a trilateral economic engagement that broadened the extent of their economic cooperation and created new avenues for trade and investment. The biggest step forward was the 2022 signing of the Pak-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, a comprehensive framework designed to encourage bilateral investment and trade and advance economic growth in both countries.

Reopening the rail freight route between Pakistan and Turkey demonstrated their commitment to enhancing connectivity and logistics, which are essential for the efficient movement of products and services. The Sixth High-Level Cooperation Council Meeting, which explored several aspects of economic cooperation and reaffirmed their shared commitment to fortifying economic connections, demonstrated the collaboration across institutions. Their shared goal of stability and economic progress was further highlighted by the creation of the Economic Advisory Council. This period demonstrated Pakistan and Turkey's shared commitment to expanding economic cooperation and generating prosperity in both nations, and it represented a substantial advancement in their economic alliance.

Chapter 5

Pak-Turkey Military Relations During Imran Khan's Era, (2018-2022)

5 Introduction

Pakistan and Turkey have a long history of military cooperation, including joint military exercises. The two countries share a deep strategic partnership based on common interests and values, and they have collaborated on various military and defense-related initiatives over the years. The strategic alliance between the two countries, from which a win-win outcome is sought, is now influenced significantly by defence cooperation. The High-Level Military Dialogue, which was started in 2003 and is an active platform for boosting Pak-Turk defence ties, is one such illustration of the strengthening ties. When NATO began its mission in Afghanistan and Turkey and Pakistan shared the goal of maintaining regional security, this military cooperation forum developed. If we go back to that time, we can see how it came to be. Following NATO participation, Turkey launched formal mediation efforts while keeping in mind its prior relationships with Pakistan. These efforts eventually bore fruit in the shape of the Ankara Declaration, which was signed by the three chiefs of state. In addition, after 9/11, Pakistan and Turkey began to share a shared objective in the battle against the spread of terrorism. Pakistan and Turkey have cooperated in a number of ways throughout the years, primarily in the field of defence. As both nations work to improve their military prowess and promote regional stability, their cooperation has proven to be profitable for all parties involved. The years 2018 and 2022 witnessed a significant strengthening of the defense ties between these two countries, leading to major developments and agreements.¹²⁶

¹²⁶ Samran Ali, "Pak-Turk Defense Cooperation: Milestones and Potential," *Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research*, August 3, 2021, <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/pak-turk-defense-cooperation-milestones-and-potential/>.

5.1 Maritime Defence Relations

Relations in the field of maritime defence between Pakistan and Turkey date back to 1967, when the Golcuk Naval Shipyard in Turkey improved the computers of Pakistan's US-built submarine PNS Ghazi. This was the start of a long-lasting alliance. A joint Pak-Turkish Military Consultative Group was created in 1988, and by the early 2000s, it had evolved into a High-Level Military Dialogue Group. In several cooperative exercises over the years, both independently and within regional frameworks like the Combined Maritime Forces under the United States Naval Forces Central, Pakistani and Turkish naval forces have actively engaged. Since 2012, the Pakistan Navy has participated in Turkey's 'Mavi Balina' (Blue Whale) exercises, particularly concentrating on anti-submarine warfare drills in the Eastern Mediterranean. Likewise, since 2007, the Pakistan Navy's "Aman" (Peace) exercises have featured a significant contribution from the Turkish Navy.

Turgutreis and Ayyildiz are two key combined naval exercises between the two navies. The practice known as "Turgutreis" or "Dragut" honors the illustrious Ottoman naval commander, Dragut, who was recognised as one of the finest marine commanders in the Mediterranean and wielded significant influence in North Africa. On the other side, "Ayyildiz" represents the moon and star that are shown on the Turkish flag. The collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey on marine defence has improved bilateral ties and added to the security and stability of the area. Both navies have benefited greatly from these drills, which have given them the chance to improve their mutual understanding and operational skills. The deep-rooted ties and similar ideals between the two countries are further highlighted by the historical and symbolic significance attached to these exercises.

5.2 Joint Military Exercises

The combined military drills between Pakistan and Turkey have improved their interoperability and capacities as well as their military-to-military connections. In 2018, Pakistan and Turkey conducted two joint military exercises. The first was the Anatolian Eagle exercise, which took place in Turkey and included the participation of air forces from Pakistan, Turkey, and other nations. Through realistic combat situations, the exercise intended to improve the operational preparedness and interoperability of the participating air forces. The exercise involved various aircraft, including F-16s, Mirage III/Vs, and JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. The Sea Guardians exercise, which took place in the Arabian Sea and included naval troops from Pakistan, Turkey, and other nations, was the second joint military drill to be undertaken in 2018. The exercise involved a variety of naval assets, including as frigates, submarines, and planes, and it centered on maritime security and counterterrorism activities.¹²⁷

The Ataturk-IX joint military exercise between Pakistan and Turkey took place in Pakistan in 2019. The exercise, which consisted of forces from the land, air, and sea, was the biggest combined military exercise ever to be held between the two nations. The goal of the exercise was to improve the two forces' compatibility and cooperation in a variety of combat situations, including counterterrorism operations. 'Ataturk-IX' was a cooperative military exercise that the two nations carried out in 2020. The goal of the exercise was to improve both nations' special forces' capabilities and interoperability. The drill, which took place in Turkey, was intended to improve the military ties between the two nations.¹²⁸

The two nations engaged in two joint military drills in 2021. The first was called "Druzhiba-2021," and it took place in Pakistan. The goal of the exercise was to improve the cooperation and interoperability between the special forces of the two nations. The drill was carried out in

¹²⁷ *Daily Sabah*, "Turkey, Pakistan to Increase Military Cooperation," July 6, 2021, <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkey-pakistan-to-increase-military-cooperation>.

¹²⁸ Samran, "Pak-Turk Defense Cooperation", 2021.

stages and featured hostage rescue and terrorist situations. The 'Turgut Reis-2021' exercise, which involved naval troops from Pakistan, Turkey, and other nations, was the second joint military training event to be performed in 2021. The exercise comprised a variety of naval assets, including frigates, submarines, and planes, and it focused on maritime security and counterterrorism activities. The two nations engaged in a combined military exercise called "Ataturk-XI" in 2022. The compatibility and cooperation between the land and air forces of the two nations were to be improved as a result of the exercise, which was conducted in Pakistan. Various military scenarios, including terrorist operations, were included in the training.¹²⁹ Overall, the joint military exercises conducted between Pakistan and Turkey from 2018 to 2022 have helped strengthen the military-to-military ties between the two countries. These Military exercises are as under:

1. Turgutreis-I
2. Turgutreis-II
3. Turgutreis-III
4. Turgutreis-IV
5. Turgutreis-V
6. Anatolian Eagle 2019
7. Anatolian Eagle 2021
8. Ataturk-XI 2021
9. Mavi Balina 2020
10. Three Brothers 2021
11. Crescent Star 2022
12. Live Fire Military Drills, EFES-2022

¹²⁹ "Pak-Turkey relations," *The Express Tribune*, August 15, 2021, <http://tribune.com.pk/pak-turkey-relations>.

5.2.1 Turgutreis-I, April 2018

In April 2018, the Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy conducted their first combined naval drill in the North Arabian Sea. This extensive simulation included Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations as well as anti-surface, anti-air, anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and counter-piracy actions. The TCG Gelibolu, a guided missile frigate that was initially constructed for the US Navy as USS Reid and then transferred to Turkey in 1999, took part in the exercise. It is unknown if the frigate's US-made Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopters, which are generally geared for ASW and surface operations, were used during this particular drill.

PNS SAIF and PNS ASLAT, two guided missile frigates developed in China, were deployed by the Pakistan Navy. Chinese-built Z9-EC helicopters are frequently fitted to PNS SAIF, known as the "frontline destroyer" of the Pakistan Navy's fleet, for ASW, maritime surveillance, and transportation. On the other hand, PNS ASLAT frequently deploys French-made Alouette III light utility helicopters. Both frigates are part of the China-Pakistan-jointly developed F-22P Zulfiqar-class and are equipped to handle a variety of maritime operations in a high-threat environment.

Fast attack missile boats like the German-designed PNS Quwwat, the Chinese-built PNS Azmat, and the Turkish-built PNS Zarrar, as well as the replenishment tanker PNS Nasr for refueling operations, were additional assets used in the exercise. The Chinese-built Houbei class of ships now employed by the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) of China are apparently intended to replace PNS Quwwat and PNS Jurrat, both belonging to the German-designed Jurrat class. As part of the Multi-Role Tactical Platform (MRTP) design, PNS Zarrar, on the other hand, was created especially for navy special operations personnel and is capable of carrying out VBSS, surveillance, coastal defence, and search and rescue (SAR) missions. Fighter planes from the Pakistan Air Force and unidentified naval aviation units from the

Pakistan Navy participated, enhancing the total capabilities displayed during the exercise. The addition of these varied assets demonstrated both fleets' dedication to improving their level of interoperability and fortifying their defensive capabilities.¹³⁰

5.2.2 Turgutreis-II, September 2018

In the Eastern Mediterranean from September to October 2018, the Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy participated in their second combined naval drill. The Turgutreis-II exercise included a variety of exercises, such as Surface Warfare Exercises, Gunnery Firings, and Combined Anti-Submarine Exercises. Unfortunately, accurate data on the Turkish Navy assets that are taking part in Turgutreis-II is not yet accessible. It's crucial to remember that the exercise took place concurrently with the international exercise Mavi Balina 2018, which was hosted by Turkey. The Turkish Navy sent out a fleet of five frigates for Mavi Balina 2018, including one built locally (TCG Oruçreis) and four modified ex-US Navy vessels (TCG Gaziantep, TCG Giresun, TCG Gemlik, and TCG Gelibolu). Two corvettes were also present: TCG Buyukada, a Turkish-built corvette, and TCG Bandirma, a former French Navy corvette that had been modified. TCG Tarsus, a patrol boat, and TCG Akar, an oil tanker manufactured locally, were also included in the fleet.

With the Chinese-built guided missile frigate PNS SAIF and a Z9-EC ASW helicopter of Chinese manufacture, the Pakistan Navy took part in Turgutreis-II. This was the first time a top Pakistan Navy officer attended Exercise Turgutreis. With his Turkish counterparts, including the Flag Officer Commanding of Aksaz Naval Base and the Commander of the Turkish Navy's Southern Task Group, Commander Karachi (COMKAR) of the Pakistani Navy conducted crucial discussions. This degree of high-level representation, which may have been

¹³⁰ Zaki Khalid, "Analyzing Pak-Turk Joint Naval Exercises 'Turgutreis' (I-V)," November 24, 2020, <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/defense-security/analysing-pak-turk-joint-naval-exercises-turgutreis-i-v/>.

inspired by Exercise Mavi Balina-2018, was different from that of the first Turgutreis-I exercise, in which the Consul General of Turkey in Karachi served as the highest level of representation, without the Ambassador from Islamabad. Both navies' involvement in Turgutreis-II showed their dedication to fostering collaboration and interoperability. The exercise served as a venue for cooperative training, knowledge sharing, and the development of Pakistan and Turkey's bilateral marine relations.¹³¹

5.2.3 Turgutreis-III, February 2019

In February 2019, Pakistan Navy hosted the third joint naval exercise in the North Arabian Sea. This drill took place concurrently with the international exercise Aman-19, which was also held in Pakistan. Table-top talks about naval combat tactics and potential areas of mutual cooperation were the exercise's main focus. The exercise's sea phases included maneuvers designed to strengthen tactical expertise and improve interoperability amongst the participating fleets. The guided-missile frigate TCG Gokçeada, formerly known as USS Mahlon S. Tisdale in the US Navy, served as the sole asset of the Turkish Navy in the exercise. The multi-role guided missile frigate PNS Alamgir, which is also of US origin, the Chinese-built PNS Aslat, and an unspecified long-range Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) were among the assets that the Pakistan Navy deployed. The US, France-Italy, and the Netherlands are just a few of the countries from which the Pakistan Navy operates MPAs. The US-built Lockheed P-3 Orion aircraft probably took part in the drill given platform compatibility and range. It is unknown if PNS Alamgir boarded the Z9-EC ASW helicopter for this exercise or if helicopters like the US-built Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk or the Italian-built Agusta AB-212 were used on TCG Gokçeada.¹³²

¹³¹ "Pakistan Navy in 2019," *Parliament Times*, January 3, 2020, accessed September 26, 2023, <https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2020/01/03/pakistan-navy-in-2019/>.

¹³² Zaki Khalid, "Turgutreis (I-V)," 2020.

The training exercise gave the Pakistani and Turkish navies a chance to improve their mutual understanding, collaboration, and naval might. To improve the interoperability and strategic relationship between the two navies in the North Arabian Sea region, a focus on tactical talks and maneuvering exercises was made.

5.2.4 Turgutreis-IV, November 2019

The Turkish Navy organised the fourth joint naval exercise in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in November 2019. Turgutreis-IV, the exercise, took place concurrently with the international exercise "Dogu Akdeniz-2019" (Eastern Mediterranean), which Turkey was hosting. Unfortunately, particular information on the sea and harbor stages of Turgutreis-IV, as well as the participating naval units, is glaringly absent. The guided missile frigate TCG Giresun, formerly known as USS Antrim in the US Navy, is most likely what the Turkish Navy sent out during Dogu Akdeniz-19, if the specifics of the participating assets are considered. On the other side, the Pakistan Navy was likely comprised of the US-built frigate PNS Alamgir, a Chinese-made Z9-EC ASW helicopter was aboard (as in prior drills), and a Lockheed P-3 Orion aircraft was also there.¹³³

In the Greek press, there were accusations that the Turkish and Pakistani fleets allegedly "violated" Greek territorial seas north of Rhodes and off Kastellorizo while conducting Dogu Akdeniz-2019. This prompted a formal protest to Islamabad. Furthermore, according to these reports, Greek defence officials saw Pakistan's reported transgressions as "part of Turkey's attempt to demonstrate that it has military alliances and is not an isolated force in the region." Turgutreis-IV provided a chance for the Turkish Navy and Pakistan Navy to improve their collaboration, bolster their naval capabilities, and advance regional security in the Eastern Mediterranean. However, the precise specifics of the exercise and the participating assets are still classified.

¹³³ Zaki Khalid, "Turgutreis (I-V)," 2020.

5.2.5 Turgutreis-V, November 2020

The Turkish Navy once again served as the host nation for the fifth joint naval exercise, which was held in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in November 2020. The exercise took place simultaneously with the international exercise "Mavi Balina 2020," hosted by Turkey, and a separate Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT), which was carried out jointly. The participating Turkish Navy assets' precise specifications remain a secret. However, the Pakistan Navy took part with the Chinese-built guided missile frigate PNS Zulfiqar, which was outfitted for the exercise with a Z9-EC ASW helicopter. The Chinese-built guided missile frigate PNS Zulfiqar, which was equipped for the exercise with a Z9-EC ASW helicopter, was used by the Pakistan Navy to participate, too.

The drill gave the Pakistani and Turkish navies a chance to improve their maritime coordination and cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean. The coordinated efforts intended to improve bilateral ties, share knowledge, and advance maritime security and stability in the area, albeit the exact details of the exercise and the participating assets are yet unknown.¹³⁴

5.2.6 Anatolian Eagle 2019

Five JF-17 Thunders from the 28th Squadron of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) took part in the Anatolian Eagle 2019 training exercise, which was held in Turkey at the Konya 3rd Main Jet Base Command. The exercise, which took place from June 17 to June 28, 2019 was designed to improve the knowledge of controllers, air defence personnel, and pilots in joint and integrated operations. Established in 2001, the Anatolian Eagle Training Centre is recognised for its sizable airfield and authentic threat environment. A total of 41 training sessions involving 15 nations and almost 24,000 sortie flights have been held there. During the exercise, F-16C/D planes from the 132nd Squadron played the role of the red force and conducted

¹³⁴ "Pakistan Navy in 2019,"2020.

assaults on targets inside the red zone that were guarded by the enemy's air defence systems. The Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) system was used at the Anatolian Eagle Operation Centre to monitor and assess real-time data flow and coordination. The JF-17 Thunders of the Pakistan Air Force took part in the exercise, which aimed to raise the quality of training for PAF pilots and provide them useful experience in joint and combined operations with other participating nations. Along with Civil Air Patrol responsibilities and collaborative operations with naval forces, the exercise also included special occasions like Spotter Days that drew aviation photographers. With the active participation of all units, the International Anatolian Eagle 2019 training exercise was successfully completed on June 28, 2019.¹³⁵

5.2.7 Anatolian Eagle, 2021

The Anatolian Eagle 2021 exercise, which is taking place at the 3rd Main Jet Base in Konya, (Turkey), was attended by the air forces of Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Pakistan. The exercise, scheduled for June 21, 2021 intends to improve the quality of combined operational training while fostering information, skill, and experience sharing. In particular, Pakistan and Azerbaijan participated in the Anatolian Eagle practicing, as shown in the official films and pictures made public by the ministry, which show Turkish F-16 fighter jets practicing alongside Azerbaijani MiG-29 fighter jets and Su-25 attack planes. The French-built Dassault Rafale multirole aircraft that the Qatari Air Force recently received also took part. It's interesting to note that France will soon give Greece jets of the same sort for the Hellenic Air Force. The Pakistani Air Force further sent its JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, an aircraft jointly built by Pakistan and China. The NATO Response Force (NRF) and the Pakistan Air Force both participated in the exercise, and the certification evaluation of various aircraft and air defence

¹³⁵ David Cenciotti, "Pakistani JF-17 Thunders and Turkish ELINT/SIGINT C-160D Transall Among the Highlights of Anatolian Eagle Exercise," *The Aviationist*, July 15, 2019, <https://theaviationist.com/2019/07/15/pakistani-jf-17-thunders-and-turkish-elint-sigint-c-160d-transall-among-the-highlights-of-anatolian-eagle-exercise/>.

units assigned to the NRF was emphasised by the military ministry on June 26, 2021. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, tried to defuse tensions with NATO during the June summit. The Anatolian Eagle exercises, which Turkey has been holding yearly for the past 20 years, have been compared to the US Air Forces' Red Flag exercises, which are routinely attended by NATO and other partner air forces and are hosted at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.¹³⁶

5.2.8 Ataturk-XI, 2021

On February 9, 2021, a three-week joint military drill between Turkish and Pakistani special forces got underway in northwest Pakistan. The ATATURK-XI 2021 exercise's opening ceremony was place at the Special Service headquarters of the Pakistani military in Tarbela, which is a part of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that borders Afghanistan. Turkish Special Forces and members of the top-tier Special Services Group of the Pakistani military both took part in the drill. The exercise comprised a number of different activities, including counterterrorism, close-quarter combat, cordon and search, rappelling, fire and move methods, helicopter rappelling, compound clearing, hostage and rescue operations, and free fall operations. The two brotherly nations' relationship would be strengthened by the combined military exercise, which would also make it easier to adopt new trends in military cooperation and modernization. Defence and military cooperation between Ankara and Islamabad has risen recently. With plans for two corvettes to be built in Turkey and the next two in Pakistan through technology transfer, the Pakistan Navy and the Turkish state-owned defence contractor signed a deal in July 2018 for the purchase of four Turkish-made MILGEM corvettes. During a ceremony in Istanbul in October 2019, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and then-

¹³⁶ "Foreign air forces participate in Anatolian Eagle 2021 exercise in Turkey," *Ahval News*, June 28, 2021, <https://ahvalnews.com/anatolian-eagle-2021/foreign-air-forces-participate-anatolian-eagle-2021-exercise-turkey>.

Chief Adm. Zafar Mahmood Abbasi of the Pakistan Navy started work on the first MILGEM Ada class corvette. Turkey is one of the ten nations in the world that can independently construct, design, and maintain warships because to its domestic resources.¹³⁷

5.2.9 Mavi Balina, 2020

The Turkish Naval Forces are in charge of the yearly multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise 2020 Mavi Balina, also referred to as the Blue Whale exercise. The exercise, which is thought to be the biggest of its type in the Mediterranean, intends to give participating nations practical operational training in submarine and surface warfare. Between Pakistan, Bulgaria, Italy, the U.S., Spain, Romania, and Turkey, among the participating nations, the exercise developed friendship, collaboration, and mutual understanding. The PNS Zulfiqar, a guided missile frigate of the Zulfiqar-class, was involved in the involvement of the Pakistan Navy. Through military and political collaboration, Pakistan and Turkey developed a solid strategic alliance. Turkey overtook China as Pakistan's second-largest arms supplier, and the two nations' defence and security cooperation rapidly strengthened. A fleet tanker being built jointly and the ongoing refit of three Pakistani submarines are two notable instances. Major fleets from several nations participated in the Mavi Balina exercise, which served as a crucial regional platform for cooperative maritime security and interoperability.

The Pakistan Navy was well-prepared to defend the nation's maritime borders while also dealing with conventional and unconventional threats. By commanding Combined Task Forces, the navy exhibited professionalism and established itself as a dependable partner in global maritime operations. Pakistan Navy actively adapted to the changing geopolitical situation in recognition of its strategic obligations. Participating in drills like Mavi Balina

¹³⁷ Aamir Latif, "Turkey-Pakistan joint military exercise begins," *AA News*, February 9, 2021, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkey-pakistan-joint-military-exercise-begins/2138335>.

enabled for the exchange of marine security expertise and experience while also strengthening its connections with Turkey. By taking part in the Mavi Balina naval exercise, the Pakistan Navy demonstrated its dedication to operational readiness, regional collaboration, and the advancement of cooperative maritime security. The Pakistan Navy continued to develop its capabilities and support the upkeep of peace and stability in the maritime domain through interaction with Turkey and other participating states.¹³⁸

5.2.10 Three Brothers-2021

The Special Forces Units of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Pakistan participated in the multinational military exercise "Three Brothers-2021," which was hosted by Azerbaijan. These extensive training exercises, which took place from September 12 to 20, had as their goal enhancing military, defence, and security cooperation between the three nations. The exercises allowed soldiers from the Special Forces Units to share their expertise while focusing on counterterrorism and other security issues. It is essential for Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan to organize and improve these joint exercises if they are to contribute to regional peace, stability, and security in the South Caucasus. Based on their long-standing unity, it is crucial to deepen and broaden the mutual links and contacts between these friendly nations in all facets of military and defence. The "Three Brothers-2021" exercises were a key turning point in military and defence cooperation, increasing capabilities and cementing connections between the three nations. The first nations to recognise Azerbaijan as an independent state were Pakistan and Turkey, and they have continued to maintain close diplomatic connections on a bilateral, trilateral, and global scale. In particular, defence production, training, mutual learning, and solidarity for regional peace and stability would all benefit from this trilateral

¹³⁸ Zubeda Anjum Niazi, "Pakistan Navy's Participation in the Turkish 'Mavi Balina' Exercise," *Business Recorder*, November 13, 2020, <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40032616>.

military collaboration. In the South Caucasus, where conflicts have developed as a result of Armenian aggression supported by outside forces, the drill serves as a deterrence and promotes peace, stability, and security. Their connections in terms of regional politics, strategy, and security is shown by the coordination of defence development between Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. The three nations may eventually create a formal alliance, but for now, mutual support and collaboration are the main priorities. Regular high-level visits and the signing of the Baku Declaration by legislative delegations from all three countries are evidence of the tight collaboration. Their close ties are further strengthened by their support for one another on matters such as Jammu and Kashmir, Karabakh and Armenia, and the Cyprus Conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean.¹³⁹

5.2.11 Crescent and Star-2022

A week-long joint exercise between the Turkish and Pakistani forces took place in Karachi, a port city in southern Pakistan. The undersea attack (SAT) teams from the Turkish Naval Forces and the Iqbal Teams from the Pakistan Navy participated in the drill, which was dubbed "Crescent and Star-2022 Exercise," which took place from December 19 to 25. Its principal goal was to promote stronger military cooperation and improve interoperability between both nations' naval forces.

The two countries participated in their first-ever combined drills, called "Three Brothers," with the Azerbaijani military in Baku the year before. Due to cooperation in the defence sector and common positions against Greece, Cyprus, and India, the relationship between Turkey and Pakistan has seen rapid expansion in recent years. The Pakistani navy and the Turkish state-

¹³⁹ Yunis Abdullayev, "The 'Three Brothers – 2021' Exercises Enhances the Mutual Confidence between the Armies of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan," *interview*, September 18, 2021, <https://ednews.net/en/news/interview/479015-the-three-brothers-2021-exercises-enhances-the-mutual-confidence-between-the-armies-of-azerbaijan-turkey-and-pak>.

owned defence contractor struck a contract in July 2018 to purchase four MILGEM corvettes that were manufactured in Turkey. According to the deal, two corvettes will be built in Turkey, followed by two more being built in Pakistan, with technology being shared between the two nations.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and then-Pakistan Navy Chief Adm. Zafar Mahmood Abbasi officially broke ground on the first MILGEM Ada class corvette at a ceremony in Istanbul in October 2019. Political, economic, and humanitarian connections have all been a part of Turkey and Pakistan's decades-long relationship.¹⁴⁰

5.2.12 Live-Fire Military Drills. EFES-2022

The Distinguished Observer Day event, which was conducted in the second week of June, marked the completion of the exercise in the Doganbey Firing Exercise Zone. Participating in the drill were more than a thousand international servicemen from 37 different nations along with Pakistani Forces. More than 10,000 people, including members of the Turkish Armed Forces, took part in the EFES-2022 Exercise, the largest joint exercise in the area. With 37 nations participating, including Pakistan, EFES-2022 had the highest level of engagement in its history compared to 8 countries in 2016 and 20 countries in 2018. During the practice, a landing ship, CH-53 helicopters, howitzers, and armored vehicles from the US Armed Forces were deployed alongside the Italian frigate and the torpedo boat of the Libyan Naval Forces. Italy, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Albania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the USA, and France were among the nations that took part in the exercise. The USS Arlington (LPD-24) Amphibious Landing Craft and Air Cushion Landing Vehicles

¹⁴⁰ "Crescent and Star-2022 Exercise: Turkish, Pakistani militaries hold joint drill in Karachi," *Greek City Times*, January 1, 2023, accessed September 26, 2023, <https://greekcitytimes.com/2023/01/01/crescent-and-star-2022>.

(Hovercraft) were moved to Izmir for this occasion, marking the country's comeback since 2016.

The drill included targeted engagements with ground fire support vehicles, airplanes, and attack helicopters, as well as amphibious operations supported by artillery. As part of the exercise, Special Forces Operations were also carried out, showcasing their ability in ship-to-target maneuvering, airlift, combat search and rescue, and urban warfare.¹⁴¹

5.3 MILGEM Project: (National ship), 2022

Pakistan and Turkey maintained a bilateral relationship that was centered on developing collaboration in many different fields, notably in defence. Both nations had robust defence industries and capacities, enabling them to draw on one another's knowledge and experience. The envoy praised President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for leading Turkey's defence sector to extraordinary achievement in the face of obstacles during the previous two decades. Through cooperative research, development, and resource sharing, including the investigation of long-term joint ventures, the relationship between Pakistan and Turkey has become stronger. Both military maintained strong relations, which were demonstrated by the frequent combined drills, visits, and training. Along with improving the Pakistan Navy's capabilities, the partnership on the MILGEM project, which involved building warships of the National Ship class, was a turning point in the two countries' friendship. The Military Factory and Shipyard Management Inc. (ASFAT) of Turkey built ships for the Pakistan Navy simultaneously in Pakistan and Turkey as part of the MILGEM project. The contract was signed in September 2018, and the first ship debuted in August 2021. The second and third ships were launched in May and November of the 2022, respectively. Turkey indicated a willingness to strengthen defence and

¹⁴¹ "Largest Military Exercise of the Turkish Army in Years: EFES-2022," *Turkish Defence News*, May 20, 2022, <https://www.turkishdefencenews.com/largest-military-exercise-of-the-turkish-army-in-years-efes-2022/>.

other sectors of cooperation with Pakistan in order to further solidify bilateral ties. Early in July, Pakistan and Turkey had their sixth round of political meetings, while a senior military team travelled to Istanbul for the International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF).¹⁴²

5.4 Pakistan's defense ties with Turkey and Qatar

Defence cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar has mostly been restricted to joint military drills. Pakistani personnel serving in Qatar's police, military, and air force demonstrate the country's security forces' extensive use of Pakistanis. This is consistent with the pattern of hiring contract workers from other nations by Gulf forces. The Pakistani navy recently received a donation from Qatar's military consisting of ten WS-61 Sea King helicopters, addressing Pakistan's need for maritime utility helicopters.

Pakistan and Turkey, on the other hand, have a more formalized and established defense partnership. To improve military cooperation, Pakistan and Turkey created a military consultation committee in 1988. Turkey has trained more than 1,500 Pakistani military personnel. Turkish knowledge has been crucial in helping Pakistan maintain and modernize its Agosta submarines and F-16 fighter planes. ASFAT, a Turkish defense company, also won a \$1.5 billion contract in 2018 to build four corvette ships of the MILGEM class for the Pakistani military. These corvettes are essential to Pakistan's naval modernization strategy, which aims to turn its military into a "Blue Water Navy." The significance of bilateral defense ties is further underlined by General Qamar Javed Bajwa of Pakistan's Army's emphasis on the special nature of the country's connection with Turkey. Pakistan demonstrates a desire to comprehend the workings of the Russian S-400 missile defense system that Turkey has acquired. Given that India is purchasing the same technology and might undermine Pakistan's air and missile

¹⁴² "Defense Sector in Türkiye-Pakistan Ties," *Anadolu Agency*, August 3, 2023.

capabilities, it is imperative for Pakistan to understand how it operates and to devise a plan of action to defeat it.¹⁴³

5.5 Defense Industry Cooperation

Based on the developments of 2018, Pak-Turk ties are at its peak. Pakistan considers Turkey to be a reliable defence partner when compared to other countries who left Pakistan alone in the hour of need. This is demonstrated by their decision to station all three military attachés in the Pakistani embassy in Ankara, which is an extremely uncommon move in Pakistani diplomatic relations. Both countries came to an agreement on a \$1.5 billion defence transaction in which Pakistan bought thirty Turkish (ATAK) helicopters. These ATAK helicopters, the first domestically made Turkish combat aircraft by the Turkish Aerospace Industry, are regarded as an essential component of the Turkish fleet. This specific pact, which is the largest defence sale agreement between the two allies, is anticipated to lead to further defence cooperation between the two countries.¹⁴⁴

Pakistan underlined how defence ties have recently improved as a result of agreements for platforms like Milgem corvettes and T-129 helicopter gunships, which will only become better as the two nations continue to look for new business prospects. The current agreements alone are projected to result in significant offsets and technological contributions for Pakistani industry, and they will increase the supply of defence technology that is essential for all three of Pakistan's military services. The fact that Pakistan's defence sector normally lags behind those of other countries and has not been able to provide anything in return outside of a deal for the PAC Super Mushak basic training aircraft emphasises the significance of the alliance between Ankara and Islamabad. Pakistan is looking at possibilities to complement or perhaps

¹⁴³ Karim, " A Strategic Triad in the Making, 2021.

¹⁴⁴ Escalonilla, "Pakistan and Turkey Strengthen Military Cooperation," *Atalayar*, 2021.

replace its M113 type APCs, possibly with an IFV design, with Turkey's Kaplan or Tulpar IFV programs being of interest. Turkish AFV-related technology is already making its way onto Pakistani APCs and tanks. Pakistan's collection of legacy types may possibly be replaced by Turkey's T625 multirole transport helicopter. Additionally, both nations are actively working on programs to produce fifth generation fighters, but some think that this degree of collaboration is now going too far.¹⁴⁵

Pakistan agreed to welcome Turkish helicopters to be tested on its soil in order to support the cordial relations between the two countries. The 23rd of March was chosen as "Pakistan Day" for this specific occasion, and the Turkish-made choppers took part in a fly-over celebration in Islamabad, the nation's capital. Pakistan and Turkey also agreed on a deal in 2018 for Pakistan to purchase four MILGEM corvettes in addition to the T129 helicopters. The MILGEM corvette is a multifunctional warship that can operate in confined spaces. The corvettes will be outfitted with cutting-edge sensors, arsenals, and communication systems as part of the \$1 billion contract, greatly increasing Pakistan's naval capabilities. The first corvette's construction started in 2020, and the first two ships should be delivered in 2023, followed by the final two in 2024. In addition to these significant acquisition agreements, Turkey has also provided Pakistan with additional defence products, such as missiles, rockets, and small guns. These transactions have led to Pakistan's military modernization and increased defence capability.¹⁴⁶

Technology transfers have also been a crucial component of Pakistan and Turkey's defence cooperation in addition to defence acquisitions. Pakistan has received technology transfers from Turkey for a number of defence programs, notably the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet program. Pakistan and China collaborated to build the JF-17 Thunder, a lightweight, single-engine,

¹⁴⁵ Usman Ansari, "Future Pakistan-Turkish Defence Cooperation," *Defence News*, September 20, 2018.

¹⁴⁶ Escalonilla, Pakistan and Turkey strengthen military cooperation, *Atalayar*, 2021.

multi-role military aircraft. Pakistan received avionics and electronic warfare technologies from Turkey for the JF-17, greatly enhancing the plane's capabilities. The potential for co-developing and co-producing military gear, such as fighter planes, drones, and helicopters, has also been considered between Pakistan and Turkey. The two nations have declared their determination to collaborate on the next fighter aircraft. In the fight against terrorism, Pakistan and Turkey have resolved to collaborate on intelligence-sharing and joint military drills. Both nations have decided to work together to develop and produce weapons technologies. The National University of Science and technologies in Pakistan has been given a research and development unit by the Turkish aerospace sector that will concentrate on security, drone, and radar technologies. With Turkey's assistance, Pakistan is on track to build a warship yard in Karachi in 2018. Following 2020, both nations convened a meeting of a high-level discussion group when Turkey requested assistance in creating a nuclear weapons program.¹⁴⁷

The defence sector in Pakistan is increasing and rising at the same time to take advantage of the global market. In order to accommodate the demands of its military forces, it is also attempting to broaden its alliances. Because they are the ideal fusion of foreign technologies and local know-how, Pakistan's defence products (such as the JF-17 Thunder, Al-Khalid tank, and small ammunitions produced at the Heavy Industries Taxila and Pakistan Ordnance Factories Wahcant) can satisfy the needs of all regional and global defence forces. Small guns are now being supplied to Turkey by Pakistani ordnance factories in accordance with NATO requirements. Turkey and Pakistan have an organisation called the High-Level Cooperation Council. Around 60 agreements for defence cooperation have been inked between Pakistan and Turkey through this channel. The High-Level Strategic Collaboration Council is the new name for this collaboration institution. Additionally, Pakistan and Turkey are looking at the possibility of working together to build unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). With its domestic

¹⁴⁷ Zaheer, " New Era of Cooperation," 2022.

Bayraktar TB2 and Anka UAVs, Turkey has made tremendous progress in drone technology. According to reports, the two nations may sell or jointly develop unmanned aerial vehicles, which would significantly strengthen Pakistan's defence capabilities.¹⁴⁸

The defence industrial collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey extends beyond the public sphere. The private sectors of both nations have also indicated an interest in collaborating and forming joint enterprises. For instance, Global Industrial and Defence Solutions (GIDS), a Pakistani firm, and FNSS Defence Systems, a Turkish corporation, inked a collaboration agreement in 2020 to work together on defence production projects. In addition, institutes have been set up by Pakistan and Turkey to assist bilateral collaboration in the defence sector. An agreement between Pakistan and Turkey to form a Joint Working Group on defence cooperation was inked in 2018. Exploring possibilities for defence industry collaboration and carrying out cooperative initiatives fall under the purview of the JWG. A large number of military officers have been transferred between Pakistan and Turkey as part of their bilateral military education exchange program. Over the previous ten years, 1500 Pakistani military officers have finished a training program in Turkey. Likewise, in Pakistan's National Defence University and other war academies around the country, more than 130 Turkish military officials took part.¹⁴⁹

The fact that Turkey is the second-most important participant in Pakistan's International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, which not only serves as a venue for the display of defence products but also makes it possible for foreign delegates and important government figures to hold crucial side meetings regarding defence production, speaks volumes about the growing Pak-Turk defence ties. As a result, it offers businesses and organisations a distinctive chance to highlight their military/defence skills, power, and goods. A further initiative to strengthen

¹⁴⁸ Samran, "Pak-Turk Defense Cooperation," 2021.

¹⁴⁹ Karim, " A Strategic Triad in the Making, 2021.

business relations between the two nations was the establishment of the Pakistan-Turkey Business Council in 2018. The council has designated defence industry cooperation as a key area for engagement and comprises leaders from both nations' corporate sectors. Cooperation in the defence sector between Pakistan and Turkey extends beyond bilateral relations. Additionally, both nations have worked together in international forums.¹⁵⁰

Turkey is now the third-largest arms exporter to Pakistan, supplying bombs, drone parts, and navy ships. Pakistan aims to limit its reliance on Western and Chinese armies. Following the US's suspension of technology transfers to Ankara in response to its procurement of the Russian S-400 air defence system, Turkey also looks to Pakistan for assistance in building missile and fighter aircraft systems. Through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Azerbaijan, a country that benefits from Turkish arms exports, has also contributed to humanitarian efforts in Pakistan. Tensions with Iran have increased as a result of the recent eight-day multinational military exercise "Three Brothers 2021" comprising Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Pakistan. Iran viewed the exercise as dangerous. The geopolitical repercussions of Baku's win in the 2020 war have Tehran concerned about upcoming trilateral military exercises on its border, which has historically left Armenia somewhat uneasy.¹⁵¹

With an emphasis on arms cooperation, Turkey and Pakistan are seeking to improve their bilateral ties. India and Western nations are concerned about this because of their position on Kashmir and potential reliance on China. Pakistan wants Turkey to enhance investment in the country and is interested in purchasing Ottoman Bayraktar TB-2 drones. Turkey has discussed the sale of unmanned combat aircraft with Pakistan, but is cautious to finalize a deal because of potential international backlash. In 2018, Pakistan tried to spend \$1.5 billion on 30 aircraft

¹⁵⁰ Usman Ansari, "Future Pakistan-Turkish Defence Cooperation," *Defence News*, September 20, 2018.

¹⁵¹ Cafiero and Milliken, "Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Pakistan's Geopolitical Triangle," *Pakistan Defence*, December 23, 2021.
<https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/azerbaijan-turkey-and-pakistans-geopolitical-triangle.731508/>.

produced in Turkey, but the transaction fell through due to a lack of export licenses from the US. Pakistan has purchased fighter planes built in China and Turkey, and through China, it has access to nuclear and conventional missile technology, in which Turkey is also interested. Turkey's reliance on NATO oversight, however, restricts its ability of options. Following the withdrawal of US troops, both nations are vying for influence in Afghanistan. Turkey has offered to operate the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.¹⁵²

5.6 Strategic Partnership and Support on Regional Issues

The political backing of the presidents of Turkey and Pakistan has been a vital element in advancing the two countries' defence cooperation. The two nations decided to strengthen their defence ties in 2018 during the Pakistan-Turkey High-Level Military Dialogue Group conference. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated Turkey's commitment to help Pakistan in all areas, including defence. Similar to this, Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, travelled to Turkey in January 2019 and met with President Erdogan and other important Turkish leaders. Both presidents spoke about advancing their bilateral ties in a number of areas, including defence, during the visit. A memorandum of understanding between the defence ministries of the two nations was signed as a consequence of the visit to strengthen cooperation in the defence sector.¹⁵³

Pakistan and Turkey decided to increase their cooperation in the defence and security sectors in the conclusion of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council's sixth session. This entails putting more of a focus on cooperative efforts in research, development, and manufacturing, as well as looking into the viability of buying more of their defence equipment from one another. They also vowed to work towards global disarmament and non-proliferation goals while

¹⁵² Escalonilla, Pakistan and Turkey strengthen military cooperation, *Atalayar*, 2021.

¹⁵³ Usman Ansari, "Future Pakistan-Turkish Defence Cooperation," *Defence News*, September 20, 2018.

promoting regional security and strategic stability, particularly in each other's borders. In addition, the two countries agreed to facilitate cooperative training and the sharing of useful knowledge, experiences, and skills amongst respective law enforcement organisations. In the end, they decided to cooperate through already-established anti-terrorism organisations to create new channels for cooperation in order to counter the continuously changing risks posed by cyber-crime and cyber-terrorism.¹⁵⁴

Hulusi Akar, the defence minister of Turkey, met with Prime Minister Imran Khan and Pervez Khattak of Pakistan during his visit to that country in July 2021. Akar reiterated Turkey's support for Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue as the two sides talked about measures to deepen their defence alliance. A defence cooperation agreement was signed as a consequence of the visit, with the goal of strengthening bilateral collaboration in the fields of defence production, training, and research. The growth of Pakistan and Turkey's defence cooperation has been significantly influenced by their strategic partnership. Due to their similar histories, cultures, and strategic concerns, both nations have collaborated on a number of regional and international issues. The two nations' strong cooperation in the fight against terrorism is one illustration of their strategic alliance. Both Pakistan and Turkey have experienced major losses as a result of extremist activity and have been victims of terrorism. To combat terrorism and improve their counterterrorism capabilities, the two nations have worked closely together. This has involved the interchange of military personnel as well as the sharing of knowledge and intelligence. 20mm and 70mm weapons with a 76-rocket capacity were sold to Pakistan to promote Pak-Turk cooperation in the area of counterterrorism and for anti-terrorism activities.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁴ Kiran Nayyar, Dr. Muhammad Salim, and Syeda Afshan Aziz, "Pak-Turk Relations: Through the Spectrum of Regional Integration," *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* 5, no. 2 (2022).

¹⁵⁵ Samran, "Pak-Turk Defense Cooperation," 2021

Their combined efforts to advance peace and stability in the area serve as another illustration of their strategic alliance. In regional initiatives like the Heart of Asia Conference and the Istanbul Process that support peace and stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey have both taken a leading role. The ongoing war in Syria is another issue on which the two nations have been closely cooperating. Both nations urge a diplomatic resolution to the problem. Additionally, Pakistan and Turkey have supported one another's positions on a number of global problems. Turkey, for instance, has backed Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir conflict, with President Erdogan declaring that Turkey will always assist Pakistan on this matter. Similar to this, Pakistan has backed Turkey's stance on the Cyprus problem and shown support for Turkey during its wars with Greece and Armenia.¹⁵⁶

Since their diplomatic relations were established, Pakistan and Turkey have cooperated on a number of regional and global concerns. Both nations have frequently stood by each other, and their collaboration has improved their standing in the area. Pakistan and Turkey have worked together on a number of regional concerns between 2018 and 2022. The Kashmir problem has been one of the most crucial areas of collaboration. Turkey has been a loud opponent of India's human rights abuses in the area and a backer of Pakistan's position on Kashmir. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, president of Turkey, made a statement at the UN General Assembly in August 2019 in which he encouraged the international community to intervene on the Kashmir problem and advocated for a peaceful conclusion. His remarks were viewed as a significant help to Pakistan's efforts to draw attention to the Kashmir problem on a global scale. In a similar vein, Pakistan has backed Turkey in a number of regional disputes, notably the Syrian crisis. Pakistan has backed Turkey's attempts to establish peace in the area despite Turkey's extensive involvement in the Syrian war. Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, visited Turkey in

¹⁵⁶ Kachiar, "Decoding the Turkey-Pakistan Alliance," 2021

2019 and reaffirmed his country's support for Turkey's initiatives in Syria. The two nations also explored the prospect of cooperating on the Syrian refugee crisis.¹⁵⁷

The war against terrorism is another area of cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey. Both nations have experienced the effects of terrorism, and they are collaborating to eliminate the danger. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, visited Turkey in January 2020 and spoke with Turkish officials on regional security and the battle against terrorism. The two nations decided to expand their defence and security cooperation. On the subject of Afghanistan, Turkey has furthermore supported Pakistan. In addition to participating in the peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government, Turkey has been collaborating with Pakistan to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the foreign minister of Pakistan, visited Turkey in 2021 and spoke with his Turkish colleague on the situation in Afghanistan. The two nations decided to cooperate to promote the Afghan peace process. Pakistan and Turkey have worked together on a number of other regional and global concerns in addition to these. Both nations have actively promoted the interests of the Muslim world as members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Additionally, Turkey has backed Pakistan's ambitions to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and has promoted Pakistan's membership in other international fora.¹⁵⁸

5.7 Security Cooperation in International Forums

Beyond bilateral cooperation, Pakistan and Turkey's defence connections include cooperation in a number of multilateral fora aimed at fostering peace and stability in the area and throughout the world. Between 2018 and 2022, both nations actively collaborated to improve their

¹⁵⁷ Kachiar, 2021

¹⁵⁸ Zaheer, " New Era of Cooperation," 2022

collaboration in multilateral fora like the Organisation of Islamic collaboration and the United Nations.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Turkey, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Mevlut Cavusoglu, met on the margins of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2018 to discuss global and regional matters of shared interest. In the UN and other international venues, they reaffirmed their commitment to supporting one another's viewpoints. Both nations have worked closely together to promote peace and security, fight terrorism, and promote the rights of the Muslim world, among other concerns. The OIC, which has 57-member nations and is the second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN, has also seen considerable participation from Pakistan and Turkey. The OIC seeks to advance solidarity and collaboration among its members in the political, social, and economic arenas as well as in issues pertaining to peace and security. While Turkey has been a participating member of the OIC since 1975, Pakistan has been a founder member since 1969.¹⁵⁹

The leaders of Pakistan and Turkey, Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, respectively, reiterated their commitment to bolstering their relationship in a number of sectors, including defence, during the OIC's 14th Islamic Summit, which was held in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, in May 2019. They pledged to cooperate in order to advance peace, stability, and prosperity both within the region and beyond. Furthermore, under the auspices of the OIC, both nations have taken part in joint military drills. Pakistan hosted the joint military exercise "Fateh-2020" for the OIC in February 2020, and Turkey also took part. The exercise aims to increase defence cooperation and coordination among OIC member nations and improve their capacity to address challenges to national security. The exercise involved a number of different activities, including as close air support, live fire exercises, and special

¹⁵⁹ Asad Ullah Khan, "The Expanding Turkey-Pakistan Military Cooperation," *Centre for Iranian Studies*, January 4, 2019. <https://iramcenter.org/en/the-expanding-turkey-pakistan-military-cooperation/>.

missions. Pakistan and Turkey have collaborated in forums other than the OIC, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which has eight members, including China, India, Russia, and Pakistan. Turkey is a member of the SCO with observer status but has said that it would like to join fully in the future. Since 2017, Pakistan has been a full member of the SCO. Imran Khan, the prime minister of Pakistan, and President Erdogan met privately during the SCO Council of Heads of State summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in June 2019. They spoke about issues of mutual concern, particularly their defense-related cooperation. They reaffirmed their dedication to intensifying their SCO cooperation in order to advance regional security and stability.¹⁶⁰

The two countries' collaboration has greatly improved. It still has a tremendous deal of potential to boost both countries' militaries even further, though. The two nations may improve their collaboration in a number of areas. As an illustration, Pakistan may be a possible user of Turkish armed drones, and both nations might collaborate or exchange knowledge and experience in the development of their respective next-generation fighter aircraft programs. Turkish drones were successful in their encounters in part due to the country's electronic warfare capabilities. Both airborne and ground-based electronic warfare systems were involved. The potential for expansion and continued development in this sector is enormous. Other significant areas for collaboration include counterterrorism, radar technology, space, air, and missile defense. A solid foundation exists between Pakistan and Turkey for enduring defense cooperation. Joint project development will shorten R&D time for both nations while also enhancing their competence. By doing this, Pakistan and Turkey may stop being net importers of guns and become exporters instead.¹⁶¹

¹⁶⁰ Ali, Kalbe. "Ankara Intends to Increase Trade with Islamabad to \$5bn: Envoy." *Dawn News*, October 26, 2022. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1716997>

¹⁶¹ Khan, The expanding Turkey-Pakistan military cooperation, 2019

5.8 Conclusion

Pakistan-Turkey military ties witnessed an important change from 2018 to 2022 during Imran Khan's leadership. During this time, a strong defence partnership emerged that covered a wide range of military cooperation topics and went beyond the borders common alliances.

The Pak-Turkey Defence Collaboration, which was founded on trust and shared security concerns, served as the cornerstone of this partnership. Joint military drills such as, Turgutreis I-V, Three Brothers, Crescent Star, Mavi Balina, were important in improving their armed forces' preparedness and interoperability, which increased their capacity to successfully handle changing security threats. The significance of marine defence relations increased as both countries saw how strategically important it was to protect their maritime borders. The MILGEM Project represented their joint dedication to strengthening domestic defence capabilities and lowering dependency on outside sources. It will culminate in the construction of a national ship in 2022. Pakistan's defence relations with Turkey and Qatar established a tripartite strategic alliance that bolstered security and stability in the region. By working together to design and build military gear, this relationship encouraged defence industry collaboration and helped them become less dependent on foreign suppliers. Mutual support on regional issues was another aspect of their strategic cooperation; both nations often defended one another in international fora, regardless of Pakistan's position on Kashmir or Turkey's engagement in local crises. Another feature of their military relations was their security cooperation in international fora, such the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Both countries showed their dedication to preserving international peace and security by working together to solve issues related to global security, from counterterrorism initiatives to peacekeeping deployments.

Chapter 4

6 Findings, Conclusion, and Recommendations

6.1 Findings

- Interparliamentary protocol agreement was signed in June 2021, protocol enables the two parliaments to exchange data, share information, and discuss regional and global issues.
- The establishment of the Joint Cultural Committee in 2020 led to a partnership between TRT and PTV, enhancing cultural and political ties between Pakistan and Turkey through collaborations in education and language.
- In 2021, a dual citizenship deal was signed, under which Pakistan invested \$1.2 billion in Turkish real estate, enabling 10,000 Pakistanis to obtain Turkish citizenship.
- From 2018 to 2022, the trade volume between the two countries stood at \$3977 million, representing a 114% increase from the previous period (2014-2017), when the total trade volume was \$2114 million.
- Pakistan and Turkey shared a strong economic partnership, with trade valued at \$888.9 million in 2020 and a goal to reach \$5 billion by 2023. This collaboration boosted trade, investment, energy, transportation, and regional organizations, supported by a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) signed in 2022, granting Pakistan reduced tariffs on 261 product lines.
- Despite a strong economic connection, Turkey's considerably larger and varied economy, boasting a global trade value of \$391.0 billion compared to Pakistan's \$83.8 billion, indicates a significant disparity, with Turkey's trade volume 4.6 times higher.
- The MILGEM project deal, signed in 2018, was a \$1.5 billion agreement between Pakistan and Turkey that included Pakistan having purchased 30 T-129 ATAK

helicopters from Turkey, Turkey having bought MFI-17 Super Mushshak aircraft from Pakistan, Turkey having supplied three corvettes to Pakistan, and having collaborated on the joint construction of a fleet tanker and the upgrading of three Pakistani submarines.

- Pakistan and Turkey have enhanced their military cooperation through joint military exercises, with a total of 14 exercises conducted between 2018 and 2022, involving air, land, and sea forces, and focusing on counterterrorism, maritime security, and special forces operations.
- The trade volume between Pakistan and Turkey has surged from approximately \$600 million to \$800 million over the past four years (2018-2022), with 17 Turkish companies currently operating in Pakistan and 23 Pakistani companies in Turkey.

6.2 Conclusion

The political relationship between Pakistan and Turkey saw a significant shift under Imran Khan's era, which lasted from 2018 to 2022. With a foundation in shared history and culture, their collaboration grew into a strategic alliance that tackled a variety of joint projects. Important components were the dual citizenship deal, strengthening people-to-people ties, and the 2019 Kuala Lumpur Summit, where they worked with other Muslim countries to address shared concerns. Uniting around common interests, the Unofficial Non-Arab Alliance between Pakistan and Turkey became a powerful force in regional affairs. High-level visits, including those by President Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, strengthened this alliance, and the visit of Turkey's Defence Minister highlighted the strengthening military cooperation. Regarding the Afghanistan problem, both countries unified in their support of peace and stability. Their cooperation extended to international matters, as they consistently backed one another on matters pertaining to Turkey's Nagorno-Karabakh operations or Pakistan's position

on Kashmir. The triangle involving Pakistan, Turkey, and Qatar expanded their cooperation, and their multifarious alliance was further strengthened by bilateral talks and interparliamentary relations. Their assistance to one another extended to global issues such as Cyprus and Azerbaijan. Their close connections were reinforced in 2020 at the 6th High-Level Cooperation Council Meeting and during Prime Minister Imran Khan's 2019 visit to Turkey. The trilateral summit with Afghanistan demonstrated partnership for peace initiatives. They collaborated on global platforms, addressed shared problems, and opposed Islamophobia. The Joint Cultural Committee reaffirmed its dedication to promoting intercultural understanding and interpersonal relationships. The political ties between Pakistan and Turkey saw a notable period of growth and consolidation throughout this era, which is indicative of the strength and significance of their strategic relationship.

The economic connections between Pakistan and Turkey saw a dramatic transition from 2018 to 2022 under Imran Khan, beyond the boundaries of conventional trade. Significant increase was observed in both exports and imports between the two countries, especially in the pharmaceutical industry where trade volume soared. To further emphasize the variety of their economic relationships, their commercial cooperation also involved a broad range of goods, such as minerals, Sulphur, salt, and more. The trade of rice continued to be active, as both nations saw its significant potential. The Strategic Economic Framework, which was established in 2019, emphasised their commitment to increasing trade and investment and set the foundation for organised economic development. 2020 saw Pakistan, Turkey, and Qatar engage in a trilateral economic engagement that broadened the extent of their economic cooperation and created new avenues for trade and investment. The biggest step forward was the 2022 signing of the Pak-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, a comprehensive framework designed to encourage bilateral investment and trade and advance economic growth in both countries.

Reopening the rail freight route between Pakistan and Turkey demonstrated their commitment to enhancing connectivity and logistics, which are essential for the efficient movement of products and services. The Sixth High-Level Cooperation Council Meeting, which explored several aspects of economic cooperation and reaffirmed their shared commitment to fortifying economic connections, demonstrated the collaboration across institutions. Their shared goal of stability and economic progress was further highlighted by the creation of the Economic Advisory Council. This period demonstrated Pakistan and Turkey's shared commitment to expanding economic cooperation and generating prosperity in both nations, and it represented a substantial advancement in their economic alliance.

Pakistan-Turkey military ties witnessed an important change from 2018 to 2022 during Imran Khan's leadership. During this time, a strong defence partnership emerged that covered a wide range of military cooperation topics and went beyond the border's common alliances.

The Pak-Turkey Defence Collaboration, which was founded on trust and shared security concerns, served as the cornerstone of this partnership. Joint military drills such as, Turgutreis I-V, Three Brothers, Crescent Star, Mavi Balina, were important in improving their armed forces' preparedness and interoperability, which increased their capacity to successfully handle changing security threats. The significance of marine defence relations increased as both countries saw how strategically important it was to protect their maritime borders. The MILGEM Project represented their joint dedication to strengthening domestic defence capabilities and lowering dependency on outside sources. It will culminate in the construction of a national ship in 2022. Pakistan's defence relations with Turkey and Qatar established a tripartite strategic alliance that bolstered security and stability in the region. By working together to design and build military gear, this relationship encouraged defence industry collaboration and helped them become less dependent on foreign suppliers. Mutual support on regional issues was another aspect of their strategic cooperation; both nations often defended

one another in international fora, regardless of Pakistan's position on Kashmir or Turkey's engagement in local crises. Another feature of their military relations was their security cooperation in international fora, such the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Both countries showed their dedication to preserving international peace and security by working together to solve issues related to global security, from counterterrorism initiatives to peacekeeping deployments.

6.3 Recommendations

- Analyze Turkey's role as a mediator and facilitator in Pakistan's regional and international diplomatic efforts, particularly in the Kashmir dispute and Afghan peace process. Assess how Turkey's diplomatic support impacted Pakistan's political objectives and the bilateral relationship.
- Review existing cooperation efforts (such as TRT-PTV Cooperation, Parliamentary Protocol Agreement, and Joint Cultural Committee) and identify ways to improve them.
- Evaluate the impact of Pakistan-Turkey economic and military cooperation, including benefits and challenges such as (reductions on taxes, and technology transfer).
- Establish a Pakistan-Turkey Digital Cooperation Framework to promote digital trade, innovation, and cybersecurity collaboration.
- Compare Pakistan-Turkey relations with other regional partnerships to identify best ways and opportunities for cooperation.
- Pakistan and Turkey should enhance defense industrial cooperation by jointly producing and co-developing defense equipment, such as tanks, artillery, and UAVs, to boost capabilities, transfer technology, reduce foreign dependence, and foster economic cooperation.

- Pakistan and Turkey should establish a joint counter-terrorism center to share intelligence, expertise, and best practices, and facilitate training, coordination, and regional stability in combating terrorism.
- Examine Pakistan and Turkey's collaboration in regional security initiatives, such as the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Evaluate how their military relations contributed to regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts during Imran Khan's era.
- Analyze the defense cooperation agreements signed between Pakistan and Turkey during this period, such as the 2019 agreement on joint defense production and the 2020 deal on the sale of Turkish drones to Pakistan. Examine how these agreements enhanced military ties and benefited both countries.

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