

Pakistan and the West: Entwined, Entangled and Engaged

Rana Eijaz Ahmad

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science

University of the Punjab Lahore Pakistan

Abida Eijaz

Assistant Professor

Institute of Communication Studies

University of the Punjab Lahore Pakistan

E-mail: ranaejaz786@yahoo.com

Abstract

Pakistan is the most developed country in the world in its first sixty three years of history. The West is very much aware of Pakistan's geopolitical and strategic importance in the region. It is surrounded by three nuclear powers (China, India, and Russia) and one going to be nuclear (Iran). Therefore, Pakistan and the West are intertwined, entangled, and engaged in a confused relationship owing to the turncoats on both sides. The U.S. has increased its hidden activities in Pakistan under the umbrella of Black Water or Xe. The West has certain reasons to entwine, entangle, and engage with Pakistan. It is the matter of dependence and dominance in world politics. Pakistan's leadership is dependent upon the West for its legitimate role in the national politics. Since, the West dominates by giving aid and support to the interest groups in Pakistan. The West needs to be dominated over the world through the NATO expansion in Eurasia. For example, the U.K., the U.S. and their allies supporting the individuals (Musharaf, Zardari, Altaf Hussain, Maulana Fazlur Rehman etc.) in Pakistan for dictating their terms to control the regional politics and economic markets in South Asia. The interest groups in Pakistan are playing dual role with the U.S. and earning dollars for their party, family, and parochial interests rather pursuing national interests on one hand and making fool of the U.S. administration on the other by not fulfilling the demands of the West for winning the so-called war against terrorism. In spite of this, it suits the West for intervening in the politics of the region. The West needs to stay in Afghanistan for restricting China, Iran, Pakistan, and Russia for flourishing economically and politically. The U.S. is not interested in India, Pakistan, and Iran gas pipeline project. So, keeping India-Pakistan-Iran at daggers drawn this project could never be materialized. Keeping Afghanistan in war situation, the U.S. and its allies are justified for sitting under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces. War ridden Afghanistan, restricts China, Iran and Pakistan to go to Central Asian states for trade and other economic and cultural ties to become autonomous economically. As the economic autonomy is the only way to get rid of external influences. Russia had been kept engaged in Afghanistan for ten years by the U.S. with the help of Pakistan. Consequently, Russia disintegrated in 1991. In the same way, Iran to some extent India and Russia altogether are keeping the U.S. and its allies engaged in the region to shatter the U.S. into six parts. This paper is based on secondary sources and comparative method.

The meaning of the West

The term West is very confusing sometime. It is explained in different perspectives in different ways. For example with a cultural view point the Western world or the West has different meanings. In political and economic meaning the West gives different or same meaning. For example the countries of the Western Europe, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, and North America are considered as the West. All these states are relatively strong enough to sustain their economies and governments for a longer period. It is also believed that most part of the West is secular, believes in democracy as a form of governance, support capitalism, and free trade. This part of the world is influenced by Jewish and Christian values. For security the West has a military alliance in the form of the NATO. The West also enjoys an economic alliance in the form of European Union and G8. The Western Hemisphere comprises of half of Antarctica and all of North and South America which consist of the Caribbean and Central America as well as Greenland.¹ The term the North has in many perspectives transformed into the West, particularly in the critical sense. Moreover, the West contains a derogatory meaning - to separate the wealthy and overriding communities from the poorer societies - those who are subjugated politically, economically, militarily, and socially by intentional fetters placed on them by the rich.

¹ <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/imageh.htm>. Website visited on 05-01-2010.

Therefore, in the contemporary world, the term 'West' may be used as a negative one, which is controlling the rest part of the world by controlling and concentrating economic sources of the world for making prosperous to their native lands. Samuel P Huntington also believes that the term West is so confusing that hardly be made clear by anyone in the international relations literature.² "The term 'the west' is now universally used to refer to what used to be called Western Christendom."³ The individual presence of the person can only explain where the West is. For example, in Chinese history the West means India and for Japan the West means China. For Pakistan West means Afghanistan.

Pakistan and the West Entangled

After the 9/11 incident Pakistan was considered as the front line state against terrorism. It makes Pakistan a new world for the West. It is very unfortunate the country (Pakistan) that was named as the front line state against terrorism by the Western media, was blamed for abetting terrorism. Pakistan has been supporting NATO forces in Afghanistan under all circumstances but the West keep demanding more efforts from Pakistan. The American administration used the words 'do more' consistently, made the government of Pakistan annoyed. The West and the Americans perceived Pakistan as a failure state (politically, economically, socially) on the one hand and demands do more in war against terrorism on the other that is a dichotomy on the part of the U.S. administration itself. The people of Pakistan started demanding ouster of the U.S. forces from Pakistan which were hiding in Jacobabad, Sindh. The U.S. military bases are also present in other parts of Pakistan as in Terbela the North of the Punjab. It is evident that the U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan are only possible if they have any military bases in Pakistan. It is not only the U.S. that is showing disrespect towards the U.N. charter but Pakistan is equally responsible for abetting war mongers for earning dollars.

The so-called leadership in Pakistan is a sole supporter of the U.S strikes in Bajore, the South, and North Wazirastan. The people in Pakistan are very much dissatisfied with the American administration not with the U.S. peoples. Therefore, Pakistan is disheveled between the local people and the U.S. administration that is dictating Pakistan and imposing decisions against the wish of the Pakistani people. It is against the very nature of democracy. The champions of democracy, human rights and free trade, the U.S., the U.K. and their allies are inflicting atrocities in the developing world of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Pakistan is a country that has been ruled by interest groups in different phases of history and those groups hardly ever respected the public opinion and kept country at the behest of the West for sustaining their rule and family. Thus the rulers, who have never been sincere with the people of the land how could they be true to the West? The West is facing complex situation in Pakistan regarding support for war against terrorism. Kary-Lugar act 2009 is very much criticized by the Pakistani media, opposition in the parliament, peoples in the streets but the government accepted that bill just because of 1.5 billion dollars. The U.S. again showed disrespect to the masses in Pakistan and granted the aid under the Kary-Lugar act to the ruling party for dictating it on its Af-Pak policy in the region.

It has been an open secret that the West specifically the U.S. usually constructs relations with few military generals, few Tv. Channels, few interest groups, and few families in Pakistan to assert their decisions upon and ignore the Pakistani people in general. It does not mean that the West or the U.S. should conduct relations with the people directly but it has to assist Pakistan for the welfare of the people rather for the support of the few interest groups. Since, the West makes relations with interest groups, the people keep on protesting against the policies of the government that shows distrust on the government institutions. Consequently the West becomes confused in constructing good relations with Pakistan. This confusion leads to entwined relationship between Pakistan and the West.

Pakistan and the West Entwined

Pakistan and the Western relations become entwined when it constructed on the bases of 'megalothymia' (to consider itself superior from others) the platonic concept about the parts of the soul explained by Thomas L. Friedman.⁴ The concept of white is right gives hegemony to the West and makes it developed.

² Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and The Remaking of World Order*, New Delhi, Penguin Book India Pvt. Ltd., 1996, 46-47.

³ *Ibid.*, 46

⁴ Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man* (New York: AVON Books, Inc., 1992), p. 182. According to Plato *thymos* is the third part of the soul and Fukuyama believes *megalothymia* and *isothymia* are two important parts of our *thymos*. In our opinion, *Microthymia* is the third and very important part of our *thymos* that means to consider oneself inferior from others is really nucleus of all problems. The Third World that is the victim of *microthymia* can hardly cope with the ongoing flow of the West thanks to its weak and inefficient capabilities. The system capabilities of a political system could be considered a scale for political development in any nation state.

The West in stereotypical thinking increases the intellectual dependence of the rest of the world by propagating what is good for the West is the best for the rest. Although, every country has its own specific cultural and social outlook yet determines the rules and regulations for the welfare of that country. Pakistan is a plural state and has dichotomy regarding culture and values in different provinces. Therefore, it has to take in confidence to all federating units for implementing any policy. The West on the other hand making it difficult for Pakistan leadership to make decisions independently and consistently emphasizing upon drone attacks in the Northern, and Southern parts of Pakistan. Pakistan government is entwined around the West for legitimizing its status at home and earning dollars. This entwined relationship where West is stagnant and Pakistan swirl around it. Pakistan is implementing policies of development without considering local needs, contents, and parameters of education toeing the West. Hegemony of the West is due to media coverage especially of American view point.

Pakistan is replete with all kind of sources but improper and incapable system hinders the way to progress and self reliance. System capabilities⁵ are devised and channelized by leadership and Pakistan's so called leadership or political demagogues depend on the West for certain reasons. First intellectually dependent upon the West has made Pakistan government deaf and dumb, do not listen to the people. Second, the National accountability bureau has already furnished the reports of the Pakistani government officials' malfeasance of funds therefore they have to run from the country and need a shelter in the West. Pervaiz Musharaf is wandering in the U.S. and the U.K., after destabilizing Pakistan. Shoukat Aziz former prime minister of Pakistan, sitting in the U.K. Mr. Moeen Qureshi former prime minister of Pakistan is also sitting in the West. Altaf Hussain is sitting in the U.K. So there is a long list that shows why Pakistani government usually remains interested in the blind support of the West. This entwined relationship is assisting the West to spread terrorism in the name of war against terrorism.

The Jewish-Christian extremism is spreading in the whole world. Pakistan has become the part of that extremism and facing radical Muslims, resisting against the radical or extremist Jews and Christians. Pakistan is a country with few resources but abundant sources while the West is abundant with both. The advanced and sophisticated science and technology is making the West even stringer and invincible to an extent. However theses are the policies that made any community unpopular in the comity of nations. The West is using Pakistan today for protecting its national interests at the sake of Pakistani national interest. Pakistan top administration seems helpless before the Western policies and strongly influenced by the same. It (Pakistan) is taking dictation from the West for perishing extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan under the U.S. policy of Af-Pak. The public sphere according to Jurgen Habermas (it is an abstract concept of the community that does not exist at any identifiable place in the world)⁶ is unimpressed with the prevailing policy of the West especially of the U.S. the people are by nature peace loving therefore, they need peace in a pragmatic form not in speeches, words, slogans and policies of the West or the rest.

Empirical study shows that public sphere has its pragmatic form in the contemporary world in the shape of Pope as an institution, extremists groups that belong to different ideologies, therefore Habermas' community of public sphere does exist in a real form. There is no more virtual concept in to that reality. According to a young scholar Ms. Abida Eijaz this public sphere has been transformed very strongly into media sphere.⁷ This age is considered a communication age where more exaggerated forms of different concepts is shown to people. The media sphere has abducted the minds of the people by showing repeated telecast of the same reports intermittently. It confines the people opinion to an extent and constructs the same in a biased manner. The media sphere ahs made the public sphere more subjective in its nature that is where the shoe pinches. The West today predominantly leads the world in electronic and print media and use the same according to its specific designs based on ruling over the world. This wish to rule over the world can hardly fulfilled with aggressive schemes. The hearts of the people can only be won by peace strategies that are conflict management and resolution objectively rather with selective morality. What the West considers good for the Israel regarding state security, defence, nuclear arms, and aggression should consider good for the rest of the world. It will finish the ongoing confusion in the world. Pakistan and the West have been entwined within the media sphere and unable to get out of it owing to the selective attitude of the West.

⁵ System Capabilities are extractive regulative, distributive, symbolic, and responsive. Gabriel A. Almond and G. Bingham Powell Jr., *Comparative Politics: A developmental Approach* (Little, Brown and Company INC., 1966), pp. 190-212.

⁶ <http://records.viu.ca/~soules/media301/habermas.htm>. Website visited on 06-01-2010.

⁷ Ms. Abida Eijaz is an Assistant Professor at the institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab; Lahore-Pakistan presented the paper titled as *Public Sphere and Media Sphere: Taliban Through Pakistani Media* in an international conference held in Malaysia from 13-15 November 2009.

Pakistan and the West Engaged

Pakistan is engaged along with the West in the so-called international war against terrorism at two levels- micro and macro: At micro level, the West seems to be a salvation for the depressed youth. Individuals want to migrate from Pakistan. They desire to settle in the West, considering it peaceful. This situation is leading to brain drain in Pakistan. On the other hand, commercialization of education has made all kinds of the Western educational institutions to market in Pakistan who not only plunder the simple people but also leave them alone while they come under arrest at abroad for doing nothing. The U.K. government arrested few Pakistani students in March 2009 and kept them under arrest for committing no crime. They were released after month's interrogation, found nothing wrong with them. Pakistani government's increased reliance on the West to solve its problems is a kind of evasive policy that is very detrimental for any nation. At macro level, the West is a source of legitimization for institutions, organizations, and governments. The West support only dictators in Pakistan. General Ayub Khan, General Yahya, General Zia-ul-Haq, General Pervaiz Musharaf all were dictators and supported by the West. Not only the dictators but some civilian rulers also assumed powers with the support of the West.

Muhammad Ali Bogra, the second prime minister of Pakistan, Moeen Qureshi, Shaoukat Aziz all prime ministers assumed powers with the support of the West. It all shows that the West and Pakistan have been engaged since 1953 to date for undermining Pakistan's sovereignty, freedom, economy, and social system. Pakistan and the West have to be engaged diplomatically if both are really serious to end terrorism in the world. Mr. Shamshad former foreign secretary of Pakistan told in a t.v. interview that standing committee of the Parliament made some recommendations for the U.S. to bring it home for a peaceful solution in the Northern parts of Pakistan. The insincere attitude of the Pakistan government instigated the U.S. that all recommendations have been accepted for the people to make them silent. The U.S. can go ahead with its plans. This misleading is still de tracking the U.S. government and making wrong policies in Af-Pak issue. The role of the WB and the IMF is also impractical as it gives the aid to Pakistan for military development. Although the recent aid from the IFIs conditioned with social development yet it seems skeptical.

Post Osama Bin Laden Situation

After the demise of Osama in May 2011 in Abbotabad as claimed by the U.S. Pakistan and the west have become at the cross roads but everyone knows that if the west really interested in ending terrorism it needs help of Pakistan. Therefore, in the presence of all mistrust in the post Osama Bin Laden situation Pakistan and the U.S. needs each other. The U.S. should not revise its mistake of 1988 when it left Pakistan alone after Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan caused emergence of Taliban. Both Pakistan and the U.S. have to negotiate bilaterally and peacefully resolve their reservations.

Conclusion

Pakistan is very much rich in sources and resources. It is a poor country owing to leadership. The human development index is made by the West that makes its own indicators of development. That cannot be accepted in the contemporary world. For example, the U.S. major banks are closed in the current financial crunch but there is not a single bank closed in Pakistan. Unemployment rate is increasing in the West but not increasing in Pakistan. The government in Pakistan is in the hands of some fake people who are defaming Pakistan and has undermined Pakistan's security. Today Pakistan is at stake due to its so called leadership that is directly under the thumb of the West.

The West especially the U.S. has to understand that why they are supporting Altaf Hussain, Pervaiz Musharaf, Shoukat Aziz, Hamesh Khan and other corrupt people and abetting corruption blatantly. The West is under threat in the so called war against terrorism. The U.K. and the U.S. in particular is being engaged in Afghanistan by India and Russia to deplete the economy of the U.S. The U.S. fought a proxy war in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1988 with the help of Pakistan. India and Russia along with Iran are also supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan and the so called Taliban in the Northern and Southern areas of Pakistan for the ultimate disintegration of the U.S, as mentioned in the Panarian view a former Russian KGB chief has predicted that the U.S. would be disintegrated into six parts in December this year. It is all what media predicts with the analysis of different analysts. Therefore, the U.S. has to take in confidence to Pakistan for their successful withdrawal from Afghanistan. It will sustain economy of the U.S. and give a sigh of relief to the American people.