

## **Historical Analysis of Pakistan's relations with United States of America under Obama's Administration**

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### **Abstract**

*The relations between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and United States of America were established soon after the inception of Pakistan. Initially Pakistan joined the US sponsored security pact Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) to counter Indian threat and she became security state rather than welfare state. Pakistan received different types of economic and military aid from United States (US) and Washington got Pakistan's soils to counter Soviet expansionist policy. The bilateral relations faced numerous ups and downs: U-2 incident, Indo-Pakistan war 1965, disintegration of Pakistan in 1971, Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, nuclear program, different types of sanction, 9/11, counter terrorism and non NATO ally, and US do more policy. But the bilateral relations under Obama's administration hampered owing to different incidents and US aristocratic policies. The*

*primary purpose of this manuscript is to investigate the ups and downs in Pakistan-US relations under Obama's administration and the data for this study is collected from secondary sources.*

**Key Words:** Pakistan, USA, NATO Ally, CENTO, Obama Administration, Pressler Amendment

### **Historical background**

Islamic Republic of Pakistan became independent on August 14, 1947. The United States of America was among the first who recognized Pakistan as an independent state and established diplomatic relations. Initially the bilateral relations were based on military and economic support. Initially Pakistan adopted a policy of friendship with all sovereign states of the World<sup>1</sup>. In the beginning Pakistan faced many challenges but one of the most important issues was the survival of newly born state. India is the main security threat for Pakistan since her birth so; Pakistan desired for a good friend to cooperate in security as well as in economy. Pakistan's economy was too weak at the time of independence and settlement of refugees was also the serious issue. The bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States of America can be divided into following eras with respect to different eras.

### **Pak-US Relations during Cold War Era**

The United States of America was among those countries that recognized Pakistan first. The US president Harry Truman recognized Islamic Republic of Pakistan on August 15, 1947 as an independent state and sent a congratulation message to Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and US were established on October 20, 1947<sup>2</sup>. At the beginning Pakistan faced several challenges among which the security issue and economic issue was most prominent. The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and United States were built on the bases of military and economic cooperation. Pakistan has three options regarding to her relations with other states the first option was to join Communist block under Soviet Union, second option was to join Capitalist block under the leadership of United States and

the third option was neutral policy. Later the United States helped Pakistan for the membership in the United Nations (UN).

Pakistan chose second option and Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan visited United States instead of Soviet Union. Liaquat Ali Khan visited US in May, 1950 and met with American president Harry Truman<sup>3</sup>. The visit of Liaquat Ali Khan was one of the most important events in US-Pakistan diplomatic history. He tried to explain the needs of newly born state in economy, technology and scientific field and how the US helped to overcome in these fields. Pakistan also supported the US stance in Korean War. At that time Pakistan needed US assistance against Indian threat and similarly US needed Pakistan's support against Communist regime. Pakistan signed Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement with US in 1954. Under this agreement several Pakistani soldiers gained training from United States.

Pakistan joined South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) in September, 1954 and became front ally of US against Communist bloc. In the result of Pakistan membership in SEATO she gained \$17.5 million military aid and \$60 million economic aid<sup>4</sup>. Later she also joined Baghdad Pact or Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) in September 1955<sup>5</sup>. On March, 1959 Pakistan and the United States signed bilateral agreement on defence and cooperation<sup>6</sup>. Under that agreement both countries agreed to proper action including the use of armed force against the aggressor. In November 1959 the treaty of friendship and commerce was signed between US and Pakistan<sup>7</sup>.

In the beginning of the 1960s, in May 1960, U-2 incident was occurred and the Soviet Union threatened Pakistan. Pakistan gained economic assistance from West under five year plan. Later President John F. Kennedy took office in 1961 and he was the opinion that China is a great threat for US than the Soviet Union. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1961 Ayub Khan visited Washington and met with US President and he requested for assistance in drainage and irrigation system. The United States Agency for

International Development (USAID) offered \$ 500 million<sup>8</sup>. In 1962 the issue of Cuban Missile crises was emerged and the rivalry between US and Soviet Union became at peak. In that particular year the Sino-India war took place and the Britain and US decided to give military aid to India. They approved \$120 million military aid to India to fight against China<sup>9</sup>. The US President reduced the volume of aid to Pakistan. US also urged that Pakistan have to avoid take the advantage of India's trouble. Pakistan government became aware from US selfishness policies and President Ayub Khan tilted towards China and Soviet Union.

Pakistan signed border agreement with China in 1963. In the response of Pak-China border agreement US Senate postponed the promised \$4.3 million loan to Pakistan<sup>10</sup>. President Ayub Khan visited Beijing and Moscow in 1965. In September 1965, war between Pakistan and India started but the US imposed embargo on both Pakistan and India<sup>11</sup>. US also stopped the 3<sup>rd</sup> five year plan fund to Pakistan<sup>12</sup>. In January 1966 US vice President visited Pakistan and approved a loan of \$50 million and later the export import bank also agreed to provide a loan about \$ 152.3 million to Pakistan<sup>13</sup>. In 1968 Islamabad sent a notice to Washington to close its monitoring base from Peshawar, Pakistan owing to the expiry of 10 years leased period<sup>14</sup>.

The bilateral relations were not good in the era of 1970s because US not supported Pakistan in 1971 War. The United States was bound to defend Pakistan under 1959 defence agreement but US didn't. The stance of US was that India was not a Communist state and we are bound to defend Pakistan if any Communist State attacked Pakistan. While Sino-US relations took a major shift since People's Republic of China's birth. The US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger secretly visited China via Pakistan and labeled the Chinese land for Nixon's visit. Later in 1972 US President Henry Kissinger visited China and met with his Chinese counterpart. Nixon also met Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong<sup>15</sup>.

Pakistan withdrew its membership from SEATO in November 1972 and joined Non Alignment Movement (NAM). In March, 1973 due to the revival of democratic government in Pakistan the arms embargo was moderately lifted<sup>16</sup>. In 1975 Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto paid official visit to Washington and negotiate on security concerns of Pakistan after Indian Nuclear test. The arms embargo of 1965 was completely lifted in February 1975 by United States<sup>17</sup>.

On March 18, 1976 Pakistan signed an agreement with France to buy a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant from France<sup>18</sup>. Washington response was negative and reacted sharply under the conditions of nonproliferation treaty<sup>19</sup>. In 1979, Jimmy Carter took office and he focused on Pakistan's nuclear program under nonproliferation policy. He forced tried his best to stop Pakistan and also pressurized France for the suspension of the agreement with Pakistan. Furthermore, in December 1979 Soviet army invaded in Afghanistan and the Islamic revolution in Iran resulted major shift if US foreign policy towards Islamabad<sup>20</sup>. In the beginning of the era of 1980s bilateral relations once again entered in cooperative phase. When President Reagan took Office, his administration introduced three major objectives in South Asia that was to contain USSR, to lesson Indian dependence on the USSR and nuclear nonproliferation<sup>21</sup>.

The United States passed \$3.2 billion aid for Pakistan in 1981 for six year time period<sup>22</sup>. At that time the average of military aid was more than \$1.7 billion. In August 1985, US Congress passed the Pressler Amendment to Foreign Assistance Act 1961<sup>23</sup>. According to this amendment US officials required presidential certificate for any assistance to Pakistan that Pakistan didn't possessed nuclear device. In 1986 the second aid package of \$4.2 billion for the period of 1986-1993 was approved by United States<sup>24</sup>. The deal of F-16 Aircraft was also the part of this package. The United States Presidents provided required certificate to the Congress from 1985 to 1989 because they need Pakistan's support in Afghanistan. In this period US provided full military and economic support to Pakistan that was actually support for Afghan Mujahedeen. After the Geneva

Accord the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw her forces from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989 and the Bush administration offered \$ 621 million to Pakistan for the fiscal year 1989-1990<sup>25</sup>.

### **Islamabad-Washington Ties Post Cold War Era**

In this era Pakistan lost her importance owing to Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Soviet troops leave Afghanistan in 1989 and the relations between Soviet and US were improved as compare to prior. So, US have no longer strategic interest in Pakistan and then US imposed sanctions on Pakistan in 1990, under the Pressler Amendment of 1985. In this era US imposed three sanctions on Pakistan. In the explanation US concluded that Islamabad had crossed the limit line of nuclear program so, US President not provided certificate for Pakistan. Due to these sanctions, all types of military and economic aid were freeze by US. The main reason behind this sanction was that US have no further interest in Pakistan because the major threat Communist Soviet withdrew her forces from Afghanistan. Earlier the sanction Bush and Reagan provided presidential certificate due to Afghan War<sup>26</sup>.

In 1995 Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto went to Washington and requested to lift the sanctions<sup>27</sup>. In respond US pushed the Brown Amendment however; the arms embargo was not lifted. The second most important thing is that US imposed another sanction in 1998 after the nuclear test of Pakistan. This sanction was also called Pakistani Nuclear Test Sanction which was imposed by Clinton administration invoking the Glenn Amendment<sup>28</sup>. In 1999 Pakistan's democratic government took over by General Pervez Musharraf and the third sanction imposed by US in this era. The third set of sanction was named as Democracy sanction.

### **Pak-US Relations in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Centaury**

In the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pakistan's relations with United States were not worthy and the game of blaming on each other was at peak. Pakistan blamed that US policy for Pakistan was based on dual standard when she successfully got her interest and became sole super power she left Pakistan

alone<sup>29</sup>. While on the other hand US criticized Pakistan for the miss use of US military and economic aid and Pakistan's nuclear program was also major issue<sup>30</sup>. US imposed the series of sanctions on Pakistan after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The sanctions are Pressler Amendment passed in 1985 while imposed in 1990 as well as Glenn and Symington Amendment. Furthermore, the US tilted her policies towards India and also favored India on different occasions. In 2000, US President Clinton visited India for Five days while his visit for Pakistan was only for Five hours<sup>31</sup>.

The incident of September 11, 2001 leads Pakistan-US relations in a new era of cooperation. It's changed the nature of Pak-US relationship once again. US President George Bush questioned the whole World to make a clear choice with US or with terrorism. The famous slogan of Bush was that either with us or against us<sup>32</sup>. Pakistan became the front strategic ally of United States to counter terrorism. Then the Bush Administration introduced new bill to remove all types of previous sanctions imposed on Pakistan. In 2002, President Musharraf criticized religious extremism and banned on five terrorist organizations, three prominent are Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, and Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan are more prominent. In 2003 the United States forgave \$1 billion loan which was granted to Pakistan in a goodwill gesture<sup>33</sup>. In July 2003 President Musharraf visited Washington and met President Bush, during his visit Bush administration approved \$ 3 billion of economic and defence assistance under a five year plan. However, this aid package was conditioned with the certification of US Congress. In 2004 President Bush and his administration officially acknowledged Pakistan as a non-NATO ally. Bush also allowed Pakistan to purchased advanced military and strategic equipment<sup>34</sup>. Furthermore, in this year US army launched drone attacks inside Pakistan and they targeted different places in tribal areas of Pakistan<sup>35</sup>.

According to Umbreen Javed and Imran Mushtaq, Islamabad, received \$ 2847.4 million under different programs form 2001-2005. In 2001, Pakistan received \$ 91.0 million, in 2002, \$1151.8 million, in 2003 \$ 513.3 million, in 2004, \$ 391.2

million and in 2005 Pakistan received \$ 700.1 million from United States<sup>36</sup>. After a few years of 9/11 Pakistan took massive action against all those organizations which create extremism or linked with terrorist groups. Pakistan banned so many groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and many more. Owing to strong action against terrorism and terrorist organization, Pakistan faced several domestic issues and terrorist attacks<sup>37</sup>. In 2007, a report was issued and claimed that Pakistan strengthening her defence by using aid money. The aid money was only for counter terrorism projects while US accused that Pakistan used these funds for the military buildup against India.

### **Pak-US Relations under Obama's Administration (2008-2016)**

President Obama took office in January, 2008. In that time President Bush policies regarding to Afghanistan and Pakistan were generally criticized by US media and Public. The trust on both sides was missing due to US extra demands and expectations from Pakistan. One most important factor of mistrust was US massive demands from Pakistan and Washington also blamed Pakistan for her mismanagement and ill will policies<sup>38</sup>. Furthermore, Washington blamed Islamabad's army for the sharing of secrets and tips with Taliban and pro-Taliban elements about US operations. In June 2008, the airstrike of US army killed 11 Paramilitary soldiers of Pakistan and the bilateral relations once again badly affected. The Obama Administration introduced new policies to deal with Pakistan and Afghanistan because Pakistan was the front ally of US in Washington lead War on Terror<sup>39</sup>. The major events and policies of US under Obama's Administration and the bilateral ties between US and Pakistan are further details in following significant themes.

### **Obama's Af-Pak Policy**

Obama Administration more focused Pakistan as compare to Afghanistan with the arguments that only by solving problems in Pakistan US can create stability in Afghanistan<sup>40</sup>. The Obama Administration wanted to counter the terrorist groups in Pakistan Tribal Areas who wanted to create trouble in



Afghanistan. The President Obama announced the Afghan-Pakistan (Af-Pak) policy on March 27, 2009<sup>41</sup>. The reason behind the one term policy was that US policy makers sees Pakistan and Afghanistan as single operation theater. Pakistan raised objections and criticized on the policy for using Afghanistan and Pakistan as one unites. The Bush Administration failed to stopped the insurgency in Afghanistan and they claimed that the Taliban are operated from Pakistan Tribal Areas do they include Pakistan in his policy with the aim to create stability in Afghanistan<sup>42</sup>.

According to Ishtiaq Ahmed the Afghan-Pakistan Strategy has many features the first was that Afghanistan and Pakistan are two countries but one challenge of US. This policy also regulates a triangular framework with cooperation of other major powers. This policy was also the blue print of US goals in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The third feature of this policy was that this policy supported reconciliation with local Taliban like Tehrek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other insurgents. The fourth feature of the policy was that the policy was the major shift in the tactics and goods of US led counter insurgency war fear in Afghanistan and Pakistan<sup>43</sup>.

Obama Administration has under took two surge of his troops in Afghanistan that the first surge was consist on 21000 troops and second surge was consisted on 30000 troops. According to the policy President Obama wanted to maximize his troops in Afghanistan and also wants to train the Afghan security forces<sup>44</sup>. US want to deploy 4000 troops for the training of Afghan Security Force (ASF) and Afghan police to maintain the law and order situation and state security after the withdrawal of US troops. According to the policy US wants to train 134,000 ASF and 82000 police man in the period of three years<sup>45</sup>.

### **Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act 2009**

This act also called Kerry Lugar bill or Act 2009. The Kerry Lugar Bill was basically an Act of United States proposed by Senator John Kerry and Richard Lugar in January, 2009. This bill was signed by President Obama on October 15, 2009 and

became law. The main goal of this bill was to provide civil aid or economic aid to Pakistan rather than military or defence aid<sup>46</sup>. There were many reasons behind this bill but one most important reason of this bill was US mistrust on Pakistan regarding to her counter terrorism aid. According to Issac Kafir Pakistan gained \$1.6 billion under Foreign Military Fund (FMF) in the era of 2001 - 2008 and she spent all these funds to build up her defence capability against India. Pakistan also purchased several types of American military equipment. Pakistan also spent about \$ 8.4 billion in the period of 2002-2006. So, the United States wanted to provide civil aid to Pakistan rather than military aid<sup>47</sup>.

Pakistan would receive \$1.5 billion annually under US civilian assistance for the five year periods under the KLB. This aid was from the fiscal year 2010-2014 but there are many term and conditions related to financial aid. The total amount of aid was \$ 7.5 billion under five year plan<sup>48</sup>. According to the leading Pakistani News Paper "The Nation" there are three most controversial terms in Kerry Lugar Bill (KLB) the first condition was that President Obama has to certify that Pakistan's security forces are not snooping in the political and judicial process of Pakistan<sup>49</sup>. This condition was directly interference in internal matters of Pakistan. The second condition was that the secretary of defence and director of national defence of US have to submit their reports annually to the Congress. The report must have mention counter terrorism progress report of Pakistan security forces. The third condition was that the KLB also provide \$ 5 million per year to the US Ambassador to Islamabad. The main purpose of this money was to assist Islamabad in critical need developments and humanitarian assistance. According to the text of KLB Pakistan has make progress in these matters that's are ceasing support, preventing Al Qaeda, strengthening counter terrorism and anti-terrorism money laundering laws and the security forces of Pakistan are not militarily and substantially disrupting the political or judicial process of Pakistan<sup>50</sup>.

According to the official side of US Embassy Islamabad, the United States provided \$ 5 billion in civilian assistance and \$ 1

billion in humanitarian responses to Pakistan under Kerry Lugar Berman Act 2009 (US Embassy, Pakistan). While, according to reliable Pakistani News Paper, “Daily Dawn” reported on January 06, 2015, that “no Kerry Lugar fund issued to Pakistan since 2013”<sup>51</sup>. According to the ‘Business Recorder’ report Pakistan has received about \$ 4.681 billion against committed \$ 6 billion under KLB<sup>52</sup>. In this report business recorder said that Pakistan received the following amount under KLB 2009, which are shown in following table.

Year	Amount in Rupees
2010-2011	51.9 billion
2011-2012	20.3 billion
2012-2013	6.5 billion
2013-2014	16.2 billion
2014-2015	5.2 billion
2015-2016	305 million
Total	100.405 billion

Source: <https://fp.brecorder.com/2016/11/20161118104181/>

The received money was spent in different government sectors and the details of these expenditures are given in the bellow table;

Name of Project	Budget/ expenses (in \$ million)
Energy Sector	345
Economic growth including agriculture	282
Stabilization of civil law enforcement and counter narcotics	308
Education sector	398
Health	236
Humanitarian assistance	170

Cash transfer program like Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Higher Education Commission (HEC) support, Citizen Damage Compensation Plan (CDCP), IDP family support and Malakand.	549
Cross cutting democracy and governance	389

Source: <https://fp.brecorder.com/2016/11/20161118104181/>

### **Bilateral cooperation in War on Terror in Obama Era**

The bilateral relations faced many ups and downs on different occasion and events that's why different scholars and writers named it in different ways. But both countries are cooperated in different programs since the birth of diplomatic ties. In the period of Obama Administration Pakistan and US were also partners in different projects and programs. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the front ally of US to counter global terrorism since the start of War on Terror and she faced several challenges regarding to its internal security<sup>53</sup>. Pakistan and United States are cooperated in different programs in the President Obama era some prominent are mention bellow;

In 2009 Pakistan Army launched Air and ground attacks in Sawat Valley with the name of "Operation Rah-e-Rast". This operation was basically against the Therik-e-Nifaz-e-Shaiyat-e-Muhammadi (TNSM) and Taliban who was controlled the Sawat district<sup>54</sup>. In this operation Pakistan army was assist by US forces to find out the targeting points. The second most important military operation with the help of US was the 'South Waziristan operation' with the name of "Rah-e-Najat" which was started in October 2009<sup>55</sup>. In this operation by the support of US forces Pakistan army arrested some important leaders of Afghan Taliban including the Taliban chief military commander Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. The drone attacks of US forces in Pakistan Tribal Areas also helped Pakistan army that's killed several terrorist including Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders like Baitullah Mehsud who was Pakistan's most wanted person. On October 2009 Hillary Clinton visited Islamabad and

announced \$ 243 million in civilian aid to support energy sector of Pakistan<sup>56</sup>. This main aim of this additional aid was to improve Pakistan's energy generation efficiency.

Furthermore, US helped Pakistan in several projects including energy, economic, infrastructure building, natural disaster, counter terrorism operations and many other massive projects. All these projects were financed by US under the KLB. Pakistan also fully supported United States polices and US troops in Afghanistan. The United States and Pakistan are also cooperate in different science and technology projects under which US offered several scholarship programs for Pakistani students with the collaboration of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan. US also introduced semester exchange program and cultural exchange program to enhance people to people contact. US also provided many partial and fully funded scholarships to Pakistani students in Universities of Pakistan. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also engaged in different sector of Pakistan especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Tribal areas<sup>57</sup>.

### **Hurdles between Pak-US Relations in Obama Era**

The relations between Pakistan and United States faced many troubles due to several incidents and difficulties. But in the era of US President Barak Obama four major events totally affected the bilateral relations. The short details of these events are given bellow;

#### **Raymond Davis Firing**

On January 27, 2011 the CIA contractor Raymond Davis brutally killed two Pakistani citizens in Lahore. Later he claimed that his action was only and only for self defence. The Lahore police took him in police custody and the issue became hot news for Pakistanis and public demanded Davis dead. Later US pressurized Pakistan Government with the claim that Davis was her embassy employ and his firing was in self defence. Pakistan wanted to deal this case according to her law but US embassy pressurized that Davis have diplomatic immunity.

President Obama called President Zardari for the release of Davis on 15 February under Vienna Convention and few days later senator John Kerry landed in Lahore to negotiate this issue. Later in March 2011, Raymond Davis freed from the double murder charges and the families of Haider and Faheem were handed 200 million rupees<sup>58</sup>. Behind this deal Saudi Arabia played major role. The murderer headed to home without any proper trial and justice. But this incident provokes anti-American sentiments in Pakistanis. People raised slogans against Zardari government as well as against United States. Local peoples and many politicians criticized on the act of government. Thousands people came into street and also raised anti-US slogans for this un-law full act. This event strained the bilateral relations.

### **Abbottabad Operation**

The raid of US forces in Pakistan's city Abbottabad and killed World most wanted man Osama Ben Laden (OBL) on May 2, 2011, is called Abbottabad operation or operation Geronimo<sup>59</sup>. This operation was conducted by US Naval forces without any permission and also without any inform to Pakistan. The most wanted person dead with his misdeeds but his death in Pakistan soil broke too many questions about Pakistan army and Pakistan's government. Pakistan lost thousand lives in terrorist attack and spent billions of Rupees on counter terrorism but his presence in Pakistan raised several question among World public.

Beyond all issues and blame of international media and international community several questions are emerged about Pakistan's own security and about its nuclear assets<sup>60</sup>. This rid was the violation of international law and Pakistan sovereignty. It's also challenge the security and integrity of Pakistan. The raid also criticized by Pakistani public openly and raised many questions. These raids hugely affected the bilateral relations and create mistrust among two states.

### **Salala Incident and Response of Pakistan**

The Salala Check post of Pakistan Army was attacked by NATO forces on November 26, 2011 which laydown 24

solders<sup>61</sup>. This event took the bilateral relations decline and creates mistrust. In the response of this attack Pakistan blocked the NATO supply route and also demanded the evacuation of Shamsi Air base from NATO forces within 15 days<sup>62</sup>. Pakistan also demanded the official apology and the public threatened the US blocks in Pakistan and several projects<sup>63</sup>. The local public came to the road and recorded their protest against NATO brutality. Pakistan also boycotted the Bonn Conference of December 2011, which was about Afghan issue.

Finally, on July 3, 2012 the United States Secretary officially apologize Pakistan her first non-NATO ally<sup>64</sup>. Then the NATO supply route was opened and some new terms and conditions are implemented. The United States also approved \$ 1.1 billion fund for Pakistan army<sup>65</sup>. The fund was approved under coalition support fund.

**Pak-US Trade Relations under Obama’s Administration**

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States of America are enjoying diplomatic relations since Pakistan’s independence. The bilateral relations faced many trouble and issues but both are shared many common interest. In these common interest trade or economic relations between US and Pakistan is one of the key elements of bilateral ties. The annual trade relations between Pakistan and United States according to United States Census Bureau are given bellow in the table from fiscal year 2008-2016.

Pakistan Trade with US (in millions of US dollars)

Years	Export	Import	Total Trade	Balance
2008	3591.1	1897.8	5488.9	-1693.3
2009	3162.8	1618.0	4780.8	-1544.9
2010	3509.1	1901.1	5410.2	-1608.0

2011	3832.1	1988.8	5820.9	-1843.3
2012	3627.6	1530.1	5157.7	-2097.5
2013	3688.5	1645.8	5334.3	-2042.7
2014	3675.6	1512.8	5188.4	-2162.8
2015	3701.0	1836.0	5537.0	-1836.0
2016	3442.8	2107.8	5551.1	-1335.0
Total	32231.4	16037.9	48269.3	-----

**Source:** US Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5350.html>

In the above mention table the bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and US showed from 2008-2016. In 2008 Pakistan's export to US was about \$ 3591.1 million and import from US was \$ 1897.8 million. In the fiscal year 2016, Pakistan export was about \$3443.6 million and import was \$ 2107.5 million. The total trade between Pakistan and US in Obama era was about \$ 48269.3 million. According to Office of the United States Trade Representative Pakistan was the US 56<sup>th</sup> largest goods export market in fiscal year 2016 and Pakistan was 53<sup>rd</sup> largest supplier of goods in fiscal year 2016<sup>66</sup>.

### **Conclusion**

Pakistan has not smooth relations with the United States of America owing to US aristocratic policies. The bilateral relations faced numerous ups and downs with respect to the US



interest in Pakistan. These ups and downs in bilateral ties were changed era wise or incident wise. Pakistan's alignment with US in Cold War era, US response in post-Cold War era and US interest after September, 2001 incident. Neither have we said bilateral relations ideal nor fragile but the nature of relations varying on US interest in Pakistan rather than Islamabad's interest in Washington. When president Obama took office he introduced Af-Pak policy as well as Pivot to Asia policy. On one front Obama administration tried to enhanced the bilateral relations with Pakistan but on the other front Obama's administration looking towards India to counter Chinese influence in the region.

Obama administration introduced Kerry Lugar Bill, under which Obama allowed \$ 7.5 billion in civilian assistance to Pakistan over five years. The terms and conditions for this aid is adding oil on the fire between two states. Despite massive lost and sacrifice of Islamabad Obama administration not trusted Pakistan and treated Islamabad and Kabul in the same way. Although Obama's Af-Pak policy was massively criticized by Islamabad but both cooperated to counter militant group in FATA. In 2010, the secretary of state Hillary Clinton declared the new phase of partnership to achieve common goals but phase of cooperation declined after the Raymond Davis case in start of 2011. Frequently, in the same year the Abbottabad operation and Salala Check post incident laydown the bilateral relations. Later, in 2012 White House apologized for the Salala Check post incident and the supply route for NATO forces were reopened. Obama's 'Pivot to Asia' policy also creates mistrust and fears in Islamabad because owing to this policy Washington cooperation towards New Delhi in nuclear program shakes the balance of power in the region.

Furthermore, 'US do more policy', media trial and annoying response about Pakistan's sacrifices in counter terrorism effort hampered the bilateral ties. Despite all ups and downs both states trade relations are good and other civilian program under USAID played key role in strengthening bilateral ties. Both states are agreed to play vital role in the peace building process in Afghanistan and the safe withdrawal of US forces. Two terms of Obama administration were completed in 2016 with several questions and failed policies regarding Pakistan and

Afghanistan. Moreover, the current policies of President Trump are also declining the bilateral relations but Islamabad playing her best in talk between US and Taliban. History is witnessed that the final solution of all issues and war are solved on the table through proper means of negotiation. Now Whitehouse is talking with Taliban representatives for the peace in Afghanistan and it is the diplomatic victory of Islamabad that she playing key role in US-Taliban talk as well as in the peace building process in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is in the largest interest of Pakistan and the whole region.

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