



<sup>1</sup>Muhammad Tahir, <sup>2</sup>Farhan Mujtaba & <sup>3</sup>Arslan Asghar

1. M. Phil History/Assistant Director District Education Authority Sargodha [tahirshahzad001@gmail.com](mailto:tahirshahzad001@gmail.com)
2. M.Phil. International Relation/Deputy Secretary Food Department, Govt of the Punjab [farhanmujtaba7@gmail.com](mailto:farhanmujtaba7@gmail.com)
3. PhD Student, Sociology and Social researcher, Department of Political and Social studies university of Salerno Italy [aasghar@unisa.it](mailto:aasghar@unisa.it)

KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Coercive Diplomacy, Strategic Dimensions, International Relations, Diplomatic Discourses,	<p>This research underscores the evolving nature of global interactions, highlighting how coercive diplomacy shapes the diplomatic landscape. The distinctive features of contemporary international relations are the emergence of coercive diplomacy, which is a strategic approach that involves the use of threats or pressure in order to exert influence on the behavior of a target state. This research demonstrates the perplexed interplay of strategic coercion that has impacted the diplomatic course of the Pakistan. The United States and India have been using coercive doctrines against Pakistan, and this study analyzes the various methods that are engaged in the framework of those doctrines. In addition to shedding light on Pakistan's counterstrategies, which include diplomatic, political, and strategic dimensions, this article also sheds light on the complex factors that affect international relations. This article offers crucial insights on the diplomatic scene in South Asia, which provides vital insights into Pakistan's strategic approach and reaction to coercive demands from key geopolitical powers.</p>
<b>ARTICLE HISTORY</b>	
Submission: 25-08-2023 Acceptance: 20-10-2023 Publication: 31-12-2023	
<b>Funding</b>	
This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors	
Correspondence	
Email:	
Volume-Issue-Page Number	1(2) 17-32
Citation	Tahir, M., Mujtaba, F., & Asghar, A. (2023). Foreign Policy Sonata: Analyzing Pakistan's Diplomatic Maneuvers in the Strategic Coercion Pas de Deux. <i>Journal of Humanities, Health, and Social Sciences</i> , 1(2), 17-32

## Introduction

Since 9/11, there has been a fundamental change in the global security scene. The way nations see national security issues has changed due to the emergence of new threats, particularly those linked to terrorism. As a result, studies involving crises or conflicts between many nations have made use of the concept of coercive diplomacy (Elgersma & Force, 2023). Coercion is the use of force or other disruptive tactics by a state to force an opponent to change its conduct or make concessions. However, the idea is not new. This idea, first proposed by academic Alexander L. George in the 1960s, has subsequently found application in a number of contexts, such as the nuclear problem in North Korea, the Vietnam War, the Cuban missile crisis, the 2001–2002 India–Pakistan conflict, and the Cuban missile crisis. Pakistan has had a non-alignment foreign policy stance since its foundation (Abbasi & Uzzaman, 2023).

Nevertheless in 1954, it broke with this position by signing a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with the US, thereby forming an alliance with the US. Along with it, Pakistan joined SEATO that year as well. Pakistan joined this alliance because it was critically necessary at the time to fight the tyranny of power imbalances, as stated in Article 51 of the UN Charter (Ali, 2022). The alliance's breakup with the US is caused by a fundamental shift in both nations' strategic policies, which in turn affects the complicated interactions between Islamabad and Washington. The United States is strengthening its ties with India, while Pakistan is fortifying its connection with China in an effort to portray the country as a threat. The United States has already used strategic pressure by urging Afghanistan to forge closer ties with India (Rashid et al., 2023). To threaten Pakistan from both their borders, the two countries might utilize hybrid warfare strategies, such media and digital warfare, to spread the narrative that Pakistan is "supporting terrorists" (probably referring to the Haqqani Network). After failing to bring peace to war-torn Afghanistan, the United States and its NATO allies, including non-ally partner India and fully allied partner Afghanistan, attempted to hold Pakistan responsible. This is all a part of their strategy against Pakistan, which involves using pressure tactics in diplomatic overtures and using global media, especially digital media, to spread their narrative (Misson, 2022).

## Security Dilemma is an Unavoidable Conundrum

A state is strategically coerced within the framework of a security problem. John Herz first proposed the idea of a security dilemma, arguing that an anarchic international order, governments would naturally attempt to maintain security. States invest in modern weaponry and capacities in order to protect themselves (Martí et al., 2022). States get increased authority as a result of the process. As a result, enemies and neighbors become more uneasy and take defensive action. It results in a vicious cycle of power maximization and security rivalry. When there is a security problem between nations, they approach security as a zero-sum game, which exacerbates instability. The end effect is an arms race and military build-up that often results in

the creation of nuclear weapons, missile defense systems, and defensive systems like missile defenses (Mohan, 2022).

South Asia is still dealing with the security dilemma's dynamics. There are now two tournaments underway: India against Pakistan and India vs. China. Because of the greater strategic conflict between the US and China, the US is also a stakeholder in this fight. India sees it as disruptive when China develops or gains a capacity to counter the US for bolstering its security. Pakistan views Indian systems as a danger, thus India bolsters its defenses and capacities to protect against China's vulnerabilities (Ray, 2022). One way to describe this is as a cascade effect of South Asian security rivalry. However, India is a larger nation with aspirations to dominate both the regional and global arenas. India has expressed concern over China's perceived danger to its ambition to become a big power. Pakistan, a medium-sized nation with modest regional and international goals, is focusing on maintaining its security. But India's nuclear stance and military might are aimed against Pakistan (Lynch, 2022). In order to combat Pakistan, the Indian military is constantly updating its war-fighting theories, such as the Cold Start Doctrine. In the same way, Ballistic Acquisition of Missile Defense (BMD) is underway. When combined with diplomatic pressure, these events make Pakistan's security predicament much worse strategic obstacles for Pakistan's decision-makers (Leoni, 2022).

### **Aims and Objectives**

1. To investigate the utilization of coercive diplomacy by the United States and India against Pakistan in contemporary international relations.
2. To assess the diverse methods within coercive doctrines employed by key geopolitical powers in influencing Pakistan's behavior.
3. To analyze Pakistan's diplomatic, political, and strategic counterstrategies to coercive pressures.
4. To illuminate the complex factors influencing South Asian diplomacy and Pakistan's responses to coercive demands from major geopolitical actors.

## **2.0 Literature Review**

### **2.1 Historical context**

Ever since the publication of Thomas Schelling's book "Arms and Influence" fifty years ago, several meanings of the term "coercion" have been developed. A number of expressions, such as deterrence, corpulence, military coercion, coercive diplomacy, and corpulence, came into being as a consequence of the growth of meanings, which led to the production of word confusion (Bratton, 2005). The majority of academics, on the other hand, are in agreement that the underlying idea of coercion is the use of threats to convince another person to alter their conduct. Particularly in situations when the circumstances are uncertain or complicated, international participants feel that the use of coercive diplomacy is an effective method for dealing with diplomatic crises. In addition to being beneficial, the accomplishment of a

particular objective is crucial because it has the potential to affect the way in which countries interact with one another. Both the international community and the Western world were devastated by the fighting and conscious of how difficult it would be to restore the integrity of the European states when the Second World War came to an end in 1945. This marked the beginning of its protracted existence (Skaar, 2017) .

For the purpose of persuading a state to alter its course of conduct, economic sanctions are a crucial component of the diplomatic strategy known as coercive diplomacy. On the other hand, not only nations are responsible for imposing such measures on the governments who are the targets of these actions, but international organizations like the United Nations are also responsible for imposing economic penalties on target states in order to induce a positive change in their calculus (Klinger & Klinger, 2019). Because of the United Nations' decision to impose economic sanctions on a large number of nations throughout the 1990s, this decade is also referred to as the sanctions' decade. The institution is of the opinion that economic sanctions, as opposed to military action or violent confrontations, are a far more effective means of engaging the state that is the subject of the sanctions and compelling them to alter their course of conduct (Pruitt, 2018). Individual governments subsequently followed the measures of the United Nations in further isolating the states that were the targets of the isolation (Peace, 2023). Moreover, sanctions continue to be an essential component of the political landscape of the modern day. The controversy surrounding the sanctions draws attention to the fact that they have not been successful in altering the behaviors of states. In the meantime, however, it is maintained that believe these kinds of acts are the most effective alternative to military conflicts imaginable for the purpose of achieving political goals. Sanctions have gotten more sophisticated throughout time, and they now target certain financial transactions, economic activity, and persons in certain areas of the economy of the target state in order to have a more significant impact on the economy of the target state with the intention of eliciting a positive reaction from the state's economic position (Byman & Waxman, 2002).

## **2.2 Anecdotes of coercive diplomacy techniques and their results**

### **2.2.1 United Nations as Coercer Institution**

The foundation for imposing economic sanctions is found in the UN charter. As was previously noted, sanctions are applied by both nations and international organizations. The UN may impose penalties on governments to compel them to abide with UN resolutions and agreements, as permitted under UN charter article 41, chapter 7. However, the provision does not specifically mention the use of armed force, only that "complete or partial interruption in economic relations; disconnection of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and severance of diplomatic relations" be implemented to ensure that the target states adhere to international norms and laws (Security Council Report 2013). The UN's history of sanctions began in 1963 when the organizations imposed penalties on South Africa's

apartheid government and proceeded along this route until the regime's collapse (Delanis, 1979). The UN Security Council is in charge of imposing sanctions on the intended state. These kinds of punishments might be used to achieve five different goals. They consist of democracy, non-proliferation, counterterrorism, conflict resolution, and the defense of people (including human rights) during hostilities (Lektzian & Biglaiser, 2023).

### **2.2.2 A coercive role for the United States**

Within the framework of the United States' foreign policy, the use of force, coercion, and threats are considered to be fundamental pillars. The United governments of America has imposed sanctions on governments that have either behaved against international standards and human rights or have challenged its interests (Art & Cronin, 2003). These sanctions have been imposed unilaterally, multilaterally, and via international organizations. In more recent times, the United States of America has been engaging in coercive negotiation with China, Iran, and North Korea. Conversely, throughout the last decade, the United States has used coercive diplomacy, pressuring other countries to adopt its manifestation of democracy. Afghanistan, Iraq, Serbia, Libya, and Iraq, for example, were all compelled to accept the directive made by the United States via the use of coercive diplomacy. This failure has serious repercussions as a result. President Clinton resorted to diplomacy when he tried to interact with North Korea. However, North Korea was one of the nations that President George W. Bush, who was well-known for being a coercer – listed as being a member of the "axis of evil." President Barack Obama has shown a degree of indifference towards the subject (Scarlett, 2009).

### **2.3 Pakistan's encounter with coercive diplomacy**

In order to compel target governments to operate in a certain way, coercive diplomacy generally entails causing economic, diplomatic, or political damage to them. Such diplomacy is used to the target state to force it to behave in the executer's best interests. Nevertheless sometimes, these actions might also have unforeseen repercussions. Such diplomacy has been directed at Pakistan. Pakistan's bilateral ties with the United States have had various highs and lows since the country's founding in 1947 (Ganguly & Kraig, 2005). The two states' highs and lows are sharply and dramatically different from those of other countries. Pakistan and the US have been allies since the US's founding, and during the 1950s, Pakistan was the US's most "allied ally". In order to control communism, the US and the greater western world devised a strategy of engaging the areas with political, military, and economic support. They took this action because they were unable to understand how communism spread over South Asia and the Middle East. But these friendly ties haven't lasted, and when interests diverge, the US has used coercive diplomacy to pressure Pakistan to alter its behavior (Joshi, 2006).

Nuclear arsenals or starting a war with India have been a recurring subject in Washington aggressive diplomacy with Islamabad. Sanctions have been imposed on Pakistan many times by the US in response to these alleged threats. In response to these economic

sanctions, Pakistan has sought assistance from global organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Because of these limitations, Pakistan has had to seek out new economic allies, and one of them is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has long provided financial aid to Pakistan and continues to do so now (Sechser & Fuhrmann, 2017). Some have raised the concern that spreading Saudi Muslim philosophy across the area is a requirement of this sponsorship. Following the 2001 assault on the Indian parliament, India and the United States engaged in coercive diplomacy to get Pakistan to take action against groups that India views as terrorists plotting an attack on India (Mohan, 2007).

### **3.0 Methodology**

For the purpose of conducting an in-depth investigation of the myriad of facets that comprise Pakistan's foreign policy in the context of the coercive diplomacy exerted by the United States and India, the technique utilized a qualitative research design. The compilation of data was mostly dependent on a thorough analysis of academic publications, reports, books, and conference proceedings that are sourced from reliable sources. The research guaranteed that a complete grasp of the subject matter was being achieved by synthesizing ideas from scholarly publications that have been subjected to peer review, reports from both governments and non-government organizations, and landmark works in the field of international relations. According to the ethical concerns that govern the research, a careful selection of sources was required in order to preserve the academic integrity and credibility of the study. The study was conducted in accordance with ethical standards by crediting all sources in the appropriate manner and giving credit where credit was due to the original authors. A comprehensive review was performed on the academic papers, reports, books, and conference proceedings that had been selected for analysis. This was done to verify that the selected materials are credible and relevant to the study goals. It was a qualitative technique that was used for the methodology, and it drawled on secondary source data from a wide variety of academic papers, reports, books, and conferences. It was of the utmost importance to take ethical factors into account, as this would guarantee the research's integrity, transparency, and conformity to academic norms.

### **4.0 A Synopsis of diplomatic coercion directed towards Pakistan**

By inflicting economic, diplomatic, or political harm on target nations, coercive diplomacy aims to persuade them to take a certain action. The goal of this kind of diplomacy is to persuade the target state to act in the executer's best interests. However, sometimes, these acts may also have unanticipated consequences. Pakistan has been the target of this kind of diplomacy. Since Pakistan's creation in 1947, there have been highs and lows in the country's bilateral relations with the United States. The two states' highs and lows vary significantly from those of other nations. Since the US's foundation, Pakistan and the US have been allies, and in the 1950s, Pakistan was the US's most "allied ally." The US and the rest of the western world

found it impossible to comprehend the emergence and spread of communism in South Asia and the Middle East, so they devised a plan to contain it by providing political, military, and economic assistance to those regions. However, good relations aren't always maintained, and when interests don't align, the US has used coercive diplomacy to pressure Pakistan into changing its ways.

One recurrent theme in Washington aggressive diplomacy with Islamabad has been the deployment of nuclear arsenal or initiating fight with India. Pakistan has often been penalized by the US in an effort to counter these alleged threats. These economic constraints have led Pakistan to rely on international institutions like the IMF to keep its economy afloat. These constraints have also compelled Pakistan to look for new economic friends, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has historically and now given Pakistan financial support. Some have noted that the widespread growth of Saudi Islamic theology is the reason for this assistance's need. Along with the US, India has coerced Pakistan into acting against organizations it thinks are terrorists preparing an attack on India using coercive diplomacy, especially after the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament

#### **4.1 Coercive Diplomacy by the United States against Pakistan**

Pakistan has been the target of US accusations that it has provided safe sanctuaries to Islamic extremists after 9/11. Persuading Pakistan to "do more" to rein in the Taliban (Islamic terrorists) or face repercussions is central to US strategy in South Asia, as is authorizing more troops for Afghanistan (Collins, 2008). A well-known reality is that one would face greater coercion the more they acquiesce to the unfair demands of the coercive state. American and Pakistani ties have been complicated, volatile, and transactional, with numerous highs and lows. We call the relationship between the United States and Pakistan "clientelistic" because it is characterized by a focus on commercial interests rather than shared values. Using coercion, the US has enlisted Pakistan in its "global war on terror" upon 9/11 (Fayyaz, 2019).

The US and Pakistan have distinct strategic objectives. In response to the Soviet Union's participation in Afghanistan, the US seeks to bolster the Cold War alliance system and fight terrorism; in the meanwhile, Pakistan has profited from US relations to bolster its economic and military capabilities to challenge India (Kalyanaraman, 2002). The US has used the "carrot and stick" tactic, often referred to as containment and engagement, with Pakistan. Differences in achieving strategic objectives have led to an increase in the "trust gap" between the US and Pakistan; the US war against Taliban seems to be the only area of mutual understanding or interaction the two nations. Pakistan is trying to build welcoming affairs with Afghanistan in an effort to offset Indian impact there, while the US strives to avert Taliban from taking back control of the country. (Azam, 2021)

Throughout the Cold War, Pakistan served as a front-line state for the United States, making it a country of great geostrategic importance. The United States and Pakistan have had

bilateral ties since the nation's founding in 1947. There is an initial ideological consensus between the two nations. However, as can be seen in the chart below, Pakistan has been subject to US sanctions on a regular basis since 1965 (Azam, 2021). These sanctions are seen as a kind of coercive diplomacy. As a result of the United States' decision to lift sanctions in order to protect its immediate interests and restrict material assistance to Pakistan during its conflict with India, there is now mistrust between two governments that are allies of the United States (Hussain & Ejaz, 2015).

**Table1: US-imposed sanctions**

Year	Type of sanction(s)	Coercive reasons
1977	Economic and Military	Pakistan's unwavering pursuit of the French reprocessing facility contract led to the termination of military and economic assistance, without the formal application of the Symington Amendment.
1979	Economic and Military	Economic and military help ended as Pakistan pursued nuclear weapons development at Kahuta plant near Islamabad. The Glenn Amendment, along with the Symington Amendment, restricted US assistance to countries that acquired or transferred nuclear reprocessing technology or exploded nuclear devices.
1990	Economic and Military	The Pressler Amendment of 1985 removed the majority of United States military and financial assistance to Pakistan and mandated that the President certify to Congress every year that Pakistan was nuclear weapons free. Additionally, the US President must ensure that American help to Pakistan greatly reduces the likelihood of Pakistan acquiring a nuclear weapon.
1998	Economic and Military	The Glenn Amendment mandates severe penalties for non-nuclear armed nations that detonate explosive nuclear devices. The United States is prohibited from providing economic or military assistance to nations that provide or acquire nuclear enrichment technology, materials, or equipment without adhering to IAEA safeguards under the Symington Amendment.
2017-1	Economic and Military	US sanctions restrict military and economic assistance to Pakistan until Secretary of State certifies the following to Appropriations Committees, among other guarantees. The US and Pakistan are working together to combat terrorism, including the Haqqani Network, Quetta Shura Taliban, and al-Qaeda International and domestic terrorist groups. Pakistani intelligence agencies do not interfere in government processes extrajudicially. Pakistan is deterring the spread of nuclear materials and knowledge.



#### 4.2 Indian coercive diplomacy toward Pakistan

India is adopting diplomatic measures that are coercive against Pakistan. Pakistan, while a longstanding ally of the United States, had little help from the US throughout the 1948, 1965, and 1971 wars with India, whereas India enjoyed full US support throughout these conflicts. After the attack on the Indian parliament in 2001, India started engaging in active coercive diplomacy against Pakistan. Similar to the US, India used coercive diplomacy against Pakistan in response to the 9/11 tragedy (Singh, 2023). After the attack on the parliament, India sent a sizable force to Pakistan's border in an effort to exert pressure on Pakistan with nine other countries. India launched a fifth-generation war on Pakistan, accusing it of supporting terrorism against India, and blaming Pakistan for bouts on the parliament house, military base, Red Fort, and Mumbai. Designating Pakistan as a "terrorist state" was the intention. India used coercive tactics to weaken Pakistan, but Pakistan's objective reaction made clear what India wanted (Ahmad, 2023).

In order to stop terrorists from entering India via Pakistan, the country constructed the Anti-Infiltration-Obstacle System (AIOS) across its borders and the Line of Control in Kashmir. It does this by using radars, thermal and night vision equipment, laser barriers, CCTV cameras, and subterranean sensors. Instead of holding Pakistan accountable for acts of terrorism, India has to confront terrorism inside its boundaries (Hall, 2022). India obtained US support for an investment exchange during the fifth generation war and coercive diplomacy to protect US interests against China in Afghanistan and South Asia. According to the current South Asia policy, the US administration wants to deepen its strategic alliances with India by aggregate its involvement in Afghanistan's economic growth. To avoid talking about the Kashmir issue, India first laid the blame for problems in India on Pakistan. India continues to shy away from talking about its urgent issues (Dey, 2023).

India asserts that Pakistan is to blame for the terrorism in Indian-held Kashmir and says that talks won't happen until it ceases. In response to accusations, Pakistan has continuously highlighted violations of human rights committed by the Indian army in Jammu & Kashmir, which it controls. In addition to their political rivalry, the Kashmir dispute has sparked three wars between the two countries (Jha, 2023). India holds Pakistan accountable for several problems including Khalsa Tehreek and terrorism in Kashmir. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former prime minister of India, said that their evil schemes in Punjab failed. Though it went, terrorism drained Punjab. Hindu-Sikh unity remained unaltered. Terrorists and their mentors in Jammu and Kashmir will fail (Abbasi, 2023).

#### 4.3 Counter-Coercion Diplomacy Model (CCDM)

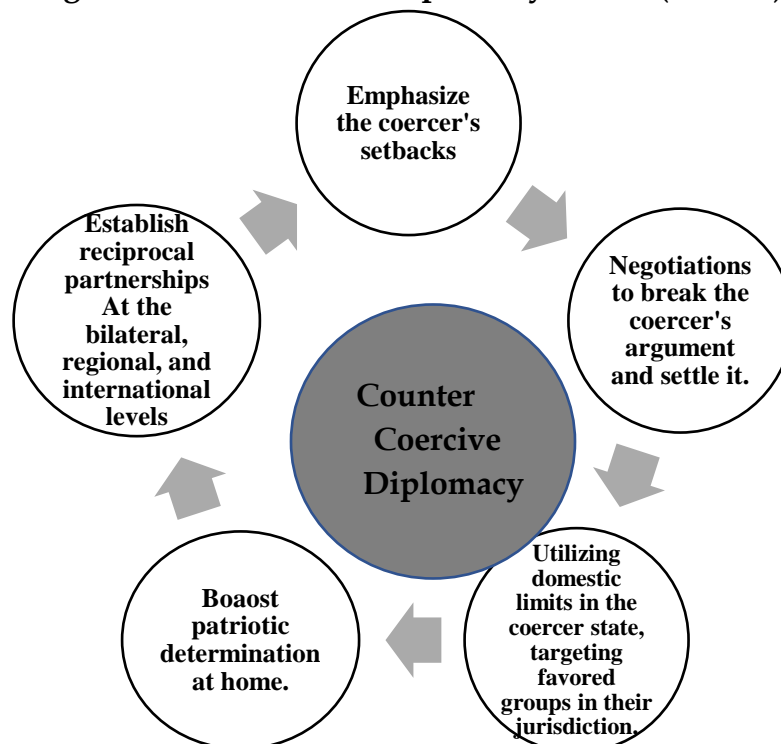
With regard to the fact that Pakistan's decision-makers are on the receiving end of strategic coercion, they are confronted with the dilemma of what they can do to combat strategic

coercion inside their own country. This issue is important for policymakers not just in Pakistan but also in other countries. Due to the fact that strategic coercion is implemented as a policy framework in phases, it affords leaders in target states the chance to devise a reaction that is based on a comprehensive SWOT analysis. When doing this analysis, it is important to take into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of a state, as well as the threat assessment and opportunities that are accessible to policymakers in order to successfully navigate a difficult scenario (Fayyaz, 2019).

In the process of using coercive techniques against a target state, the coercer strives to achieve the final strategic goals, but does so in a methodical manner. This protracted process provides the target state with the chance to get a clear image of the goals of the aggressor and to devise a counterstrategy with reference to those intentions (Onn). Additionally, it allows for the development of an efficient response to the first round of coercive methods, and in the process, the target state has the ability to raise the cost of ongoing coercion for the individual who is responsible for coercion. As the level of coercion increases, both in terms of its severity and its cost, the crisis that exists between two states becomes more severe, and the expansion of the war becomes a possibility (Sanders, 2023).

Each coercive step may replicate a unique set of responses from the target state given the leadership's calculation of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) in a particular period. In CCDM, there is no sequential binding; each move may reproduce a unique set of answers from the target state. The elements of CCDM are summarized as:

**Fig. 1 Counter Coercive Diplomacy Model (CCDM)**



#### 4.4 Pakistan's proactive pursuit of counter-coercion strategies in response to external pressures: an Analysis

Pakistan's leaders have used various tactics to get the required diplomatic backing and room, despite persistent strategic pressure from the United States and India. Pakistan made it plain to the authorities of the US that it would never again engage in another person's war and that this policy shift is permanent. The statement made by Khawaja M. Asif, the former foreign minister, in February 2018 was unequivocal: "Pakistan has played a significant role in the battle against terrorism but it cannot fight others' war on its soil."<sup>20</sup> In a same vein, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan has "suffered enough fighting US's war" in response to remarks from US President Donald Trump. We will now act in our people's and our interests' best interests. These constant signals told Washington that Pakistan would prioritize its national interests above all other considerations and is not prepared to be bullied once again.

Islamabad went above and above in emphasizing the price it had paid in the fight against terrorism, as the US and Pakistan became further divided on the subject of terrorism and the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan maintained that it had lost military, humanitarian, and economic ground. Islamabad also underlined that it has used its own resources to carry out a number of operations against extremist organizations. Islamabad is unable to launch an all-out offensive against terrorists in Pakistan at once due to financial limitations and the Pakistan Army's deployment on two fronts, the western theater and the Indian border. The leadership of Pakistan adopted a step-by-step plan. The world community and leading global nations, including as China and Russia, praised Pakistan's sacrifices. Regarding the Afghan issue, Pakistan pledged to back peace efforts spearheaded and owned by Afghans in an effort to end the country's protracted war and suffering.

Islamabad pledged to back any peace initiative that results in an enduring peace in Afghanistan. According to Pakistan, unrest in Afghanistan feeds into unrest in Pakistan. Pakistan participated in many rounds of negotiations with the Taliban and the Afghan government in order to strengthen its stance. These negotiations were held with China, Russia, Iran, Turkey, the UK, and the US. Pakistan was a member of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), a four-nation alliance that disintegrated in 2016. Pakistan has taken part in discussions over Afghanistan that were held in Moscow. Pakistan is still involved in the trilateral process between Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan. Pakistan is still in favor of direct negotiations in Doha between the US administration and the Taliban in Afghanistan. Encouraging and backing these endeavors has provided Pakistan with an opportunity to fend off US efforts at strategic coercion. Major powers, regional nations, and international organizations have all recognized Pakistan's crucial role in any peace process.

As the US and India increased diplomatic and strategic pressure on Pakistan, Islamabad responded by extending its reach to friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey,

and the United Arab Emirates. Pakistan was able to handle the constant pressure and calls for stronger action from the US by maintaining its relationship with these nations. One instance is Pakistan's battle at the FATF. While Washington and New Delhi worked to add Pakistan to the FATF's blacklist, which resulted in harsh penalties for the country's banking industry. With assistance from Beijing, Riyadh, Ankara, and Kuala Lumpur avoided being added to the blacklist twice. Islamabad was ordered to strengthen its counterterrorism funding and anti-money laundering policies after being put on a grey list. Islamabad is collaborating with the FATF to execute an action plan that it created. China and Turkey, in particular, have urged the FATF not to politicize the process and to acknowledge Pakistan's war against terrorism.

### **5.0 Discussion and conclusion**

When it comes to statecraft and interstate relations, the employment of diplomatic and strategic coercion is an integral part. Each state employs a different version of these strategies, depending on the resources it has. Similarly, in reaction to this form of coercion, target governments use counterstrategies inside their own borders. In the vast majority of academic studies, coercive approaches have been investigated, but the limits of these techniques have received very little consideration. There have been a number of crises between adversarial governments that have been explored through the perspective of strategic coercion. Some of these crises include those between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, India, and Pakistan. Research on counter-coercive tactics, on the other hand, has received less attention. A counter-coercive strategy that is based on careful cost-benefit analysis and rational decision-making has subsequently been recommended as a result of this publication. One of the built-in features of the model is a SWOT analysis. These elements give the target states with opportunities and strengths that may be taken advantage of by carefully studying their vulnerabilities and evaluating the risks. As force happens in a particular context and in an external strategic environment these factors provide the target states with opportunities and strengths.

Throughout the last several years, India and the United States have used strategic coercion against Pakistan on a number of different fronts. Throughout history, India and Pakistan have maintained an adversarial relationship with one another. On the other hand, India has relied on pressure to push Pakistan to make policy concessions in return for restarting bilateral discussions after settling its concerns about terrorism. This effort was put in place following the attacks that took place in Mumbai in 2008. Likewise, Islamabad and Washington have often been at odds with one another due to the fact that they have different strategic objectives and points of view about the South Asian region. The United States of America has shown its refusal to offer Pakistan with approved financial and security help by using a "carrot and stick" policy. In addition to this, it halted making payments to Pakistan's Coalition Support Funds (CSF), which it had earlier wasted and found itself in a precarious situation regarding.

Pakistan was finally included to the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as a result of diplomatic pressure from the United States. It has made Pakistan's economic woes even worse, all while the country is in the throes of an economic depression that is tied to a budgetary crisis. The solution that Pakistan has come up with is to strengthen the political consensus on endurance in the face of adversity by increasing the level of commitment shown across the nation. In an effort to reduce the likelihood of Pakistan being put on the blacklist maintained by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and to secure economic assistance, Islamabad has improved its connections with China and the Gulf nations. In addition, Pakistan participated actively in the dissemination of its tale and garnered support via the use of social media and international media outlets. In response to this, there was a pushback against the attempts that were being made to exert pressure on Pakistan to change its strategic stance, both inside Pakistan and abroad.

In a manner that is similar to the preceding example, Pakistan made successful use of both traditional media and social media platforms in order to express a feeling of national resolve. Although they were under the influence of strategic coercion from the United States, the media did an amazing job of expressing the message that the country wanted to convey. In addition, policymakers relied on the media in order to convey a message to foreign interlocutors and to garner support for Pakistan's position among the population of the nation. Because of this utilization, it became more difficult for the United States to apply pressure by developing a narrative inside Pakistan than it would have been otherwise. At the same time that this was taking place, Pakistan relied on social media platforms, mainly Twitter, in order to provide a prompt response to tweets that were coming from Washington, particularly those that were aimed at President Trump. Every event that is connected to Pakistan's foreign relations is met with a prompt response from the leaders of Pakistan, members of the government and opposition, as well as spokespersons for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the military. These individuals communicate the national attitude of the country regarding issues of this nature. Responses to events that take place in a short amount of time are important when it comes to framing the agenda and leading the talks that are going place in the cyber domain.

To successfully counteract the effects of strategic coercion, the state that is the target of the coercion must first engage in diplomatic efforts and then launch a diplomatic response that is multi-layered, bilateral, and multilateral. A nation's diplomatic capital may be increased via the use of such multi-tiered diplomacy, which also opens up new options. Similar to diplomacy, it is necessary to take into consideration domestic consistency. A national narrative must be successfully created via the use of counter-coercive tactics. It is necessary to have institutions that are capable of conducting a prudent evaluation of the challenges that governments are confronted with, as well as leadership that is visionary. Over the last several years, Pakistan has

implemented a counter-coercive strategy, which involves achieving national goals via the use of diplomacy and the creation of internal consensus.

### **5.1 Implication of study**

This is significant for academics, politicians, and analysts to take into consideration the conclusions of this research, which dissect the complexities of Pakistan's foreign policy in the context of coercive diplomacy. Inside the context of the strategic coercion dance, the study provides light on the adaptive techniques that Pakistan employs in response to coercive demands from the United States and India. This is accomplished by decoding the diplomatic maneuvers that are taken place inside the ballet. This analysis provide a sophisticated knowledge of the diplomatic scene in South Asia in addition to making a contribution to the larger conversation about international relations. In order to better inform strategic choices and diplomatic activities, policymakers might potentially benefit from the detailed analysis provided by the research. Furthermore, the implications extend to the promotion of a more profound knowledge of the difficulties presented by coercive ideologies and provide useful considerations for the enhancement of diplomatic resilience and adaptation in the process of navigating complicated geopolitical dynamics.

### **5.2 Limitations of the study**

The scope of this research is quite detailed nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge that there are certain limitations that should be taken into consideration. This study depends mostly on data obtained from secondary sources, which may result in the introduction of inherent biases that are present in the literature that was chosen. Moreover, the study can be limited by the availability and breadth of academic publications, reports, books, and conference proceedings, which might result in the omission of relatively recent advances or nuanced viewpoints. There is a possibility that the results cannot be generalized to a wider population since the qualitative research approach provides in-depth insights. In addition, due to the fluid nature of international relations and diplomatic maneuvers, it is possible that the context may change throughout the course of the study period, which makes it difficult to accurately capture changes that occur in real time. The objective of the research is to provide significant insights into the complicated interaction of Pakistan's foreign policy under the effect of coercive diplomacy, notwithstanding the limitations that have been mentioned.

#### **Contributions**

**Muhammad Tahir:** Problem Identification and Model Devolpement

**Farhan Mujtaba:** Literature search, Methodology

**Arslan Asghar:** Drafting and data analysis, proofreading and editing

#### **Conflict of Interests/Disclosures**

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest w.r.t this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

## Reference

- Abbasi, R. (2023). Global Power Shift and Foreign Policy Choices for Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 43(1), 1-21.
- Abbasi, R., & Uzzaman, M. S. (2023). *Changing Patterns of Warfare Between India and Pakistan: Navigating the Impact of New and Disruptive Technologies*. Taylor & Francis.
- Ahmad, S. (2023). *Track Two Diplomacy Between India and Pakistan: Peace Negotiations and Initiatives*. Taylor & Francis.
- Ali, G. (2022). *Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Contemporary Developments and Dynamics*. Taylor & Francis.
- Art, R. J., & Cronin, P. M. (2003). *The United States and coercive diplomacy*. US Institute of Peace Press.
- Azam, M. (2021). Pakistan–India Security Paradox: Between Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy. *Journal of Security & Strategic Analyses*, 7(1), 160-180.
- Bratton, P. C. (2005). When is Coercion Successful? and Why can't we Agree on it? *Naval War College Review*, 58(3), 99-120.
- Byman, D., & Waxman, M. (2002). *The dynamics of coercion: American foreign policy and the limits of military might*. Cambridge University Press.
- Collins, L. (2008). United States diplomacy with Pakistan following 9/11. *Wws*, 547, 5.
- Delanis, J. A. (1979). Force under Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter: The Question of Economic and Political Coercion. *Vand. J. Transnat'l L.*, 12, 101.
- Dey, S. (2023). Is Diplomacy a New Tool for Deterrence. *Journal on Political Sciences & International Relations*. SRC/JPSIR-102. DOI: doi.org/10.47363/JPSIR/2023 (1), 102, 2-8.
- Elgersma, L. C. D. S., & Force, U. A. (2023). Coercive Strategies and Their Inertial Considerations. *MILITARY REVIEW*, 1.
- Fayyaz, S. (2019). COUNTERING STRATEGIC COERCION: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN. *Margalla Papers*, 23(2).
- Ganguly, S., & Kraig, M. R. (2005). The 2001–2002 Indo-Pakistani crisis: exposing the limits of coercive diplomacy. *Security Studies*, 14(2), 290-324.
- Hall, I. (2022). India's foreign policy: nationalist aspirations and enduring constraints. *The Round Table*, 111(3), 321-332.
- Hussain, A., & Ejaz, K. (2015). Indian Coercive Diplomacy towards Pakistan in 21 st Century. *Journal of Indian Studies*, 1(1), 7-20.
- Jha, A. K. (2023). *China-Pakistan Relations Implications for India*. Balaji Publications.
- Joshi, S. (2006). *The Practice of Coercive Diplomacy in the Post 9/11 Period* University of Pittsburgh].
- Kalyanaraman, S. (2002). Operation Parakram: An Indian exercise in coercive diplomacy. *STRATEGIC ANALYSIS*, 26(4), 478-492.

- Klinger, J. M., & Klinger, J. M. (2019). The Science of Strategy: Deterrence and Coercion Theory. *Social Science and National Security Policy: Deterrence, Coercion, and Modernization Theories*, 59-112.
- Lektzian, D., & Biglaiser, G. (2023). Sanctions, aid, and voting patterns in the United Nations General Assembly. *International Interactions*, 49(1), 59-85.
- Leoni, Z. (2022). The economy-security conundrum in American grand strategy: foreign economic policy toward China from Obama to Biden. *China International Strategy Review*, 4(2), 320-334.
- Lynch, T. F. (2022). *The Inevitable US Return and the Future of Great Power Competition in South Asia*. National Defense University Press.
- Martí, A., Stepanyuk, V., & King, C. (2022). Strategic Analysis Report. *STRATEGIC ANALYSIS*.
- Misson, F. A. (2022). Pakistan-India Relations. *Strategic Studies*, 42(2), 54-71.
- Mohan, C. R. (2007). Soft borders and cooperative frontiers: India's changing territorial diplomacy towards Pakistan and China. *STRATEGIC ANALYSIS*, 31(1), 1-23.
- Mohan, S. (2022). *Complex Rivalry: The Dynamics of India-Pakistan Conflict*. University of Michigan Press.
- Onn, L. P. The Mekong River ecosystem is on the verge of irreversible collapse due to the accumulative effects of climate change and increased numbers of upstream dams as well as other human-made activities such as deforestation, sand mining, extensive irrigation for agriculture and wetland conversion. In this picture, fishers pull in their fishing nets as the sun rises over the Mekong River in Phnom Penh on June 9, 2020. Photo: TANG CHHIN Sothy, AFP.
- Peace, A. E. (2023). India and Pakistan. *The Oxford Handbook of Peace History*, 415.
- Pruitt, D. G. (2018). Tom Schelling's contributions to conflict theory and research. *Negot. J.*, 34, 283.
- Rashid, S., Ikram, M., & Naeem, M. W. (2023). China's Foreign Policy Shift in South Asia vis-à-vis Belt and Road Initiative. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*, 4(4), 1334-1349.
- Ray, S. (2022). COUNTERINSURGENCIES IN SOUTH ASIA. *Routledge Handbook of the International Relations of South Asia*.
- Sanders, P. (2023). Toward a Mutually Beneficial Partnership with India to Improve US Strategy in the US Indo-Pacific Command. *MILITARY REVIEW*.
- Scarlett, M. (2009). *Coercive Naval Diplomacy*. Newport.
- Sechser, T. S., & Fuhrmann, M. (2017). *Nuclear weapons and coercive diplomacy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Singh, R. (2023). Sino-Indian Relations: Role of Pakistan. *Vidhyayana-An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal-ISSN 2454-8596*, 8(si6), 525-541.
- Skaar, S. (2017). *The utility of coercion theory in the Afghan conflict* [University of Glasgow].