

## ABSTRACT

Pakistan's foreign policy vis-a-vis India presents strands of cooperation and conflict since 1947. Most of the time, the conflicts and issues considerably dominated the mutual interaction between the two countries. The cooperative and peaceful environments have been undermined by the long enmity and antagonism. Indian hegemonic posture towards Pakistan created an environment of mistrust. Due to that, the insecurity has lurked in the mind of many Pakistanis. To counter the threats, therefore, the foreign policy of Pakistan remained intact with the attainment of security and resolution of the issues with India.

Pakistan is not only facing security threats at external level, but also confronting with constraints at internal level. The two-level of interaction is complexed because neither the domestic politics is stable nor the diplomatic interaction is free from pressures. Particularly, the domestic upheavals multiplied the constraints faced at external level. The unstable political system, weak institutions, ineffective leadership and military interference do have impact on foreign policy of Pakistan towards India. The affect of unpredictable politics on the policy approaches which are followed by the leaders either civil or military is unavoidable. For years, the foreign policy is dominated by the organization of military that made the entire process highly personalized. The predominant issue of security has been exploited by the leaders particularly the military for achieving its own set-designed objectives. The policy remained issues-oriented and less-assertive due to the strong hold of military on the key issues i.e Kashmir and Afghanistan. Military most of the time gave priorities to the economic development and collaboration with the West particularly the USA instead of resolving the intricate issues with India. The issues prolonged and the stay of military has been justified. On the other, the civilian leaders used the 'public card' for justifying their policies abroad. There remained a gap in policy approaches between the civilian leaders and the military elites which also reflected in the pursuit of national interests.

The political rivalry and disharmony between the civilian and military leadership made Pakistan's position less-effective. The leaders justified their dependence on the

other states due to the internal problems. Particular the military elites remained highly dependent on external help for resolving issues and gaining support. Pakistan's close link with the super power i-e USA had direct effect on its relations with India. This approach made the relations tense between the two countries i-e India and Pakistan. On the other, the civilian leaders, whenever gained state power and authority aspired to resolve the issues with India, yet caught into the political and economic crises at home. The leadership appeared to fail in pursuing policies for sustaining peaceful relations with India. For making Pakistan's foreign policy more-assertive and successful, there is a need to put the house in order.