

This thesis aims to map the historical development of Pakistan-Russia Relations during the Cold War period up to the present day with focus on Diplomatic, Military and Economic Co-Operation. Organized into the Cold War Period (1947–1991), Post-Cold War Period (1991–2001) and the Post 9/11 and Contemporary Relations (2001–Present), the study systematically assesses the changing dynamics, strategic concerns and issues that have influenced and defined the bilateral relations between Islamabad and Moscow.

Phase I: The phase Cold War Era (1947–1991) reveals the hostile relationship between Pakistan and Soviet Union during the Cold War due to ideological differences and Pakistan's siding with the Western block through defense treaties that included SEATO and CENTO. This phase also shows some of the major diplomatic shifts such as the U-2 spy plane incident in the year 1960 and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 that added more tension between the USSR and Pakistan.

Phase II: Chapter 5, Post-Cold War Era (1991-2001) seeks to establish how the disintegration of the Soviet Union influenced the relations between the two countries. The thesis presents the initial problems with the restoration of relations with the Russian Federation, the nuclearization of Pakistan in 1998 and the scanty cooperation in the defense and economy sectors during this period. Although there are both political and regional limitations, this phase is when the process of the enhancement of diplomatic interactions starts to gradually pick up.

Phase III: This period, labeled as Post-9/11 and Contemporary Relations (2001–Present) analyzes the developments the chapter provides the details of the growing military relations, and the military to military ties through cooperation in exercises and arms sale, and economic ties, especially in energy relations. This phase also examines the dilemmas arising from Russia's strong link with India and the reality of the multipolar world order.

By critically examining these three phases of Pakistan Russia relations the thesis contributes to understanding this relationship and suggests measures to enhance cooperation. These are enhancing defense and economic cooperation, using inter alia the SCO format, and responding to the geopolitical threats and opportunities resulting from the shifts in the regional and global landscape. It summarizes the need for pragmatism and strategic initiatives for the enhancement of relations between Pakistan and Russia in the decades ahead.