

Abstract

Pakistan US relations can be defined in terms of dependency syndrome. Dependency is a situation in which a powerful state asserts its influence on the weaker one, mostly in political, economic and military spheres. Pakistan US relation is a combination of conflicting and mutual interests. The geo- strategic location of Pakistan is a major factor which has contributed in defining the nature of relationship between a super power and a developing state.

Aid and sanctions are the main tools of dependency. Foreign aid and assistance by USA has provided short term elevation to the socio-economic indicators at the cost of political and psychological independence. On the other hand, the crisis of security remained a top priority for Pakistan's decision makers. As a new born state, with two vulnerable borders, in the environment of cold war, Pakistan decided to ally herself with USA. The journey which started from establishing diplomatic relations in 1947, to most allied ally, to the most sanctioned ally in 1950s. From the years between 1960s to late 1970s, there was a strained environment between Pakistan and United States. The Afghan war of 1979 revived Pakistan US relations. Pakistan acted as a front line state in Afghan war. The defeat of Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and the end of cold war turned the strategic interests of US in south Asia. In the decade of 1990s, Pakistan got the status of the most sanctioned ally of US. The debacle of 9/11 changed the course of US policy in South Asia. The strategic needs of US and the economic and security parameters of Pakistan brought her in alignment with US in war against terrorism. From the most sanctioned ally Pakistan got the status of non-NATO ally. Pakistan itself became the victim of terrorism as the war in Afghanistan had a domino effect on the tribal areas of Pakistan and elsewhere. The 'do more' *mantra* of US again brought Pakistan US in a strained environment. It reflects the dependent relationship that Pakistan has with the United States.