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PAKISTAN- TÜRKİYE DEFENSE CASE

Introduction

The Pak-Türkiye defense cooperation formally came into being in June, 2003, with the set-up of the High Level Military Dialogue (HLMDG) forum. Previously, defense cooperation was taken into account under the Pak- Türkiye Military Consultative Group (MCG) formed in 1988. Historically, both nations are bound under the Article IV of the Turco-Pakistan treaty of 1954 which deals on sharing field experiences, defense production and geo-political environment.

However, as the 21st century unfolds, defense cooperation has attained a bigger picture in terms of political, regional and global paradigms. The U.S. refused to provide the export license for the helicopters' engines and has halted the supply of 30 ATAK T-129 twin-engine attack helicopters to Pakistan. In 2018, the U.S. ended its military aid to Pakistan and financing for Pakistani officers through the International Military Education and Training Program (IMET). Simultaneously, in the same manner, the U.S. removed Türkiye as a developing partner in the F-35 joint strike fighter aircraft program for the reason of Türkiye's acquisition of the

Russian S-400 air defense system. Correspondingly, many disorderly conducts from the U.S. to counter China's influence in the region tends Pakistan and Türkiye to get closer in defense cooperation for developing the 'indigenous defense industry'. Today, with the dynamical military technology and power variance, the Pak-Türkiye defense case formed a multifaceted picture.

The 20th Century Stripes

In the post-independence era, both the Pakistan and Türkiye military proved to be a good actor in defending their national interests with intermittent intervention in governmental roles. Eric Nordlinger (Professor of Strategic Studies at Harvard University) briefly put forward the spectrum of these interventions and types of goals pursued. He classified the military intervention in three paradigms. The lowest level is of "Praetorian Moderator" in which the military remains 'reluctant' to take government control. The second level is of "Praetorian Guardian" in which the military is more willing to take political control usually for 2-4 years. The highest level is of "Praetorian Ruler" in which the military exercises exceptional economic and political control for preserving the status quo and shows no interest in returning power back to civilians. Türkiye military intervention lies in-between Moderator to Guardian in 1960, 1971 and 1980 coups. Pakistan military intervention lies in-between Guardian to the Ruler from 1958-1971, 1977-1988 and 1999-2008. Alongside these interventions, in common, both nations' militaries have demonstrated a prestigious position and called themselves a 'survivor of state'.

These spectrum of incidents demonstrate that from the date of Pakistan

independence in 1947 and creation of Republic of Türkiye in the 1920's both nations are facing a type of similar Military-Industrial-Academic-Bureaucratic complex. Pakistan's military presentation of India as an existential threat allows the military to justify a handsome amount of budgets. Similarly, Türkiye's military performance in the Armenia conflict and rebuilding ties with central Asian states under the treaty of Lausanne restrictions demonstrated the military as an essential actor.

In the early years of cold-war, Pakistan's defense industry saw the U.S. as the best source of armaments needed to deter India. Several Pakistan elites including General Ayub Khan in 1953 went to the U.S. for defense production aid to Pakistan. Similarly, Türkiye defense policy was also west focused until the 1974 Cyprus Crisis. It sent troops to fight the Korean war and joined NATO in 1952. Although, after the 1974 Cyprus crisis, Türkiye opted for a broadened security circle and balancing relations between the Soviet Union and West. Islamabad and Ankara cemented their security cooperation in 1954 after signing the Turco-Pakistan treaty. At that time, Türkiye didn't opt for devaluing its relation with India for the sake of building ties with Pakistan and, initially, this treaty is only aimed toward regional peace and stability. Later in 1970's, the treaty proved to be a sparking point in Pak-Türkiye relations when Türkiye aided Pakistan during Bangladesh separation and did not recognize Bangladesh until Pakistan did. Similarly, Pakistan supported Türkiye in the Cyprus issue with military-logistic aid. Afterwards, Pakistan- Türkiye relations slightly pushed backward for the reason of Afghanistan and the cold war détente events.

During the cold-war era, Pakistan- Türkiye strategic ties mingled in-between the number of theaters. In aforementioned events, evidently, both nations went for the U.S. side and gained a shared defense umbrella. However, after 2000, the U.S. got the ultimate power and shifted its policy from the 'protector' to the 'balancer' one in Asia. It went for ties with gulf states for oil and with India for securing the Indian Ocean Region. In the 21st century, both Islamabad and Ankara faced U.S. oppression whenever they tried to go for either Russia or China. Here lies the sparking initiative of Pakistan- Türkiye immense level of defense collaboration for focusing on 'indigenous weapon systems'.

A Push to Pak- Türkiye Defense Collaboration

The cut of defense collaboration by the U.S. led both countries to push forward and look for suitable substitutes. One is to support each other in defense production for the reason of shared religious, cultural, regional and international views. Apart from that both nations are looking to develop their 'indigenous weapon system' for self-help purposes. Additionally, both nations' development of drones, fighter jets and warships have gained immense recognition in Palestine-Israel conflict, Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and various military shows. In 2019, Pakistan signed various pact for public-private partnership in developing indigenous capabilities. It is manufacturing and disseminating technology of fourth generation JF-17 Thunder along with China. Similarly, Türkiye has gained international prominence as a result of the development of drone technology and its effective application in Karabakh and Syria. The technology of Turkish warships has also advanced throughout time. Additionally, it

is developing domestic 5th generation aircraft.

Pakistan and Türkiye form an inter-mixed 'Military-Industrial complex' which is not only limited to these two nations. Pakistan is getting excess to 'western military technology' via Türkiye. Evidently, in Pakistan's recent manufacturing of MILGEM class Corvettes and T-129 helicopters, the various high level components were built under license from various European countries. On the other hand, consequently, Türkiye is getting excess to 'China's military technology' via Pakistan.

More Strengthening Accomplishments

The collaboration in developing indigenous defense industry doesn't only enhance bilateral ties and expertise but also reduces research and development (R&D) timeframe. In the past, Türkiye collaborated in manufacturing F-16 aircraft and Agosta 90B submarines. Pakistan and Türkiye have agreed to manufacture four corvettes of the MILGEM class by 2023. Complete technology and intellectual property rights transfer to Pakistan is part of the agreement. It also permits Pakistan to create a proposal for a homegrown frigate (a warship with mixed armaments) when these corvettes are delivered.

Additionally, cooperative military training and exercise programs are being conducted by the two nations. Both nations have created the High-Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) to examine new possibilities and broaden cooperation in the future. The group meets once a year to discuss the year's progress.

A Way Forward

The two countries' collaboration has greatly improved. It still has a tremendous deal of potential to boost both countries' militaries even further, though. The two nations may improve their collaboration in a number of areas. As an illustration, Pakistan may be a possible user of Turkish armed drones, and both nations might collaborate or exchange knowledge and experience in the development of their respective next-generation fighter aircraft programs.

Turkish drones were successful in their encounters in part due to the country's electronic warfare capabilities. Both airborne and ground-based electronic warfare systems were involved. The potential for expansion and continued development in this sector is enormous. Other significant areas for collaboration include counterterrorism, radar technology, space, air, and missile defense.

A solid foundation exists between Pakistan and Türkiye for enduring defense cooperation. Joint project development will shorten R&D time for both nations while also enhancing their competence. By doing this, Pakistan and Türkiye can also minimize their difference in 'specialization of trade' which resulting in trade deficits, especially in the military sector.



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