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Pakistan's Foreign Policy During diplomatic Isolation (2019-2022): An analytical study

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ABSTRACT

In the year 2019, Pakistan's foreign policy witnessed many significant changes due to increasing diplomatic threats, regional instability and growing international attention towards it. This paper analyzes the various reasons behind the isolation of Pakistan's foreign policy during 2019 and discusses the diplomatic measures taken by Pakistan to protect its national interest. This paper covers significant events including the Pulwama attack, the Balakot air strike, the unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 & 35A by India, continued placement of Pakistan on the FATF Grey List, and the ongoing narrative of linking Pakistan with terrorist organizations. Through a qualitative approach, the paper makes use of government documents, policy papers, literature review, reports of think tanks, and credible international media to analyze the diplomatic response of Pakistan. The results show that despite facing huge political and diplomatic pressure, Pakistan managed to prevent itself from being isolated internationally through strategic alliances with friendly countries, including China, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and others, while using international forums such as the United Nations and OIC for internationalization of the Kashmir dispute. The study shows that isolation in 2019 was an inflection point that made Pakistan realizes its need to change its foreign policy priorities and engage itself diplomatically through practical and pragmatic foreign policy measures.

Keywords: Pakistan's Foreign Policy, Diplomatic Isolation, Pulwama-Balakot Crisis, FATF Grey List, Strategic Reorientation.

INTRODUCTION

The period between 2019 and 2022 can be considered one of the most difficult periods for the foreign policy of Pakistan, which was faced with considerable diplomatic, political, economic, and strategic challenges, causing the impression of international isolation of the country. During this period, Pakistan had to cope with a very complicated regional context marked by Pakistan-India tensions; problems caused by the instability in Afghanistan, fears related to terrorism and extremism, and increased interest shown by major international

organizations in the country. The Pulwama terrorist attack and the consequent airstrike on Balakot made the situation in the region even more complicated, forcing Pakistan to experience substantial international diplomatic pressure. The abolition of Article 370 in India in August 2019 and the corresponding deterioration of Pakistan-India relations turned the Kashmir dispute into a serious diplomatic problem for Pakistan. However, the isolation of Pakistan from other countries was not only evident when looking at its relations with India but also when it came to its relations with the United States. These relations were marred by the differences the two countries had on issues related to Afghanistan, counterterrorism, and the security situation in the region. While Pakistan kept emphasizing its strategic significance for the United States, it was clear that the trust was not there as in previous periods of cooperation. Additionally, Pakistan continued to consolidate its strategic alliance with China via the CPEC while at the same time trying to have good relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Russia, Turkey, and others. However, the year 2020 brought new challenges as well as opportunities to Pakistan's foreign policy. The coronavirus pandemic drew the world's attention in a different direction, but at the same time brought about economic challenges and changed the scenario in Afghanistan. In this regard, Pakistan was able to prove itself as a responsible stakeholder by playing an important role in the peace process between the USA and the Taliban. The signing of the US-Taliban agreement in Doha in February 2020 and further developments in Afghanistan boosted Pakistan's significance as a player in diplomacy. The matter further developed in 2021 and 2022. Withdrawing of US troops and the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021 brought into prominence Pakistan's geopolitics due to its proximity and influence in the process of Afghan peace process. Pakistan tried to capitalize on this development for regional peace and engagement. On the other hand, Islamabad also tried to make a new move in its foreign policy by diversifying its foreign engagements beyond its traditional friends in the West. Its strategic relationship with China was continued, while it further engaged with Russia, Turkey, Gulf countries, and Central Asia. Pakistan also made efforts to improve its image in international finance, which culminated in its removal from the FATF grey list in October 2022. In that regard, the isolation of Pakistan from 2019 to 2022 should not be regarded as diplomatic isolation of the country. Instead, it was a period when Pakistan had limited space to conduct foreign policies due to the criticism it received from other countries, its economic problems, difficulties with some influential countries, and rivalry in the region. However, at the same time, all the above factors were motivating Islamabad to reconsider its priorities in terms of foreign policy and seek to diversify its diplomatic relations. Thus, it is a very significant stage in the transformation of Pakistan from a state of isolation to diplomacy.

METHODOLOGY

The present article will utilize qualitative research design that employs discourse analysis as a method. In particular, primary sources of information such as political speeches, parliamentary debates, media outlets, and reports from countries will be used to identify themes and patterns. Additionally, secondary sources such as books, journals, and reports published by various authors and organizations will be used to compliment the findings.

Research Question:

What were the factors responsible for the international isolation of Pakistan between 2019 and 2022, and what was its impact on the foreign policy stance of Pakistan?

Background: Pakistan's FATF Grey Listing

The international organization that establishes the rules used to combat money laundering and terrorist funding is the Financial Action Task Force, or FATF. In June 2018, FATF basically decided that there were still serious gaps in Pakistan's AML/CFT system, and it agreed a 27-point improvement plan, so the country got placed on Increased Monitoring, often called the Grey List.¹ Not only investor confidence took a hit, but also international bank linkages, the ability to reach international finance, and even Pakistan's image effected. It highlighted Pakistan's commitment under the FATF, and it asked for diplomatic support from important states and multilateral forums too. Even if Pulwama didn't formally keep Pakistan on the FATF grey list, it did stir up the politics around FATF discussions. It also drew additional eyes from the wider world on whether Pakistan was actually meeting its obligations. Still, instead of zeroing in on Pulwama itself, FATF's official rulings hinged on Pakistan's movement toward the action plan it had agreed to.²

Pulwama and 2019 Indo-Pak Tensions

On February 14, 2019, a vehicle-borne suicide attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Pulwama, southern J&K, triggered the Pulwama crisis into motion.³ That attack, which took the lives of forty CRPF personnel, was the most lethal episode in J&K's record, while violence has been simmering almost without a full stop. This is the deadliest attack in India. A local youngster was then identified as the attacker after the extremist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which is assumed to have linkages to Pakistan's uploaded a video claiming responsibility not long after the incident.⁴ Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong statement after the Pulwama assault basically denouncing the horrific act and also saying there would be a very heavy price for the people responsible.⁵ He said I assure you that the country will counteract, vigorously defend against such assaults, India is not going to be intimidated. If our neighbor, who is already cut off from the rest of the world, thinks that its heinous deeds and evil plans will somehow demoralize India, then honestly it's delusional. On the other hand Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, vehemently denied that the government was involved in the 2019 Pulwama attack. He called on India to provide actionable evidence and promised to assist with the inquiry in a televised speech.⁶ PM Khan said you seem to want to stay mired in the past and keep blaming Pakistan for every incident

¹ Muhammad Mehmood Raja, "FATF Grey Listing of Pakistan: Causes, Compliance Measures, and Policy Implications" *Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom* 4, no. 3 (March 2025): 108–116.

² Shahbaz Rana, "Pakistan Formally Placed on FATF Grey List" *The Express Tribune*, 29 June 2018 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1746079/1-pakistan-formally-placed-fatf-grey-list>.

³ Mohammed Sinan Siyech, "The Pulwama Attack: Significance, Implications and the Way Forward" in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses* 11, no. 4 (2019) 6–10.

⁴ Moeed W. Yusuf, "The Pulwama Crisis Flirting With War in a Nuclear Environment", *Arms Control Today* 49, no. 4 (May 2019): 6–11.

⁵ Prime Minister's Office, Government of India, "PM statement on the terror attack in Pulwama," *Indian Prime Minister*, February 15, 2019.

⁶ Dawn, "Pakistan will take on actionable evidence Delhi share it with us, Delhi, PM Khan told India after the Pulwama attack", 19 February 2019.

that shows up in Kashmir. Instead of attempting to settle the Kashmir dispute, have a conversation, or proceed, you want to repeatedly use Islamabad as your whipping boy. This year is an election year and we think if you 'teach Pakistan a lesson,' you'll get a strong advantage during the election.⁷ But after all of this on that occasion Khan did use the moment to propose talks with India, in an attempt to ease tensions and iron out unresolved matters, notably those linked to Kashmir. PM continued adding that terrorism should be discussed. We want to put an end to terrorism in the region. The country that is most severely impacted by terrorism is Pakistan. We are thus prepared to speak with India.

Balakot Crisis (Feb 26, 2019)

The 2019 Balakot airstrike was a bombing activity carried out by Indian planes on February 26, 2019, in Balakot, Pakistan. Open-source imagery taken from the satellite showed that there wasn't any target hit or at least anything that could be identified. Indian Policy is to isolate Pakistan at international forum.⁸ There was a considerable amount of anger expressed by the public in rallies, demanding that something be done against Pakistan. Nevertheless, the repercussions of Modi's reluctance to retaliate continued to remain heavy because of the approaching general elections.⁹ In India's counterterrorism campaign this strike took on a big, almost pivotal, role and it was also Pakistan's first Indian airstrike since 1971. Operation Bander (2019)

The official, highly confidential codename used on February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force (IAF) launched a preemptive strike on Balakot, Pakistan was "Operation Bandar."¹⁰ Even though military codenames are picked on purpose, to keep operational secrecy and quietly mislead enemy intelligence, a couple of big cultural angles were later brought up by Indian defense sources. They explained the monkey deity Hanuman slipped into the adjacent kingdom of Lanka, quietly, and lit it up in the epic record of Hinduism. The whole thing kind of resembles a shadowy world scale incident, with this aim to wipe out or at least seriously damage a particular installation and since the term "Bandar" is such a popular word in the languages of Hindi and Urdu. Under the regional nuclear shadow, Operation Bandar precipitated a dramatic strategic and kinetic escalation, resulting in pretty completely divergent narratives from both countries. India described a significant, operational JeM terror training facility, and it was referred to as a non-military, preemptive strike.¹¹ Pakistan, on the other hand, said that the location was near an abandoned wooded hilltop area and more akin to a tiny seminary. Pakistan denied the existence of a terrorist camp. As per the reports from India, around 200 to 350 militants, trainers, and even some of their leaders were killed. As per the Pakistani version of events, there were no deaths; only one neighboring house was

⁷ Muhammad Faisal, "Electoral Expediency: A Case Study of the Pulwama Incident" Journal of Security & Strategic Analyses 10, no.2 (2024).

⁸ Muhammad Nawaz Bhatti, Muhammad Waris, and Sher Muhammad, "Indian Policy to Isolate Pakistan at International Forum and the Way Forward," Review of Economics and Development Studies 5, no. 4, (2019). 703–712.

⁹ Mehmood and Haider, "Understanding India's Surgical Strike Special Operations," 56.

¹⁰ The Hindu, "Operation Bandar: Code Name of Balakot Strike," 21 June 2019.

¹¹ Dr. Nasir Mehmood and Usman Haider "Understanding India's Surgical Strike Special Operations and Pakistan's Response", Journal of Strategic Security Analysis 8 no. 1 (2022) 49–72, Strategic Vision Institute SVI Islamabad.

affected by shockwaves caused by the blasts and even pine trees nearby were broken. Yet, in the case of the Pakistani version, journalists could come and verify that no infrastructure was destroyed. This one argued that the India's current ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), actually masterminded the whole situation. The claim was it worked as a pre-election political maneuver, designed to spark sharp nationalism so they could gather votes.¹²

Operation Swift Retort (27 Feb 2019)

A counteroffensive operation codenamed Swift Retort began on February 27, 2019, by the PAF. The IAF had conducted an incursion and a strike at Balakot on the previous day that had acted like a catalyst to trigger Pakistan's move. In retrospect, this incident stands as a landmark in the annals of South Asian military history, considering that both countries, which are nuclear powers, had for the first time after the 1971 war conducted strikes within each other's territories. However, on February 27, Pakistan retaliated with a fairly well-coordinated air attack, designed to achieve deterrence and, in a sense, to showcase its defensive stance without actually getting into a real fight.¹³ PAF aircraft flying inside Pakistani airspace reportedly acquired targets and released precision-guided stand-off munitions near six separate Indian military sites along the Line of Control. Pakistan intentionally released the weapons onto open ground close to those places, so it could signal that it was able to hit them if it wanted in order to avoid a catastrophic escalation. It happened above the Line of Control, and a fast dogfight kicked off while IAF fighter pilots were urgently trying to intercept the Pakistani aircraft. PAF shot down a MiG-21 Bison an Indian aircraft. On the other hand India claims that they shot down Pakistan F-16. Pakistan demanded proof but they have no evidence. Which show the India hypocrisy. Then, in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) the plane went down. Even though Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the Indian pilot, managed to evacuate safely, Pakistani soldiers on the ground still managed to arrest him.¹⁴ Soon after, videos of him in detention spread quickly; including the scene most people praised the military's hospitality, and the tea. At Budgam, early on February 27, six people died when an Indian SPYDER air defense missile system accidentally fired down an IAF Mi-17 helicopter. This happened due to a fatal mechanical malfunction.¹⁵ This was during the peak of operational disarray, plus a communication failure. Pakistan's Prime Minister said that Wing Commander Abhinandan would be released as a "goodwill gesture" for peace and returned him on March 1, 2019 to Indian officials at the Wagah border, the crisis quickly ended.¹⁶ This improves the Pakistan image on international level and it is praised on global platforms also.¹⁷ Every year on February 27, Pakistan observes Surprise Day to commemorate the PAF's professionalism and operational preparedness.

¹² Ahmed Hassan and Zulfqar Khan, "Post Operations Swift Retort: Challenges and Way Forward for a Small Air Force" NDU Journal 35 (2021): 79–92

¹³ Dawn.com, "Operation Swift Retort: Armed Forces Reaffirm Pledge to Defend Motherland on 6th Anniversary" Dawn, 27February 2025.

¹⁴ BBC News. "Abhinandan: who is the Indian pilot captured by Pakistan?" 1March2019.<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-47397409>.

¹⁵ The Express Tribune, "Indian Air Defence May Have Shot Down IAF Mi-17 Helicopter" News Desk, 29March2019

¹⁶ Dawn, "Pakistan Frees Captured Indian Pilot Abhinandan in Peace Gesture," March 1, 2019.

¹⁷ Dawn.com Staff, "Pakistan Frees Captured Indian Pilot Abhinandan in Peace Gesture," Dawn, 1 March 2019.

Revocation of Article 370

The repeal of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 was one of the most significant and, honestly, quite drastic constitutional and geopolitical shifts in South Asia. The Indian government effectively rewrote the legislature, politics, and demography of Jammu & Kashmir through the decision to discontinue the semi-autonomy of the region. The Instrument of Accession of 1947 had been followed by the introduction of Article 370, which can be considered the legal means of associating the state of Jammu & Kashmir with the Indian Union.¹⁸ This article was adopted in the Constitution of India in 1949 as a temporary provision.¹⁹ In practice, Jammu and Kashmir got a special kind of autonomy under Article 370, like a separate arrangement rather than the usual one. The state had its own penal law and its own flag, and even its own constitution. Only matters related to defense, foreign policy, and communications could be handled through legislation by the Indian Parliament for J&K.²⁰ For basically anything else, the J&K state assembly's direct concurrence was required before any other federal statute could be applied. But India revokes this article.

Article 35A: demographic protection

This clause came out of Article 370, and it let the local assembly define who counts as a state resident permanently. It also blocked non-Kashmiris from purchasing land, moving in permanently, or taking jobs within the state administration.²¹ The big legal hurdle in front of the Indian government was that clause 370(3) basically said the clause could only be made inoperative after a proposal from the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly. So the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) then leaned on an unusually complex legal technique, kind of to slip around the sticking point. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly. Removing Article 35 the administration claimed that once Article 35A was stripped away, foreign firms and individuals could invest in real estate, industry, and tourism, and that this would create employment.²² As New Delhi described it, direct federal control would help security forces deal with militancy more effectively and reduce cross-border terrorism. Finally, it was declared that Article 370 had become completely ineffective. Pakistan, along with several international voices, treated the move like a solo breach of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, especially those that frame Kashmir as disputed and insist the end status should be determined by a free and unbiased vote, a public vote.²³

¹⁸ Mohd Amin Mir, *The Kashmir Dilemma and the Repeal of Article 370: A Comparative Analysis* Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs, 19 June 2024

¹⁹ Robina Khan, Muhammad Zubair Khan, and Zafar Abbas, "Moving Towards Human Catastrophe: The Abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir Valley" *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 41, no. 1 (2021): 78-85.

²⁰ Humera Malik, "Revocation of Article 370 and Digital Media: Unveiling Human Rights Violations in Kashmir" *Pakistan Vision* 25, no. 1 (June 2024): 74-87

²¹ Asad Ullah Khan, "Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A: Policy Options for Pakistan" *Strategic Perspectives* 2, no. 1 (2024): 105-126

²² Aman Srivastava, "Article 35A: Its Existence and Controversies" *Journal of Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence* 2, no. 1 (2019): 1-7

²³ National School of Public Policy "Strategic Shifts in India-Pakistan Relations: Pulwama Attack and Abrogation of Article 370" (Lahore: National School of Public Policy, February 2025).

The Terrorist Attack in Dasu

On 14 July 2021 Nine Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide bombing in Upper Kohistan. The attack went following a vehicle carrying a group of Chinese engineers engaged at the hydroelectric project at Dasu.²⁴ This incident led to a brief, temporary diplomatic disagreement with Beijing. After that, Islamabad rapidly raised security requirements for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, as well as for people connected to it. Pakistan then released a strong statement condemning the act, started a deep probe, and later detained a set of people tied to how the bombing was prepared and carried out. And to show Beijing it's serious about guarding foreign workers, plus keeping the strategic cooperation steady the administration also tightened security for Chinese citizens and for development projects across the country. All these incidents pushed the country in isolation.

Moscow Visit and Isolation of Pakistan

Imran Khan's visit to Russia from February 23 to 24, 2022 eventually turns out to be a landmark event in the relatively new diplomatic history of Pakistan. The purpose of first Pakistani prime minister's official trip to Moscow in 23 years was to wrap up a long-term "bilateral reset", basically are calibration of relations. But the timing of the whole journey was, somehow, very touchy.²⁵ On February 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion on Ukraine happened right when the bilateral talks were beginning, and that single coincidence immediately pushed the visit's weight much higher in Pakistan's foreign policy. It put more pressure on already isolated country. An already tense relationship with Washington was made worse by this visit. The fact that there was no cancellation or postponement of the visit was seen by the Western powers as an indirect approval of the conduct of Moscow. The longest-lasting shift has been Pakistan's choice to remain neutral on the Russia-Ukraine war. The timing of Imran Khan's travel to Russia has an impact on the nation's foreign policy, particularly when Pakistan needs to interact, yet this move pushes the nation closer to isolation. Despite strong diplomatic pressure from the United States and twenty-one European envoys, Pakistan did not vote against Russia during the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly).

Cypher Controversy Lead towards Isolation

The most contentious and significant development in Pakistan's recent diplomatic and political history is the "Cypher" controversy. In essence, it concerns a "cypher," or covert diplomatic cable, sent in March 2022 by Pakistan's then-ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan.²⁶ He detailed a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu in that message.²⁷ Subsequently, this paper became the primary focus of charges related to foreign involvement, worries about sovereignty, and the domestic political change that ultimately resulted in Prime Minister Imran Khan's departure. US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu with Pakistani Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan meet in Washington on March 7, 2022.

²⁴ Iftikhar A. Khan, "Suicide Bomber Behind Dasu Attack: FM," *Dawn*, 13 August 2021. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1640360>.

²⁵ Fahd Husain, "Should the PM Have Gone to Moscow?" *Dawn* (Karachi: Pakistan Herald Publications [Pvt.] Ltd.), February 26, 2022 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1677137>.

²⁶ Dawn.com, "What Is the Cipher Case" *Dawn*, January 30, 2024, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1809800>.

²⁷ Zahid Hussain, "The Cipher and after," *Dawn*, March 17, 2024, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1809800>.

After that the ambassador sends out a classified message, a cipher cable (Cypher No. I-0678). Prime Minister Imran Khan lifts up a sheet of paper during a big public rally in Islamabad; he says it is written proof of a "foreign conspiracy" intended to overthrow his administration, because of his independent foreign policy choices, especially that trip to Moscow.²⁸

US Reaction and Pakistan Isolation

The US State Department kept denying those allegations. Pakistan claims, in April 2022, that the United States had helped topple Prime Minister Imran Khan's government, and that was flatly denied. The U.S. State Department kept pushing back on Khan's version, especially the idea that a diplomatic cipher from Pakistan's envoy in Washington revealed an American-backed plan aimed at removing the current administration. U.S. authorities consistently denied the allegations as being totally baseless.²⁹ Furthermore, they stated that Washington had no influence whatsoever on the political situation in Pakistan, and therefore the story in question had absolutely no foundation at all. They said that they have no wish-list when it comes to leadership in Pakistan. As far as the issue of constitutional issues regarding the vote of no confidence, it is important to note that the Pakistani Supreme Court did not give any ruling that would somewhat approve the regime change operation orchestrated by the United States. This controversy decorates the relationships of Pakistan and US which leads Pakistan towards more difficult Period of that time.

CONCLUSION

The years from 2019 to 2022 were among the most difficult times for Pakistan in terms of foreign policy, marked by diplomacy pressures, problematic ties with major states, regional tensions, and constant effort to change the image of the country in the world. Pakistan's diplomatic isolation could not be caused by any single factor, and was brought about due to the combination of regional conflicts, international security problems, economic vulnerabilities, and new geopolitical shifts. In this way, the Pulwama crisis and the Pakistan-India military standoff that occurred in 2019 raised the level of regional tensions even higher, while the revocation of Article 370 by India led to new diplomatic problems for Pakistan. Pakistan tried to raise its Kashmir problem on the international level and gain the support of the international community, particularly UN and OIC, but without much success. It should be noted that the issue of counter-terrorism policy in Pakistan, as well as its status on the FATF grey list, also influenced the overall situation. While Pakistan took many legal steps to overcome the issue of money laundering and terrorist financing, being on the grey list affected its image and increased the economic and political pressures on it. At the same time, relations with the US became very uncertain. With the signing of the peace treaty between the US and the Taliban in 2021, the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan allowed Pakistan to prove its importance, but due to contradictions in the security policy and new independent foreign policy approaches, the improvement of relations could not occur. However, Pakistan was not totally isolated. Pakistan's strategic alliance with China remained a key pillar of its foreign policy, as reflected in CPEC and other BRI initiatives. Pakistan also enjoyed close

²⁸ Muhammad Afzal, Abdul Khaliq, Zahid Munawar Khan Shaerwani, and Afeefa Zahid, "Constitutional Crisis in Pakistan and International Conspiracy in the Context of Diplomatic Relations of America" Southern Journal of Arts & Humanities 1, no. 2 (2023): 24–31

²⁹ "US again denies the allegations of Regime change" Business Recorder (Karachi), 6 April 2022

relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey, Qatar, and other Islamic countries, while also building better relationships with Russia and Central Asian countries. The fall of Kabul in August 2021 further highlighted the significance of Pakistan on account of its geographical location in relation to Afghanistan and its role in negotiating between the US and the Taliban. In the same vein, the successful completion of the FATF action plan by Pakistan in 2022 was also a major diplomatic accomplishment for Pakistan.

In this way, the period from 2019 to 2022 can be viewed as a period of diplomatic containment rather than international isolation of Pakistan. Pakistan was under a lot of pressure due to the dispute over Kashmir, tension between India and Pakistan, terrorism-related issues, economic frailties, and uncertainty in its relationship with the West. Nevertheless, Pakistan tried at the same time to develop its diplomatic relationships with China, the Muslim world, Russia, and other international players. By the end of 2022, these trends started forming the basis for a transition of Pakistan from its diplomatic isolation to international activity. The period of 2019-2022 became a critical turning point in the foreign policy of Pakistan and made Islamabad realize that it needed to diversify its diplomatic relations.

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