

## **Detailed SUMMARY of the Article, “Mutual Mistrust,” Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Dawn, October 8th, 2023**

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This article delves into the longstanding issue of mutual mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has roots dating back to the pre-independence era of 1947. The author explains that Afghanistan's desire to revise the Durand Line, leading to the Pashtunistan movement, and its initial opposition to Pakistan's entry into the United Nations set the stage for mistrust. Over the years, various geopolitical events, including the Pakistan-India war of 1965 and the Soviet and US invasions of Afghanistan, shaped the complex relationship. Pakistan hosted millions of Afghan refugees and supported Afghan mujahideen, hoping for a friendly Afghan government. However, this expectation remained largely unfulfilled, even during the Taliban's recent rule in Kabul. The article explores ways for Pakistan to navigate this challenging relationship, emphasizing the need to treat Afghanistan as a sovereign state, maintain political contact with the Taliban without formal recognition, engage ideologically through religious scholars, work militarily with Afghan authorities to curb terrorism, boost economic ties, and coordinate diplomatically with regional countries to achieve mutual goals, including an inclusive government and girls' education.

### ***Easy/Short SUMMARY:***

This article talks about why Afghanistan and Pakistan don't trust each other. It started way back in 1947 when Afghanistan wanted to change the border with Pakistan. Over the years, both countries had problems, even though Pakistan helped Afghan refugees and militants. The article suggests that Pakistan should treat Afghanistan as its own country, talk to the Taliban but not officially recognize them, and work together in many ways, like trade and security, to make things better. Diplomatically, Pakistan should also talk to other nearby

countries and the Taliban to solve problems.

## ***SOLUTIONS of The Problem:***

### **Treating Afghanistan as a Sovereign State**

Pakistan should treat Afghanistan as a sovereign state, respecting its right to choose its leaders without outside influence.

### **Engaging with the Taliban Politically**

Maintain regular political contact with the Taliban, conveying concerns and listening to their perspective without formally recognizing their government.

### **Ideological Engagement**

Encourage religious scholars to engage with Afghan scholars to persuade the Taliban to refrain from terrorism against Pakistan.

### **Military Cooperation**

Engage with the Afghan military leadership to prevent the Taliban from providing safe havens to terrorist groups like the TTP and manage the border more humanely.

### **Economic Cooperation**

Boost bilateral trade and facilitate Afghan transit trade through Pakistani ports, while also supporting regional economic projects like TAPI and CASA-1000.

### **Diplomatic Coordination**

Coordinate diplomatically with regional countries and international bodies to promote an inclusive government, girls' education, and effective counterterrorism measures in Afghanistan.



## ***IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:***

- Mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan dates back to 1947.
- Pakistan hosted millions of Afghan refugees and supported Afghan mujahideen.
- The need for an inclusive government and girls' education in Afghanistan is emphasized.

## ***IMPORTANT Facts and Figures out of the article:***

- Specific figures not provided.

## ***MCQs from the Article:***

1. *What is the historical origin of mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan?*
  - A. Post-independence border disputes
  - B. Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
  - C. Pakistan's support for the US-led Western coalition
  - D. Afghanistan's opposition to UN membership for PakistanCorrect Answer: A

2. *What is the author's suggestion regarding formal recognition of the Taliban government?*
  - A. Pakistan should formally recognize the Taliban government.
  - B. Pakistan should not have any contact with the Taliban.
  - C. Pakistan should consult with Afghanistan's neighbors before recognizing the Taliban government.
  - D. Pakistan should only engage with the Taliban through back channels.Correct Answer: C

## VOCABULARY:

1. *Sovereign* (adjective) (□□□□□□): Independent and self-governing.
2. *Militants* (noun) (□□□□□□□): Individuals or groups engaged in armed conflict, often for political or ideological reasons.
3. *Refugees* (noun) (□□□□ □□□□): People who have been forced to leave their home countries due to persecution or conflict.
4. *Inclusive* (adjective) (□□□□): Including all and not excluding any particular group or category.
5. *Counterterrorism* (noun) (□□□□□□□ □□□□): Actions taken to prevent or combat terrorism.

Please note that some vocabulary words in the article are already quite straightforward and may not require additional explanation.

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