

Saudi Influence on Pakistan's Policy Choices: Causes and Effects



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Abstract: *The long standing friendly ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been demanding. Pakistan's state sovereignty has been under deficit while during its engagements with Riyadh, as Riyadh provided lucrative incentive to Pakistan, thus respective dependence demanded Pakistan for modelling its diplomatic engagements as per former's inclinations and bringing state sovereignty under threat, thus bringing challenges for Pakistan too. This particular research tends to analyze the Saudi interests in Pakistan and also how Saudi Arabia has managed to win Pakistan in a way where it can influence Islamabad's policy choices. The article would assess and analyze the challenges that Pakistan faces in the backdrop of Saudi influenced policy choices along with the recommendation how Pakistan can trespass this dependence on Kingdom and its subsequent challenges.*

Key Words: Brotherly, Friendship, Riyadh, Interests, Wahabism, Economic Assistance, Diplomatic, IMA, Dependencies, Influence, Summit.

Introduction

Despite knowing the interest-based nature of International politics, Riyadh and Islamabad claim their ties to be fraternal. Pakistan and Kingdom are long standing allies and partners, where former carries the strategic and military significance while the latter encompasses the economic importance. However, both nations tend to prove themselves as a diplomatic support for each other too.

Kingdom being an economic power has assisted Pakistan on many fronts and ever in stretch of necessity, providing economic support, billions of investments, providing job for Pakistani laborers and professionals and also helping meet Pakistan its dire energy requirements. Pak-Saudi ties are seen as to be "brotherly" as both succor each other in time of need. However, these brotherly ties and the tale of eternal friendship has been scandalous for some time as scholars take this friendship as opportunistic and merely interest based thus

analyzing Pakistan's actions as highly influenced by the Saudi preferences.

The thaw in Pak-Saudi ties dates back in to the Cold War era, when Riyadh formally started to meddle into state's domestic affairs i.e. sectarian issue thus promoting "Wahabism" and influence state's foreign policy by reinforcing the need to structure Mujahedeen and also funding their recruitments. Since then Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been reliable allies to each other. However the durability of ties did not ensure the unconditional nature of the involvements. Saudi Arabia invested in Pakistan, its society, mending its ideological underpinning to Wahabism, aided Pakistan to cope with its economic predicaments and debt crisis along with energy needs. Riyadh had to do this for making a trustee ally in South Asian region. In International Politics, relations

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stand on bilateral and mutual engagements, so Pakistan had to pay back in some form.

Therefore, the chronology of events in Pak-Saudi ties indicates that the Islamabad had to look for the Saudi predilections in its diplomatic engagements. Amid increased Saudi economic support Pakistan had been conscious of its long standing ally's inclinations. Scholars argue that Riyadh had a hold on Islamabad's policy choices where it contends former's political interests i.e. Islamabad's refusal to attend Kuala Lumpur Summit because of Saudi pressure.

For a nation state, sovereignty is precious to stand as an independent actor in International world, which in case of Pakistan is threatened due to Islamabad's over reliance on the allies for the incentives. Pakistan's diplomatic choices where have been influenced by Saudi incentives hitting on former's sovereignty, it however caused challenges for Pakistan resultantly. However, despite considerable Saudi reflection on Pakistan, there is still is limit to this as Pakistan manages to take stand where it can i.e. Islamabad's stance on Yemen crisis.

Pak-Saudi relationship is more interest based than brotherly in nature as both nations claim. Kingdom has invested in Pakistan, its society, structured its ideological outlook, reinforced its policy preferences at the time of Afghan war, and provided assistance to its political leaders and lucrative incentives. All these means of sustenance indebted Pakistan in a unique way thus putting its sovereignty at stake. Riyadh invested in Pakistan to garner the best of its interests from Pakistan in time of need militarily or diplomatically. It dictates Pakistan's stances on International events in way preferable to Saudi Arabia. Living up to Riyadh's inclinations, Pakistan has to face repercussions too.

This respective piece of paper tends to analyze and discuss the interests of Riyadh for which it has devoted in Pakistan and has provided incentives and why it has a hold on Pakistan. Following this, paper would be describing and analyzing how Riyadh managed to pose a hold on a nuclear power i.e.

Pakistan. After analyzing the kind of support and investments that Riyadh has conducted for Pakistan, the paper will analyze how Pakistan-indebted to Kingdom has to pay back as Saudi Arabia dictates Pakistan's behavior. Conclusion will follow the analysis of repercussions faced by Pakistan as a result of Pakistan's execution of Riyadh's hold.

The respective research would be significant in its scope to highlight the dynamics of Pak-Saudi ties along with the pattern of structural realism where interests triumph brotherhood, analyze them so that realizations and recommendations can be made and channeled to the policy makers i.e. domestic and foreign. It would be significant to highlight the main challenges i.e. crippling economy and poor policy making processthat are faced by the nations which further lead to create dependencies and bringing new sort of challenges i.e. sectarianism, rift with Iran. That would reinforce the officials to focus on the real challenges faced by the nation, so that it can be saved from other big challenges resulted from overt and covertnotations from the friendly nations, thus lessening the dependencies.

Theoretical Framework

Theories are essential underpinnings to base one's argument on. These support the argument and helps understand the dimension of the argument. Structural Realism supports and describes the argument presented in this respective paper.

Structural Realism

- Rational unitary actors i.e. states work for their own national interests.
- In an anarchic international system, outwardly determined set of operational imperatives act as a driving force for a lucid state's foreign policy.
- NGOs and IOs (International organizations) get emphasis.

Viewing the argument presented and taken in this research with the lens of Structural realism, it tells that partnerships in international world are interests based

whether they are called as trust based or based on same ideological underpinnings or whether if the ties are called as brotherly. Interests structure the dynamics of relations between states. Same goes for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, where interests in later because of economic incentives that it gets from latter, while latter finds former strategically and diplomatically significant. The game of interests played by both the estates in the name of friendship has managed to realize its real essence to Pakistan when it designs its foreign policy in a way suitable to the kingdom thus generating consequences for Pakistan resultantly. Analyzing the dynamics of Pak-Saudi ties and latter's influence on former depicts that these ties are surely interest based.

Research Methodology

This qualitative research would be descriptive and analytical in nature. This piece of research would be descriptive as it discusses how Riyadh has managed to create a hold or effect on Pakistan, while it would be analytical in nature while discussing the reasons behind Riyadh's attempts to get Pakistan under effect. Additionally, the analysis portion would discuss how Riyadh dictates Pakistan's behavior and how Pakistan tends to satisfy Riyadh's demands, along with the analysis of the challenges faced by the Islamabad amid Saudi dictates. Content analysis has been used as a research method, while data has been collected through primary (official's statements and journal article) as well as secondary sources i.e. online articles and news stories to build and defend the argument and to reach the conclusion.

This respective research utilizes the "Non-Probability Sampling" and from that specifically Convenience Sampling. This Sampling has been used to gather the opinion of the other researchers and students of foreign policy, diplomacy, Political science and International Relations over the issue being discussed. Convenience Sampling is used because of budget restraint and also because students, scholars and researchers of above mentioned fields were easy to approach

through internet while during the lockdown amid Covid-19. Hence, 100 students from Universities in Punjab were approached via email to get the questionnaire solve and gather their opinion in this regard. In order to get their opinion to support the analysis portion, questionnaire was sent and get solved through email. The opinion generated from sampling by using questionnaire supports the analysis and would be found in the last section of the discussion.

Saudi Influence on Pakistan and the Reasons Behind

It has been established earlier that Saudi Arabia somehow has an influence (that would be discussed in detail in the next section) on Pakistan that is reflected in its diplomatic behavior. A glimpse of the thought that Saudi Arabia has indebted Paksitan uniquely to get the interests out of Pakistan has been indicated in the introduction too. Then the question here is why Saudi Arabia wanted to execute a hold or an influence over Pakistan? Why Pakistan is important for Saudi Arabia? What Kingdom seeks from Pakistan and what are the reasons behind Saudi Arabia influencing Pakistan?

Being the custodian of two Holy Mosques of Islam in Makkah and Medina, Riyadh has always presumed itself as the leader of Islamic world which should have hegemony, while it is not spare from a contender in Middle East i.e. Iran. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is a "Wahhabi" state, while Iran being the Shia majority state.

To create and sustain the monopoly and ensuring that it holds the upper hand in politics of Middle East, Saudi Arabia had to ensure more important countries on its side. The reasons why Saudi Arabia wanted to have Pakistan on its side include expand influence in the Muslim world, support from the professional Army, anti-Iran account thus countering Iran's nuclear hazard.

Expanding Influence in Muslim World

Saudi Arabia soon after the recognizing Pakistan signed Treaty of Friendship with

Pakistan. Both the countries founded their bonhomie with the commonality of belief as Pakistan got independence in the name of Islamic underpinnings. For Saudi Royalty having a contender with opposite sectarian majority with immense capabilities, former had to look at the wider picture and take as many states as possible to their side. Pakistan being a naïve state, was the best for the purpose, so it was executed to expand Saudi's influence in Muslim world, and Saudi Arabia has achieved it by restructuring the ideological underpinning of Pakistan to i.e. Wahabism.

Pakistan –No threat!

While already some Arab Nations were contending Saudi Monarchy, Pakistan was seen as no threat and no meddling in to the regional politics from Islamabad. Pakistan was seen best ally for its professional military and political support. Pakistan was seen best for Saudi's strategic interests.

Anti-Iran Account

Iran is considered as one of the big concerns for Saudi interests. Saudi Arabia and Iran and contending power, however the real-politics of Middle East required Kingdom not to lose a strategic partner to its contender i.e. Iran. Looking down in the course of history shows that Saudi Arabia aggravated its efforts for the purpose at the time of Iranian revolution, a time when Saudi Arabia evaluated the strategic appraisal and got the insight that this revolution in Iran had the capability to win over the 20pc Shi'ite population of Pakistan, which would not be bearable. So Riyadh in order to propel its anti-Iran account had to win over Pakistan.

Saudi Strategic Interests

Saudi Arabia's strategic interests are another reason for its hold on Pakistan, as Pakistan hold professional army, tools of deterrence and most significantly the Nuclear Deterrence, which Riyadh requires to deter Iranian threat and its nuclear ambitions as Riyadh being a signatory of Nuclear non-proliferation treaty cannot further to be a nuclear power thus

having repercussions from U.S. hence Pakistan is important for Saudi Arabia due to its nuclear assets.

Diplomatic Support

Post World War 2 started an era of International organization and more focused on diplomatic engagements to avoid the menace of armed conflict. One of such organization (OIC) was formed under the leadership of Riyadh, with now more than 50 member states. The reason was to ensure and project Muslim unity and to deal with the sufferings of Muslims around the globe. Riyadh required Pakistan there and wherever the Islamic Community interacts. The recent show of this reason was seen in Kuala Lumpur Summit.

Riyadh Managing to cast Influence on Pakistan

Given the strategic, political and diplomatic Saudi interests in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia has left no leave un-turned to achieve their objective. Saudi has invested much in Pakistan to better get their intended benefits. Apart from the aforementioned Treaty of Friendship and the inclusion in OIC, Riyadh formally started investing in Pakistan for its own political motives during the era of Islamization in Pakistan, by providing economic assistance, political affiliations, and asylum to political leaders of Pakistan and due to changing trends of global politics.

Ideological Manipulation and Affiliations

When General Zia ul-Haq was restructuring the ideological outlook for the state, Riyadh came by and introduced Wahabism-supposedly the most pure form of the Islamic belief. Riyadh's introduction of Wahabism to Pakistan via Zia-ul-Haq at the time of Islamic Revolution in neighboring Shi'ite Iran and recruitment of Mujahedeen to fight Soviets in Afghanistan was not co-incidence. Saudi Royalty's custody of two main Holy Mosques of Islam and Islamic Symbolism made it easy

for Riyadh to garner the connection for Riyadh among Pakistani masses.

Riyadh during the wave of Islamization funded Madrasahs i.e. Ahl-e-hadith and Deobandi. In traceable funding that came from Saudi Arabia for the Madrasahs, scholars argue that come through private channels. Saudi Arabia promoted Sunnism in Pakistan, funded it because of its anti- Iran account and to make Pakistan resist the wave of Shia Revolution coming from neighboring Iran. This Saudi funding aided the training of Mujahedeen for Afghan Jihad too. That is how, Riyadh not only approached Pakistan as a state, but also penetrated into the basic ideological believes of masses to ensure the support for Riyadh lasts long.

Economic Assistance and Energy Needs

The crippling state of Pakistan's economy is no secret. In such times of necessity Kingdom stepped further to assist Islamabad and help it through the difficult times. Apart from the aforementioned Saudi investments into structuring the ideological outlook for Pakistan, Riyadh provided economic assistance to Islamabad to support its economy. Riyadh provided Pakistan with economic assistance at the time of economic sanctions after latter becoming a nuclear power.

Saudi Arabia bailed Islamabad out of balance of payment emergency. Kingdom has also provided Pakistan with Cash transfers. Additionally, the remittances from Saudi Arabia are of much importance for providing support to Pakistani economy. The year 2013 marked the increase in remittances by 24% thus making it reach up to \$3.8billion. Additionally Pakistan received \$44 million in 2010 because of its flood emergency. In 2013 Saudi Arabia promised \$15 billion in form of tardy payments for 3 years of 1 lac barrels of crude oil and 15,000 furnace oil per day to run Pakistan's low fueled power plants of thermal capacity.

Amid dire circumstances of crippling deficit in monetary terms, Prime Minister Khan visited Riyadh in 2018 and got \$3 billion for

foreign currency support, while Saudi Arabia had offered \$6 Billion rescue package to Pakistan to support economic crisis.

Moreover in 2019, Saudi Arabia has pledged to provide \$20 billion support for Pakistan's already fragile economy with \$8 billion in foreign assets. In addition, funds for about \$8billion oil refinery to be established in Gawadar also included in the deal.

International politics is a game of interests even through interdependence. However, Saudi Arabia has invested much in Pakistan and always stepped in to support crippling economy thus Pakistan being dependent on Saudi Arabia.

Creating Political Allegiances

Saudi Arabia has not only advanced its effect among Pakistani masses or its economy but also provided sanctuary to the politically exiled leaders of Pakistan i.e. Sharif Family after General Musharraf imposed military coup. Sharif Family fled to Riyadh and got safe place, while Saudi Arabia had evaluated the results well. Sharif after returning to Pakistan had to pay back for the allegiances it had created with Saudi Royalty, which was well seen in disruption of Iran –Pakistan gas pipeline project which displeased Riyadh much.

The play of words has also been an important tool, like using the words like "brothers" friendship being "fraternal" and most recently Saudi Crown Prince's statement during his official visit to Pakistan in February 2019 as "Consider me Pakistan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia". The use of such sugar coated words may be contrary to the trends of International politics which is realist in nature, coming such words from the long standing ally, nation with same ideological identity and a friend in need surely have an impact to cast an influence over the latter nation and indebted them uniquely.

Announcement of the release of Pakistani prisoners in Saudi Arabia by the Crown Prince on request from Pakistani Prime Minister was

just another successful attempt and register the good will and Saudi influence on Pakistan.

The international politics is a game of interests, where no favor is for-saken. Everything is meant to be paid for. The exemplary, brotherly and fraternal relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is no exception where former pays for its dependence over Saudi Arabia as latter dictates Pakistan's behavior. The influence of dictations can be seen in Pakistan's behavior to some extent as analyzed below.

Reflection of Saudi Influence on Pakistan's Behavior

The reflection of Saudi dictates is visible on Pakistan's policy choices in matters affecting Saudi interests be it Pakistan's approaching Wahabism, inclusion into IMA, refusal to Kuala Lumpur summit or resistance of Pakistani stance over India in OIC. While discussing and analyzing Saudi influence and its reflection on Pakistan's diplomatic approaches, one thing is significant to ponder that Pakistan being a Sovereign nation state does not take dictations from any state specifically Saudi Arabia even the influence is limited as Pakistan manages to resist that i.e. denying nuclear support to Kingdom and maintaining neutrality over Yemen crisis. However, this influence can be seen in some matters of domestic approaches and diplomatic behavior i.e. inclusion in IMA, and refusal to Kuala Lumpur Summit.

Altering Pakistan's Ideological outlook to Wahabism

With the wave of Islamization in Pakistan under General Zia, Pakistan was on its way to come back to the fundamental Islam. Saudi Arabia evaluated the opportunity well at the time of Iranian revolution, thus ingested its efforts to garner Wahhabi school of thought among people who were already Sunni majority. Kingdom funded Ahl-hadith and Deobandi Madrasahs. Scholars take this as Saudi influence on Zia as it helped him run

Madrasahs, promoted Wahabi ideology and also some Wahabi militant groups were utilized to fight other minority groups including Shi'ite, no wonder why Shi'ite too.

Pakistan's joining IMA

Pakistan's joining in the Sunni majority, Saudi led Islamic Military Alliance to fight Terrorism was another event, when Pakistan not only joined the alliance which is supposedly anti-Iran alliance, but also the alliance sought Pakistan's retired General Raheel Sharif to command the 34 members alliance.

Set-backs in OIC

In addition to the influence on Pakistan's domestic approaches and diplomatic behavior, Saudi Arabia manages to challenge Pakistan's stance where its own interests are involved. Organization of Islamic Co-operation is the show of structural realism, where Saudi interests with India, triumph over the brotherly ties with Pakistan and Pakistan then being dependent left with nothing but to protest. One example of this is India being invited to OIC session held in Doha in 2019, about which Pakistan protested. Moreover, Indo-Arab bonhomie seeks India to join the OIC while Pakistan resists.

Pakistan's refusal to attend Kuala Lumpur Summit

Islamabad after formally accepting the invitation from Malaysia, refused to attend the summit being held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2019. The refusal came right after PM Khan's visit to Riyadh. Scholars and analyst see this development not as coincidental and analyze that to the show of Saudi Arabia's cover t influence right in accordance to the Saudi interests. This seems logical as the Custodian of Holy Mosque, supposedly or self-pro-claimed leader of Muslim world community where leads already two organizations including OIC and

IMA, it cannot afford to allow the formulation of another religious bloc with great minds i.e. Mahathir Bin Mohammad of Malaysia and RecepTayyip Erdogan of Turkey and with no Saudi presence as leader, thus making a head to head contender and adding to the list of capable contenders joining Iran.

Where Saudi officials deny pressurizing Pakistan for the decision, Turkey's Erdogan claims this decision of Pakistan to be influenced by Saudi preferences. Whereas Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi confirmed that Kingdom and UAE had reservations over the Summit causing divide in Muslim Ummah. This statement has to potential to reiterate that Pakistan's decision was in best possible interest of Muslim Ummah and not influenced by the Saudi reservations, then IMA which clearly sidelined Iran and practically divided the Muslim community and Pakistan's inclusion in that does not makes sense, thus by joining the dots, Pakistan's withdrawal from Malaysia Summit comes out to be influenced by Saudi inclinations.

Furthermore, a website named as "Shi'ite News" claims that Saudi officials had notices the presence of Shia Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari who is special assistant to PM Khan and has sent the message about not taking him along onwards.

Challenges of Saudi Influenced behavior for Pakistan

Saudi Arabia could never affect Pakistan's state sovereignty on a broader level, but it has surely affected it when it influenced Pakistan's domestic policy of diplomatic choices at the time when it favored Riyadh. Paksitan being dependent on Saudi Arabia for economic assistance had projected Saudi influence in its diplomatic choices as discussed above, but these decisions did not come without challenges for Pakistan. Pakistan had to face challenges or repercussions including Sectarianism, fundamentalism in Pakistan,

ineffective political force in OIC, Strained ties with Iran.

Sectarianism and Fundamentalism in Pakistan

At the time of Islamization by General Zia which was totally Sunni-centric, when Zia worked on Madrasahs to further the Sunni thought it was assisted by Saudi Arabia, which funded these Madrasahs. The Sunni activism included the training young minds to fight Jihad in Afghanistan additionally some Sunni militant groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sipah Sahaba and others, these factions fought Shia groups thus culminating Sectarian rifts that still poses challenge Pakistan's national security. That is how Saudi Arabia embroiled Islamabad into Sectarian rift

Saudi Arabia while funded Zia's ambitions of Islamization, it armed Wahabi groups and utilized them against those minority groups including Shi'ites who have affiliations with Iran as Khomeini's messages were being well received and affecting the Shia population in Pakistan. Thus Saudi effort to end Iranian support among local population ended up aggravating ever-lasting sectarianism as a challenge for Pakistan.

Moreover, Saudi funding and teachings affected the young minds in such a way that they adopted the extremist ideology and joined Taliban, if not, then under the banner of other militant wings of religious groups like Sipah Sahaba and lask=hkar, they carries out terrorist attacks.

Ineffective Political Force in OIC

Saudi Arabia's increased influence over OIC and its heightened strategic interests in India are causing the weakness of Pakistan's stance in OIC over Indian atrocities in Kashmir and India's involvement and entry into OIC, where otherwise Saudi Arabia if aid Pakistan can be an effective force and launch something helpful for the Muslims of India and Kashmir.

Saudi interests in India, and not helping Pakistan in this regard influence Pakistan in a such a way that it cannot affect India anyway,

but Islamabad has managed to be persistent with its stance over Kashmir and regarding India.

Strained ties with Iran

Pakistan is always considered as a long standing ally of Riyadh and a strategic partner. This is something that distances it from Iran. Pakistan's controversial involvement in to the scandalous alliance i.e. Islamic Military Alliance with its Retired General commanding the alliance has put Pakistan in hot waters where its ties with Tehran are concerned. Pakistan had been defensive in its approach where it reiterated that Pakistan's ambitions are not to harm Tehran by any means and alliance aims at countering the terrorism which has badly influenced the Islamic world. Additionally, Pakistan's stance about neutrality that it has tended to maintain forever has been under questions. Furthermore, rift with Iran comes with the internal chaos in form of sectarian rifts at home and also making a new contender at western border. So Pakistan's involvement and inclusion in IMA led by Saudi Arabia had much challenges for Pakistan in form of internal security, external security and also on diplomatic fronts.

Pakistan, however, can manage to save itself from Saudi influence and deal with the challenges.

Adding to this, the opinion generated through the results of study questionnaire in this regard shows that majority (78 percent) of the scholars and students of the respective field strongly agree that there is much more in Pak-Saudi ties than merely friendship and brotherhood, and it is the play of mutual interests. In this game of mutual interests Saudi over influences Pakistan due to its economic might and aid to Pakistan that has caused dependence, due to which Pakistan has to mold its policy choices in favor of Saudi Arabia to provide diplomatic support in return for the economic assistance. Where scholars did agree with the argument that Pakistan's tensed ties with Iran have Saudi Arabia as a factor, they showed faith in Pakistan's

capability to emerge out of this dependence by working out on its domestic policy structure and boosting its economy so that no more economic dependence can influence Pakistan's policy choices. Furthermore results showed that 10 percent of the scholars had opinion that in Pak-Saudi ties only Pakistan is dependent on Saudi's economic aid, and Riyadh seeks not much out of its friendship with Islamabad.

Recommendations

- Pakistan can avoid and sustain Saudi influence and repercussions of its own behavior influenced by Saudi preferences. Pakistan can do this by evaluating its strategic appraisal, proper policy evaluations, cost benefit analysis of the decisions made and also incorporating the negative externalities into its evaluations.
- Pakistan cannot resist the influence unless it breaks the dependence it has on Saudi Arabia for its economic assistance. So Pakistan needs to work out on lessening its dependence on Riyadh to the level that it would not affect its diplomatic choices.
- In order to lessen its dependence on Saudi Arabia and its on Pakistan's policy choices, it needs to reach out the causes. Pakistan should evaluate what are the causes and why Pakistan is dependent.
- Evaluation of causes would indicate the problems in to the domestic policies and governance issues along with crippling economy. Pakistan needs to strengthen its economy so that no further assistance would be get at the cost of Pakistan's liberty of policy choices.
- Pakistan should make good public policies, evaluate its national security problems i.e. sectarianism, extremism and also should empower the policy making system so that policies are crafted in such a way that can fix domestic policy issues which dictate and influence foreign policy choices

when the former are at their low. That is how by fixing domestic problems and dealing with domestic governance issues, would empower the nation state and would liberate it from taking timely assistance from allies thus causing dependencies and getting their own policy choices influenced in accordance to allies' preferences. Once liberated from the domestic governance problems, national security loopholes, and resultant dependencies and challenges, state would be empowered to play the international politics for its real national interest.

Conclusion

Despite both the nations reiterate their "friendship" as "fraternal" or "brotherly", the trends of International politics and the subsequent demands and interests are no secret. Kingdom, nonetheless, assists Pakistan economically in more than one way and stand by Islamabad in times of dire needs. However, calling them a "friendship" would be just too optimistic to overshadow the realization what they seek from Islamabad and what Islamabad is consequently influenced to do. Riyadh finds Islamabad a considerable influencer in the

region and the Islamic world that can be beneficial to have it on its own side vis-à-vis Iran. Saudi Arabia has harvested in Pakistan, which it reaps and tries to on diplomatic fronts i.e. inclusion in IMA, withdrawal from Malaysia Summit or on domestic levels i.e. influencing the ideological underpinnings thus promoting Wahabism. Pakistan is supposed to guard Saudi interests on diplomatic front vis-à-vis any other power that is capable of contending Saudi Royalty and its self-presumed leadership of world Muslim Community. Pakistan, where it being a sovereign state, effectively resists the influence casted by Riyadh, yet it has to surrender on some other occasions and its decisions reflect Saudi influence whether they deny it or not. Pakistan's such diplomatic behavior or Saudi influence in domestic matters have always put Pakistan in hot waters i.e. rifts with Iran and Sectarianism at home. However, Pakistan, in order to avoid these influences, will have to restructure from its grass root level i.e. policy making process, evaluation of its policies, evaluation of strategic appraisal and strengthening of economy. Hence, by ending dependencies and strengthened domestic structure Pakistan can regain even a single bit of its sovereignty that it has ever lost to big economic powers in the name of friendship.

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Saudi Influence on Pakistan's Policy Choices: Causes and Effects Study Questionnaire

Name: _____

Age: _____

Gender: a. Male b. Female c. Transgender

Qualification: a. BS b. MS c. Ph.D.

Profession: a. IR b. Political Science c. others

1. Pak-Saudi ties are based merely on friendship
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
2. Pak-Saudi ties are interest based
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
3. Pak- Saudi ties are based on mutual interests
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
4. Economic Aid from Saudi Arabia has made Pakistan dependent
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
5. Can Pak-Saudi ties ever stand on unilateral assistance or interests
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
6. Saudi Arabia tends to influence Pakistan's policy choices as a result of economic assistance
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
7. Saudi influence on Pakistan's diplomatic choices can halt latter's sovereignty
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
8. Pakistan has capability to resist the influence casted by Saudi Arabia
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
9. Pakistan's decision to get into IMA was influenced by Saudi Arabia
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
10. Pakistan's withdrawal from Malaysia Summit was influenced by Saudi preferences.
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
11. Saudi Arabia influenced Pakistan's domestic ideological outlook towards Wahabism
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Agree
12. Pakistan's problems with Iran because of Saudi influence on Pakistan.
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
13. Pakistan can escape Saudi influence
 - a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree

- e. Strongly Disagree
14. Pakistan needs to work on domestic restructuring i.e. policy evaluation, policy making, economic betterment.
- a. Agree
 - b. Strongly agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly disagree
15. Pakistan's economic betterment can help Pakistan resist Saudi influence on its policy choices.
- a. Agree
 - b. Strongly Agree
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree