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## " Pak-Iran Convergence and Divergence of Interests During 2005-2015"

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### Abstract

This study explores the complex relationship between Pakistan and Iran from 2005 to 2015. This study will give particular attention to both countries political and economic aspects. Aims of the research are to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics that shaped the bilateral relations between these two important players in the Middle East and South Asia. Special focus will to review of economic agreements, diplomatic ties, and geopolitical developments. The relationship between Pakistan and Iran fluctuated over the designated period, changing from times of collaboration to times of confrontation. The bilateral ties were greatly influenced by political factors, such as tensions about regional security, terrorism led by "Jundulah" and power politics of outside players. Notable changes occurred in the two countries' economic interactions, trade agreements, energy cooperation, infrastructure projects, investment efforts, and more. This study also looks at how political and economic variables interact to explain the major forces that have shaped Pakistan-Iran relations throughout time. It offers insights into the details of interstate interactions in a turbulent geopolitical context by analyzing the effects of internal politics, regional dynamics, and global trends on the bilateral engagement. In the end, this study adds to the body of knowledge on international relations by providing insightful information on the complex relationships between both states with different political and economic agendas, i.e., Pakistan was close with US while Iran was not. It emphasizes how crucial it is to comprehend the complicated interplay between diplomatic connections and geopolitical complexity, especially in areas of strategic importance.

**Keywords:** Pakistan, Iran, Bilateral Relations, Political Dynamics, Economic Cooperation, Geopolitics, Regional Security, Diplomatic Engagement



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## Introduction

Political, economic, and geopolitical variables have interacted in a complicated way to shape Pakistan-Iran ties. Both countries have a long history of traditional relations and are geographically close to one another, being located at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This status gives extremely importance to the regions where there both states exist. However, a variety of potentials and problems, including concerns about regional security, to endeavors for economic collaboration, have influenced their bilateral relations. The goal of this article is to examine the complex factors that shaped Pakistan-Iran ties between 2005 and 2015, with an emphasis on their political and economic aspects. It is true that ties between Pakistan and Iran, throughout the given time frame have been greatly impacted by the international and regional political environments. During shifting geopolitical conditions, both countries have expertly managed sophisticated networks of alliances and engagements. Pakistan was put in a difficult situation during the US led War on Terror being Pakistan was given the status of non NATO ally. In this complex situation Pakistan had to retain ties with Iran, a neighbor that frequently opposed US policies in the region, while also balancing its strategic cooperation with Washington (Raza, 2020).

On the other side, Iran's nuclear program became a troublesome topic that affected its relations with Pakistan and other regional players along with the West. Regional powers expressed worries about the stability and security of the area in light of Iran's nuclear aspirations. Pakistan's position on Iran's nuclear program was a difficult balancing act, driven by its own security imperatives and international duties, despite the country's shared cultural and historical links (Mishra, 2004). Another important agenda of Pakistan and Iran throughout the time under consideration has been economic cooperation. Both nations have made an effort to increase bilateral trade and investment by taking advantage of their close proximity and shared natural resources. Their economic involvement has focused on energy cooperation in particular, with initiatives like the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline designed to meet Pakistan's energy demands and improve regional connectivity (Zehra, 2003).

However, there have been obstacles to Pakistan and Iran's economic cooperation, such as international sanctions imposed on Iran due to its nuclear program. Iran's capacity to participate in international trade and investment was restricted by these sanctions, which had an effect on its economic ties with Pakistan and other nearby states. The realization of the full potential of economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran has been hindered by the unstable economic landscape and geopolitical uncertainty (Tehsin, 2017). Given these dynamics, the purpose of this article is to examine in further detail the political and economic aspects of ties between Pakistan and Iran between 2005 and 2015, offering insight on the variables influencing their bilateral



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involvement and the consequences for cooperation and stability in the area. This research aims to provide insightful information on the complexities of interstate relations in a dynamic geopolitical environment by examining diplomatic interactions, economic agreements, and geopolitical events.

### Statement and Significance of the Problem

Pakistan-Iranian ties are extremely important for both nations as well as for regional cooperation. Especially it is significant for the stability in South Asia and the Middle East. This connection has developed throughout time as a result of a complex interaction of political, economic, and strategic elements that have both influenced and been influenced by larger regional dynamics. Comprehending the complexities of relations between Pakistan and Iran between 2005 and 2015 is crucial in order to grasp how the geopolitical landscape of the area is changing and to pinpoint possible paths towards collaboration and conflict resolution. Pakistan and Iran had a wide range of political difficulties throughout the designated time frame, such as shifting allegiances, security risks, internal factors of both countries, smuggling at border, terrorism in Baluchistan and regional power dynamics. Both countries had to carefully negotiate a volatile climate to protect their national interests while striking a delicate balance between conflicting regional and international demands as a result of the US led War on Terror and Iran's nuclear program (Albright, 2007).

A number of issues, such as international sanctions on Iran and infrastructure difficulties, have obstructed economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran. The possibility for further economic integration between the two nations has been limited by projects like the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline, which have met delays and impediments despite shared interests in energy cooperation (Mazhar, 2013). Indeed, Pakistan has faced US pressure and the mega energy project remained pending from her side. Policymakers, academics, and stakeholders concerned in energy geopolitics, economic growth, and regional security must comprehend the complexities of Pakistan-Iran ties. Pakistan and Iran, two significant actors in the Middle East and South Asia, have the power to affect regional dynamics more broadly, encompassing topics like economic cooperation, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism. Furthermore, the effects of Pakistan-Iran ties go beyond their bilateral relations to include neighboring nations and outside players with regional interests. This study attempts to offer insights into the factors that drive cooperation and conflict between Pakistan and Iran by examining the political and economic aspects of their relationship. This will serve as a foundation for well-informed policymaking and strategic decision-making in the pursuit of regional stability and prosperity.



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### Research question

This article tries to answer first, what were the primary political considerations influencing Pakistan-Iran relations from 2005 to 2015? Second, it will explore, How did economic factors contribute to the dynamic of Pakistan-Iran relations during the specified period? And finally, what implications did the interaction of these political and economic dynamics have on regional stability and cooperation? To answer these questions there is need to systematically analyzed the historical background of both countries ties is highly important.

### Literature Review

Because of its importance for regional stability and collaboration, researchers and analysts have been interested in the study of Pakistan-Iran ties from 2005 to 2015. The purpose of this overview of the literature is to shed light on the political and economic aspects of this connection by identifying important discoveries, points of contention, and gaps in the body of knowledge. The political variables influencing Pakistan-Iran ties over the given era have been the subject of substantial scholarly analysis. While discussing Pakistan's foreign policy, (Ahmed, 2020) highlights the challenges Pakistan faces in remarkable a balance between its strategic alliance with the United States and its longstanding relations to Iran. Additionally, research by (Ziring, 2009) and (Alam, 2011) explores how Pakistan's security calculations are affected by Iran's nuclear program. Also, both researchers had emphasized the difficulties brought on by the dynamics of regional dynamics.

The importance of energy cooperation and commercial links is emphasized in the literature on Pakistan-Iranian economic cooperation. In his exploration of the possible advantages and difficulties of initiatives like the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline, (Hafiz, 2018) highlights the importance of infrastructure in strengthening bilateral economic relations. Bashir and others offers an analysis of trade trends and investment prospects to provide light on the wider economic context of Pakistan-Iran relations (Bashir et al, 2021). Numerous scholarly investigations have scrutinized the regional ramifications of the connections between Pakistan and Iran. Specifically concerning security dynamics and geopolitical conflicts remain focus of (Tellis, 2008). In his discussion of the effects of the US-led War on Terror on Pakistan-Iran ties, (Katz, 2016) draws attention to the conflicting interests of regional players in Afghanistan and the wider Middle East. Furthermore, studies by (Hameed et al., 2019) and (Ahmedani et al, 2021) highlight the difficulties of interstate relations in a volatile geopolitical context and discuss how Pakistan's strategic calculus is affected by Iran's regional aspirations.

### Research Gap

Even if the body of current literature sheds light on a number of elements of Pakistan-Iran relations, there are still some unanswered questions. First, more empirical research is required to



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understand how non-state actors like religious organizations and racial minorities shape bilateral relations. Second, further investigation is needed on how Pakistan-Iran ties are affected by shifting geopolitical factors, such as China's rise and the Middle East's shifting dynamics. Lastly, a lack of research on the social and cultural aspects of the relationship emphasizes the significance of multidisciplinary methods for comprehending the complexities of interstate relations. To sum up, the research conducted between 2005 and 2015 on Pakistan-Iran ties provides insightful information about the political, economic, and regional aspects of this relationship. To fill up the knowledge gaps and broaden our comprehension of the complexities of bilateral contacts in a geopolitical environment that is changing quickly, more study is necessary.

#### **Historical Background of Pakistan-Iran Relations**

Since 1947, historical, cultural, and geopolitical relations, Pakistan and Iran have a close relationship, even considered exemplary start of diplomatic ties. The two countries' close proximity, located at the intersection of South Asia and the Middle East, has allowed for many years of meetings and exchanges, and promote brotherly partnership. Even prior to 1947, scholars are of the view that the historic Silk Road, a system of trade routes that linked the civilizations of Asia, Europe, and Africa, is seen to be one of the oldest examples of Pakistan-Iran interactions. And the same became the cause of future partnership. Records from ancient times suggest that traders and explorers from Persia (present-day Iran) traveled through what is now Pakistan, promoting trade and cultural interactions that had a long-lasting effect on both communities (Qadir et al., 2019). Even some scholars argue that Persian the official language of Iran have significant impact on Pakistan's official language Urdu. The introduction of Islam deepened the ties that bind the peoples of Pakistan and Iran. Both countries have a strong Islamic tradition and Islam acts as a bridge across language, ethnic, and cultural divides. Throughout history, intellectual discourse and spiritual practices have been engaged in by academics, mystics, and theologians from Pakistan and Iran, who have contributed to the development of Islamic thought and philosophy in the area (Malik, 2008).

The establishment of official diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Iran shortly after winning freedom from British colonial authority, Iran recognized Pakistan first of all countries in the world. Pakistan recognized and welcomes the newly formed Islamic Republic of Iran under Islamic revolution of 1979. Generally, from 1947 to 1979 it was phase of friendly partnership between both neighbors. Notably, Pakistan-Iran ties were greatly impacted by the geopolitical dynamics of the Cold War era. Both nations were entrapped in superpower competition of US and USSR. But interestingly both Pakistan and Iran were close to US before Islamic revolution in Iran. Pakistan remained in US block, and Iran was considered a police man of US in the Middle



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East region till 1979. But after Iranian revolution in 1979 Iran-US rivalry started and political dynamics were seen in South Asia and Middle East.

It is fact that after Islamic revolution in Iran since 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1979, a complex interaction of political, economic, and strategic considerations has influenced bilateral ties, resulting in times of cooperation, collaboration, and sporadic friction (Mazari, 2015). But still post 1979, when US-Iran rivalry begins, and Pakistan remained partner of US, even still both countries driven by common objectives in regional stability and security. Pakistan and Iran maintained cordial ties over this era, despite differences in alignment (Hussain, 2019). To sum up, the historical context of relations between Pakistan and Iran highlights the enduring bonds and shared interests that have defined the two countries' relationship throughout the ages. Cultural similarities and shared historical heritage remain the cornerstones of mutual understanding and collaboration between Pakistan and Iran, notwithstanding the impact of geopolitical changes and strategic concerns on bilateral relations.

#### **Key Indicators in Pakistan-Iran Relations**

A number of noteworthy turning points have occurred in the history of Pakistan-Iran relations, reflecting both the development of bilateral ties and the shifting geopolitical environment in the area. The two nations' 1947 decision to establish diplomatic relations is among the early turning points in their relationship. Establishing official diplomatic relations, Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran (Hassan-Yari, 2016). The signing of the Treaty of Friendship by Pakistan and Iran in 1950, which established a framework for cooperation in a number of areas including commerce, defense, and cultural exchange, was another significant event. In addition to serving as a symbol of unity between the two countries with majorities of Muslims, this treaty set the stage for closer bilateral interaction (Qureshi, 1968). But still there were clash of interest between both countries on the bases of US-Pak ties, Saudi-Pak ties and India-Iran nexus. In other words, the relations of Pakistan with opponent countries of Iran i.e. Saudi Arab and US decreases Iranian trust, and similarly Iranian relations with opponent of Pakistan particularly India, bothered Pakistan, thus trust deficit between both Pakistan and Iran increased. Pakistan and Iran's relationship became stronger as a result of several agreements and efforts. The Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 and the Shah's removal that followed caused a significant shift in the dynamics of the region and a realignment of alliances and interests. Notwithstanding their divergent ideologies, Pakistan and Iran pursued their bilateral ties with pragmatism, emphasizing their mutual interests in regional security and stability (Moin, 2014).

The 2013 agreement to sign the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline also known as peace pipeline, is one of the most significant historical turning points. This project sent natural gas from Iran to Pakistan in order to meet that country's expanding energy demands. Initially India was part of this project but India withdrew from it due to Indian nexus with US and enmity with Pakistan.



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Nevertheless, a number of obstacles, such as financial difficulties and international sanctions against Iran, caused the project's realization to be postponed (Verma, 2007). This project needs attention to finalized especially from Pakistani side, as Iran has completed her side of duty. But some political compulsions from US, Pakistan is delaying this project, but here Pakistani policy makers should focus on permanent economic national interest and especially to get rid of from her energy challenges. US has given alternative options to Pakistan like Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India pipeline project well known as TAPI, but practically it is comparatively costly for Pakistan and also security challenges are involved in this project. In conclusion, despite difficulties and changes throughout time, the major turning points in Pakistan-Iran relations highlight the strength and depth of the two countries' relationship. These historic events, which range from the forging of diplomatic relations to the signing of important accords, are indicative of the common history, cultural affinities, and geopolitical objectives that continue to influence Pakistan-Iran relations.

#### **Political Dynamics, Shifting Alliances and Strategic Interests**

During Afghanistan's war on terror period, Pakistan and Iran demonstrated conflicting interests. Pakistan, an important ally of the United States in the war on terror, gave the coalition forces led by the United States in Afghanistan intelligence and logistical support. As part of its cooperation with the United States, Pakistan allowed drone attacks on militants, including those connected to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, on its territory. Pakistan was actively supporting US with the status of non-NATO ally. On the other side, US clearly stated that Iran is an axis of evil. Consequently, Iran was in the list of enemies of US. Iran, on the other hand, adopted a different strategy since it saw the American military presence in Afghanistan as a danger to its own security interests. Iran's contentious nuclear program, became an international level issue. And the authorities from International Atomic Energy Agency visited Iranian nuclear locations.

Pakistan and Iran showed both divergence and convergence of interests between 2005 and 2015. Pakistan was aware of Iran's pursuit of nuclear technology for both strategic and energy objectives. Thus, this situation became difficult for Pakistani authorities. Pakistan received pressure from the world community, especially the United States, to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capability, even though it openly supported a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. That being said, Pakistan faced a difficult issue as a result of Iran's nuclear development. Pakistan has to strike a balance between its regional interests and international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. But Pakistan insisted to peaceful solution of Iranian nuclear program.

In Baluchistan terrorism and the actions of organizations such as Jundullah between 2005 and 2015 were the major problem for both countries. Insurgency and terrorist assaults occurred in Pakistan's unstable province of Baluchistan, where Pakistan accuses Iran of sponsoring



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separatist organizations like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) that operate along their shared border (Wassan, 2010). On the other hand, Iran claimed that Pakistan was complicit in the backing of Sunni extremist organizations such as Jundullah, which conducted attacks within Iranian borders, notably in the province of Sistan and Baluchistan (Ahmed, 2016). As a result of their struggles managing the complicated dynamics of cross-border terrorism and insurgency while attending to their own security issues, the two nations occasionally experienced conflicts. Even while extremist elements operating in the region posed a threat to both Pakistan and Iran, their differing interests and mistrust frequently prevented them from working together effectively to combat terrorism in Baluchistan and stop the activities of organizations like Jundullah.

In reaction to US ties with Pakistan Iran showed her grievances and Pakistan showed her grievances on Iran's ties with India. Thus it is true that Pakistan and Iran showed both divergence interests during 2005 to 2015. Pakistan was under intense pressure from the US to assist in the War on Terror, especially in the fight against militants from the Taliban and al-Qaeda (BBC, 2013). Pakistan's relations with Iran were frequently strained as a result of this pressure, since Tehran saw Pakistan's cooperation with Washington and the US military presence in Afghanistan as harmful to its own security interests (Rizvi, 2014). On the other hand, Pakistan's long-standing rivalry with India was ignored by Iran. Similarly, Iran was growing connections with India, especially in the energy and economic sectors, further notably the development of the Chabahar port through India, while Pakistan attempted to preserve its strategic balance in the area, but these Indo-Iranian ties were irritating factor for Pakistan (Hussain, 2010).

Many challenges effected their mutual ties. Particularly the geopolitical conflicts, bilateral agreements with other countries, and sanctions all had an impact on the changes in the economic connections between Pakistan and Iran between 2005 and 2015. In spite of their shared history, the two nations' trade volume remained diffident in relation to their potential. The value of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iran was estimated to be \$330 million in 2005. However, throughout time, the trade expanded significantly and reached an approximate total of \$1.32 billion in 2015 (Dawn, 2015). Still, this amount was significantly less than the goal that both nations had set for themselves, which was to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion by 2012 (Tehran Times, 2012). Both nations looked at a number of strategies to increase commerce, such as opening border markets, streamlining the trader visa application process, combatting smuggling and concluding bilateral trade agreements (Baloch, 2017).

Motivating forces for economic ties was energy cooperation, with initiatives like the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline intended to meet Pakistan's energy demands (The Express Tribune, 2015). However, bilateral trade and investment between Iran and the Pakistan effected and reduced because United States and international community imposed economic sanctions on Iran





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primarily due to Iran's nuclear program (Baloch, 2017). Throughout this time, Pakistan and Iran both reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trade and economic ties in spite of these challenges. A complex interaction between regional geopolitics, outside influences, and internal factors has shaped the political dynamics between Pakistan and Iran. Both nations have over time skillfully balanced their strategic objectives and alliances, frequently adjusting to shifting conditions in the area. Pakistan and Iran were on opposing sides of the ideological spectrum during the Cold War era after 1979. Pakistan, as a major Cold War ally, firmly aligned itself with the United States, while Iran, led by Imam Khomeini famous policy slogan “neither Russia (USSR) nor US” maintained non aligned policy on one side. While on the other side since US hostage crises of 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1979 (Larson, 1986), Iran-US enmity was clearly started. Driven by common objectives in regional stability and security, Pakistan and Iran maintained amicable ties despite these variations in alignment (Bhat, 2018).

However, after the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the geopolitical environment of the area saw substantial changes. Relations between Iran and the US and its allies, especially Pakistan, deteriorated after the Shah was overthrown and an Islamic republic was established. Pakistan's strong connections with the US at this time caused tensions with Iran, as the US was seen as a hostile player (Nasr, 2007). It became reason of mistrust between Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan and Iran followed different routes in the 1980s and 1990s in response to both internal and foreign demands. Pakistan supported the Afghan mujahedeen against Soviet occupation, while Iran aimed to spread its Islamic revolution to nearby nations. Even due to incident of Mizar e Sharif, Taliban became a bone of contention between Pakistan and Iran relations (Tariq, 2018). Consequently it was worst period of Pak-Iran relations in the history. Both nations were facing the peak of mistrust during this period (Yousafzai, 2022).

It is true that in energy partnership, economic cooperation and pragmatism in the political dynamics between Iran and Pakistan is seen in recent years. A major step toward improving bilateral relations was taken in 2013 with the signing of the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline deal, Pakistan imports electricity from Iran especially for Gawadar port, and for some other areas of Baluchistan province etc., which demonstrated both parties' understanding of the value of economic cooperation for stability and regional growth (Rehman, 2014). In conclusion, the complex nature of interstate relations in a dynamic geopolitical climate is highlighted by Pakistan and Iran's fluctuating alliances and strategic goals. Although there have been occasions when internal and foreign factors have impacted bilateral ties, both nations have shown an enthusiasm to communicate and work together to address issues of mutual concern and advance common goals.



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### Suggestions

To promote cross-border trade and investment, both nations should endeavor to simplify customs processes, cut down on inefficient bureaucracy, and harmonize regulatory frameworks. Establishing a business-friendly atmosphere via institutional capacity building and policy reforms can stimulate private sector involvement and advance economic cooperation (Naseem, 2021). Formal strict condition must be reviewed and normalized it for mutual business. Particularly business community should be encouraged by both sides for small- and large-scale investment. There is need to overcome the lack of trust upon each other. Strengthening interpersonal relationships, cultural exchanges, and collaboration in education may all contribute to the development of confidence and trust between Pakistan and Iran. Stronger bilateral ties may be established by promoting travel, student exchange programs, and collaborative research projects, all of which can increase mutual understanding and collaboration.

Regional and international platforms must be utilized for the solution of economic and political problems. To foster economic cooperation and handle shared difficulties, Pakistan and Iran should actively engage with international partners, particularly regional organizations and multilateral forums. Enhancing connectivity and shared interests can be made possible through collaborative endeavors under platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). In conclusion, Pakistan and Iran have bright future possibilities for their economic collaboration, with plenty of room to grow trade diversification, regional integration, and energy cooperation. Both nations can realize the full benefits of their economic collaboration and support regional peace, stability, and prosperity by removing regulatory obstacles, fostering confidence and trust, and cooperating with foreign partners.

### Implications for Regional Stability and Cooperation

The stability and cooperation of the area in South Asia and the wider Middle East are greatly affected by the economic partnership between Pakistan and Iran. Trade volume in terms of economic relations is very low, which need immediate decision for efficient development. Comprehending these consequences is crucial, and in evaluating the wider influence of bilateral economic interaction on regional dynamics. There is need of mutual economic partnership, which will definitely develop and enhanced regional connectivity. Trade corridors and infrastructure development with the support of China will be a bonus opportunity for both neighbors. Further these two areas where Pakistan and Iran's economic cooperation might have a positive impact on regional connectivity. In addition to facilitating bilateral commerce, projects like the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline and the Gwadar-Chabahar connector provide up new routes for regional connectivity. There is need to officially execute the decisions for the collaboration through both



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sides ports. According to Montazeran, enhanced connectivity has the potential to promote economic integration, fortify relations among neighboring nations, and bolster regional peace and stability (Montazeran, 2004). Economic activities can provide such solution for other problems, including security issues especially terrorism will decrease, and social issues will be resolved.

### **Security Challenge Mitigation**

Pakistan-Iran economic cooperation presents chances to lessen security risks along their shared border. Both nations may address underlying socio-economic issues and lessen the incentives for instability and violence by fostering economic development and cross-border commerce. Strengthened economic connections can support border security and collaboration in the fight against transnational threats including drug trafficking, terrorism, and smuggling (Shakoor, 2020). Both countries should develop consenses through biletal visits to resolve small or large scale issues. Possibility for conflict resolution is hidden in mitigations and negotiations. Pakistan and Iran's bilateral economic cooperation can act as a platform for settling regional conflicts and as a means of fostering confidence upon each other for each side's national interest and for regional prosperity as well. Both nations can reduce the chance of violence and promote peaceful dispute settlement by cultivating economic interdependence and shared interests, more economic interdependence can become the cause of more trust. It will promote communication and collaboration. It is important to mention that opportunities for cooperation on common issues including water management, environmental sustainability, and disaster assistance might also arise from economic cooperation (Majeed, 2021). In conclusion, there are significant ramifications for regional stability and collaboration. Both countries Pakistan and Iran's economic partnership is need of the hour with less logistic cost. Bilateral economic involvement may foster peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia and the wider Middle East. Further it will lead to improving regional connectivity, reducing security threats, and fostering conflict resolution.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions for Policy**

To sum up, there is a great deal of promise for regional stability, improved connectivity, and reciprocal promises for Pakistan-Iran economic collaboration. The two nations have shared geographical, historical, and cultural links throughout history, which have served as a strong basis for bilateral collaboration. However, overcoming current obstacles and to take proper policy measures are necessary to acquire the full benefits of economic cooperation. First and foremost, Pakistan and Iran must put their bilateral problems to rest and work to create healthy environment that is favorable to economic cooperation. This entails removing obstacles from the bureaucracy, expediting the customs process. There is need to coordinate regulatory frameworks to promote international investment and trade. Second, in order to foster economic cooperation and tackle shared issues, both nations had to actively participate in interactions. Also, both



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countries need to connect with regional and international partners. Enhancing connectivity and exploiting common interests may be made possible through collaborative endeavors under regional and international platforms. Particularly Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Organisation of Islamic cooperation (OIC) need active role from both countries.

In addition, Pakistan and Iran have to look at ways to broaden their commercial links and strengthen their collaboration in non-traditional areas. There is need to work mutually for including technology, services, and knowledge-based businesses. New channels for cooperation and reciprocal gain can be opened up by initiatives that support entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development, proper measures and decisions should be taken. Finally, it is critical that regional connectivity initiatives, energy cooperation, and infrastructure development receive top priority and must be given top priority from Pakistani and Iranian governments. Investment in initiatives like the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline and the Gwadar-Chabahar linkage will help both nations realize the full benefits of their economic cooperation and promote prosperity, peace, and stability in the area. Practically both countries to enhance trust upon each other to fulfill common goals through ports ties. In conclusion, there are a lot of chances to improve regional stability and collaboration from Pakistan and Iran's economic partnership. Through tackling obstacles, interacting with global allies, broadening trade connections, and giving infrastructure development first priority. Both nations may fulfill their common goal of creating a peaceful, wealthy, and integrated area.

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