

**Indian Impact in Afghanistan and its Consequences for
Pakistan: The Battle for Strategic Influence between India
and Pakistan in Afghanistan**



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APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

The dissertation entitled “**Indian Impact in Afghanistan and its Consequences for Pakistan: The Battle for Strategic Influence between India and Pakistan in Afghanistan**” submitted by **Raza Usman Ashraf** has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of BS in International Relations by the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Management and Technology, Lahore.

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DECLARATION

I, **Raza Usman Ashraf**, Student of **BS (International Relations)** session 2013 to 2017, hereby declare that the matter presented in the thesis “**Indian Impact in Afghanistan and its Consequences for Pakistan: The Battle for Strategic Influence between India and Pakistan in Afghanistan**” is my own work and the results used in this thesis are true and purely based on the work that I have done for completion of this thesis. There is nothing that is copied in the results.

Raza Usman Ashraf

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise to **Allah Almighty** who is **Rahman** and **Raheem** and who is omnipotent and supreme, guide us on the path of acknowledgment by the first revelation” **Iqra**” We praise and adore the **Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W)** whose special prayer ‘oh Allah advance me in knowledge’ has been a constant source of inspiration for us.

I want to express my sincere, profound gratitude and deep appreciation to my supervisor **Mr. Muhammad Owais** his consistence, gracious and untiring guidance for the completion of this thesis. I am highly indebted to him for his enduring review, expert advice as well as necessary corrections made for this work.

Lastly, I would also like to pay special gratitude to my **teachers** for the countless favor and guidance and to my parents and friends for the sincere assistance and encouragement.

R.U.A

ABSTRACT

Pakistan and Afghanistan are geographically connected with one another and thus the developing Indian involvement in Afghanistan is worrisome for Pakistan. The Indian undertakings in Afghanistan straightforwardly affects Pakistan because of its historical, geographical and traditional ties with Pakistan. India and Pakistan, the two antagonists in South Asia, are striving for strategic influence in Afghanistan and henceforth further amassed by hostility. Moreover, both countries are struggling to have a substance support based in Afghanistan to match with their ulterior foreign policy objectives. There will stay a generous United States proximity in Afghan territory and Indian involvement in Afghanistan politically, militarily and socially. This situation is a constant unease for Pakistan. Moreover, Indian objectives behind their ambition shall be analyzed through Document analysis. Document analysis is a tool for looking into or assessing reports and various documents, related to analytical papers, policies etc.

The study will further be lured with realist perspective for understanding the balance of power between India and Pakistan in terms of their tug of war for strategic influence in Afghanistan. Due to which the mistrust level remains to such that the peace effort of one is deemed as source of terror for other. This paper observes the key strategic benefits of India and its continuous influence in Afghanistan and its consequences for Pakistan. Conclusively, Islamabad can't bear to have another New Delhi on its western outskirt and border, nor would it be able to enable a War against Terror to spread and overflow to Pakistan. Along these lines, to evade from this circumstance forecasts for collaboration amongst India and Pakistan are discussed. In addition to conflicting interests in Afghanistan and besides this battle for strategic influence and encirclement, a peaceful and balanced political scenario in Afghanistan, might offer considerable advantages to old, regional players and rivals, India and Pakistan.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan has geo-strategic importance as it is a gateway not only to Central Asia, but also South Asia. Various nations have tried to control Afghanistan directly or indirectly over the last century. Not only British but also Russians and Americans failed to make their hegemony over Afghanistan and therefore, Afghanistan has been termed as ‘graveyard of empires’ in academia. Moreover, its natural resistance and unbalanced warfare from remote areas against foreign assault and invasion has made Afghanistan an “Ally from Hell”. The current circumstances and the conditions spreading out in Afghanistan are actually a staggering challenge to internal, regional, and international players. The war-squashed country has turned allies into enemies and there is ever growing mistrust in the policies of various actors involved. It wouldn’t be wrong to call this situation in Afghanistan as unseen proxy warfare where allies turn against each other. Out of nowhere, India has far-reaching focus on rebuilding Afghanistan. The relations between India and Afghanistan continuously improved since the Taliban were ousted by American strikes. In the post 9/11 scenario, India started to support Northern Alliance to gain its lost sphere of influence within Afghanistan society.

To pick the predetermination of upright US withdrawing from Afghan state, Hindustan is endeavoring to recognize a basic part in Afghanistan, and this is a basic threat to the safety and well-being of Pakistan. For long, Pakistan considered Afghanistan to be massive piece of its area of effect. Islamabad for this very reason does not anticipate that India will get adjusted in Afghanistan. Pakistan’s approach of “strategic depth” would hence be difficult for India to affect. In Afghanistan, closeness and effect of India in Afghanistan is the fundamental stress for Pakistan.