

THE SOCIOPOLITICAL LEVERAGE OF RUSSIA IN SOUTH ASIA AND PUTINIS

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Abstract

The sociopolitical interest of Russia in South Asia has been illustrated in the framework of the multipolar world. Since the independence of the subcontinent, there has been an abiding persistence of interest in Russia in the territory. This spectrum of sociopolitical influence of Moscow in South Asia exhibited its color in the 1950s when Russia developed itself as a substantial player in the region. However, the preference of the Russia and Putin has always been India which has attained a strong coalition with the region as a political, social, financial, and military confederate. Pakistan has been accused by the administrators of the state as a refuge of terrorists and a proponent of terrorism. Pakistan has been accused of impeding the resolution of the Kashmir conflict, while Russia has been striving to reassert its sovereignty and domination all around the world. This study will analyze the sociopolitical and socioeconomic sovereign and superior influence of Russia in South Asia, along with the historical facets of the Russian policy in Russia, while reflecting the prospective approach of Vladimir Putin in the region. It will also cover the interference of Russia in the region, which has been evident in the prolonged Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan during 1991-1998.

Keywords:

South Asia, Vladimir Putin, India, Pakistan, Sociopolitical Influence

Introduction

The end of the cold war was not only an indicator of the inception of the different world but also indicated the lifting of ideological perspective and ultimately resulted in the renaissance of leadership in the political landscape of Russia. The administrator Vladimir Putin attained rags sword of domination in the territory and proved himself as a symbol of Russian resurgence in global politics (Bazhanov, 1993). Since 1999, when he succeeded Boris Yeltsin (the former president of the USSR), Putin has been engaged in the implementation of several successful strategic plans. He had been modifying and forging the power structure of the state and has equally emphasized rebuilding and restoring the mislaid acclamation of the state which had lost with time. The policy of Putin called Look East Policy is principally a fraction of an overarching geopolitical strategy and is fundamentally persistent with the historical Russia (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic). Hence, the major focus of this policy of Putin is to reevaluate the defense interest and foreign policy of Russia as a dominion state. This geopolitical assessment of Putin infers with Stratford's evaluation of Russia.(Krausse, 1993)

There are miscellaneous historical perspectives of substantial significance in comprehending the internal and external litigations of Russia that can explain the entire panorama of the state. The political vehemence and global leverage of Russia over the last decades can be explained in terms of the post-cold war political strategy. This post-cold war strategy mainly emphasized the reengineering and reshaping of the political norms of Russia. Putin has been entirely different when it comes to his diplomatic approach. Illustrating the political norms with elaborating the eccentric personality, and surveillance of Putin, it is nearly impossible to evaluate the critical assessment of modern Russia (Bakare, 2020). The department and personality of Putin have been ingrained in the public and private relations of the state's foreign policy, the economy as well as the political strategy.

Before the cold war, the Soviet Union had been an influential player in the east. The influence of Russia expanded ideological, assisting the pro-Soviet invasions, proficient Union, and socialist administrations. This influence was only limited to ideological, but also diplomatic and socioeconomic cooperation. However, at the end of the cold war, the power and global domination of Russia dwindled with the sapping of its leverage in the east. Nevertheless, post-cold war the world glimpsed the advent of the leadership of Putin who was geared to rewrite the great history of Russia. He intended to regain the lost power of the state in the world, which had been evident in the schematic geopolitical strategy of Putin and has been principally revealed in his Look East Policy that was officially announced in 2010 (Shalvay, 2020).

From the historical perspective, the foreign policy and security strategy are based on the hypothesis of a multipolar world, which was first concocted by the preceding Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov. This hypothesis describes at least six political perspectives which are Russia, the E.U, India, China, the USA, and Japan. This hypothesis was exclusively against the "unipolar world" to which prevailing opinion in Russia infers that the US aspires. It was after the war on terror preceding the 9/11 attacks, that various Russian and western analysts were mistaken and they evicted the notion of a multipolar world (Malek, 2004). This eviction of the previous hypothesis led to the adoption of the pro-western course. The multipolar is implied twice in the political doctrines that the Russian president Vladimir Putin signed in Beijing and Delhi respectively. It has also been declared by the autonomous Russian security policy analyst, Pavel Felgenhauer, "*The preceding multipolar world doctrine which is based on the idea of the strategic triangle between Moscow, Delhi, and Beijing to oppose US influence seems to have survived*".

In the perspective of the subcontinent comprising India and Pakistan, Russia had successfully attained strong leverage at the time of Indo Pak war in 1965 and then in 1971 when the USSR enunciated its security declaration which underscored its subjective interest in the region as the theatre of animosities was in close proximity of the Soviet borders and hence was engaged the interests of its security. After the agreement of the Indo-soviet treaty and the assistance that was provided by Russia to India in the war of 1971 against Pakistan which led to the separation of East and West Pakistan, which ultimately emerged as Bangladesh and Pakistan. Pakistan seeing the strong relations of its conventional rivalry; India, with Russia, tried to establish some ties with the Soviet Union. However, Pakistan under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was unable to achieve strong relations with the state as a result of the events of 1975 in Bangladesh. After the military intervention of the USSR in Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan emerged as a frontline state and a confederate for the provision of assistance to the forces fighting against the troops of the Soviet Union. Pakistan hence again pushed itself a bit back after appearing as an ally of the Taliban and

the US and rival of the Soviet Union. However, the strategic plan of India was commendable, who disapproved of the Soviet action both on a principle basis and because it was a threat to the security parameters of India (Bakshi, 2008). Hence, a perfect policy was designed to oblige a flexible strategy with all major powers and neighboring countries encompassing Pakistan and China. But the diplomatic instinct was evident from the fact that India never directly or openly decried the crusade of the Soviet Union. Hence, after the 1980s, the process of the decline of Soviet power began, demolishing the prolonged leverage and superiority it had enveloped the entire world. At the end of this process of the power, USSR disintegrated into 15 autonomous states.(Ahmed, 2019)

Objective:

The objective of the paper is:

Evaluation of the geopolitical influence of Russia:

- To evaluate the sociopolitical and socioeconomic influence of Russia in the South Asian territory and to assess the aftermath of this influence on the regional political, economic, social, and diplomatic dynamics of the South Asia.

Analysis of political and diplomatic relations between Russia and South Asia:

- To analyze the political and diplomatic relations of Russia with the South Asian states while assessing the strategies adopted by both regional powers to cooperate in the bureau of trade, commerce, infrastructure, and other economic and cultural progressions.

Elaboration of the strategic plan of Russia towards Pakistan:

- To elaborate the strategic scheme and foreign policy of Russia towards Pakistan and what has been the ultimate response of Pakistan for the betterment of its relationship with the state.

Analysis of Putin's Agenda:

- To analyze the schematic agenda of Russian President Vladimir Putin to regain the lost transnational sway, once it was having as dominion USSR and to examine the Putin proposed programs in South Asia with the analysis of outcomes of these strategies.
- **Research Methodology:**

The research methodology is adopted for this project is exploratory qualitative that is comprised of two ways. Initially, a desktop survey strategy was pursued which incorporated detailed analysis of literature review entailing journal articles, Russian and South Asian official renders, analysis of the books, chronological periodicals, case studies, and web pages and web portals of Russian and South Asian bilateral relations departments, media reports, Pakistan's government foreign policy portal, the website of the Russian embassy in Pakistan, and other bureaus have been consulted wholly and deliberately for giving research context, right recommendations, and reasonable insight to the progress of this relevant study of Putin strategic plans within Pakistan and its collaboration to South Asia. Further, the desktop survey also included the analysis of Russian and Pakistan's reviews especially the international newspapers and blogs of themes showing the foreign policy and strategic plans of Russian administrator Vladimir Putin and his raising concerns on the political and social decorum. Further, some official interviews were being viewed along with some unofficial conferences with International bureaucrats to analyze their future strategies in South Asia, where their rival the USA is constantly becoming gigantic power. The data accessible from these case studies enabled us to decipher the influence of the schematic agenda of Russia on the social, political, and economic facets of the South Asian states and chiefly its impact on Pakistan. In the second phase the collection of data, which is principally primary data, including a substantial field/work survey. This included multiple visits to embassies, and the collaborated organizations of the South Asian countries and Russia both at the provincial and federal level, informal conversations, and conventions with the Russian authorities, stakeholders, and the foreign policy

professionals. This phase also implicated the discussions with the subject matter connoisseurs of the Vladimir Putin to assess the subject matter and scope of this research work for the case of

relevant studies in to analyze the socio-economic and sociopolitical aspects of Russian prolonged intervention in the south Asian territory. Further, these informal discussions included symposia with the political entities, students of Russia and Asian history, and economic professionals and financial bureaus to talk over the geopolitical leverage of the prior USSR and existing Russia of Vladimir Putin that has been implemented over, the years. Moreover, it also incorporated the interviews of political administrators to analyze the political benefits and flaws that have been executed by Putin in the South Asian states. Further, some Indian officials were also consulted to assess the political and social benefits bestowed to them by the assistance of Russia. This all analysis and dataset provided us in-depth knowledge and information bestowing us a detailed conclusion and area for future research.

Theoretical Framework:

The theory that best defines the constant efforts of Russia to collaborate itself in the South Asian states and its squabble to integrate itself in south Asia is the Regional Security Complex Theory. The theory revolves around the International security and international relations and was developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Waiver. The theory illustrates the need for stabilized patterns of security relations with the regional actors (Buzan, 2019). These security relations are further complicated by several facets incorporating geographical, economic, social, political, and diplomatic relations. However, the name of the theory signifies the fundamental aspect of the geographic significance, encompassing the geographic neighbors which might be separated from each other by geographic barriers of the ocean, deserts, and mountain ranges. The theory is also influenced by the vitality of actors with global security interests and constrain prediction capabilities. This investment of countries in their regional security is regarded as the need of state to draw itself in regionally provoked matters and not necessarily as tremendous power dilemmas penetrating the social regional security complex.

As far as the case of Russia's struggle to influence the socioeconomic and sociopolitical circumstances of South Asia can be accounted to the need of Russia to strengthen itself after the loss of the great power once it was having as the great USSR, which tumbled into pieces after the cold war. The USSR had a great influence on the entire world and was fighting with dignity against its counter rival, the US had now been weakened and its influence around the world had somehow decreased when compared to the dominion of the US. The constant failures encountered by the Russia incorporating the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan, demolished the prolonged sway of the USSR. The substantially weak Russia now needed to collaborate with other strong nations to fight with the superior nations. Hence following the regional security complex theory, Russia managed to form ties with India and is constantly trying to collaborate with other strategic powers including Pakistan, which without any doubt is the most significant country as far as its geostrategic location is concerned. Hence, by using the trade routes of India and Pakistan after collaborating with them, Russia can root its stem in South Asia and can emerge as a potentially strong and powerful nation, strong enough to fight against the US if required.

The case of Russia also somehow depends on the complex interdependence theory, which indeed spheres the need for cooperation with other countries in the bureaus of trade, commerce, infrastructure, power, energy, weaponry, and other industries to collaborate strong ties. Hence the same is the intention of south Asian states who have been waiting for a long for the assistance and backing of a strong nation to stabilize their economic and political conditions while retaining their national autonomy and sovereignty. Hence the support and interest of Russia to these South Asian

states are seen as an opportunity they must seize. Hence the leverage of Russia in South Asia and the political strategies of Vladimir Putin can be elaborated in the theoretical framework of regional security complex and complex interdependence hypothesis (Oatley, 2019).

Research Questions:

What are the socioeconomic and sociopolitical impacts of Russia?

What is the public, political, economic, and social influence of Russia on the states of South Asia, and what is the aftermath of these geopolitical impactful parameters on the South Asian countries?

What are the political and economic relations between the two Russian Federation and South Asia?

Which diplomatic strategies have been adopted by Russia to collaborate and to establish strong linkages with the South Asian states in the department of business, trade, infrastructure, and education for the regional prosperity of both sides?

What is the proposed foreign policy of Russia towards Pakistan?

What is the strategic plan of Russia towards Pakistan and what had been the response of Pakistan's administrators to promote bilateral relations and coalition while maintaining the strong ties with the USA?

What is the Putin agenda throughout his governance?

What is the strategic scheme of Vladimir Putin to regain his lost leverage in the world and how to superior to the US and what had been his policy in south Asia?

Discussion:

The importance of South Asia:

When we analyze the history of the South Asia, the constant intervention of the superior and dominion powers such as Russia and the US have been evaluated. Now a very important question arises?

Why South Asia is of so prime importance and why have all nations interested in this a region so much?

The answer to this question lies in the strategic and geopolitical significance of the region. The increasing intervention of Russia and the US has been evident since the 1990s, however, due to increasing numbers of security and peace councils, this intervention has been limited in the past decades, but traces of evidence supporting this theory are still found. The enhanced interest of the Russian Federation in South Asia is not an isolated development but in fact; a calibrated verdict that roots from the National Security Strategy of Russia to 2020 and the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation. Both of these manuscripts assert the need for a vociferous response of Russia to jeopardy which impedes the developmental process of an individual, society, or a state. Hence, like other weaponry states, Russia tries to manipulate the states with adequate water passages, and South Asia is concealed by substantial water bodies encompassing the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, which indeed is pivotal for the national interests and security of both the US and Russia. Hence, the powerful and dominion USSR tumbled into the broken Russia. Though Russia has managed to stabilize itself but considering the power of the USSR, Russia is indeed the loser of the competition. However, the recent strategic governance and diplomatic intuition of

Vladimir Putin have changed the scenario. Putin has been trying to regain the lost sway and as part of this plan, he is focusing on South Asia as a backbone for attaining success (Singh, 2014). Hence, South Asia exhibits a glaring alcove in the official manuscripts of Russia, which highlights the significance of South Asia to the policymakers and for Putin. Putin had been clear in his statements, who had never considered South Asia as a far-flung neighbor but as a fraction of its immediate neighborhood. Moreover, South Asia has been declared as the hotspot of global tension which needs Russia's attention (Akbarzadh, 2010).

Indo-Russia relationship:

India had always been the strongest country and a backbone of South Asia in many different facets. It always had a long historical alliance with Russia. At the advent of Independence, the geopolitical circumstances of the subcontinent bestowed India an opportunity to confederate with Russia. The nexus of a strategic coalition between Pakistan and the US and Sino-Pakistan and the attitude of the Indian administration towards Sino-India and their socialist plan augmented the possibility of an ideal alliance of India with Russia. This all was prevailing at the time when India had been a prototype of the non-alignment movement, whose intention was to challenge imperialism and transnational ideological polarization. Over many years, it has been repeatedly illustrated that India and Russia have strong bilateral ties (Joshi, 2017). In the same terms, the subsequent policy of Russia towards India had shown the depth of this union. In fact; it has been affirmed miscellaneous times by the administration of Russia that how it had forged its foreign policy towards South Asia by considering India as a focal point. This had been evident from the late 90s when Russia chose to support its ally India in the Pak-Indo war in 1971 and the Indo-Soviet treaty of 1972 is another evidence of the coalition of both countries. The tumble of the USSR and the undefined and unpredicted purge of the state from the region, chiefly the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan never led to the complete eradication of the Russian leverage. Through stable Indo-Russia relations, Russia somehow managed to stay alive in the South Asian territory, and therefore, the East Look police of Vladimir is ingrained in the foundations of the history of South Asia. Hence, in the 21st century, both nations gave a new shape to their geopolitical and economic relations and forged stronger than ever bilateral relations, which originated as a special and privileged alliance in 2010. Hence, it is asserted by Russia that India is competent of the acquisition to the Nuclear Suppliers Group. And despite the fact, that this membership to India was strongly resisted by both China and Pakistan, India managed to get it. (Chenoy, 2008)

Further, Russia is one of the world's largest suppliers of weaponry to several countries and India is its largest patron. Russia had persisted to a salient prevalence in an increased pace at weapon market of India, and this prevalence attained an elevated level that other countries including the US are making efforts to parallel to Russian investment in Indian weaponry. Moreover, besides these arms industries, both countries have collaborated for regional progress. Hence, Russia had always assisted India's bid for the permanent member of the Security Council in the UN and the accession to the SCO. This advocacy of Russia for India is a preplanned strategy to balance the complicated equation of power, with Russia and India on the right side of the equation and Pakistan and China on the other side of the equation. Further, it is believed by Vladimir Putin that the coalition of both nations can be upgraded by establishing a poly-centric world. This up-gradation will result in the opening of several recourses for both states incorporating the completion of the North-South Corridor Project. Moreover, the article 94 of NSS, article 25 of FPCRf, and article

13 of PAR exhibit a strategic and strong relationship between the two countries.

However, despite the strong bilateral relationship between the two countries, there have been various setbacks by the Russian administration from India, which have exerted reason the strong relationship. One of the prominent setbacks by the Indian administration was the seclusion of India from the prolonged 11-year joint program to develop 5th epoch fighter jets with Russia, which was a tremendous shock to the ties of both nations. The trepidation is based on the flourishing essence of the dwindling of the India-centric policy of Russia and is somehow, also cultivated by the recent advancements of Pakistan-Russia relations and the increased scrutiny of Russia in Afghanistan. (Singh A. i., 1995)

Pakistan-Russia relationship:

After the independence, Pakistan faced substantial existential perils and therefore Pakistan had to formulate an ideological and diplomatic foreign policy. Hence, taking into account the geopolitical and geostrategic survival, Pakistan enacted to establish strong ties with the US. Hence, a substantial role was being played by Pakistan in the strategized confederation in the era of cold war politics through the Southeast Asian treaty organization and central treaty organization. This strategic alliance was a policy that assured to safeguard the survival of Pakistan. But it demolished the relationship of Pakistan with the Russia. Hence, the decision of Pakistan to collaborate with the US in the US-led alliance over the USSR exhibited an analytical verdict of the Pakistan. The preference of Pakistan to serve as the US ally later made Pakistan dependent on the US security canopy. And, Pakistan in return, acted as a proxy to insulate the strategic scrutiny and global interest of the US. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Afghanistan, the US and Pakistan strategic alliance also receded, and ultimately Pakistan a non-NATO member of the US was abandoned by the US, and the prolonged cold war ended. However, soon the US again felt the need for its Ex-ally when it found it difficult to execute the wars on terror followed by the 9/11 attacks in New York City. Hence, it was demanded and in fact; requested by the US to Pakistan to become its effective and crucial ally in the US-led war on terror (Hanif, 2013).

Hence, in short, the confederation between the US and Pakistan in the 1950s, the 1960s, and 1970s became a bone of contention for the Pakistan and Russia relationship. It has been asserted that the foreign relations between the two states have been forged by the US and India. However, with the intellectual citizens creeping into Pakistan's political grounds, there has been some betterment in the relations of both states being executed by the Vladimir Putin's strategies. Hence, the relationship between the two countries is being reshaped and redefined by Moscow which is again trying to intimidate realities in Afghanistan. This was augmented by a trilateral meeting between Russia, China, and Pakistan in the December of 2016. The major objective of the meeting was to look for a reciprocal acceptable solution for the digressive Afghan conflict. This all relies on the strategic beneficiaries of Pakistan, which can prove productive for reconstructing the sociopolitical and socioeconomic relations in South Asia. In fact; Pakistan has been declared as "zipper of Pan Eurasian integration". It is inferred by Putin that Pakistan is a strategic gateway to integrate South, West, and Central Asia and can guarantee the oil supplies to Moscow. Moreover, Pakistan also ratified Russia to use Gwadar. Hence, Pakistan has been connected to Russia through the route of Afghanistan and Central Asia (Owais, 2017).

Zamir Kabulov, a high-rank diplomat and Putin's emissary to Afghanistan, declared Pakistan "a key regional player to negotiate with". These inferences have highlighted the strategic role, Pakistan is capable to play in the integration of the South Asia. Furthermore, the diplomatic and

political alliance between the two countries have raised concerns in the other countries especially Washington and New Delhi have been enthralled. Washington has been threatened by there as the bilateral relationship between the Pakistan and Russia explores the convergence with expanded China's interest in the region while for India, the coalition of Pakistan and Russia relations harbinger skepticism that prolonged relationship and affability between the two countries India and Russia might come to an end. The US-Pakistan strained relationships have presented Russia with a recourse to improve the relationship with Pakistan. Similarly, it will also give Pakistan a predilection to pursue its national interest without the intervention of the US being backed by the Russian federation. Hence, there has been a gradual upsurge in the bilateral spectrum of both countries which encompass defense cooperation including the arms imports from Russia. Since then, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, several milestones have been achieved by both states;

- A defense agreement was signed between the two countries in 2014 during the visit of the Russian defense minister Sergey Shoygu in Pakistan.
- Participation of Kalashnikov interest in the trials of the new onslaught rifles for Pakistan infantry.
- A joint military practice named DRUZHUBA friendship” held in Mineralyne Vodye, Russia in 2017, and then in 2018 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
- Several Russian arms were given to Pakistan as a result of the defense agreement. The dominant military arsenal of Pakistan given by India now includes Russia Klimov RD-93 engine (employed in manufacturing, JF-17 thunder craft), Mi-35 attack helicopters.
- The agreement of a \$2 billion deal to develop an 1100 km gas pipeline from Karachi to Lahore in 2015, the largest deal between the two countries since the 1970s.
- Up-gradation of the steel mills in Pakistan in 2013.
- The expected transformation of Muzaffargarh oil and gas power plant to coal energy.
- And the collaboration of Pakistan with Russia in providing a route to Russia for trade under CPEC.
- Furthermore, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran khan met personally with the Russian president, Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Commit conference in 2019, asking for the development of strong bilateral relations. Hence in April of 2021, the foreign minister of Russia visited Pakistan to sign some agreements to increase collaboration in the department of defense, infrastructure, energy, and counterterrorism. Hence, it has been updated on the web desk of Pakistan on April 7 after the official tour of the foreign minister of Russia that Pakistan is expecting the visit of Vladimir Putin in 2021, which indeed, is opening a gateway to a strong bilateral relationship between the two countries leading to the economic and political integration of Pakistan (Naqvi, 2017).

Challenges to the Look East Policy:

Though the Look East Policy of Vladimir Putin has been successful in establishing a successful relationship in South Asia and led to the integration of Russia in Asia and is intended to compete and regain some beneficiaries for Russia. But, there are some challenges are faced by the policy. Transnationally, Russia has been approved both by Pakistan and China to partake in CPEC and

the BRI project of China. Hence, being a part of two high scale projects in South Asia, of which India isn't a part of puts Russia in a challenging situation, where Russia is striving to maintain bilateral ties with the historic rivals on both sides India, Pakistan, and China. However, Russia still tried to engage India in the projects but the constant reluctance of the state had made conditions a bit complicated.

The second major challenge to the Look East Policy of Putin has been the divergence of interest in the Asia triangle of China, Russia, and India formed under the strategic plan of this policy. Though, Russia managed to bring the two rivals of China and India on the same table but it is anticipated that this coalition won't last long because of the difference of the national interest of each nation, and if this happens, it might lead to the end of Russia's Look East Policy.(Natalia, 2019)

Another challenge faced by the Policy is its undefined postulates, in fact; it has been declared as a vague and short-term policy by diplomats. Hence, Russia needs to come up with a clear policy to decide, with which nation it needs to collaborate and which state is best for the national interest of Russia.

Crucial delinquency to the policy is that it fails to assure that Russia won't be making further U-turns that it had been doing in history. Hence, diplomats had been asserting that the Look East Policy of Russia is a consequence of the pressure Russia had faced. However, the countries then suspect that this policy supporting the idea of bilateral relation might evaporate when the pressure eradicates. Hence, Russia needs to assure every country first before establishing stronger ties.

Another substantial complication of the Look East Policy is the influence of already dominant nations of China and the US. Hence this policy of Putin will need tremendous efforts to marshal and immobilize strength to convince South Asian states of its competence and power to make a change.

Conclusion and Findings:

Wearing the embellished robe of power and steering the foreign policy of Russia in a specified direction has substantially elicited the regional and global politics of Russia. In both facets, the political influence of Vladimir Putin has bolstered. Hence, as a result of the Russian foreign policy, its foreign policy is scuffling with embargoes executed by the Western dominions which have enhanced the requisite to secure an alternative market. Hence, Russia adopted a new strategic plan to look eastward and to collaborate with the newly ensuing powerhouses in the east. Beyond economic and trade alliance with the East, the Look East Policy is a concerted endeavor by Russia to resuscitate its conventional confederation with the east. Moreover, the ideological sorority that imitated the era of the cold war, the territory was a conventional recipient of many commodities of Russia incorporating weapons and other elements of facilitation (Khan, 2019).

The eastward strategy of Putin towards Russia is pledging and is deepening further the prevailing multi-vector demeanor of Indo-Russia relations. However, the strengthening and promoting relations of Pakistan and Russia are evidence of the failures of the efforts to isolate Pakistan, being made by the traditional rivals of Pakistan. Despite all the efforts and amidst determined struggles to sequester Pakistan economically and socially, Islamabad has thwarted to be cowed. In fact; it has managed to stand tall and resolute, and showed its solidity and bowed all of the foreign forces which were trying to sabotage its national interest and sovereignty.

Hence, both the Pakistan and Russia alliance and Pakistan and China relations are an indication of this verity. Therefore, the sphere of the strategic policy of Look East Policy imposed by Vladimir

Putin has been only revolving around India and Pakistan in the recent years, however, other countries have also been somehow affected by this policy. Taking into account the case of Afghanistan which has been equally affected as Pakistan and Indian interest in Russia is again mounting to new levels in Afghanistan. Where Pakistan and India are two key players in the regional and global political grounds. In the era of 1950s and 1960s, the US enlisted Pakistan into its strategic domain. The coalition established during the cold war assisted Washington to centralize its strength against Soviet communism in the territory. The identical circumstances were countered by both the US and India and their confederation after the cold war, which was primarily established to conceal the sociopolitical leverage of China and to evaluate the prolonged and strong relations of India and Russia. Hence, it has been evaluated that the agreement between Russia and India is a strategy to counteract the influence of China and the US in the south Asia. Hence, this new inception of the Pakistan and Russia relationship is also intended to achieve the same motive and to replenish the deepened vacuum in Pakistan and the US relations.

However, a considerable time will be used for the establishment of flourishing and compact bilateral ties between Islamabad and Moscow, depending as well as on affecting the Indo-Russia which will be a crucial factor somehow. Hence, in the prevailing geopolitical and geo-economic conditions, New embodies a significant value more in comparison to Islamabad and there had been no indication of Russia to estrange India to collaborate with Pakistan. But still both traditional rivals, Pakistan and India are equally substantial and significant key players in the realm of South Asia.

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