

ADVANCE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVE JOURNAL
Available Online: https://assajournal.com
Vol. 05 No. 01. Jan-March 2026.Page#.8717-8731
Print ISSN: 3006-2497 Online ISSN: 3006-2500
Platform & Workflow by: Open Journal Systems

Pakistan's Role in the Iran-Israel War: Diplomatic Response, Regional Security and Strategic Implications

Sajjad Ahmad Khan
DSP Police Department
sajjaddopzi@yahoo.com
Rahamdad khan
Lecturer.Govt Akl Postgraduate College Matta Swat
rahamdadk169@gmail.com
Mr. Sahibzada Hasan Wadood Afridi
BS Pakistan Studies Graduate KUST
hasanwadood2003@gmail.com

Abstract
After the Israeli military attacks on June 13, 2025, Pakistan has taken a firm and supportive stand on its foreign policy stance regarding Iran. Its reply was largely on the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-aggression, international law and regional peace. Pakistan viewed the Israeli military strike on Iran as an infringement on the United Nations Charter and a move which would jeopardize the peace and security of the region and the world. Pakistan was a neighbouring country with a long border with Iran and had important security, political, economic and strategic concerns to deter the escalation of the conflict. Therefore, Islamabad showed serious concern about the potential for military conflict to escalate into a wider regional war. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Pakistan, formally condemned the Israeli attacks and stressed the need to respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with international law (MoFA, Pakistan 2025a). Historical, religious, cultural, and geographical ties of Pakistan with Iran also played a role in its foreign policy. As soon as Pakistan became independent in 1947, Iran was the first state to recognize it and both countries have enjoyed diplomatic relations for decades due to mutual interests and regional cooperation.

Introduction

Iran's relationship with Israel has changed dramatically from a pragmatic relationship during the Pahlavi era to ideological and military opposition after the Iranian revolution in 1979, finally to direct military confrontation in recent years. This development takes place in the wider Iran–Israel conflict, involving regional and global players, and, in particular, the geo-political balancing act of nations like Pakistan. Iran and Israel, however, have, in the past, enjoyed fairly cordial relations since the establishment of the state

of Israel in 1948 until 1979. In 1950, Iran was the second Muslim-majority state to give de facto recognition to Israel, after Turkey (Wikipedia, 2026a). During Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi the two countries formed extensive trade, intelligence, and military relations as a result of David Ben-Gurion's "Alliance of the Periphery" designed to combat Arab nationalism and the Soviet influence. Despite Iran's official "neutrality" in Arab-Israeli wars, and sometimes diplomatic restraint, Iran provided oil to Israel and they also cooperated on security issues. These pro-western alignments were reinforced by the 1953 coup which restored the Shah. There were also historical ties, such as the history of Jewish settlements in Persia, and Cyrus the Great permitting the Jews to return from the Babylonian exile, but current relationships were more of a realpolitik nature (The National, 2024; Al Jazeera, 2023). This trend was reversed in the Islamic Revolution in 1979, when Iran was brought under the government of Ruhollah Khomeini. Iran broke relations with Israel and handed over the embassy to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and took an explicit anti-Zionist stance in foreign policy, presenting Israel as an illegitimate outpost of Western imperialism (Wikipedia, 2026a). Some secret co-operation continued during the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s (when Israel provided arms for the insurgents against Saddam Hussein), but by the early 1990s, when the Cold War had ended and the Gulf War had begun, the hostility was openly declared. Iran has developed an "Axis of Resistance" via proxies like Hezbollah, Hamas, and more recently the Houthis, and Israel has launched multiple attacks against Iranian assets and personnel in Syria and elsewhere.

The conflict with Hamas became more direct following the attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 with the launching of missiles and drones at Israel by Iran and Israel's counterattacks in 2024 and finally the outbreak of open warfare (Wikipedia, 2026b). In 2025 and 2026, the Iran-Israel War (or series of wars) escalated to a whole new level of intensity. Israel attacked Iranian military installations and nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan with Operation Rising Lion (or the Twelve-Day War) in June 2025. Later, the U.S. was involved in strikes upon nuclear facilities and a cease fire began around June 24, with reports of Iranian civilian casualties in the hundreds (Britannica, 2025; World Monitor, 2026). The conflict continued and on February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched a more widespread campaign of hundreds of airstrikes that targeted Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other high officials. Iran has also attacked Israel and attacked U.S. bases, reimposed the closed Straits of Hormuz and made heavy leadership changes in the leadership of Mojtaba Khamenei. Further ceasefires and memoranda of understanding were short-lived, with sporadic flare-ups persisting through the end of 2026 while nuclear negotiations languished and IAEA apprehensions grew. These were direct wars that were a watershed in the decades of mainly proxy confrontation (Britannica, 2026; Wikipedia, 2026c). Pakistan has a unique geopolitical place in the Middle East and South Asian region. Pakistan is a nation with approximately 900 kilometers of border with Iran, is a Muslim majority nation with close historical and security relations with Saudi Arabia and other nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, has developed better relations with the United States and has a strategic partnership with China and is situated between several fault lines. It depends on the remittances from the Gulf and energy flows via the Strait of Hormuz, and it must deal with its own demographic dynamics of Baloch and Shi'a, which might be influenced by instability in Iran (The National Interest, 2026a). Islamabad has been able to avoid the polarization of the two camps with this positioning. Pakistan's involvement in the conflict has become quite prominent. Islamabad has

officially declared Iran's right to self-defense and kept the lines of communication with Washington and Riyadh open. It has acted as a mediator between the United States and Iran, holding high-level contacts, orchestrating the Islamabad Memorandum in mid-2026 and following up on shuttle diplomacy with visits by military leaders to Tehran (The Jerusalem Post, 2026; Reuters, 2026). Meanwhile, Pakistan signed a defense agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkey in August 2026 that pledged mutual aid and committed supporting forces, yet economists made sure to limit the extent of their engagement to keep up the credibility of the mediation (The Pakistan Playbook, 2026). This double role as a security partner to the Gulf countries and interlocutor with Tehran underscores the significance of Pakistan as a consequential diplomatic link in a very polarized region, due to its geographical constraints, economic interests, and the desire to prevent spillover into the Pakistani territory (The Diplomat, 2026; The National Interest, 2026b). Finally, the shift of Iran-Israel cooperation from pragmatic cooperation to full-fledged confrontation, the direct confrontation in 2025-2026, Pakistan's 'multi-aligned' geopolitical location, and its mediation function cover the multifaceted interaction between ideology and power politics/national interests in the modern Middle East.

Pakistan's Diplomatic Response to the Iran–Israel War

Therefore, security of Iran was a critical element in Pakistan's regional security concerns. Islamabad's position was, however, not only religious in nature but also rooted in the tenets of International Relations and the need for an approach of mutual consent in any military attack on a sovereign state. Pakistan also argued that it should avoid using force in settling its differences with Iran instead it should follow the path of negotiations. It also expressed Pakistan's support for Iran's right of self defence as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter which demanded further de-escalation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025a). The official Pakistani stance was further bolstered by the parliamentary and governmental institutions of Pakistan. The National Assembly of Pakistan adopted a resolution against Israeli aggression on Iran at an unanimous meeting on 13th June 2025. The resolution condemned the attacks as "an infringement on Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and called for "recording of the solidarity of the Iranian government and people with Iran. It further urged the Pakistani government to convene an emergency meeting at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations Security Council to discuss the issue. This parliamentary response revealed that there was a wider national political consensus and not just limited to the executive other than the President (National Assembly of Pakistan, 2025).

Support for a Palestinian state in accordance with the 1993 Oslo Accords. Pakistan strongly condemned the military strikes by Israel on Iran, terming them "unjustified, illegitimate and against international law. The Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the statement on June 13, 2025, stating that Israeli military strikes were a clear violation of the principles of the UN Charter and infringement of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan also voiced its solidarity with the people and government of Iran and urged the international community to take immediate steps to put an end to the aggression. Islamabad pointed out that the ongoing military standoff may have serious implications for regional and international peace and security (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025a). The attack by Israel on Iranian military and nuclear-related facilities was of particular concern for Pakistan because it was a condemnation of a military conflict on a larger scale.

The attacks on the facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards could set dangerous precedents in international security and affect the overall international nuclear monitoring mechanism, Pakistan argued. Pakistan's stance was based on the fear that such action against nuclear installations would heighten the chances of nuclear contamination, civilian casualties, and ensuing regional turmoil. In the wake of the escalation, Pakistan also expressed concern over the United States' attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22, 2025, further complicating the regional security situation (Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan, 2025). The condemnatory statements of Pakistan were not limited to official ones. On 14th June 2025, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian over the phone, expressing Pakistan's support for Iran and condemning the Israeli military action. The prime minister expressed condolences to the Iranian people for the loss of their lives and reiterated Pakistan's support to the Iranian country's right to self-defence. It was a diplomatic move that showed that Pakistan was keen to keep in touch with Tehran during the crisis. It also highlighted Islamabad's commitment to deepen bilateral ties and called upon the international community to take concrete steps to avert further military escalation (Press Information Department, 2025).

3. Pakistan's Diplomatic Support for Iran at the United Nations

Pakistan was using the United Nations as an important forum to articulate its stance on Iran-Israel conflict. It representatives pointed out that the Security Council of the United Nations had the duty to ensure international peace and security and not allow violations of the Charter of the United Nations. In June 2025, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, strongly criticized Israeli military operations against Iran during emergency Sessions of the Security Council.In June 2025, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, voiced strong condemnation of Israeli military operations against Iran during emergency Sessions of the Security Council. He stated that these attacks had a negative impact on regional stability and urged the Security Council to immediately act to put an end to the aggression. Pakistan also reiterated Iran's inherent right to self-defence as outlined under Article 51 of the UN Charter (Radio Pakistan 2025a). Protection of nuclear facilities and importance of international legal obligations was also highlighted in the Pakistan's diplomatic engagement with UN. Islamabad also pointed out that the attacks on the nuclear facilities would be particularly harmful because they might erode trust of the nuclear non-proliferation treaties. The country of Pakistan urged the Security Council to condemn these acts and to de-escalate further. In addition, Pakistan called for peaceful negotiations and diplomacy in order to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, instead of using military pressure. The remarks put forward by Pakistan demonstrated their commitment to linking their support for Iran with other international values of nuclear security and nuclear nonproliferation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025b). The other crucial aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy was its relationship with China and Russia at the United Nations. Together with these two countries, Pakistan had also presented a draft resolution which called for unconditioned and immediate cease-fire, all parties to be held in check, protection of civilians and a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear problem in Iran. It was an indication of Pakistan's aspiration to become part of the other powerful shades of international media to defuse the Middle East situation. Pakistan's presence at the Security Council thus carried the message that it was looking to promote a more expanded multilateral effort to end more conflict (Radio Pakistan, 2025).

Calls for Ceasefire and Peaceful Negotiations

Pakistan has strongly pressed for a ceasefire and peaceful talks as the best way to resolve the Iran- Israel conflict, at every meeting. Islamabad thought that military conflict would be unfeasible in resolving political and security issues between the two countries. Rather, it spoke of dialogue, diplomatic activities and respect for international law. Pakistan's leaders have several times stated that hostilities could destabilize the whole Middle-East and have far-reaching implications for its neighboring nations. Pakistan also said it was worried the addition of other international powers might escalate the bilateral confrontation into a wider regional or international conflict. Hence, Islamabad urged the United Nations (UN), the OIC and other international bodies to actively assist in the promotion of de-escalation and negotiations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025c). Pakistan also backed up joint diplomatic efforts for comprehensive ceasefire. On June 17, 2025, Pakistan along with the rest of the Muslim world issued a joint statement in which they strongly condemned Israel's attack on Iran and urged an immediate halt to the violence.

The bilateral talks recognized the need to respect state sovereignty and ensure the security of nuclear facilities subject to IAEA safeguards and to solve the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations. It further underscored diplomacy and dialogue as the only viable solutions to solve the crisis. Towards this joint diplomatic move, Pakistan's participation indicated its willingness to act together as a region and not alone through military means (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025d). Moreover, Pakistan welcomed all positive diplomatic efforts that might help to end the war. Shehbaz Sharif assured Pakistan's readiness to contribute positively in the field of peace and stability of the region. On June 24, 2025, Pakistan expressed support for a ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel and encouraged them to honor it. Islamabad also called for continuation of the diplomatic efforts to avert resurgence of hostilities. This has proved that Pakistan's stand was not just against military aggression but also on the proponent of the practical steps in the resolution of conflicts and long-term regional peace and stability (Radio Pakistan, 2025c). 5. Pakistan's relationship with Iran and Israel and the U.S

3. Pakistan's Role in Regional Security

3.1 Implications of the Iran–Israel Conflict for South Asian Security

The Iran–Israel conflict has important political, economic and strategic relationships with the countries of the Middle East and Pakistan being a geographical neighbor of Iran will have significant implications on the security of South Asian region. In June 2025, the escalation of military confrontation created the concern of regional instability, energy security, militancy across borders and a possible global conflict. Pakistan is especially vulnerable as a result of the instability in Iran because of its geographical location. A long confrontation may have a negative impact on Pakistan's national security, economic growth and relations with regional and international powers. Moreover, American involvement complicated the conflict and posed new challenges for Islamabad in its diplomatic relations. Weinbaum and Ali (2025) noted that Pakistan was under significant pressure to settle its relations with Iran and the United States while safeguarding its national security interests. The conflict also has implications for the larger South Asian region as South-east Asia's fluctuating political relations, trade flows and oil supplies could be impacted by the conflict in the Middle East. Pakistan's reliance on external energy resources means that it is at risk of the global price of petroleum. If there is a risk of shipping being disrupted through the Strait

of Hormuz then there is a risk of energy prices impacting Pakistan. Furthermore, the ethnic unrest in Iran could provide the opportunity for ethnic groups that live close to the Pakistan–Iran border. Hence, there is a major interest of Pakistan to prevent further escalation and advocate for diplomatic solutions for the conflict (Janjua, 2025, International Crisis Group, 2026).

3.2 Border Security Challenges between Pakistan and Afghanistan

This border is about 900km long and runs through the Baluchistan province of Pakistan and the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran. However it is a remote geographical location, with little infrastructure, and the presence of militant and separatist groups, that make this border a security risk in more ways than one. The conflict between Iran and Israel heightened fears that regional instability may lead to poor border management and opportunities for cross-border militant activities. Pakistanis authorities were especially concerned about the risk of refugees, illegal migration and smuggling and infiltration by militants in case things went wrong in Iran. In the conflict period of June 2025 some of the border crossings were closed or restricted and arrangements were made to facilitate the return of Pakistani nationals from Iran (Janjua, 2025). A second problem area is the armed groups' activities in the border region. Anti-state militant activities have occurred in both Pakistan and Iran, who have also blamed each other for the lack of a concrete measure to curb the activities of anti-state groups across the borders. These security issues were highlighted in the military exchange talks between the two nations in January 2024. The tensions caused by the Iran-ISRAEL conflict, therefore, can further complicate bilateral border management. The possibility of increased militant cooperation, refugee movements, and trafficking are three issues the International Crisis Group (2026) highlights as significant security concerns that could emerge in Iran in the event of instability. Pakistan thus requires more effective border coordination, intelligence-sharing and diplomatic outreach with Tehran to avoid the conflict from generating further security issues for the country.

3.3 Pakistan is facing threats from within, which can be categorized as follows:

The Iran-Israel conflict posed a few challenges to the internal security of Pakistan, such as terrorism, political instability, economic pressure and public demonstrations. Pakistan already has security issues in Balochistan where separatist groups and militant groups have targeted security forces and civilian targets. If there is any political or security crisis in neighbouring Iran, it will create chances for these organizations to spread their activities on the border.If there is any political or security crisis in neighbouring Iran, it will provide chances for these organizations to spread their activities on the border. The potential for more refugees and armed group movements may yet aggravate Pakistan's internal security situation further. In June 2025, Pakistani security officials worried over the potential rise in ungoverned areas along the border with Iran that could create opportunities for separatist and militant groups to continue their activities (Reuters, 2025). Another critical issue is the safety of foreign nationals, diplomatic missions and strategic infrastructure. Pakistan has a considerable number of development projects and investments by the Chinese authorities in Balochistan with the main focus being on Gwadar Port and the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The projects and foreign staff may be subject to new security threats in the region. Additionally, a disruption in energy supplies in the region could exacerbate economic challenges, push up inflation and cause public dissatisfaction. Hence, there is a need to coordinate the internal security strategy between civilian institutions, law enforcement

agencies, intelligence agencies and border security authorities in Pakistan (Weinbaum & Ali, 2025). The security of the nation is another issue of concern. Security of the nation is the other one of concern

3.4 Sectarian Tensions and Domestic Political Stability.

Another issue for Pakistan in the Iran–Israel conflict is sectarian tensions. There is a large Shia Muslim community in Pakistan and Iran has significant religious and cultural importance for some Pakistani Shia communities. As a result, Israeli military strikes on Iran attracted much public response in Pakistan, with demonstrations and calls for solidarity with Iranians. Such demonstrations, while symptomatic of public opinion and religious unity, could have the potential to lead to heightened sectarian polarization and the opportunities for extremist groups to capitalize on such polarization. The prospect of fresh violence between sects is also a significant domestic security risk for Pakistan, as it has seen sectarian violence in the past (Ahmad, 2025). Moreover, Pakistan's foreign policy is such that it has to balance Pakistan's support for Iran's sovereignty with its relations with other regional and international powers. Any inference that the government is ignoring the public opinion on Iran could lead to political criticism and demonstration. Likewise, radical organisations may be used to promote sectarian intolerance and sectarian violence. The conflict has grave consequences for Pakistan in terms of domestic issues including sectarian tension, political unrest and potential mobilisation of militias, notes the International Crisis Group (2026). Hence, it is the responsibility of the Pakistani government to foster religious tolerance, interfaith harmony, responsible media reporting and law enforcement to ensure domestic political stability.

3.5 Pakistan's contribution in the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

The role of Pakistan in the promotion of regional peace and stability in the region can be very significant in supporting dialogue, peaceful negotiations, and respect of international law. The neighbouring country of Iran, Pakistan has a direct interest in preventing further military escalation. Islamabad has the opportunity to improve communication and defuse tensions through its diplomatic links with Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and other regional countries. On the international forum, Pakistan has the opportunity to voice its message of peaceful conflict resolution and respect for state sovereignty, notably on platforms such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It has also been seen to contribute to diplomatic efforts during June 2025 conflict, showcasing its commitment towards multilateral efforts in support of regional stability (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025; Weinbaum & Ali, 2025). Besides, Pakistan needs to further deepen bilateral cooperation in areas of intelligence sharing, coordinated border management, counterterrorism cooperation, and economic engagement with Iran. Regional cooperation is the only solution to counter militant groups taking advantage of the political turmoil and undermining the capacities of the State institutions. Pakistan must also promote confidence-building measures among the regional powers and foster diplomatic efforts to tackle the root causes of conflict. Pakistan can help ease tensions and safeguard its national security interests in the region through a balanced foreign policy, positive diplomatic engagement, and cooperation. Therefore Pakistan's contribution to the regional security is not only to protect the borders but also to ensure a peaceful and stable regional environment.

4.1 Strategic implications of Iran- Israel War for Pakistan

There is a direct impact on Pakistan's National Security interests. The Iran- Israel war has far-reaching implications for Pakistan's security as the country is geographically close to Iran and has strategic ties with the countries in the Middle East. The June 2025 military conflict sparked fears of regional instability, trans-border militancy, refugee flows and the risk of a regional conflict. Pakistan has an interest in ensuring stability of its border of about 900 km that is shared with Iran, especially in Balochistan, where the security situation has already been problematic. An extended conflict could undermine the ability of Iran to maintain its control on the borders and offer opportunities for the growth of militant groups. In addition, it is imperative that Pakistan not become directly involved in the confrontation as it can cause further security and diplomatic complications. Khan (2025) states Pakistan is facing the tough challenge of backing Iran without jeopardising its relations with the USA and Gulf nations.

4.2 Economic and Energy Security Challenges

The Iran- Israel tussle also highlighted Pakistan's economic and energy vulnerabilities. Imported petroleum products and energy supplies play an important role in Pakistan. An escalation regarding the Strait of Hormuz by the military could impact international oil transportation, petroleum prices and transportation and insurance expenses. These developments can lead to a rise in import bill, inflation, depletion of foreign exchange reserves and put further strain on the already fragile economy. Falling oil prices may also boost electricity generation expenses and have a detrimental impact on industrial production. This is especially significant as Pakistan's economic exposure is directly linked with the stability of the shipping routes of the Gulf. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (2026) points out that Pakistan faces challenges from oil price fluctuations and any disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. So, it is time for Pakistan to diversify its energy resources, increase domestic energy production and set up strategic energy reserves to make the country less dependent on energy imports. Pakistan and China:

4.3 Implications for Pakistan's Relations with China and the United States

The Iran–Israel conflict has brought with it some crucial challenges for Pakistan's foreign and diplomatic ties with China and the United States. China is an important strategic partner of Pakistan and has extensive economic interests in the area through the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Beijing has also close political and economic ties with Tehran. Therefore, the volatility in Iran may have implications for China's investments in the region, energy supply, and connectivity initiatives. Cooperation with China is in Pakistan's interest for the sake of stability in the region and safeguarding strategic economic projects. Meanwhile, the war has put to the test Pakistan's attempts to begin a friendly relationship with Washington. Islamabad was caught off guard by the United States' military strike on Iranian nuclear sites in June 2025, putting the nation in a precarious foreign policy position. Pakistan condemned the attacks but at the same time wanted to have a positive relationship with Washington. According to Weinbaum and Ali (2025), the conflict had put the test of Pakistan's balancing act between Iran and the USA. Therefore, Pakistan must adopt a balance foreign policy which will not harm the country's strategic relations with China but at the same time will not affect its diplomatic and economic ties with the United States (Khan, 2025).

4.4 Pakistan–Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Strategic Balancing:

Saudi Arabia is also playing a significant role in Pakistan's strategic considerations in the Iran-Israel row. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have long history of ties including in the field of economic cooperation, defence cooperation, religious affairs and political support. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also given Pakistan financial aid and economic support when the country is in financial crisis. But Pakistan's proximity and historical ties with Iran must not be forgotten and ignored in the name of Pakistan's closeness with Saudi Arabia. Islamabad is thus stuck between a rock and a hard place, having to preserve cooperation with Riyadh while not unnecessarily hurting ties with Tehran. Pakistan's recent involvement in the diplomatic initiatives linked to the Saudi Arabia and other Muslim-majority nations in June 2025 during the conflict showed that it was more inclined towards the collective diplomacy and de-escalation in the region. According to Khan (2025), Pakistan was under pressure from Iran, but also was not to be hurt by the UAE and Saudi Arabia, who are both major economic partners. Such a balancing strategy is crucial for ensuring Pakistan's national security and for avoiding regional competition from influencing Pakistan's foreign policy

4.5 implications for Pakistan's Defense and Military Strategy

The Iran- Israel war has consequences for Pakistan's defence planning and military strategy as well. The war highlighted the significance of missile technology, air defence, intelligence, cyber warfare and modern military technologies in today's warfare. Pakistan must therefore persist in its efforts to enhance its security readiness especially on the western borders and continue to adhere to regional deterrence strategies. There is also a risk that the conflict may cross the border into neighbouring areas, underscoring the need for intelligence sharing, border policing and cooperation between security agencies. In this regard, defence cooperation with China is important for Pakistan, especially in terms of developing and upgrading military capacity. Islamabad, however, cannot afford any unnecessary military involvement in the Iran–Israel confrontation as it can strain its defence resources and lead to further tensions in the region. In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan (2025) pointed out that the conflict posed a threat to the security of the region and the world and that diplomacy should be used to avoid any further escalation of the situation. Hence Pakistan should focus on strengthening its defense capabilities, modernizing technology, strategic deterrence and diplomatic negotiations to resolve conflicts.

5. Pakistan's Diplomatic Balancing Act

5.1 The U.S. and the World in the Modern Era Pakistan

A hard time with balancing its relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia as both are playing vital role in the political, economic, religious and strategic interests of Pakistan. Iran is the neighbouring country of Pakistan, sharing a long border with the country, historical, cultural and economic ties with Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is a long time strategic partner who has been offering financial, investment, energy, and defence support to Pakistan during this period. Pakistan was seen as being very diplomatic towards Iran and keeping a close eye on Saudi Arabia during the war between them in June 2025. Islamabad refrained from altering its stance or taking military action that might harm the ties with either nation. This approach was a reflection of Pakistan's interest in safeguarding its national, and regional rivalries from influencing its foreign policy (Siyech, 2026).

5.2 Country policy in the United States

Another aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy shuffle was its relationship with the United States. Islamabad's defense cooperation with Washington, counterterrorism efforts, economic aid and international diplomacy are all areas in which Washington has been a key ally of Islamabad. American presence in the Iran-ISRAEL conflict, however, posed diplomatic challenges for Pakistan, owing to the condemnation of the Israeli strikes by Islamabad and its criticism of the US military action against Iran's nuclear complex in June 2025. However, Pakistan tried to have a positive engagement with Washington and it did not wish to get into any needless diplomatic skirmish. The Foreign Office of Pakistan noted that Pakistan's efforts to support Iran stemmed from the principles of sovereignty, international law and regional stability and did not involve any attempts to jeopardize relations with other nations. According to Weinbaum and Ali (2025), the current war puts to the test Pakistan's capacity to balance relations with Washington and Tehran, while safeguarding its strategic interests.

5.3 Pakistan's stance over Israeli military operations

Pakistan's diplomatic stand on Israeli military operations against Iran.Pakistan's firm stance on Israeli military operation against Iran. Islamabad strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on 13th June 2025, calling it a violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and United Nations Charter of Iran. Pakistan also emphasized on the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter and stood with the Government and the people of Iran. Pakistan's stance was in line with its traditional stance of non-recognition of Israel and support for Palestinian rights. but Islamabad also raised its objection to the attacks in the context of international law and peaceful living. Pakistan urged the world to refrain from military aggression and further escalation. The official stance showed that Pakistan was eager to uphold the principles of international law but did not want to get directly involved in the conflict (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025).

5.4 Opportunities for Mediation and Conflict Resolution.

The Opportunities for Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Pakistan has seen opportunities to play a more active role in the region in peacebuilding through the Iran-Israel conflict. The fact that Pakistan is geographically close to Iran and has a friendly relationship with Saudi Arabia, China and the USA makes it a potential opportunity to bridge the gap between competing regional and international actors. Islamabad can engage in bilateral diplomacy, the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to facilitate dialogue and help resolve conflicts peacefully. In the past, Pakistan had stated its readiness to play a positive role in the peace-building process by supporting the diplomatic efforts to ease tensions during the conflict in June 2025. Its Foreign Office welcomed any international actions that could help to ease tensions and restore peace. Pakistan also joined in concerted diplomatic campaign with other Muslim countries demanding an end to Israeli aggression against Iran. These evolutions showed a potential contribution of Pakistan in mediation and confidence building (CB) processes in the region (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, 2025). Moreover, Pakistan can also foster dialogue by keeping communication with Tehran, Riyadh and Washington. It can contribute to easing tensions and lowering misunderstanding in the region, and facilitate talks on regional security and nuclear matters.

The possibilities of Pakistan's mediation between Iran and the United States are also mentioned by Guzansky (2026) when he discusses Pakistan's new role in the diplomatic arena between these two

countries. But confidence of all the parties, a diplomatic credibility and the willingness of the conflicting states to negotiate is essential for successful mediation. The challenges to Pakistan's neutrality and diplomatic autonomy are examined in this section.This section explores the issues of challenges on Pakistan's neutrality and diplomatic autonomy. Pakistan is facing several challenges in its diplomatic balancing act that hinder it to achieve complete neutrality. Its geographical location near Iran has direct impact on the security of its borders, its economy and the political climate within the country. Secondly, it has a strategic and economic dependence on Saudi Arabia, which makes it necessary to take into account Riyadh's security concerns. Third, given that Pakistan has a history of relations with the United States, it is challenging to take positions that could be detrimental to US cooperation and engagement. These conflicting interests constrain Islamabad's diplomatic maneuverability and call for judicious foreign policy considerations. Siyech (2026) explains how the concept of security commitments made by Pakistan with respect to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's the neighbouring relationship with Iran, presents a challenging strategic equation for Pakistan. The domestic political and sectarian sensitivities also affect Pakistan's diplomatic autonomy. Pressure exerted on the government to remain pro-Iran from the audience because of the public sympathy in favor of Iran, especially among the Shia population. Meanwhile, the economy's reliance on the Gulf nations and financial institutions demands that Pakistan must not be isolated in its foreign policy. Hence, Pakistan should be pursuing an independent and balanced foreign policy, which is geared towards serving national interest, international justice, regional cooperation and peaceful resolution of conflicts. It is also important to keep diplomatic channels open with all the big powers to safeguard the sovereignty of Pakistan and to save its national security from being threatened by foreign rivalry.

6. Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan

Since this is a diplomatic matter, be mindful of the constraints and pressures in the geopolitical arena. Pakistan is having to deal with a number of diplomatic limitations and geopolitical dynamics in its response to the Iran- Israel conflict. It is strategically close to Iran, has strong ties with Saudi Arabia and also with the United States and China, which leads to possible foreign policy conflicts. Pakistan needs to retain a cordial relationship with Tehran, and safeguard its economic and defence ties with Riyadh and Washington. Due to these ties Islamabad has no flexibility in its diplomatic acts and it is challenging for the Pakistani government to take the stance which can please all regional and international partners. Moreover, Pakistan's stance on the Israeli military action is determined by its stance on Israel itself, as well as its support for Palestinian rights, which it has not recognized Israel, and has long refused to recognize its actions. The June 2025 battle, however, presented Pakistan in a difficult diplomatic situation, as it tries to reconcile the demands of national, regional and international interests. The war put Pakistan's policy of playing a positive role with both Iran and the United States to the test (Weinbaum and Ali 2025). The other limitation is that Pakistan's economic and diplomatic leverage on the big powers is not significant. The issue of regional tensions, on-going international sanctions on Iran, and disagreements between Middle Eastern countries further complicate the diplomatic process. In this context, Pakistan needs to adopt a policy of dialogue, international law and strategic cooperation and should not give in to the temptation of joining competing geopolitical blocs (Goraya, 2026).

6.1 Political, Social and Psychological

The Vulnerabilities of the Community Another serious difficulty in Pakistan's economic situation that stems from the conflict between Iran and Israel is economic vulnerability. The importation of petroleum products and energy resources is a major issue for Pakistan and its economy is vulnerable to the disturbance in the Middle Eastern oil transportation. In escalation of the Strait of Hormuz situation, it could rise the oil trading prices, shipping transportation price, and shipping insurance price in the world. Such developments may lead to higher inflation rates, further erosion of foreign exchange reserves and further burden on the country's balance of payments. The conflict is also expected to impact regional trade lanes and the economic interests of Pakistan nationals residing in the Gulf countries. Rising oil prices and potential shipping disruptions are major economic risks for Pakistan in the conflict of June 2025 as stated by Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (2025). Regional instability could also have a negative impact on Pakistan's trade, investment and energy cooperation with its neighboring countries. Rising insecurity in Iran could pose difficulties for cross-border energy infrastructure projects and economic initiatives. So, Pakistan should diversify its energy supply, boost its energy self-sufficiency, enhance economic resilience, and encourage trade with other countries in the region to limit its vulnerability to external factors (Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan, 2025).

The region offers opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation. In spite of all these difficulties, the Iran–Israel issue gives an opportunity to Pakistan to enhance regional cooperation and enhance the relationship with neighboring countries. Pakistan has potential to encourage cooperation between Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and other countries of the Middle East regarding border security, counterterrorism, energy trade, transportation and economic development etc. The key role of strengthening Pakistan-Iran economic relations lies in the fact that both nations have common interests in the stability of the region and the cross-border trade. Joint border commissions, intelligence sharing and economic agreements are avenues for cooperation that could help decrease security tensions and increase mutual confidence. The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (2025) notes that bilateral institutional mechanisms and energy cooperation, as well as ongoing diplomatic efforts, are essential to further strengthen Pak-Iran relations. Moreover, the use of regional cooperation bodies like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) can be made to promote collective response to the security issues being faced in the region. Enhanced coordination between regional countries could help to avoid military escalation, safeguard trade routes and boost economic cooperation. Joint energy diversification, infrastructure development and humanitarian assistance projects can also be promoted in Pakistan. Such collaboration would not only help to ensure the stability of the region but also benefit the long-term economic and strategic goals of Pakistan (Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, 2025).

6.2 Potential role of Pakistan in Multilateral peace

The initiatives Pakistan can be useful in multilateral peace processes as it has good ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, and the USA. Its location and history of interaction with various regional powers offer chances to reduce tensions and promote peaceful conflict resolution. Pakistan has the opportunity to put forward arguments in the United Nations Security Council and OIC in favour of immediate

ceasefire, respect for national sovereignty, protection of civilians and peaceful negotiation. It can also assist international diplomatic efforts to resolve disputes regarding Iran's nuclear programme in a peaceful way through the frameworks established by international organizations and negotiation. Pakistan can also play its role by facilitating communication between opposing sides through diplomatic channels and assist in implementing confidence-building measures. During the conflict in June 2025, it was active in various diplomatic efforts alongside other nations, indicating a commitment to contributing to the region's peacebuilding process. Maintaining balance between dealing with Riyadh and Tehran is crucial, as Pakistan has the potential to play the role of a go-between in the U.S.-Iran relations, writes Guzansky (2026). However, there are important elements for successful mediation, such as trust between the parties, political will and political stability in foreign policy. Thus, Pakistan needs to emphasize on multilateral diplomacy, cooperation among the countries of the region, peaceful negotiations and play a part to ensure stability in the Middle East..

Conclusion

Pakistan's role in the Iran-Israel conflict was a prime example of the importance of regional security, diplomacy, and strategic balance in Pakistan's foreign policy. In June 2025, Pakistan's government and its people expressed their support for the Iranian government and people over the Israeli military attacks against Iran, which infringed on the Iranian sovereignty and territorial integrity. Additionally, Islamabad voiced its concerns at the UN and backed global initiatives to put an end to hostilities and settle the dispute amicably. The diplomatic response of Pakistan showed its commitment towards stability in the region, international law and peaceful settlement of disputes. The consequences of this situation on Pakistan's foreign policy are long-lasting. The implications of this situation for Pakistan's foreign policy are long-term. In the long-term, the Iran-Israel conflict will be a game changer in Pakistan's foreign policy agenda, particularly in terms of strategic independence, regional relations, economic security and defense preparedness. Pakistan should keep a delicate balance with Saudi Arabia and Iran while being active and playing a positive role with China and the United States. Pakistan needs to also invest in renewable energy and diversify its sources of petroleum imports, besides establishing other trading and commercial avenues to ensure energy security. It should also improve border control and intelligence cooperation along with defense readiness to address new security threats to the region. If Pakistan will be doing these steps, then it will be able to maintain its strategic independence and will be able to deal with the next geopolitical crises more skillfully. Future prospects for peace and security in the region Pakistan has also a role to play in the region's peace by enhancing cooperation with Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and other neighboring countries in the field of counter terrorism, security on the border, trade and energy development. It has a number of bilateral relations with various regional and international powers to facilitate confidence-building and peaceful conflict resolution. But, for mediation to be effective, there must be mutual trust, political will and cooperation between the parties involved (Guzansky, 2026). To summarize, the Iran- Israel conflict had demonstrated the degree of economic and national security impact on Pakistan of the happenings in the Middle East. Pakistan's diplomatic move showed its commitment to Iranian sovereignty, international law and avoiding the use of force. Long-term goals of its foreign policy should include regional collaboration, economic resiliency, balanced international relations, and strategic autonomy. By working towards these objectives, Pakistan can

ensure the protection of its national interests and contribute positively to regional peace, stability and global security.

Referances

Al Jazeera. (2025, June 13). *Israel launches strikes on Iran, killing top military commanders and nuclear scientists*. https://www.aljazeera.com/

Atlantic Council. (2025). *Pakistan's diplomatic position amid the Israel–Iran war*. https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/

Dawn. (2025, June 15). *Pakistan urges UN Security Council to stop Israeli aggression against Iran*. https://www.dawn.com/news/1917146/pakistan-urges-unsc-to-stop-israeli-aggression

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2025). *Updates on developments in Iran*. https://www.iaea.org/

International Crisis Group. (2025). *Iran and the wider Middle East: Regional security challenges*. https://www.crisisgroup.org/

International Energy Agency. (2025). *Oil security and emergency response*. https://www.iea.org/

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. (2025, June 19). *Transcript of the weekly media briefing by the spokesperson on Thursday, 19 June 2025*. https://mofa.gov.pk/press-releases/transcript-of-the-press-briefing-by-the-spokesperson-on-thursday-19th-june-2025

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. (2025, June 16). *Pakistan's statement delivered during the extraordinary session of IAEA Board of Governors on Iran*. https://mofa.gov.pk/news/vienna-pakistans-statement-delivered-during-the-extraordinary-session-of-iaea-board-of-governors-on-iran

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. (2025). *Joint statement on the situation in the Middle East*. https://mofa.gov.pk/

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. (2025). *Pakistan's position on Israeli aggression against Iran*. https://mofa.gov.pk/

National Assembly of Pakistan. (2025). *National Assembly resolution condemning Israeli aggression against Iran*. https://na.gov.pk/

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. (2025). *OIC statement on Israeli military aggression against Iran*. https://www.oic-oci.org/

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. (2025). *Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities and regional energy security*. https://pide.org.pk/

Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan. (2025, June 23). *Meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC)*. https://pid.gov.pk/site/press_detail/29462

Radio Pakistan. (2025, June 14). *Pakistan calls on UNSC to stop Israeli aggression against Iran immediately*. https://www.radio.gov.pk/14-06-2025/pakistan-calls-on-uncs-to-stop-israeli-aggression-against-iran-immediately

Radio Pakistan. (2025, June 23). *Pakistan urges UNSC to condemn attacks against Iran*. https://radio.gov.pk/23-06-2025/at-un-pakistan-condemns-us-strikes-on-iranian-nuclear-facilities

Reuters. (2025, June 22). *Pakistan condemns Trump's bombing of Iran a day after nominating him for Peace Prize*. https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistan-condemns-trumps-bombing-iran-day-after-nominating-him-peace-prize-2025-06-22/

United Nations. (2025, June 13). *USG DiCarlo urges both Israel and Iran to exercise maximum restraint*. https://dppa.un.org/en/speeches-and-statements/usg-dicarlo-urges-both-israel-and-iran-to-exercise-maximum-restraint

United Nations Security Council. (2025). *The situation in the Middle East, including the Iranian question*. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil

Weinbaum, M. G., & Ali, N. (2025, July 8). *Pakistan's ability to thread the needle in relations with the US and Iran tested by the Israel-Iran war*. Middle East Institute. https://mei.edu/publication/pakistans-ability-thread-needle-relations-us-and-iran-tested-israel-iran-war/