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Title: Indian Foreign Policy: A Factor In Stable Afghan-Pakistan Region.

ABSTRACT

Background: Afghanistan and Pakistan are “conjoined twins,” not simply because of their complex history, but also because the ties between the two have brought about many adverse effects. It has been a theater of internal turmoil caused mostly by external interventions. Strategically located at the transit corridors of oil rich region of Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East, both Afghanistan and Pakistan have been exposed to Great power politics and rivalry. Both the countries became the victims of their geo-economic and geo-strategic location. It has become an uncertain region with volatile and threatening portents for the entire region, especially India.

India is the most dominant power in South Asia. It occupies a key position by virtue of its geographic size and location, economic power and military strength. India is in the immediate neighbourhood of instable Pakistan and Afghanistan region. India’s rivalry with Pakistan is affecting its foreign relations with other countries, particularly with Afghanistan. India needs a stable and friendly regional environment for its political and economic security. It is an open secret that a stable Afghanistan-Pakistan region is in the larger interest of India.

Objectives of the Study:

- ❖ To find out how stability in Af-Pak region contributes to stability of South Asian region.

- ❖ To show how Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan and India has adversely affected its own development and stability.
- ❖ To find out to what extent Indo-Pak conflict affects peace and stability in Afghanistan.
- ❖ To assess the role of Pakistan as a major factor in Indo-Afghan relations.
- ❖ To assess India's role in promoting stability, peace and development in Afghanistan and South Asia in general.
- ❖ To analyze the US role in the triangular relationship of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.
- ❖ To highlight the emerging security and economic interest of China in Afghanistan.

Methodology:

The present research work is based on the formal data, information gathered from various works of scholars, articles published in the periodicals, journals, and news papers, and the information available in the governmental reports, and other such facts, while we are descriptive in our approach, we are also historical and analytical in the process of presentation of our arguments.

Conclusion

Cooperative security approach will be the best approach to bring peace and stability in Afghan-Pakistan Region. All the regional powers including India, China, Iran and Russia need to work together for bringing sustained and durable peace and stability in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Zero-sum game policy of rival countries in Afghanistan will not serve the interests of any state. Stable Afghan-Pakistan region is a win-win policy for all the countries concerned including India.

Key Words: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, US, Instability, Terrorism, Intervention