



## **Pakistan's Relations with Germany: a Historical Study**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose-**The study has been conducted with the core objective to overview and understand Pakistan's bilateral relations with Federal Republic of Germany and impacts of these cordial relations. The paper first focuses on the learned by Germans from mistakes of "The Third Reich" (NAZI Dictatorship) and strategies of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation in post-world war II period that paved ways to German unification and led Germany to secure position as a leading economy, contrary to German case we have to figure out the mistakes and lapses that undermined all major institutions of Pakistan, derailed economy and took Pakistan to state of chaos.

**Methodology/Sample-** A survey was conducted to analyze three relations. First "Can Pakistan learn lesson from Germany as they have moved from devastation to development?" Second "Is there any awareness about importance of our relations with Germany among youth?" Third "Is it right to say that Pakistan can benefit much more if serious efforts are made to further improve the ties with Germany especially in case of trade, energy crises and industrial infrastructure?" 100 students were selected as sample with 100% response rate.

**Findings-**According to our survey overall rate of awareness among youth on Pakistan's relations with Germany resulted approximately 37%. Approximately 80% suggested acquiring German assistance to enhance trade and resolving energy crises. Approximately 60% suggested that Pakistan's relations with Germany should be highlighted in popular media equally as our relations with the U.S or Britain. Contrary to Germany in case of Pakistan alternating spells of military dictatorship, military dominant foreign policy, confrontation with neighbors and preference of security over education, healthcare and development along with corruption are resulted to be prominent factors that have undermined Pakistan's political, social and economic systems.

**Keywords :** Bilateral relations, Reconciliation, Coexistence, Confrontation

**Jel classification :** F50

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In today's converging world it has become impossible for a nation-state to stay isolated. With interlinked and interdependent economies a nation-state has to establish alliances and make regional and international partnerships in order to secure interests. Pakistan has not always been so relevant to the world. Its relevance in international arena varied in different phases of history. Despite having the proactive foreign policy Pakistan does not seek to acquire a role of global or regional power. In this age of globalization foreign relations have become more important than ever before. International and regional organizations, states, societies and economic zones have networked themselves.

A major goal of Pakistan's foreign policy is to cultivate deep and friendly relations with other members of international community and collaborate with them to cope with the issues of global dimension like environment, population, poverty reduction, energy, human migration, refugees, Drugs and last but not least development and cooperation. Pakistan's activism reflects that such policies will help to obtain international support and resources for its domestic socio-economic development, to regulate inputs from external environment into the internal context and to strive in strengthening security and territorial integrity in the region which are the top most concerns of Pakistan's foreign policy. Bearing an important strategic position in South Asia Pakistan have establish cordial relations with regional and global powers like China, United States, Britain, France and Germany.

Along with other major UN and EU members Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with Germany based on common interest and shared perceptions on almost all major international issues. Pakistan has enjoyed 50 years of friendly and amicable foreign relations with Germany (an economic giant in EU). This study bids to provide a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's bilateral relations with Germany since 1961, to examine dynamics, actors and influencing factors of these relations and the policies adopted by Germans to move from state of devastation to development. In 2011 Pakistan and Germany celebrated their 50 years of friendly relations and mutual cooperation to date German government has provided a total of Euro 2.3 billion an approximate of PKR 275 billion for development and cooperation. During this period of 50 years both sides have managed to adapt changing demands and new challenges in order to obtain sustainable results in cooperation.

Accordingly, aim of this study is to overview and understand Pakistan's bilateral relations with Federal Republic of Germany and impacts of these cordial relations. The paper first focuses on the learned by Germans from mistakes of "The Third Reich" (NAZI Dictatorship) and strategies of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation in post-world war II period that paved ways to German unification and led Germany to secure position as a leading economy, contrary to German case we have to figure out the mistakes and lapses that undermined all major institutions of Pakistan, derailed economy and took Pakistan to state of chaos.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between Islamic republic of Pakistan and Federal republic of Germany has grown half a century old. The friendship beginning in 1961 between the two countries have a history of cordial and amicable relations. This makes Germany one of Pakistan's initial partner countries. Having an important strategic and geographical location in Asia, The government of Germany considered Pakistan as one of most important partners for development and cooperation. This relationship between the two countries is based upon goodwill gesture coupled with 50 years of healthy and excellent diplomatic relations.

German partnership accelerated especially after 1972's agreement between Pakistan and German Federal Ministry for Economic cooperation and Development (BMZ) opening new projects in energy, healthcare, education and good governance. This process was interrupted in 1998 when Pakistan conducted nuclear tests, the United Nations imposed

sanctions on Pakistan. Following United Nation's sanctions Germany also suspended development and cooperation. These relations gradually resumed in 2000, following the September 11 attacks in 2001 Pakistan has been ranked as priority state for German development and cooperation. Till 2011 Federal Republic of Germany has invested around EUR 2.3 billion in development and cooperation projects in Pakistan. On the other hand the German government is also funding political organizations and non-governmental organizations NGO's which are making important contribution in promoting human rights, developing rule of law and emergency relief efforts.

If we compare Pakistan with Germany a major element that has undermined Pakistan's institutions is that, democracy was brought to the guillotine and slaughtered in the beginning. "Different forces have played havoc with the corridors of power sometimes with the support of public and sometimes by misuse of power. It is widely believed that no "capable civilian leadership" has assumed power yet, Finally ethnic, regional, religious, economic, professional and class groups periodically expressed their unhappiness with continued military rule and sometimes with the elected democratic government because of mismanagement" (Stephen P Kohan 1987). Pakistan's strategic and geographical location makes it one of Germany's most important partners for development and cooperation, "Pak-German relations are based on friendly and goodwill gesture and are being promoted with the passage of time" (Gunter Mulack).

Furthermore, Germany is one of the major NATO allies which emphasis that "Pakistan is a very significant country that definitely must be stabilized, this also concerns our own security in Europe" (Guido Westerwella 2010) and believe that "Peace in Afghanistan will be impossible without Pakistan playing a constructive role" (Michel Steiner, 2011). German government and diplomats have always been ready and keen to support Pakistan in peace time "We want to enhance strong relations with Pakistan by providing financial assistance to the country for the development of social sector" (Gunter Mulack). The relations between the people of Pakistan and Germany have been exemplary especially during hardship of 2005 earthquake and floods of 2009-10, and people of Punjab especially cannot forget the assistance provided by it during these floods" (Muhammad Jamil, The Nation Feb 12 2012). But German public views about Pakistan have changed over the years and become more downbeat between 2005 and 2009 due to post 9/11 events and later happenings like the death of Osama Bin Laden. The German public believes that their tax money supports a corrupt Pakistani government which is offering unofficial support to the extremists, and these extremists are killing German soldiers who are posted at north of Afghanistan" (Marcus Pindur, 2011).

The recent Pak-German media dialogues have resulted in a positive step in this regard "I returned to Germany well inspired and with a broadband of impression and information, the openness of our discussion was impressive and rewarding" (Theo Koll 2011). We hope that events like "Pak-German media dialogue will become a regular and annual feature and would further create better understanding between Pakistan and a strong European actor Germany" (Shah Mahmood Qureshi 2011). But it is believed that much more is needed to bring the people of both countries closer, there is lack of cultural exchange and lack of awareness especially if we talk about Pakistani youth.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research approach used is primarily analytical, coupled with exploratory research method based on survey. The target population of our survey included students only (youth) belonging to three different universities at Karachi so two questionnaires were developed a close ended questionnaire was developed in order to get relevant information addressing the level of awareness regarding German development and cooperation efforts with Pakistan, their opinion to further broaden these ties and whether Pak-German relations need to be highlighted in media, where as an open ended questionnaire was developed to collect some detailed views of young professionals to analyze their opinion and suggestions on the

topic. We have almost totally relied on secondary sources due to unavailability of enough primary data. Later the primary data (survey data) was processed using (SPSS) statistical package for social sciences. Descriptive statics, frequencies and co-relation were used.

#### 4. RESULTS

The analysis of the survey on awareness about Pak-German relations is based on these facts i.e. "Germany's position as 1st world country resulted 41%, German development and cooperation with Pakistan is 31% and awareness about German cultural centers 39% overall rate of awareness among youth on Germany's bilateral relations with Pakistan resulted 37%. In case of "German assistance" first to resolve energy crises and second German assistance to enhance trade, 84% of participants voted in favor on energy issue and 77% in favor on trade making a mean of 80.5% in favor to acquire German assistance rather than from any other major state. 83% of participants suggested the need highlight Pakistan's friendly relations with Germany on media and 61% suggested that these relations should be preferred over Pakistan's relations with Britain or U.S". case summary is shown in table 1 showing percentage, frequencies and cumulative percentages where as it is graphically represented in table 1.

**Table 1**

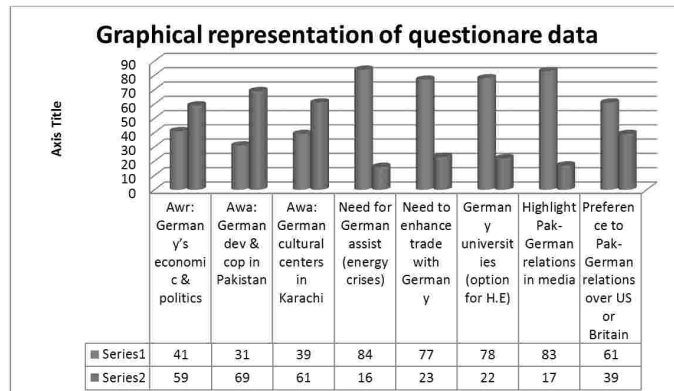
Variables	Frequency		Percent		Cumulative percent	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Awareness: Germany's economic & political position in world	41	59	41	59	41	100
Awareness: German development and cooperation with Pakistan	31	69	31	69	31	100
Awareness: About German cultural centers in Karachi	39	61	39	61	39	100
Need for German assistance In energy sector	84	16	84	16	84	100
Need to enhance trade with Germany	77	23	77	23	77	100
Germany as destination for higher education	78	22	78	22	78	100
Need to highlight Pak-German relations in print and electronic media	83	17	83	17	83	100
Preference to Pak-German relations over our relations with US or Britain	61	39	61	39	61	100

In case of highlighting Pak-German relations on print and electronic media 83% of participants suggested in favor as in last 50 years Germany has extensively funded and invested in development and cooperation programs "without conditions" as compare to United States. This inclination of public opinion in favor of Germany may also be a result of growing anti-US sentiments among masses.

**Table: 2**  
Need to highlight Pak-German relations in media

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	83	83.0	83.0	83.0
No	17	17.0	17.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Talking about US there are several programs on electronic media Portraying American society and Pakistani community living there. In collaboration with Pakistan and German government there is need to start similar cultural and social programs portraying German society and Pakistanis living in Germany as an effort to bridge the gap between two nations.



Given below table 3, is showing overall descriptive statistics on our study on Pakistan's bilateral relations with Germany.

**Table: 3**  
Descriptive statistics survey on Pak-German relations

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
awareness about Germany's position					
EU and world	100	1.00	2.00	1.5900	.49431
awareness about German cooperation					
with Pakistan	100	1.00	2.00	1.6900	.46482
need to further enhance trade	100	1.00	2.00	1.2300	.42295
need for german assistance to resolve energy crises	100	1.00	2.00	1.1600	.36845
awareness about German cultural centers	100	1.00	2.00	1.6100	.49021
Germany as a destination for education	100	1.00	2.00	1.2200	.41633
preference to Pak-German relations over relations with Britain or US	100	1.00	2.00	1.3900	.49021
need to highlight Pak-German relations on print & electronic medis	100	1.00	2.00	1.1700	.37753
Valid N (listwise)	100				

## 5. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that at the end of World War II Germany was in shambles its industrial infrastructures and economy was in tatters but in five decades they have climbed the cliff of development. In this regard mentality of German nation is the main driving force; a constructive change in their mentality enabled it to happen coupled with hard work dedication and sincerity to their country. Another major factor is learning from mistakes of past avoiding and condemning the mistakes of NAZI era like aggression, racism and discrimination against minorities. Contrary to Germans we have adopted the policies and mentality of coercion and confrontation. The situation is further deteriorated by sub-nationalism and ethnicity dividing the nation. It is believed that for many years Pakistan's higher political hierarchy have lacked dedication and sincerity but the masses are fully dedicated and sincere.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The key to success and development lies surely on the path of peaceful coexistence a serious change in basic socio-economic structure is needed. Peace process with neighboring India need to be revitalized. It is not argued that defense budget should be rolled back, but the substantial amount of resources should be equally allocated for economic development, education and healthcare. There is need to organize and create forum where scholars and students from both countries could interact and exchange their expertise for economic, technological and academic growth. Level of awareness among youth on Pak-German relations need to be increased because it is our youth who can present a softer image of Pakistan in front of international community.

According to the survey there is substantially low level of awareness among Pakistani youth on Pak-German relations and Germany's development and cooperation efforts in Pakistan, merely by highlighting these facts we can create a general awareness among youth about importance of Pakistan's cordial relations with Germany. Surely Pakistan can be benefited much more from our relations with Germany if serious efforts be made on governmental level

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