

STOP ENABLING PAKISTAN'S DANGEROUS DYSFUNCTION

Executive Summary

The Paper in a Nutshell

Washington's policy toward Pakistan has had the unintended but undeniable effect of empowering Pakistan's grossly oversized and hyperactive military and intelligence services at the expense of the country's civil society and effective governance. The only sustainable solution to Pakistan's problems is for America to stop enabling the Pakistani security establishment and to focus instead on helping the Pakistani population achieve higher living standards and improved governance.

Vital Statistics

- The Pakistani state, with its outsized role for the security services, has done little to address the domestic injustices, economic failure, and poor governance that are the root of the country's problems.
- Pakistan's army has ruled directly for more than half of Pakistan's existence, and has been the dominant power at most other times.
- The Pakistan army's claim to power depends on India being the omnipresent cohering threat, with its own competence in contesting it being the army's singular virtue.
- According to the Congressional Research Service, since 2001 the United States has provided Pakistan approximately \$20 billion in security assistance and economic support funds.
- The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, also known as Kerry-Lugar-Berman, authorized \$7.5 billion of U.S. development aid over five years.

Recommendations for U.S. Policymakers

Stop pushing Pakistan to fight America's battles: The United States should recognize the futility of demanding that the Pakistan army enter North Waziristan. If Washington stops pressing Islamabad to conduct military operations along the Afghan border, it can also fairly withdraw the pledge of billions of dollars in military assistance to support operations in theater. If Pakistan does not welcome the mission, they do not need the funding for it.

Stop blocking Pakistani imports: Pakistani goods currently suffer from extremely high tariffs, making it difficult for Pakistan to compete with other low-income, textile-producing nations. The United States should lower tariffs on Pakistani textiles and apparel to help attract investment and spur economic growth. Most of the ensuing Pakistani imports into the United States would displace products from China and other Asian suppliers, rather than American producers.

Stop over-indulging India: The United States needs to correct the impression that Pakistani interests and lives mean less than those of Indians. When Indians are killed by terrorists linked to Pakistan, Washington rightly decries the loss of life and demands that Pakistan bring the perpetrators to justice. The United States must be similarly vocal when Pakistanis and Muslims are killed in Kashmir and other parts of India.

Pause and reinvent U.S. aid to Pakistan: American aid to Pakistan is deeply unpopular in Islamabad for its heavy-handed requirements and in Washington for its seeming ineffectiveness. In order to better meet the needs of both sides, the United States should temporarily pause assistance to Pakistan in order to explore alternative models, such as establishing a resource bank, staffed by multi-national experts, to review and fund local development projects.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: *A full-length version of this study is available at: carnegieendowment.org/perkovich. For more information or to speak with one of our scholars, please do not hesitate to contact our government affairs manager, Scott Toussaint, at (202) 939-2307 or stoussaint@ceip.org.*

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