

ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-22

Annual Report 2021-2022

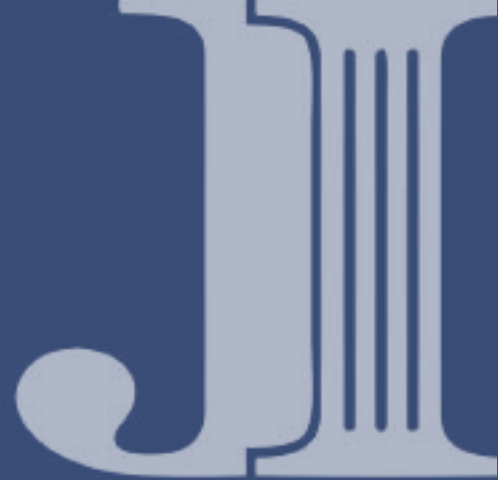
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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2021-22

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About JI

Jinnah Institute is an independent policy research and public advocacy think tank in Pakistan that advances the causes of:

- Democratic institution building and strengthening state capacity for delivery on policy goals;**
- National and human security discourse with an emphasis on regional peace;**
- Entitlement to fundamental rights and freedoms;**
- Accountability of public bodies and government;**
- Building public equity in a plural and inclusive national identity.**

To meet these objectives, Jinnah Institute engages with policy-makers, government, media, civil society, state institutions and academia. The Institute actively seeks to articulate independent national security strategies for Pakistan which incorporate the country's strategic imperatives while providing room for constructive engagement with the international community, as well as policy and opinion makers.

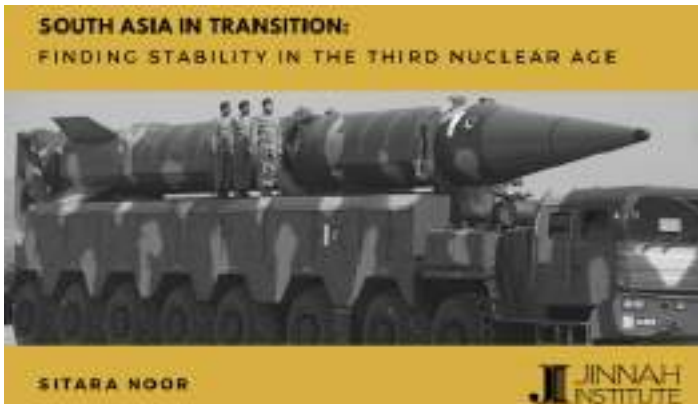
By serving as a bridge between academia and policy-making, and focusing on capacity building for the state and other policy making institutions, the Institute creates an enabling context and public space for ideas and resources to come together through mediums such as policy briefs, reports, lectures, seminars, round-tables and caucuses.

Within this framework, the two overarching program areas under which the Institute undertakes a variety of projects and interventions are:

- a. Open Democracy Initiative**
- b. Strategic Security Initiative**

Under these operational streams, Jinnah Institute seeks to accomplish a series of different but complementary objectives that work towards achieving the Institute's overarching goal of establishing a more democratic, transparent and inclusive environment for policymaking and a more tolerant, open and peaceful Pakistan.

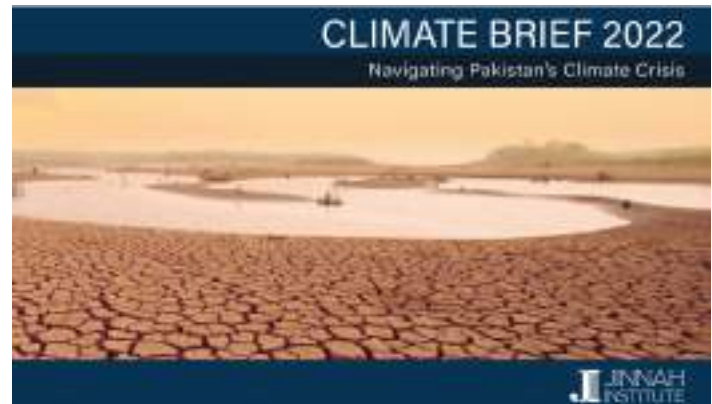
POLICY BRIEFS



South Asia in Transition: Finding Stability in the Third Nuclear Age

By Sitara Noor
June 11, 2021

The Policy brief talks about the commemoration of Pakistan and India testing their atomic bombs and its anniversary. It discusses how COVID-19 has ravaged India's populace and created a spate of socio-economic vulnerabilities in Pakistan, the order of existential priorities has been recast for both nuclear-armed neighbors. The statements issued in 2021 were less declamatory reflecting the non-aggression pact on the Line of Control signed earlier this year, and subsequent discussions on resuming bilateral dialogue. This policy brief aims to assess the growing risks of a Third Nuclear Age in South Asia and its impact on strategic stability fraught with multiple challenges. While undertaking a critical assessment of the efficacy of past and present confidence building measures, the brief will offer some policy recommendations that can help insulate the region from the next phase of acrimony in Indo-Pak relations.



Climate Brief 2022: Navigating Pakistan's Climate Crisis

By Salman Zaidi, Meera Nadeem, Abdullah Wasti & Zahaid Rehman
March 22, 2022

Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to slow onset disasters owing to poor data, administrative incapability and malgovernance. Extreme weather events confirm that our preparedness is grossly inadequate, and the toll for disadvantaged groups will remain high. Recent disaster responses show an urgent need to operationalize adaptation plans that match needs on ground, not just expectations at international climate forums. This policy brief serves as a reminder about Pakistan's longstanding challenges, which are water availability, food insecurity and deteriorating air quality. These domains constitute the bedrock of Pakistan's environmental fragility and human vulnerability. The sections below summarize the major challenges in these areas and submit policy recommendations for decision-makers' attention as well as other policy stakeholders.

OPINION EDITORIALS



Preserving Gains: The Fate of Afghan Women

By Meera Nadeem & Abdulla Wasti

August 14, 2021

As more cities fall to the Taliban, an entire generation of Afghan women who have taken their place in society by working for two decades to help grow civil society and generate opportunities for their future generations are now watching their life's work and struggle being reversed. There is a lot at stake for an entire generation of Afghan women who have carved out their place in society are now watching that space shrink. These women entered public life against all odds and took up roles in various sectors to serve their country, yet now there is a question mark hanging over their journey. Activists who came of age in the two decades following the US' 2001 invasion are left to decide their own fate, with little help from their former allies.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)



Afghanistan: Winter is Coming

By Sherry Rehman

November 3, 2021

South Asia faces a perfect storm with the growing risk of an unstable Afghanistan, coupled with divided views in the international community on who must take responsibility for the strategic rubble of the American exit from the country. Despite the fact that the Taliban regime is unable to bridge the gap between promises of inclusive governance and a reality where girls cannot go to secondary school, the stark truth is that a humanitarian catastrophe will impact exactly those vulnerable citizens that the international community seeks to protect. The broader context is that, within a decimated Afghan economy and diminishing trade lifelines from neighboring countries, 97 percent of Afghan citizens now face the looming risk of acute poverty by 2022.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)



The Indo-Pacific Shift: A Struggle for Power

By Abdullah Wasti

December 10, 2021

The recently held virtual meeting of the Climate Summit between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping might have initiated some meaningful contact between the two states, but it has not broken ground on resolving the lingering US-China trade war disputes. The proceedings also established that both states continue to see the Indo-Pacific region as a contestable ground in the immediate future. Overall, the multilateral balance is in bad shape: the US is increasingly looking inward rather than at global interests. China is not just an economic superpower, but a diplomatic and development behemoth as well. Russia has also established control and power beyond its borders, not least through the provision of arms and controlling global energy supply chains in Europe. The Indo-Pacific is likely to remain a hotbed of tension and arms build-up with no actual conflagration of violence in the short and medium terms. The issue of Taiwan has been identified as the potential matchstick that could turn tensions into something uglier. For now, both sides will have an uneasy impasse and continue defence spending with heedless arms hoarding. The competition for extending power over the Pacific is very much on.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)



Who Will Win the Hindi Heartland?

By Meera Nadeem & Abdullah Wasti

February 11, 2022

India had once claimed the merit of being the largest democracy in the world, where 900 million voters enable the political mandate of its legislatures. This may even have proven true less than a decade ago, except for India's sharp descent into communal hatred after the BJP assumed power in 2014, and validated the daily persecution of religious minorities. Every electoral project since then, however large, has delivered more political disunion and communal factionalism than democratic gains. Anti-Muslim genocide rhetoric has also seen a blatant rise, as evidenced by the recent Hijab-ban controversy and protests in the state of Karnataka. The upcoming state elections in five key states Uttar Pradesh (UP), Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur are being seen as a crucial test for the ruling BJP, especially as they come after the controversial repeal of farm laws that saw hundreds of farmers die in protests. UP, with its 200 million strong population, is the prime state to watch among them as it is known to be the nerve-centre of India's contemporary political fabric, and where the BJP's Hindutva politics has yielded electoral victories in the past. The BJP must defend this turf though, against the Congress and other contenders. In 2017, the BJP secured 312 out of 403 seats in the state; and 62 of its 301 seats in the Lok Sabha come from UP.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)



The Pursuit of Strategic Autonomy

By Abdullah Wasti

December 23, 2021

The recently held democracy summit ended up being another iteration of a world being divided into binaries. While the summit was underpinned by the recurrent American foreign policy trope of choices to be made between good and evil, and democracy and authoritarianism, in essence, it signaled the American need to counter the growing influence of Beijing across the world, and most particularly in the Indo-Pacific. The conditions today increasingly resemble the situation in Central Europe that bore the brunt of the US-Soviet confrontation. The challenge of navigating an independent foreign policy given the evolving dynamics in the region is something that several countries are grappling with and Pakistan is no different. In such an environment, the dilemma for many states is whether it is possible to chart an independent foreign policy and to protect their strategic autonomy. Pakistan is, by its own admission, attempting to do the very same. The obvious question is how can it do so in a manner that does not sabotage its current relationships with key stakeholders, while maximizing its own interests? Without delving into the merits or passing value judgments on the outcomes of those decisions, there are lessons to be learnt from the cases of India and Turkey, both of which have illustrated that agency can be exercised in such a complex environment.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)



A Fragile Stalemate on the LOC

By Sherry Rehman

February 24, 2022

Exactly a year ago, in February 2021, there was a surprise announcement by DGMOs on both sides to uphold the ceasefire across the Line of Control, firmed up in quiet parleys between both sides over several months. The announcement was met with wholesale celebration in segments of the Indian media known to be embedded with the establishment. The reaction on the Pakistani side was more guarded; and subsequent months attested that the quiet bargain did not procure even the possibility of peace between the nuclear armed neighbors. Instead, it settled into a cold, fragile stalemate waiting to break. The Pakistan DGMO's announcement of February 2021 was a recommitment to the original ceasefire accord of 2003, reached four years after the Kargil War. It held in place only for a few years, but remains an important benchmark for stability across one of the world's most weaponised borders. As it stands though, there is little hope of orchestrating an official dialogue around any ceasefire on the LOC, not just because ceasefire agreements are inherently unstable. While peacemaking cohorts can perhaps play a motivational role in creating rational discourse to policy establishments, the space for bilateral normalisation has shrunk after the Modi government's unilateral revocation of Kashmir's special status and ongoing attempts to change the Muslim demography of Indian-occupied Kashmir.

[Read the full Op-Ed here](#)

FLASHPOINT



High Stakes in Afghanistan: Pakistan's fears amid violence across the Durand Line

August 9, 2021

Is Pakistan prepared to deal with another wave of militancy and terror? We ask security experts whether the TTP threat is a real one, as fighting intensifies across the border with no sign of a peace settlement soon. Amb. Aziz Ahmad Khan warns that the TTP may seek to establish a Talibanesque government in Pakistan and calls for an end to coercive measures. Amb. Asif Durrani highlights the close relationship between the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, urging the state to stand firm against threats to the country's security. Gen. Talat Masood notes the TTP's resurgence despite setbacks from Operation Zarb-e-Azb, and stresses the need for better governance to counter the growing threat. Arifa Noor points to the steady increase in attacks, questioning whether the Afghan Taliban and TTP are too closely aligned, while Huma Yusuf stresses that the TTP's rise is fueled by poverty, underdevelopment, and alienation, advocating for counter-extremist narratives and inclusive politics over a purely militarized approach.

[Read the full Flashpoint here](#)



The Fall of Kabul: Why did the ANDSF go into meltdown?

August 17, 2021

In the aftermath of Kabul's sudden fall, Jinnah Institute reached out to senior diplomats, analysts, and journalists to understand what led to the collapse of the ANDSF. Amb. Maleeha Lodhi argued that the army's meltdown was inevitable due to low morale, desertions, and the realization that fighting would be futile after the US withdrawal. Amb. Zamir Akram pointed out US mistakes, including misjudging the Taliban's local support and overestimating the ANDSF's capabilities, while indiscriminate aerial attacks contributed to resentment. Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry noted that despite significant US investment, the Afghan army lacked motivation, with President Ghani failing to inspire the troops and focusing on narrow goals against Pakistan. Zahid Hussain emphasized that the Afghan army, poorly trained and mistrustful of its leadership, was not prepared for the challenges, with much of the budget misappropriated.

[Read the full Flashpoint here](#)



What happens to the Hurriyat after Syed Ali Geelani?

September 21, 2021

Following Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death, Jinnah Institute consulted senior experts on the future of the Hurriyat and the Kashmiri resistance. Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted Geelani's role as a symbol of unity and self-determination, warning both India and Pakistan against ignoring Kashmiri aspirations. Sardar Attique Khan emphasized that Hurriyat remains relevant, with regional shifts like Afghanistan potentially reshaping its role. Nasim Zehra noted Geelani's principled stand against India's actions, while warning that APHC now faces severe repression. Ershad Mehmood described Geelani as "Baba-e-Azadi" and acknowledged challenges for Hurriyat's future, including leader arrests and lack of international support. Wajahat Habibullah viewed Geelani as representing a religious, not nationalist, vision, and faulted Delhi's mismanagement. Peerzada Ashiq observed that while India sees Geelani as obstructionist, Pakistan celebrated him as a freedom icon. Despite efforts to marginalize Hurriyat, Kashmiri sentiment for self-determination endures and may re-emerge if regional diplomacy resumes.

[Read the full Flashpoint here](#)



India's 'Accidental' Missile Launch

March 25, 2022

Following India's accidental missile launch into Pakistani territory, Jinnah Institute gathered expert views on the regional and strategic fallout. Senator Sherry Rehman condemned India's growing military recklessness, warning it could provoke armed conflict. She highlighted India's poor nuclear safety track record and the international silence that followed. Dr. Rabia Akhtar questioned Indian intent, suggesting the incident may have been a probe of Pakistan's air defenses, and called for a bilateral missile incident notification framework. Dr. Fahd Humayun emphasized the danger posed by India's opaque missile protocols, calling for an international investigation and stronger crisis communication mechanisms. Sitara Noor noted India's failure to initiate a self-destruct or inform Pakistan, exposing systemic weaknesses. She urged accountability under international norms like the Hague Code of Conduct and called for a revival of the 2004 Hotline agreement to prevent miscalculations. All experts agreed: Pakistan's restraint avoided escalation, but the region's nuclear stability now demands greater transparency, oversight, and preparedness.

[Read the full Flashpoint here](#)

POLICY ROUNDTABLES



Prospects for Diplomatic Engagement Between India and Pakistan

Date: August 27, 2021

On August 27, 2021 Jinnah Institute convened a roundtable with policy experts on Prospects for Diplomatic Engagement between India & Pakistan and asked them how they saw the bilateral relationship and its delimitation for South Asia's progress.

Senior policy experts discussed India's month-long presidency of the UNSC in August, in which Pakistan had been barred from speaking on key topics. Furthermore, the UN had referred to Kashmir as a disputed region, but not an occupation because that could imply binding legal ramifications. Recommendations by the participants included Pakistani decision makers to open up the India debate internally and build domestic consensus on the path ahead. Participants stated that the door for bilateral outreach was open as indicated numerous times by the PTI government, but in pursuing this, Pakistan would have to proceed with clarity on its own foreign policy interests. There was unanimous agreement on there being no compromise on Pakistan's principal stance on the Kashmir issue.



Taliban 2.0: What to Expect from the Islamic Emirate

Date: September 3, 2021

Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to slow onset disasters owing to poor data, administrative incapability and malgovernance. Extreme weather events confirm that our preparedness is grossly inadequate, and the toll for disadvantaged groups will remain high. Recent disaster responses show an urgent need to operationalize adaptation plans that match needs on ground, not just expectations at international climate forums. This policy brief serves as a reminder about Pakistan's longstanding challenges, which are water availability, food insecurity and deteriorating air quality. These domains constitute the bedrock of Pakistan's environmental fragility and human vulnerability. The sections below summarize the major challenges in these areas and submit policy recommendations for decision-makers' attention as well as other policy stakeholders. The information presented here may follow known trendlines, but the urgency to act is much greater than before.

DIALOGUES

India-Pakistan: A look at the current context

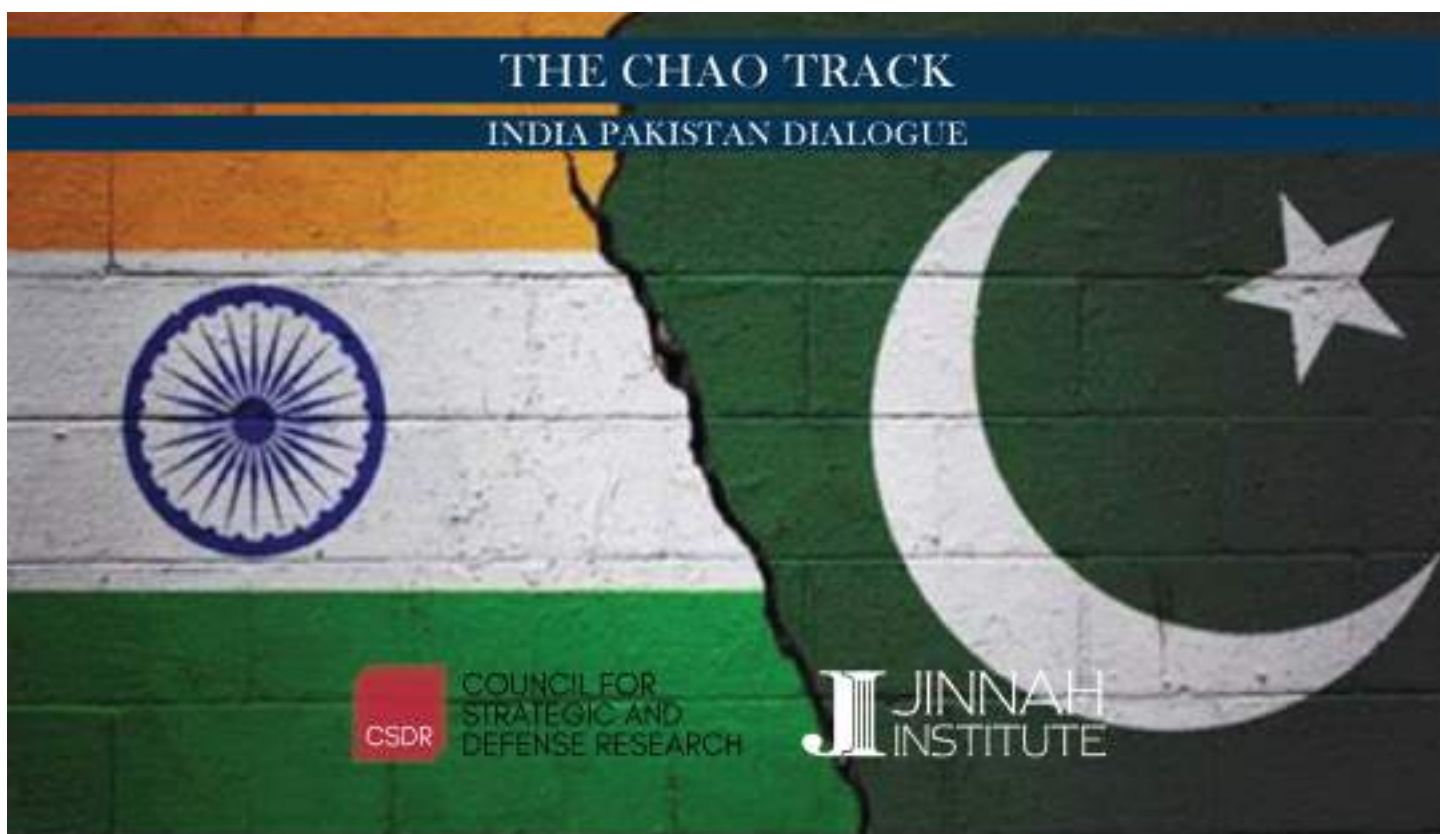
Date: May 19, 2022

As a preamble to the 25th round of The Chao Track II dialogue, Jinnah Institute convened a pre-conference session for the Pakistani delegation to unpack the volatile and crucial nature of changes materializing globally, and their likely impact on India and Pakistan's domestic and foreign policies, along with their bilateral engagement. With ever changing dynamics in both the global and regional landscape, there are interesting points of convergence being observed in the Indo-Pak context, even if they cannot be attributed to any effort at conscious alignment.

The Chao Track II

Date: May 23, 2022

Senior interlocutors from India and Pakistan met for the Chao Track dialogue, in Bangkok from 22nd – 23rd of May, 2022. The Chao Track is the longest consistently running Track 2 engagement between India and Pakistan, and aims to address emerging challenges for stability and security in South Asia. The core themes for this round included the unfolding Ukraine crisis, humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, domestic political developments and their impact on bilateral foreign policy, ongoing ceasefire along the Line of Control, and the evolving political situation in Kashmir.



POLICY EVENTS



Womansplaining Book Launch

Date: January 17, 2022

Politics is about remaining an interlocutor for voiceless people, holding their hand and representing their story. The ‘silent pandemic’ that rages simultaneously with COVID is about violence against women, whose stories do not reach those who can take action, stated Senator Sherry Rehman at the book launch for *Womansplaining: Navigating Activism, Politics and Modernity in Pakistan*. The book is a compilation of essays by leading women activists, academics, media persons and policy experts and has been edited by Senator Sherry Rehman. Contributors include Hina Jilani, Khawar Mumtaz, Afia Shehribano Zia, Bina Shah, and Nighat Dad, Farida Shaheed, Ayesha Khan,

Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Rafia Zakaria, Ayesha Razzaque, Fifi Haroon, Sherry Rehman, Sharmeen Obaid, Sara Malkani, Maliha Zia, Sarah Belal, Zeenia Shaukat, Ammara Durrani, Zofeen T. Ebraheem, and Rimmel Mohyidin, each offering unique insights into areas like legal reforms, media representation, digital activism, and the arts. This anthology of essays attempts to do two things. It seeks first to provide testament and context to women’s activism through the lived experience and voices of pioneers who not just headlined the rights struggle in Pakistan, but also gave it intellectual meaning and moral quest. In this endeavour, this book looks to capture

a repository of important voices in order to create a slice of memory. The second idea motivating this collection is to probe the connection between the fairly coherent movement of the 1980s to the post-millennial activism that is challenging norms and pushing the boundaries of patriarchy today. Without forcing a grand narrative on the essays, a selection of younger writers uses this space to grapple with persistent barriers reified by the state, while speaking to new problems that tag on to new opportunities. These young women seek to add their voices to the changing face of women's activism in contemporary Pakistan, while building a new vocabulary to address emerging challenges. The anthology has received acclaim from various prominent personalities. Hillary Rodham Clinton describes it as "poignant, profound and powerful," while Malala Yousafzai praises it for highlighting "the potential of Pakistani women" and expressing awe at the "sheer range of innovative thought and... commitment to activism demonstrated by this anthology."

Speaking at the event, prominent human rights lawyer Hina Jilani stated that women's rights must not be seen in isolation; they come at the heart of a struggle for democracy, rule of law, dignity and equality for all people. She stated that citizens themselves hold the power to confront and demand entitlements from states that compromise fundamental rights at the altar of national security. The state has made such choices in the past, and may do so again. The space for civil society movements, and even rational debate, has been constrained in this pursuit. TV anchor and

journalist Asma Shirazi stated that misogynistic language is used to marginalize and disempower women. The usage is subtle and puts women in a subservient frame where they are victims and need to be patronized. Their narrative is never bold as that unsettles patriarchal delimitations within language.



Whereas throughout history, women have made the loudest call for human rights and justice. This book allows women to develop their narrative themselves. Former Senate Chairman, Reza Rabbani commended the authors for their valuable contributions in the book, and stated that Pakistan's policies had not always favoured marginalized groups, especially when it came to national security policies. The announcement of the latest National Security Policy also reflected a state posture that was not inclusive towards all citizens. The pursuit of peace and democratic governance required that women's voices were heeded. Author and poet Harris Khalique stated while moderating the event that the book is seeks to provide testament and context to women's activism through the lived experience and voices of pioneers who not just headlined the rights struggle in Pakistan, but also gave it intellectual meaning and moral quest. In this endeavor, this book looks to capture a repository of important voices in order to create a slice of memory. The second idea motivating this collection is to probe the connection between the fairly coherent movement of the 1980s to the post-millennial activism that is challenging norms and pushing the boundaries of patriarchy today.



WOMANSPLAINING

NAVIGATING ACTIVISM, POLITICS AND MODERNITY IN PAKISTAN

"This book is a must-read. It shines a light on the potential of Pakistani women. I am awed and inspired by the sheer range of innovative thought and by the commitment to activism demonstrated by this anthology."

Malala Yousafzai



REPORTS



Pakistan's Macro economy and the Covid-19 Pandemic

By: Dr. Asad Sayeed and Dr. Aqdas Afzal

June 9, 2021

Nothing has had a more deleterious impact on the global economy in about a century since the Great Depression than COVID-19. Pakistan has by and large evaded the pandemic's worst fallout as the disease has had a varying intensity as elsewhere in the region, and our partial lockdowns allowed both industry and transport to remain functional through this period. COVID's third wave is reportedly on the decline across Pakistan, but the shocks felt through the economy over 2019-20 continue to reverberate into the current financial year. After close to 70 years, a negative GDP growth rate was recorded in 2019-20, FBR revenues were nominally below GDP growth and the budget deficit was at a historic high. The pandemic also exacerbated the rising levels of poverty and inequality across the country. As 2020 progressed, some indicators of Pakistan's macroeconomy improved. The current account deficit turned into a surplus for the first six months of the year – largely on the back of

increasing remittances and low oil prices – and revenue growth also improved. Still, all prognoses of Pakistan's economy going into the future are far below countries that have had a much more severe impact from COVID-19 than Pakistan, and experienced longer and stricter lockdowns. According to the latest estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan will keep facing anemic economic growth numbers in the range of 1.5% as opposed to 6% for China, 11.5% for India, 6.7% for Malaysia, and 4.4% for Bangladesh. This chapter will contextualize the weak structural foundations of Pakistan's economy, necessary to mark out a prognosis for recovery in a post-COVID future. Subsequently, we critically appraise the policy instruments used by the government in the midst of the pandemic on the benchmark of their impact on growth, stabilization and on alleviating the stress that the poor and vulnerable have been subjected to.

POST COVID FUTURES



PAST THE TIPPING POINT:
WHY PAKISTAN'S LOW
EMITTER ARGUMENT
WON'T WORK

AHMAD RAFAY ALAM



Past the Tipping Point: Why Pakistan's Low Emitter Argument Won't Work

By: Ahmad Rafay Alam

August 4, 2021

July's flash flood in Islamabad was triggered by a "cloudburst" that swept cars away in high tide across an affluent neighbourhood, and killed two persons. For a city that prides itself for keener urban design, planning and resources to expend, the monsoon levelled the national capital with lesser cities in Pakistan, and served a reminder that climate induced stress will be universal after all. It also confirmed that climate vigilance needs to be a constant exercise to prevent disaster and inform adaptive practice.

July 2021 was a month of extreme weather events across the globe: catastrophic flooding in Europe, China and India; heatwaves and drought in North America; and wildfires in the remote subarctic. Climate data had predicted These scenarios with increased global warming, but the speed and scale at which the summer of 2021 is erupting into continental disasters

has taken aback experts working with the data. These are clearly compound events, with interconnections between them and surpass systemic capacities to cope in almost all cases. Decision makers in Pakistan and elsewhere are reverting their attention from COVID emergencies to the climate crisis, and for good reason. With COP-26 scheduled in a few months from now, evaluating the climatic events of this year in relation to policy progress is essential to gauge where we stand. Pakistan's climate policy roadblocks have not gone away, although there have been commendable initiatives that make qualitative improvements to the environment. This policy brief assesses these initiatives in relation to Pakistan's overall position at UNFCCC, and makes a case for recasting our domestic climate priorities in consonance with federal and provincial implementation mandates.



Womansplaining Writer Conversations: Charting History Through Lived Experiences
 Date: August 13, 2021



Caught in the Crossfire: The Dilemma of Fisherfolk Prisoners
 Date: September 23, 2021



Minority Report: Highlighting the Legal, Administrative, & Cultural Barriers
 Date: January 28, 2022



Addressing the Growing Trend of Mob Violence among Pakistani Youth
 Date: March 17, 2022

TEAM

Salman Zaidi

Director Programs

Salman Zaidi works as Director Programs at Jinnah Institute. He was part of the Institute's founding team in 2010 and leads on multiple thematic areas, particularly Track 2 diplomacy projects, democratic governance, and climate change. Zaidi also consults with international development agencies on improving federal and provincial policy frameworks for security, technology, economic growth, and climate change. He is currently a member of the PM's Advisory Council on Climate Change and has previously been a member of the National Security Advisory Group on Gender. He has authored and edited multiple publications, and holds an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from SOAS, UK.

Mustehsan Rasool Kazmi

Manager Finance

Syed Mustehsan is Director Finance at Jinnah Institute. With 13 years of experience in the field of Accounting and Finance, he is responsible for managing treasury functions of the Jinnah Institute. He holds an Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) from the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST).

Willson William

Executive Assistant

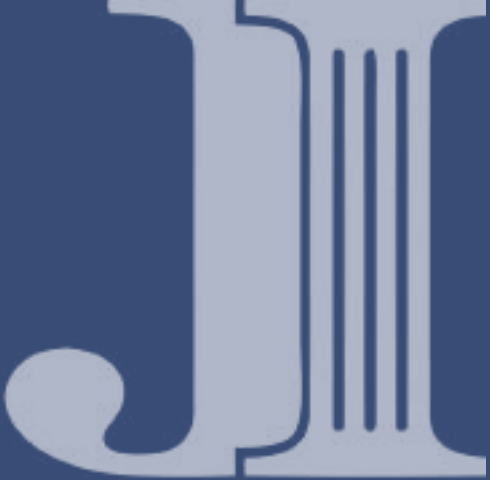
Willson William is Executive Assistant at the Jinnah Institute. William provides support in maintaining accounts and provides administrative support to the Institute while managing logistics and procurement.

Meera Nadeem

Senior Program Manager

Meera is Project Manager, Strategic Security Initiative (SSI) at Jinnah Institute where she is responsible for research and logistics for the SSI Project activities including its umbrella projects, and manages the Chaophraya Dialogue - the longest consistently running Indo-Pak Track II initiative and its operations. Additionally, she assists in ensuring the timely delivery of other SSI outputs, including managing media monitoring briefs. She is a McGill graduate with a double major in Anthropology and International Development with a focus on Economic Development. In the past, she has worked in the Oil and Gas sector and has professional work experience in technical writing and communications that spans over 2 years.

Meera is also the co-founder of the Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab, a dedicated volunteer run chapter of Code for Pakistan that is a part design lab, part community caucus, and part accelerator of civic startups with a focus on designing real solutions with-and-for communities in-and-around Islamabad by bridging the gap between



technology and government interfaces for the public. She has an avid interest in the arts and enjoys creating some in her spare time.

Abdulla Wasti

Assistant Program Manager

Abdulla Wasti is an Assistant Program Manager, Strategic Security Initiative (SSI) and Open Democracy Initiative (ODI) at Jinnah Institute where he is responsible for assisting with the strategic planning and execution for the SSI Project activities including its umbrella projects, and is part of the organizing team for the Chaophraya Dialogue – the longest consistently running Indo-Pak Track II initiative and its operations; and the ODI Project and its subsidiaries including assisting in business development.

He is a George Washington University graduate with a major in Transnational Security and Middle East History. In the past, he has worked in the policy and development sector both in Pakistan and Washington, DC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sherry Rehman

Senator Sherry Rehman is Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Senate, as well as the party's Vice-President. She is the Founding Chair and serving President of the Jinnah Institute, Chair of the Climate Change Caucus in Parliament, Chair of the CPEC Committee in Senate and Chair of PPP's Committee on Foreign Affairs. Rehman has served as the Leader of Opposition in Senate, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting.



Aziz Ahmad Khan

Ambassador (rtd) Aziz Ahmad Khan is a career diplomat who is consultant at the National Defence University in Islamabad. He has served as Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Delhi from June 2003-2006, and was Additional Foreign Secretary (June 2000 to June 2002). He is also Executive Advisor to the international relations quarterly, "The Criterion".



Iqbal Ali Lakhani

Iqbal Lakhani is Chairman, Aga Khan Economic Planning Board for Pakistan. He is the Vice President American Business Council of Pakistan, and ranking member of the Pakistan Business Council. Lakhani is also chairman of the Lakson Group of Companies, one of the largest publicly listed manufacturing conglomerates in Pakistan, with high governance benchmarks. Iqbal Lakhani is a phi beta kappa from UCLA Berkeley.



Salim Raza

Mr. Raza was Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, from January 2009 until June 2010. Prior to that appointment, between 2006 and 2009, he had been CEO of the Pakistan Business Council. Syed Salim Raza is an international banker with a Masters from Oxford University and a distinguished career spanning many countries. He was CEO of Citibank in Pakistan in the mid-1980s. Most recently Raza has been involved with governance metrics, regulatory frameworks and policy development in Pakistan.



Jameel Yousaf

Jameel Yusuf is Founding Chief, Citizens Police Liaison Committee, Central Reporting Cell. He has been Member of the Law & Order Commission of Pakistan, Federal Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control, and is currently Member, Implementation Watch Committee of the National Commission on the Status of Women, Government of Pakistan. Jameel Yusuf is Chairman of a Multinational Group, TPL Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd.



Nadeem Hussain

Nadeem Hussain is CEO and President of Tameer Bank, Pakistan's first private sector microfinance bank and world leader in branchless banking. Hussain has been on the Board of Governors of Institute of Business Administration, and is currently Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Microfinance Network, Trustee of Indus Foundation, and Member of the Renewable Energy Task Force for the Government of Pakistan.

BOARD OF ADVISORS



Ayesha Jalal

Ayesha Jalal is a leading historian on South Asia, currently a MacArthur Fellow and professor at Tufts University. Her research focuses on modern Muslim identities in South Asia and the creation of the Pakistan state. Dr. Jalal has been an Associate Professor at Columbia University and a Visiting Associate Professor at Harvard University. She has authored several books, including *The Sole Spokesman: Jinnah, the Muslim League and the Demand for Pakistan* and *Partisans of Allah: Jihad in South Asia*. Jalal is a member of the Editorial Board for *Third World Quarterly*.



Ambassador Najmuddin Shaikh

Ambassador Najmuddin Shaikh served as Pakistan's Foreign Secretary from April 1994 to February 1997. Having joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1961, Ambassador Shaikh has 38 years of service to his credit and has held several ambassadorial assignments including Ambassador to Canada (1987-89), Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany (1989-90), Ambassador to the United States (1990-91), and Ambassador to Iran (1992-94). He obtained degrees of B.Com from Sindh University and an M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is a political and security commentator, and is regularly published in international relations journals, and featured in local and foreign media.



Shahnaz Wazir Ali

Shahnaz Wazir Ali has an illustrious career as an educationist, development policy specialist, and women's rights activist. She has served as a member of the Pakistan Peoples Party and was twice elected to the National Assembly of Pakistan. Wazir Ali held positions such as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Sectors and Minister of State for Education. She has worked as a Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank and has been a Trustee of the Education Trust running Nasra Schools in Karachi. She is currently the Provincial Coordinator for the Government of Sindh on primary health care programs and President of the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Sciences and Technology.



Nasim Zehra

Nasim Zehra is a prominent expert on foreign affairs and national security, contributing to major publications such as The News, Gulf News, and Arab News. She has lectured at prestigious institutions like the National Defence College and Johns Hopkins, and served on Pakistan's Presidential Advisory Committee on Foreign Policy and National Security.



Khawar Mumtaz

Khawar Mumtaz is the current Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), bringing almost 30 years of experience in human rights advocacy and women's empowerment. A founding member of the Women Action Forum (WAF), she has played a key role in shaping the discourse on democracy and women's rights in Pakistan. Mumtaz has served as CEO of Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre and has been involved with organizations like ARROW, UNEP International Resource Panel, and PANOS South Asia. She has authored several books, including Women's Rights and the Punjab Peasant Movement and Beyond Risk Management. In 2006, she was awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz for her social service and promotion of women's rights.



Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain

Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain is Professor and the Chair of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. Prior to this, he has served as the Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National University in Islamabad, and the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Professor Hussain has also taught at the Political Science Department, Stanford University, California, USA. He serves as a member of the editorial boards of many diverse publications, such as the South Asia Journal and the National Defense University Journal and Regional Studies Quarterly. Professor Hussain is the author of numerous books and publications. He received his M.A. and PhD in International Studies from the University of Denver, Colorado, USA.



Shahid Hafiz Kardar

Shahid Hafiz Kardar is an economist and the 16th Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. He has previously served as Minister for Finance, Planning & Development, Excise and Taxation, and Industries & Minerals Development in the Government of Punjab. Kardar has held various leadership positions, including Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation and Member of the National Commission for Government Reform. He has also advised international organizations such as the World Bank and ADB on economic matters. Kardar has authored three books and numerous papers on Pakistan's economic issues.



General Talat Masood

General Talat Masood served in the Pakistani Army for 39 years, retiring in 1990 as Secretary for Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence. Prior to this, Lt. Gen. Masood was chairman and chief executive of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories Board. A graduate of the Pakistan Command and Staff College and the National Defence College of the Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Masood has a B.Sc in mechanical engineering and a Masters in Defence and Strategic Studies. He has authored several articles and book chapters and is a frequent participant and speaker in international conferences. General Masood is the chief coordinator for Pugwash and its council member.

Dr. Akmal Hussain



Dr. Akmal Hussain is an economist and specializes in development and institution-building for overcoming poverty. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Working Group on Poverty Reduction Strategy and Human Resource Development for the 10th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan and a Professor of Economics at the Beaconhouse National University in Lahore. Dr. Hussain has worked as the honorary CEO of the Punjab Rural Support Program (PRSP). He has also helped to establish the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development, Pakistan) as the founding member of the Board of Directors of both institutions. He has authored three books on economic policy and co-authored/contributed chapters to 27 other books, 29 publications in journals and contributed over 100 newspaper articles on economic and social issues.

Dr. Ishrat Hussain



Ishrat Hussain is a renowned economist and former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. A recipient of Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Hussain has served as Chairman, National Commission for Government Reforms reporting directly to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has also held the office of Dean and Director, Institute of Business Administration Karachi. He is currently a member of Middle East Advisory Group of the IMF and the Regional Advisory Group of the UNDP, the Executive Board of Association of Management Development institutions of South Asia (AMDISA) and the Chairman World Economic Forum Global Advisory Council on Pakistan. He has authored 18 books and monographs and contributed more than three dozen articles in refereed journals and 27 chapters in books.

Ali Dayan Hasan



Ali Dayan Hasan is the Executive Director of Huqooq-e-Pakistan, the European Union's flagship Human Rights Capacity Building and Training Program for the country. He previously served as Human Rights Watch's South Asia researcher since 2003 and has specialized expertise in Pakistan. Hasan is responsible for researching, authenticating and writing reports, briefing papers and news releases produced by Human Rights Watch on Pakistan. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Hasan was a senior editor at Pakistan's premier independent, political news monthly magazine, Herald. During 2006 and 2007, Hasan was also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Leverhulme Changing Character of War Programme at the University of Oxford. He has a B.A. from the London School of Economics and a master's degree from St. Antony's College, Oxford.

Shuja Nawaz



Shuja Nawaz is a political and strategic analyst. He has worked on projects with RAND, the United States Institute of Peace, The Center for Strategic and International Studies, The Atlantic Council, and other leading think tanks on projects dealing with Pakistan and the Middle East. Educated at Gordon College, Rawalpindi, where he obtained a BA in Economics and English Literature and the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University in New York. He was a newscaster and producer for Pakistan Television and covered the 1971 war with India on the Western Front. He has worked for the World Health Organization and the New York Times and has headed three separate divisions at the International Monetary Fund. He was also a Director at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi



Dr. S Akbar Zaidi is an independent economist based in Karachi, with specialisation in political economy. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Columbia University. His research has focused on development and governance issues concerning South Asia. He has written more than sixty academic articles and book chapters, and has authored or edited over a dozen books, including, Pakistan's Economic and Social Development: The Domestic, Regional and Global Context (2004), Issues in Pakistan's Economy (2005), and most recently, Military, Civil Society and Democratization in Pakistan, (2011).

Ahsan Iqbal



Ahsan Iqbal is the current information secretary of PML-N, the former Federal Minister for Education and an elected member of the National Assembly. He has been previously appointed as Chief Coordinator / Minister of State, Pakistan 2010 Program (1997–99), Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (Pakistan) (1998–99); Chairman, Good Governance Group, Government of Pakistan (1997–99); Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Board, and Chairman, National Steering Committees on Information Technology and IQM and Productivity (1998–99). He earlier served as Policy and Public Affairs Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.



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