



## **Pak-Iran relations: Post-9/11**

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### **Abstract**

*The post 9/11 scenario provided ample opportunity to both Pakistan and Iran to forget the past annoyances and improve their bilateral relationship. The Taliban regime, the major irritant between the two countries has been removed. The government of Pakistan also took some concrete steps to eliminate sectarianism from the country that also lessened the tension between the two countries. These developments paved the way for a close relationship and efforts were made to revive their earlier closeness. However, a little improvement has been done and they could not exploit the situation according to the potential. Mutual suspicions still persist that sometimes surfaced. The aim of this paper is to study the various factors that still hamper this bilateral relationship from realizing its full potential. Pak-Iran relations are affecting by regional crisis. The growing ties between Iran and India and North-South Corridor are causing concerns in Islamabad. The huge military presence of the US in the neighborhood of Iran, and Pakistan close collaboration with U.S. in war on terror as well as Jundullah, the anti-Iranian militant group is a source of concern for Iran. The paper concludes that lack of mutual trust, prevailing over the years has to be restored on priority and should enhance interactions at all level. It is time for both Iran and Pakistan to adopt regional approach to resolve the local issues.*

*Key words: Pak-Iran Relations, Afghanistan, India, U.S., Jundullah*

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