



Margalla Papers

Volume: 27, Number: 1 (2023)

Journal Homepage: <https://margallapapers.ndu.edu.pk/site>

e-ISSN: 2789-7028

ISSN-L: 1999-2297

RESEARCH PAPER

Pakistan's Security Relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis

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KEYWORDS: Pakistan-Africa Relations, Geopolitics, Regional Cooperation, Economic Partnership, Cultural Exchanges.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54690/margallapapers.27.1.156>

BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY

Khan, Tariq. 2023. "Pakistan's Security Relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis." *Margalla Papers* 27 (1): 123-137.

ARTICLE HISTORY

- **Received:** March 30, 2023
- **Peer Reviewed:** April 29, 2023
- **Revised:** May 18, 2023
- **Accepted:** June 15, 2023

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COMPETING INTERESTS: The author(s) have declared that no competing interest exists.

DATA AVAILABILITY: All relevant data are within the paper and its supporting information files.

PAKISTAN'S SECURITY RELATIONS WITH KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA AND NIGERIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This study examines Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, specifically focusing on the influence of geopolitical, economic and cultural factors. Three main research questions guide the research: a) what are the similarities and differences in Pakistan's security relations with these three countries? b) How do geopolitical factors shape Pakistan's security relations with each country? c) What roles do cultural and economic ties play in shaping these security relationships? The study identifies and compares similarities and differences in security relations among these countries, highlighting the unique historical, geopolitical, and cultural factors through a multidimensional approach, drawing insights from Realism, Constructivism and Neoliberal Institutionalism. The findings underscore the significance of considering power dynamics and cultural influences in understanding security relations. Furthermore, the study sheds light on the potential of international institutions in promoting cooperation and building trust between Pakistan and its African counterparts.

Keywords: Pakistan-Africa Relations, Geopolitics, Regional Cooperation, Economic Partnership, Cultural Exchanges.

Introduction

Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria have been the subject of increasing attention in recent years as these countries seek to strengthen their ties in the face of common security challenges. A multifaceted interplay of historical, geopolitical and sociocultural factors has influenced Pakistan's security relations with these three African countries. The relationships hold strategic importance for Pakistan as it seeks to advance regional stability, expand its influence, and address shared security challenges.

Kenya, located in East Africa, has witnessed a rise in terrorism threats, particularly from groups like Al-Shabaab. Pakistan's security cooperation with Kenya has focused on counterterrorism efforts, intelligence sharing, and capacity building to enhance Kenya's security capabilities. In addition, Kenya's role as a regional economic hub and its involvement in peacekeeping operations make it a significant partner for Pakistan in Africa. South Africa, the most developed economy in Africa, holds regional

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and global influence. Pakistan's security relations with South Africa have encompassed a range of areas, such as defence cooperation, arms trade, and joint military exercises. They have also collaborated on peacekeeping missions and non-proliferation efforts. South Africa's historical ties with Pakistan and its geopolitical implication contribute to the complex nature of their security relations. Nigeria has a large population and rich natural resources and plays a crucial role in shaping security dynamics in West Africa. Pakistan's security cooperation with Nigeria has mainly focused on counterinsurgency operations, intelligence sharing, and maritime security. Both countries countenance similar challenges in combating terrorism and have sought to augment collaboration in addressing these threats. Nigeria's status as an emerging regional power and its economic potential enhance the importance of security ties between the two nations.

Understanding the historical context, economic factors, geopolitical dynamics, and cultural shades are indispensable for comprehending the nature and trajectory of Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. Analysing these relationships through a comparative lens can provide precious insights into the commonalities, differences and potential areas for further collaboration among these diverse African nations.

The available literature on Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria reveals a considerable gap in understanding the intricate interplay of geopolitical, cultural and economic factors that shape these security relationships. Realism provides insights into the influence of power dynamics and self-interest on state behaviour; there is a need to explore further how these factors particularly impact Pakistan's security relations with these African countries.¹ Constructivism offers a vital lens to examine the role of social and cultural factors, which have often been overlooked in previous analyses. Understanding the influence of cultural and economic ties between Pakistan and these African nations can shed light on the potential for strengthening and improving security collaboration.² As Neoliberal Institutionalism highlights, the role of international institutions and norms warrants examination in the framework of regional or international efforts to promote cooperation and reduce conflicts. By addressing these theoretical and practical gaps, this study offers a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics underlying Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, thereby contributing to the broader literature on international security and regional cooperation.³ The study uses case study analysis and qualitative comparative analysis methodology through various sources, including academic literature, official reports, news articles, and interviews with experts and policymakers, to compare and analyse the security relations between Pakistan, Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria.

The scope of the research involves examining the historical background and evolution of Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. The study compares and analyses the similarities and differences in the security relations between these countries, including areas of cooperation and potential areas of conflict.

It analyses geopolitical factors that have influenced Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. It includes examining the impact of regional and global factors such as terrorism, political instability, economic cooperation, and cultural ties on the security relations between these countries. The study examines the role of cultural and economic ties in shaping Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria. It also includes analysing the potential opportunities and challenges for further strengthening these relationships and how they can enhance bilateral cooperation in security-related areas.

Geopolitical Factors and Security Relations

Geopolitical factors considerably influence the formation and dynamics of security relations between nations. When examining Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, it becomes apparent that various geopolitical factors have played a crucial role in shaping these relationships. These factors have influenced the nature of cooperation, strategic alignments, and potential challenges among these countries.⁴

Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria are driven by Realism, where power, self-interest and strategic calculations guide states' foreign policy decisions.⁵ Pakistan has historically sought alliances with other countries to counterbalance its regional rival, India.⁶ As a result, Pakistan aims to expand its influence in Africa to offset India's growing regional presence and promote its strategic interests. Economic and strategic interests guide Pakistan's security relations with these African countries. Pakistan seeks to expand its trade and investment ties with South Africa, the most economically developed country on the continent.⁷ In Nigeria, Pakistan aims to gain access to Nigeria's resources and promote its strategic interests in the region.⁸ In Kenya, Pakistan cooperates in counterterrorism efforts and seeks closer economic ties.

Pakistan Navy is promoting security relations with these African countries through joint naval exercises, port visits and the exchange of naval delegations. Such initiatives can enhance maritime security, counter piracy and terrorism, and promote trade and economic ties through safe and secure sea lanes.⁹ Joint naval exercises and training programmes can also improve interoperability and encourage greater understanding and trust between the navies of different countries.¹⁰ Pakistan has military cooperation with South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria to varying degrees, which includes exchanges of high-level military delegations, training programmes for military personnel and joint military exercises. Other forms of cooperation, such as intelligence sharing and collaborative counterterrorism efforts, are also necessary. Pakistan's security relations with South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria are primarily driven by its strategic interests in the international system. Enhanced naval cooperation can contribute to greater regional stability and security, benefiting all countries.¹¹

Distribution of Power and Regional Dynamics

In Pakistan's relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, power distribution and regional dynamics significantly impact their interactions. As a nuclear-armed state, Pakistan may seek to establish relationships with other regional powers to enhance its position and influence.¹²

Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria hold considerable regional power in Africa, and the degree of their influence can impact their respective relationships with Pakistan. Pakistan may seek to establish relationships with these countries to gain access to their markets and resources, enhance its strategic position in the region, and counterbalance other regional powers such as India. However, the region's competition for influence and resources may lead to tensions and conflicts. Regional dynamics such as conflicts and alliances can also affect Pakistan's relations with these countries.¹³ For example, Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria play a role in peacekeeping and conflict resolution in various African countries. Pakistan has also been involved in peacekeeping efforts in Africa, and its relationships with these countries may be influenced by their respective positions in regional conflicts.¹⁴

India views Pakistan's cooperation with China screening something as a potential danger to its security concerns.¹⁵ India sees China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan's participation in it, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a strategic move to gain influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region.¹⁶ In contrast, China sees cooperating with Pakistan as an opportunity to enhance its regional influence and secure its energy supplies. China views Pakistan as a key partner in its BRI, which aims to improve connectivity and promote economic development across Eurasia.¹⁷ Overall, the differing perspectives of India and China on Pakistan's security relations with other countries in the region and their security interests can impact the region's security dynamics.¹⁸

External Actors and Influence on Security Relations

External actors, particularly the US and China, play an influential role in the security relations between Pakistan and its African partners. From a realist perspective, external actors are important players in the global balance of power, and their actions are driven by self-interest and strategic calculations.¹⁹ The US has provided security assistance to Kenya and Nigeria in their fight against terrorism and has been involved in efforts to endorse stability and counter piracy in the region.²⁰ China has invested heavily in infrastructure projects in Africa, including Kenya and Nigeria, as part of its BRI.²¹ Pakistan has sought to strengthen its ties with these African countries through collaboration with external actors.²² Pakistan has participated in joint military exercises with China and African countries, including Kenya and Nigeria, to enhance military cooperation and interoperability.²³ Additionally, Pakistan has leveraged its close ties with China to deepen its engagement with African countries through joint development projects.²⁴

India views Pakistan's cooperation with African countries with suspicion and concern. India is wary of Pakistan's initiating step and influence in Africa and sees it as a means for Pakistan to counter India's efforts to expand its economic and diplomatic ties in the region.²⁵ India is also concerned about China's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean, which it perceives as a threat to its security interests.²⁶ India has responded to these concerns by strengthening its naval presence in the Indian Ocean and strengthening its security collaboration with South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria. It has also sought to counter China's BRI by promoting its development assistance programmes, such as the International Solar Alliance and the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor.

Consequently, tensions may arise in Pakistan's relations with African countries because of external factors, particularly when conflicting interests or perceived interference come into play. A notable example is the continuing or ongoing competition for influence between major global powers such as the US and China in Africa. This antagonism can pose challenges for Pakistan's endeavours to strengthen its engagement with African nations, as it may lead to complexities and geopolitical considerations that influence the dynamics of their relationships.

Cultural Factors and Security Relations

A constructivist perspective offers insights when analysing the impact of cultural ties on Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. It assists in identifying opportunities and challenges arising from these ties, enabling the development of strategies to leverage advantages while mitigating drawbacks. Cultural ties can have both adverse effects and favourable outcomes for Pakistan's security relations with these African countries. On the constructive side, shared cultural values, historical ties, and social norms can create familiarity and trust between Pakistan and its African partners. For example, Pakistan and Nigeria share a common Muslim heritage, which can make available a basis for religious and cultural understanding.²⁷ Similarly, Pakistan and South Africa have historical ties dating back to the anti-apartheid struggle, which has shaped a sense of solidarity and mutual respect between the two countries. Cultural ties can also offer a basis for people-to-people exchanges, such as student exchanges and cultural events, which can assist in building bridges between countries and promote greater understanding.²⁸

Cultural differences and misunderstandings can also generate obstacles to cooperation and understanding in the context of adverse implications. For example, cultural variances in communication styles or values can result in misunderstandings or foster mistrust among nations. Additionally, cultural stereotypes or biases may produce pitfalls or negative perceptions of certain groups or countries, which can give rise to tension or conflict.²⁹ The consequences of cultural connections on Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria can be analysed by adopting a constructivist perspective. This perspective emphasises the role of shared norms, ideas, and identities in shaping state behaviour and can provide insights into how

cultural factors can impact security relations.³⁰ By examining how cultural ties have influenced Pakistan's relations with these countries, this perspective can help identify the opportunities and challenges that arise from cultural relations and develop strategies to leverage the positive aspects of cultural ties while mitigating the negative.

Various factors, including shared history, religion, and cultural practices, have shaped Pakistan's cultural ties with African countries.

a) **Shared History**

Pakistan and many African countries share a common experience of colonialism. This shared history has created a sense of solidarity and understanding between them. Pakistan played an important role in supporting African countries in their struggle against colonialism and apartheid, providing diplomatic, political, and moral support. This shared experience has helped to facilitate cultural exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and African countries.

b) **Religion**

Pakistan is a predominantly Muslim country, and many African countries have significant Muslim populations, particularly in the Sahel region and East Africa. The shared religious identity has helped facilitate cultural exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and African countries, particularly in education, trade, and humanitarian aid.

c) **Cultural Practices**

Pakistan and Africa share many cultural practices, such as music, dance and cuisine. These shared cultural practices have helped to create a sense of shared cultural identity and understanding between Pakistan and African countries. For example, Pakistani television dramas and films have gained popularity in many African countries, particularly Nigeria.³¹

However, cultural ties have detrimental outcomes, particularly when they reinforce stereotypes and misunderstandings. Depressing media portrayals of Africa in Pakistan can perpetuate harmful stereotypes and reinforce unconstructive perceptions of African countries. Therefore, It is important to promote cultural exchange and understanding in a respectful way that avoids detrimental stereotypes. By fostering mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation of cultural differences, Pakistan can reinforce its cultural ties with African countries and contribute to regional stability and security.

Cultural differences and historical rivalries have often played a significant role in shaping security relations between countries. In the case of Pakistan's relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, these factors have both favourable outcomes and harmful implications. On the one hand, shared cultural values and historical ties can promote cooperation and build trust between countries. For example, Pakistan has

historical relations with Kenya and Nigeria due to their shared experience of colonialism and participation in the Non-aligned Movement. These historical ties and shared experiences can serve as a basis for cooperation in trade, education and cultural exchange.³² Indeed, cultural differences and historical rivalries can challenge cooperation and lead to conflicts. A prime illustration is the strained relations between Pakistan and South Africa, mainly influenced by the historical context of apartheid that persisted in South Africa until the 1990s. The legacy of apartheid has left a long-lasting impact on the perceptions and interactions between the two nations, generating obstacles to smooth cooperation and fostering tensions in their relationship.

Moreover, the long-term animosity between India and Pakistan can potentially affect Pakistan's relations with African nations that share historical connections with India, as is the case with Kenya. The historical rivalry between India and Pakistan has often split into various aspects of their bilateral relations, including their engagements with third-party countries. As Kenya preserves historical ties with India, this shared connection could influence the perceptions and attitudes of Kenyan policymakers towards Pakistan, potentially impacting the deepness and trajectory of their security relations. Acknowledging and addressing these cultural differences and historical rivalries is essential to promote understanding, bridging divides, and cooperation. By recognising the cultural nuances and historical context, Pakistan can work towards overcoming these obstacles, building trust, and nurturing positive security relationships with African nations like South Africa and Kenya.³³

Economic Factors and Security Relations

Economic ties can play a significant role in shaping security relations between countries. In the case of Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, economic ties may have the following implications for these relationships:

a) Drawbacks and Favourable Outcomes

The economic connections between Pakistan and African nations have favourable and unfavourable consequences for their security relationships. Economic cooperation can enhance mutual interests and promote interdependence, which can help to reduce tensions and build trust between the countries. Economic ties can also generate opportunities for investment, trade, and technology transfer, which have the potential to foster economic growth and stability within the region.³⁴ However, economic ties can also have drawbacks for security relations. Economic competition can lead to conflicts over resources, markets, and economic influence, escalating political tensions and conflict. Economic interdependence can also increase vulnerability to economic shocks and political instability in partner countries, undermining their ability to provide security and stability.³⁵

To analyse the impact of economic ties on security relations between Pakistan and African countries, it is crucial to consider various factors such as the nature and

extent of economic cooperation, the distribution of economic benefits and costs, and the potential for economic conflicts and competition. Moreover, external elements such as regional powers and international organisations can impact the formation of economic connections between these nations.

b) Trade, Investment and Development Cooperation

In recent years, Pakistan has expanded its economic relations with African countries, including Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. These economic ties include trade, investment and development cooperation and have positive and negative implications for security relations between these countries.

Trade policies may have beneficial and adverse effects on the security relationships between nations. Trade policies promote economic interdependence and cooperation that can reduce the likelihood of conflict by increasing the costs of military action and creating incentives for the peaceful resolution of disputes.³⁶ Trade can also provide opportunities for countries to build relationships and promote mutual understanding. Trade policies can also lead to competition and conflicts over resources and markets, enhancing tensions between countries. Economic dependence on one particular trading partner can also make a country vulnerable to pressure or manipulation, which can harmfully impact its security.³⁷

In the context of Pakistan's relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, trade policies such as CPEC and BRI are massive infrastructure projects that aim to connect Asia, Europe and Africa through a network of transportation, communication, and energy projects that have the potential to impact security relations in different ways. These policies can promote economic cooperation and development but also produce competition and tensions over access to resources and markets.³⁸ Therefore, it is crucial for countries to carefully consider the potential security implications of trade policies and work to mitigate any depressing impacts.

Pakistan's Africa Plan, approved in 2017 by the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and reformulated as the Engage Africa or Pakistan Africa Policy in 2019, aims to boost trade and investment between Pakistan and African countries.³⁹ Pakistan has identified the top ten priority countries, including Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, for enhancing economic and trade relations, as these top ten countries constitute about eighty per cent of the GDP of the entire African continent.⁴⁰ The Africa Policy has the potential to impact security relations positively as it promotes economic development, which can lead to improved stability and security. By enhancing economic ties and promoting trade, Pakistan can increase its influence and engagement with these countries, leading to greater cooperation and security partnerships.

China can help Pakistan in its Africa Policy. China has strong economic and political ties with many African countries and has invested heavily in Africa through BRI and other development projects.⁴¹ As Pakistan is also a partner in the BRI, China

can leverage its relationships with African countries to facilitate Pakistan's engagement and cooperation with African nations. Additionally, China can provide technical assistance and knowledge-sharing to Pakistan in infrastructure development, agriculture and energy, which could enhance Pakistan's ability to engage with African countries in these sectors.⁴² China can also support Pakistan to improve its diplomatic presence in Africa and strengthen its institutional ties with regional and international organisations active in the continent.⁴³

The Africa Policy also focuses on enhancing people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges, which can improve mutual understanding and trust, leading to greater cooperation in the security realm.⁴⁴ However, the success of the policy in improving security relations between Pakistan and these African countries will depend on various factors, including the ability of Pakistan to deliver on its commitments, the willingness of African countries to engage and cooperate, and the ability of both sides to manage potential challenges and disagreements that may arise.⁴⁵

Regarding India's view of Pakistan's Africa Plan and its prioritised states, India may view it as a challenge to its own economic and diplomatic engagement with African countries. India has been expanding its economic and strategic footprint in Africa in recent years, and Pakistan's efforts to deepen its ties may be seen as a direct competition.⁴⁶ Furthermore, India may be concerned about Pakistan's partnership with China and the potential for China to use its influence in Pakistan to expand its own economic and strategic interests in Africa.⁴⁷ Moreover, Pakistan can collaborate with African trading blocs to enhance security in the context of these three countries in the following ways: Pakistan can offer its expertise in intelligence sharing and cooperation to African countries to help them combat security threats; Pakistan can provide military training and support to African countries to improve their military capabilities and help them better deal with security challenges; Pakistan has extensive experience dealing with terrorism and can share its expertise with African countries to help them counter terrorism and violent extremism;⁴⁸ Pakistan can work with African trading blocs to promote trade and economic cooperation, which can help address some of the underlying socio-economic causes of insecurity; Pakistan can collaborate with African countries on joint security operations to address common security threats; and Pakistan has a long history of participating in UN peacekeeping missions and can offer its experience and expertise to African countries. By collaborating with African trading blocs in these ways, Pakistan can help enhance the region's security and stability while promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between Pakistan and African countries.

In the context of Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria, economic competition and dependency can majorly impact their security relations. The followings are potential ways those economic factors could affect the relationships.

a) **Economic Competition**

Economic competition between Pakistan and these African countries could lead to tensions and conflicts that spill over into security. For example, if Pakistani and Kenyan companies compete for contracts in a particular African country, this could lead to accusations of unfair practices or even sabotage that could harm security cooperation between the two countries.

b) **Economic Interdependence**

If Pakistan becomes too economically dependent on any of these African countries, this could put Pakistan's security interests at risk. For example, if Pakistan relies heavily on a particular African country for its energy needs, that country could use its economic leverage to extract political concessions or other benefits that are not in Pakistan's best interests. On the other hand, economic interdependence between Pakistan and these African countries could promote greater cooperation and stability in the security realm. For example, if Pakistani and South African companies jointly invest in a particular infrastructure project in a third country, this could create shared economic interests that promote cooperation and reduce tensions.

From a Realist perspective, economic competition and dependency can be seen as a zero-sum game, where states seek to maximise their economic gains at the expense of others. It can create tensions and conflict between states as they compete for resources and markets. In the context of Pakistan's security relations with South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, Realism suggests that economic competition and dependency could potentially undermine security cooperation as each country seeks to advance its economic interests. For example, competition over trade and investment could lead to protectionist policies or even economic sanctions, which could, in turn, undermine diplomatic relations and cooperation on security issues.

From a Constructivist perspective, economic competition and dependency can be seen as shaped by cultural and social factors, such as shared norms and values. In this view, economic relations are not just about self-interest but also reflect broader social and cultural ties between states. Constructivism suggests that economic ties could reinforce or undermine existing cultural ties, depending on how they are managed, in the context of Pakistan's security relations with South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria. For example, economic cooperation could build trust and create opportunities for dialogue and cooperation on security issues. However, economic competition could also exacerbate existing cultural differences and rivalries, potentially leading to conflict.

From a Neoliberal Institutionalism perspective, economic competition and dependency can be managed through international institutions and norms, such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund. In this view, international institutions can facilitate cooperation between states by promoting economic openness and reducing transaction costs. In Pakistan's security relations

with South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, Neoliberal Institutionalism suggests that international institutions could positively manage economic competition and dependency. For example, regional economic integration could create opportunities for increased trade and investment while reducing the potential for conflict by creating shared economic interests. However, international institutions could also exacerbate economic dependency by promoting unequal economic relationships, such as those that a few powerful states or multinational corporations dominate.

Comparative Analysis of Security Relations

Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria are shaped by a range of geopolitical, cultural and economic factors, and a comparative analysis of these relationships reveals both similarities and differences. Realism offers a valuable perspective to analyse the role of power, self-interest and strategic calculations in shaping Pakistan's security relations with these countries. In this regard, Pakistan's security cooperation with these countries can be seen as an effort to enhance its strategic footprint in Africa and counterbalance India's growing influence.⁴⁹

Geopolitical factors, such as security threats, economic interests, and regional politics, have also significantly shaped these security relations. For example, Pakistan's relationship with Nigeria has been shaped by its concern over Boko Haram and other extremist groups. In contrast, its relationship with South Africa has been influenced by its desire to expand its economic ties and project its soft power in the region.⁵⁰ Meanwhile, Pakistan's relationship with Kenya has been shaped by its need to counterbalance China's growing influence.

Cultural ties and historical rivalries have also had positive and negative implications for Pakistan's security relations with these countries. On the one hand, shared cultural values and historical ties can help to build trust and cooperation between Pakistan and African countries, as evidenced by Pakistan's close relationship with Nigeria and its historical relations with South Africa. On the other hand, cultural differences and historical rivalries can also create tensions and distrust, as seen in Pakistan's relationship with Kenya, where historical tensions between Pakistan and India have spilt over into their bilateral relationship.

Finally, economic ties have also played an important role in shaping Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. Pakistan's trade, investment and development cooperation with these countries have created opportunities for mutual benefit but also vulnerabilities and dependencies that external actors can exploit. For example, China's growing economic influence in Africa has created concerns in Pakistan about the potential for Chinese economic leverage to be used against its security interests.

The outcomes and themes that emerged from the comparative analysis include the followings:

a) **Diplomatic Relations and Efforts to Deepen Ties**

One outcome identified in the comparative analysis is that Pakistan has established diplomatic relations with all three African countries, including Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria and has dynamically sought to strengthen ties, predominantly in the security field. It indicates a shared interest in cooperation and groundwork for building security relationships.

b) **Common Security Challenges**

Another outcome is the existence of common security challenges, such as terrorism and regional instability, which have encouraged increased collaboration between Pakistan and its African partners. It highlights the significance of addressing shared threats and working together to enhance security.

c) **Differences in Security Environments**

The analysis also reveals a difference in the security environments of the three countries such as South Africa has a relatively stable security environment; Nigeria and Kenya have faced significant security challenges. This divergence may influence the nature and scope of security cooperation between Pakistan and these African nations, necessitating context-specific approaches.

d) **Cultural and Economic Factors**

Cultural and economic ties between Pakistan and each African country emerged as significant factors influencing their security relations. Historical connections and varying levels of economic engagement can shape the dynamics of security cooperation, emphasising the need to think about these factors in promoting stronger security relationships.

e) **Tailored Approaches**

The analysis highlights the significance of adopting context-specific and tailored approaches to security relations, considering the unique historical, geopolitical, and cultural factors at play in each country. A one-size-fits-all approach may not efficiently address each bilateral relationship's distinct dynamics and challenges.

f) **Balancing Security Challenges**

Addressing shared security challenges, such as terrorism, while acknowledging and addressing specific security concerns of each country is crucial. Balancing these priorities ensures a comprehensive and balanced approach to security collaboration.

g) **Role of International and Regional Organizations**

Neoliberal institutionalism is a framework that emphasises the importance of international and regional organisations in promoting cooperation and reducing

conflicts among states. Engaging with organisations like the African Union, United Nations, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation can provide platforms for enhancing security relations, conducting joint exercises, sharing intelligence, and working towards common security goals.

Identifying these outcomes and themes underscores the significance of understanding the nuances and complexities of security relations between Pakistan and its African counterparts. Pakistan can enhance security cooperation, contribute to regional stability, and foster mutually beneficial relationships with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria by leveraging similarities, addressing differences, and engaging with international and regional organisations. In this regard, some recommendations exist for Pakistan to bolster its ties with African nations. Pakistan should improve its diplomatic relations through high-level visits, cultural exchanges, and cooperation in various fields. It should explore novel opportunities for trade, investment, and development cooperation, focusing on agriculture, energy, and infrastructure and grow deeper security cooperation in counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and military training. Pakistan can consider cultural differences and encourage understanding through educational and cultural exchange programmes while participating in and supporting regional and international organisations for peace and security in Africa. Maintaining a balanced approach in regional power dynamics is necessary to evade being drawn into conflicts.

Conclusion

Comparative analysis has capitulated significant outcomes and novelty in understanding Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. Recognising the interplay between geopolitical, economic and cultural factors and applying Realism, Constructivism, and Neoliberal Institutionalism contributes to a comprehensive framework for analysis. Identifying similarities and differences in security relations highlights the need to consider each country's unique historical, geopolitical and cultural contexts. This understanding can enlighten the development of tailored approaches to security cooperation and diplomatic efforts. The study also underscores the potential for improved cooperation in counterterrorism and peacekeeping operations, which can enhance regional security and stability. These findings offer practical implications for policymakers and practitioners involved in security diplomacy, emphasising the importance of leveraging economic ties, promoting cultural exchange, and engaging with international institutions to foster stronger security relations. This comparative analysis enriches the existing literature by comprehensively understanding the complex dynamics influencing Pakistan's security relations with Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria. It contributes novel insights and practical recommendations for strengthening these relationships, promoting regional security, and fostering cooperation.

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