India-Pakistan Engagement with the Greater Middle East:
Implications and Options

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Abstract
This chapter aims to examine Indo-Pakistan relations to assess their implications for the Greater Middle East (GME). Both countries are frantically engaged in deploying their military and nuclear capabilities, resources as well as extra-regional connections, with an intention to alter the balance of power in one’s favor, as this is evident from their close contest for enhancing the level of strategic cooperation with the United States, especially after 9/11. Moreover, the deep-seated historic hostility between India and Pakistan has produced a peculiar geopsychology among ruling elites to outmaneuver the other in order to contain each country’s political, economic, and strategic influences in GME rather than to contribute to peace, prosperity, and stability there. This chapter also aims to explore interaction and interconnectedness between the three core concepts—geopolitics, geoeconomics, and geopsychology—while evaluating Indo-Pakistan engagement with GME to advance and safeguard their respective manifold national interests.

INTRODUCTION
India and Pakistan, the two major powers in South Asia with a de facto nuclear weapon power status, have been interlocked in a deep-seated mutual hostility ever since they became independent, sovereign nations from British colonialism in August 1947. Driven by the strong pulls and pressures of history and culture, reinforced by the deeply entrenched psychology of mutual mistrust and hatred, both countries have scarcely been free from tension and rivalry. Realistically enough, born on a platter of clashing political ideologies, their security and strategic interests have been at cross purposes, resulting in four bloody wars: 1947–1948, 1965, 1971, and the Kargil conflict in May 1999.
Nevertheless, in the aftermath of nuclear weapons tests of May 1998, Indo-Pakistan relations have undergone a new kind of metamorphosis characterized by a blend of conflict and cooperation depending on the convergence and dissonance of their geopolitical, geostrategic, and geo-economic interests in the Greater Middle East (GME). Needless to stress, security and strategic complexes have played a major role in shaping and articulating Indian and Pakistani policies towards the GME in which they have rival stakes and interests. Undoubtedly, Pakistan’s geographical contiguity and ideological affinity with the countries of this region are bound to have both short-and long-term security, economic, and strategic implications for India. It is also a patent fact that India’s relations with the countries of the GME will always figure prominently in Pakistan’s psyche as well as in its foreign policy towards India and vice-versa.

This chapter aims to examine Indo-Pakistan relations in order to assess their consequences for peace and stability of the GME. Also, it aims to find out how they are proactively engaged in displaying their military resources and nuclear capabilities as well as in utilizing their extra-regional connections with an intention to alter the balance of power in one’s favor.

GEOPOLITICS, GEOECONOMICS, AND GEOPSYCHOLOGY

This chapter aims to explore interaction and interconnectedness of the three core concepts—geopolitics, geoeconomics and geopsychology—in a new global balance of power system in order to understand the functionality of state relations at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels.

Undoubtedly, international relations theorists are still grappling with the problem of establishing the validity of prevailing theories such as “balance of power,” “Unipolarity” versus “multipolarity,” “neorealism” versus “neoliberalism.” International relations theorists like John Mearsheimer hold the view that international anarchy—the driving force behind great-power behavior—did not change with the end of the Cold War (Brown 2003). Brown and Studemeister (2001) characterize the emerging paradigm as a “profusion of asymmetrical relationships between state and non-state actors.” Whereas, the information age has fostered “hard power” versus “soft power,” it has also propelled major powers into rethinking whether “hard ball coercion” is an easy sale to nation states in the rapidly growing global interdependence (Brown and Studemeister 2001).

It may be pointed out that the technology of modern communication has added a new dimension to international relations as well as national security concerns of nation states. On the one hand, the profound impact of information and communication technology (ICT) has necessarily led both state and non-state actors into sharing information across the globe, consequent upon minimizing the intensity of coercive diplomacy. On the