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Foreign Policy of any country is one of the most important domains if not the most important domain in government affairs. For a multicultural and diverse country like Australia it becomes even more critical how the relationship with other countries are imagined and then work done to achieve those outcomes.

As politics remains my area of interest and my background forms being from Pakistan I have feel there is a big gap on how two countries of Pakistan and Australia and dealing with each other. Unfortunately it seems that even people at the helm are guided by the media hypes and the news that is constantly being fed by some media houses which have their own interest at stake.

I would like to present here some details and insights about Pakistan and how that can be useful for both the countries if some good policy decisions are made from both end.

Pakistan has gone through a major destabilisation due to the war in Afghanistan. Specially the north western province which also happens to be the most beautiful part of the country and once a hub of major tourism from all over the world. Home to the second highest mountain in the world. This is the place where the famous silk route is still being used for trade between China and Pakistan. With the China Pakistan Economic Corridor commonly referred to as the CPEC now stretching from the western China borders to the warm waters of the Gwadar Port, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that CPEC will soon be the hub of economic activity in that region.

Pakistan arguably has the most interesting bunch as neighbours in the world with India on its east with which Pakistan has a long standing dispute over Kashmir, China to the North West which happens to be Pakistan's most trusted friend in thick and thin. Afghanistan (With US Military presence) in the West and Iran in the south West. Pakistan has done well specially in the last decade to strengthen the democratic institutions controlling the corruption which comes with being a third world country. Most recently the dark horse of the Pakistan Politics Imran Khan (who is not unknown to Australia) has led the movement of justice and is considered to be the next man in as the head of state in the coming elections in 2018, specially with the incumbent and his family being totally exposed in the Panama leaks about their off shore properties.

Pakistan's relationship with USA has always been seen by suspicion by the Pakistani people. At this stage most Pakistani's are of the opinion that it's time to let go of the baggage relationship and forge new partnerships in the world. Pakistan recent tilt towards China is seen in the same light. In the current scenario Pakistan is looking new Partnerships.

This makes it perfect timing for Australia to develop the relationship with one of the most important country of the Muslim world. Having a very big military, with one of the most professional armies in the world, having a population of 200 million people. (This is a huge market in itself for Australian businesses. Also having a big proportion of the population which is under 25. Students are keen to come to Australia for studies since they feel America is not welcoming anymore (I don't need to go in details of this with President Trump's daily news items) Australia can export a lot of the

agriculture related technology to Pakistan. Pakistan can play a key role between China and Australia in terms of trade and other international affairs.

The Above mentioned details are just some general views about how the two countries and how each can benefit from each other. I would mention some more specific points in bullets below.

1. Education

Thousands of Pakistanis travel to western countries every year in pursuit of higher education. In the past the countries of choice were England and USA but that has changed a lot in the last decade. Students don't feel welcome in States and they want to spend the best time of their lives under stress. England on the other hand is becoming expensive and have policies similar to the US. In this situation if the process of admissions in Australian Universities is made a little conducive in terms of admissions that would bring great talent from Pakistan in Australian universities and plus the foreign exchange as Australian Academics industry is one big revenue generating source for the country

2. Tourism

Pakistan has great mountainous regions; slowly there can be an increase in the tourism in both directions. People to people contact is always a great way of building relations. The outdoor culture of Australia will make the people visiting from here to Northern Pakistan fall in love with the serenity of the surroundings

3. Internet Technology Resources

Pakistani IT companies are relatively cheaper from other competitors since they are in search of finding new business for which they have to struggle due to the last one decade of unrest and terrorism related concerns. Things are gradually changing and in 5 years are expected to present a completely different picture.

4. Defence

Strong defence related contacts can be establish between both the militaries

5. Key Muslim State (Second largest after Indonesia)

With so much talk around the unrest in the Muslim countries and how terrorism is being tried to be linked to a religion. Pakistan stands out as one of the most moderate Islamic country which has had Women Prime Minister and a tolerant society. Being a nuclear state also other Muslim countries look up to Pakistan to provide leadership in this time when other Muslim countries are not as strong especially in terms of the military. Pakistan has been involved with defence agreements with other Middle Eastern countries which involves the presence of Pak Army Personnel in different ME countries.

6. If the next prime minister happens to be Imran Khan or someone from his party that will be a great time to take the relationship between Pakistan and Australia to the next level. The cricket connection will always be a uniting factor

In the end I would conclude that the above may sound like a little off the mark from the general perception about Pakistan. But the fact is that Pakistan would welcome and value any display of

friendship especially in these times when Pakistan has just been through its worst time of its history. It would give Australia an advantage in about 5 years' time when all the dust about the war in Afghanistan is settled and CPEC becomes the new buzz work of world economics. Foreign policy is all about planning ahead and positioning yourself for the situations that may come in the future, in that context I believe that Australia should show some interest in that country.

Even a statement in support of bringing cricket back to Pakistan or something in support of late social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi or the SKMT Cancer Hospital which treats cancer patients for free goes a long way.