

Trump's Stance on the Iran-Israel War and How it Affects Regional Security and Pakistan's Foreign Policy

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Abstract

The conflict between Israel and Iran has been a major source of security threats in the region specially in the Middle East and instability in the entire region. The ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel has piqued the interest of the entire community, with tensions rising during the year. A protracted problem in the Middle East with possible worldwide effects is the Iran-Israel conflict. This paper describes the conflict between Iran and Israel which was not a new phenomenon, they had previously engaged in proxy warfare, but on June 13, 2025, Israel launched a direct attack on Iran. At the start of this war the President Trump claimed the role of mediator, but an attack on Iran nuclear side on June 18 kept him on one side. The dynamics of this conflict have been significantly shaped by the United States, especially under President Donald Trump's leadership. The United States' engagement in this conflict has been directly involved, particularly during President Donald Trump's leadership. The study uses a variety of sources, including scholarly articles, official reports, and media stories, and qualitative techniques, such as literature reviews and case analyses. This research study examines how Trump's actions have influenced the escalation of Israel-Iran relations, as well as the prospective repercussions of the conflict on Pakistan's foreign policy and regional security.

Key Words: Israel-Iran Conflict, Nuclear Proliferation, Pakistan, U.S, Russia and China

Introduction

Israel's invasion on Iran, which began on June 13, 2025, represents the culmination of over 25 years of unrelenting transformation in West Asia. This war did not happen quickly, and it cannot be described using simplistic moral binary. There are no clear lessons to be drawn from the recent quarter-century. The events were too fragmented, and the outcomes too conflicting. However, this does not imply that they lacked rationality. If anything, the emerging disaster is the clearest indication of where Western interventionism, intellectual naivety, and geopolitical arrogance have headed (Lukyanov, 18 June, 2025). Throughout its lengthy history, the Middle East has seen countless clashes and disagreements. Among these, the confrontation between Iran

and Israel is a significant element influencing regional security and international order. The rivalry between the two countries involves religious, ethnic, political, and economic aspects, including nuclear projects, proxy conflicts, and cyberwarfare. The hostility between Iran and Israel worsened after Israel's foundation in 1948 and increased during the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Iran's Islamic regime considers Israel an unlawful state and calls for its elimination as a solution to the Palestinian conflict(Afkhami, 2009). However, Israel does not rule out the prospect of military assaults on Iran's nuclear facilities and views Iran's nuclear program as a major danger to its security. The two nations' dispute is more than just a bilateral one; it threatens global peace and the security of the Middle East as a whole. Concerns about nuclear proliferation are heightened by Iran's nuclear program, while humanitarian crises including rising terrorism and refugee problems are being brought on by proxy wars that are spreading regional conflicts (Seung-Hyun, 2024).Israel attack on Iran due to claimed that the Iran government have the nuclear materials. According to the report of IAEA when they visited in November 2024, the IAEA team visited Iran to inspect regarding nuclear material. According to the report on the NPT safeguards agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran claims to have declared all nuclear material, activities, and locations required by its NPT safeguards agreement. However, this declaration is inconsistent with the Agency's findings regarding the presence of anthropogenic uranium particles at undeclared locations in Iran. The Agency needs to know the current location of the relevant nuclear material and/or contaminated equipment. The team was unable to locate the uranium particles, but only claimed to have done so(IAEA, 20 November, 2025).

Historical Background of Israel-Iran conflict

Relations between Iran and the Jews date back to the ancient Persian Empire. In the 6th century BC, the Jews, taken captive to Babylon by the Babylonians, were freed by Cyrus the Great of Persia and were able to return to Jerusalem. Thereafter, they enjoyed relative freedom of religious and cultural activities within the Persian Empire and were assimilated into Persian society. During the Middle Ages, Jews living in Iran contributed to Persian society by becoming involved in various fields such as education, trade, and medicine. However, as Islam became the dominant religion in Persia, Jews experienced conflict and discrimination with Muslims(Herzl, 1988). Under the Safavid dynasty in the 16th century, when Shia Islam was designated the state religion, Jews suffered religious persecution. Forced conversions, discrimination, and expulsions forced many of them to leave Iran or go into hiding(Abrahamian, 21 July, 1988). After the 19th century, under growing European influence, Iranian Jews gradually began to regain their social and economic status.However, in the early 20th century, with the expansion of the Zionist movement, the Jewish community in Iran began to split. Some Jews emigrated to Palestine and participated in the creation of Israel, but most Iranians the Jews remained in Iran and continued their lives. Economics is another driving force behind the development of drone technology. First, the significant drop in manufacturing costs has fostered their popularization. The price of small drones has fallen to a few hundred dollars, and thanks to the development of open-source hardware and software, drones are now easy to manufacture. Second, given the rapid growth of the civilian drone market, investment in the development of this technology is increasing. The use of drones is expanding in various fields such as agriculture, logistics, surveying, and infrastructure inspection, thus stimulating rapid growth in the drone market. The United States, China, Europe, and other major countries are encouraging the deregulation of drone marketing, the designation of specific test airspace, and investment in the research and development of these technologies, which promotes their development in the private sector. The Zionist movement, which emerged in Europe in the late 19th century, emphasized the national and religious identity of Jews and aimed to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. As anti-Semitism spread in Europe and persecution of Jews intensified, the Zionist movement emphasized the need to build a state that could serve as a refuge for Jews and enable them to achieve national self-

determination. The Zionist movement gradually expanded its influence through the efforts of leaders such as Theodor Herzl and, in 1917, secured an official position in favor of the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine through the British Balfour Declaration. Subsequently, with the increase in Jewish immigration to Palestine, conflicts with the Arabs who previously resided there intensified, and with the creation of Israel in 1948, the First Arab-Israeli War broke out. The creation of Israel significantly altered relations between Iran and the Jews. Iran officially opposed the creation of Israel because of its relations with Arab countries, but maintained unofficial relations with Israel to protect the security and interests of its Jewish community. Iran supplied it with oil and weapons, thus continuing its economic and military cooperation (Evans, 26 Jan, 2012). The First Arab-Israeli War, which erupted with the declaration of Israel's establishment in 1948, escalated into an open war between Israel and neighboring Arab countries. During this war, Iran officially supported the Arab countries but did not provide any substantial military support. At the time, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran placed great importance on relations with Western countries and believed that maintaining unofficial relations with Israel was in the national interest. During the war, Iran supplied oil to Israel, and Israel supplied it with weapons and military technology. This cooperation contributed to strengthening Iran's military power and Israel's security. However, Iran's pro-Israeli policy aroused opposition from Iranian Islamic forces and Arab countries. Iran's Islamic leaders called Israel an illegal state and demanded a break with Israel to resolve the Palestinian issue. With the collapse of the Pahlavi dynasty and the establishment of the Islamic Republic during the Iranian Revolution of 1979, relations between Iran and Israel were completely severed (Maloney, 2015). The new Iranian regime defined Israel as a "cancerous entity that must be destroyed" and began actively supporting the Palestinian liberation movement. Growing discontent with the Pahlavi dynasty's dictatorial policies, Westernization, corruption, and wealth inequality led to a popular uprising. The Pahlavi dynasty eventually collapsed, and the Islamic Republic, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was established. The Iranian Revolution had a decisive impact on relations between Iran and Israel. The Islamic Republic declared Israel an illegal state and advocated its destruction to resolve the Palestinian issue. Iran severed all diplomatic relations with Israel and imposed economic sanctions. It also supported anti-Israeli armed groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine, inciting armed struggle against Israel. Iran's anti-Israeli policies posed a serious threat to Israel's security. Israel viewed Iran's nuclear development as an existential threat and responded forcefully by suggesting the possibility of military attacks on its nuclear facilities. After the Iranian Revolution, the conflict between Iran and Israel expanded beyond a simple conflict between two countries to become an ideological confrontation between Islamism and Zionism. This conflict exacerbates political instability and security threats in the Middle East (Seung-Hyun, 2024). The Iran-Iraq War, which lasted eight years, from 1980 to 1988, had a significant impact on the balance of power and security in the Middle East. During this war, Israel covertly provided military support to curb Iran's expansion and prop up Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Israel viewed Iran as a major threat in the Middle East and believed that supporting Iraq was in its national interest to prevent Iran's nuclear development and the expansion of its influence in the region. Israel provided Iraq with weapons, military technology, and intelligence, and in 1981, it bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor to halt Iran's nuclear development (Parsi, August 1, 2017). Iran's nuclear program is considered the most serious threat to Israel's security. Israel is concerned about the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons and attacking its country, and does not rule out the possibility of military attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran began nuclear development in the 1950s and seriously embarked on uranium enrichment in the 2000s, raising international concern. Iran claims its nuclear development is for peaceful purposes, but Israel and Western countries suspect it of continuing to develop nuclear weapons (parsi, 2007). In 2015, Iran and six major countries (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China) concluded the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Agreement (JCPOA) to lift economic sanctions in exchange for limiting Iranian nuclear development. However, in 2018, the Trump administration in the United States withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and reinstated sanctions against Iran, making the Iranian nuclear issue a hot topic for the international community. Israel criticizes the Iran nuclear deal for failing to effectively prevent Iran's nuclear development and constantly raises the possibility of military attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. Israel is also suspected of conducting covert operations, such as cyberattacks, assassinations, and sabotage, in cooperation with the United States to prevent Iran's nuclear development (Ephrat Livni, 19 April, 2024).

Theoretical Frame work

The theoretical framework of this article is based on Kenneth Waltz's adaptation of New Realism theory, presented in his book in 1979 "Theory of International Politics." New Realism emphasizes the competitive and conflictual aspects of international relations. It highlights how governments operate in anarchic international systems as logical actors seeking to maximize their security and power. States are the principal actors in international relations, according to new realism theory, and their fundamental objective is to protect their own interests and hold onto power. Both nations are attempting to guarantee their national security and exercise influence in the Middle East in the context of the Israel-Iran confrontation. As a major world power, the United States also has a significant influence on how this battle turns out. Unilateralism and an emphasis on furthering US national interests were hallmarks of Donald Trump's foreign policy strategy. His actions towards Iran, when he slapped sanctions on the nation and withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, were a clear example of this strategy. Strong support for Israel was also shown by the Trump administration, which relocated the US embassy to Jerusalem and acknowledged it as Israel's capital.

Problem Statement

The problem addressed in this research article is regional disruption in the Middle East and South Asia region, as escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, as well as President Trump's stance on the conflict, raise concerns about its potential impact on regional security and its implications for Pakistani foreign policy. The purpose of this paper is to examine the current dynamics of the Iran-Israel dispute, Trump's role in its resolution, and the potential ramifications for Pakistan's foreign relations and regional security strategy. Trump's role is totally to Israel's right, whilst Russia, Pakistan, and China openly support Iran. Pakistan's backing for Iran will provide new obstacles to its foreign policy, as it pits Iran against the United States.

Methodology

The methodology for this research involves a thorough assessment of existing scholarly articles, reports, and news sources that analyze Trump's policy toward Israel and Iran, as well as their consequences for the greater Middle East region and South Asia. This will entail reviewing President Trump's public comments, speeches, and tweets, as well as analyzing his administration's response to the crisis. In addition, the study will conduct a comparative examination of Pakistan's foreign policy toward Israel and Iran, taking into account historical ties and geopolitical issues. Furthermore, the study will look into the potential effects of the Israel-Iran war on regional security dynamics, such as the possibility of escalation and the involvement of other regional countries like Russia and China. This will entail analyzing various situations and determining their consequences for Pakistan's foreign policy and national security goals. Overall, this research piece seeks to present a detailed analysis of the complex interplay between the Israel-Iran conflict, Trump's policies, and regional security dynamics, with a special emphasis on how it may affect Pakistan's foreign policy decisions and strategic calculations.

Discussion

Israel criticizes the Iran nuclear deal for failing to effectively prevent Iran's nuclear development and consistently raises the possibility of military attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. Israel is also suspected of conducting covert operations, such as cyberattacks, assassinations, and sabotage, in cooperation with the United States, to prevent Iran's nuclear development (Seung-Hyun, 2024). The latest flashpoint, the 2025 escalation between Israel and Iran, has exposed the failing illusion of American leadership. Despite Trump's claims that he "convinced" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to strike Iran, the facts tell a different story. Netanyahu brushed aside that advice and launched a full-scale offensive against Iranian targets, not just military ones, but symbolic ones as well. In a bold move, he derailed already fragile nuclear negotiations between Washington and Tehran, revealing precisely who now sets the agenda in the region. Faced with this reality, American leaders had two choices: admit that their leverage over Israel had diminished, or publicly support the strikes and cling to their image of leadership, even if it further damaged their credibility as a neutral arbiter. Unsurprisingly, they chose the latter. Supporting Israel at the expense of diplomacy with Iran has become commonplace. Washington no longer conducts the symphony; he tries to keep the beat while someone else holds the torch (Murad Sadygzade, 18 June, 2025). According to the G7 members statement in a summit which was launched in Kananaskis, Alberta, the Group of Seven expressed its support for Israel in a statement on June 17, 2025, calling its rival, Iran, a source of instability in the Middle East. The G7 leaders called for a broader de-escalation of hostilities in the region. "Further added that Israel has the right to defend itself. The members of the G7 reiterate their full support for Israel's security," the G7 leaders said in the statement. "Iran is the main source of instability and terrorism in the region," the G7 leaders added, making it clear that Iran could never acquire nuclear weapons (Singh, 17 June, 2025). As on the other hand Pakistan, China and Russia support Iran, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview on June 20, 2025 the Iran has the right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. After the plenary session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), he spoke with Nadim Koteich, the session's moderator and CEO of Sky News Arabia. He also reiterated that Iran has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that Russia will provide its full support to this end. He added that Russia opposes the proliferation of nuclear weapons to any country. "The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] confirms that there is no evidence of any Iranian attempt to acquire nuclear weapons (RT, 21 June, 2025). Iran has accused the IAEA of siding with Western countries and justifying Israel's June 13-24 attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, which began a day after the UN agency's board of governors voted to declare Tehran in breach of its responsibilities under the NPT. Western governments have long suspected Iran of attempting to develop the capabilities to produce atomic weapons through its stated civilian atomic energy program. Iran has frequently said that it is enriching uranium solely for peaceful nuclear purposes (Reuters, 4 July, 2025). On June 13, 2025, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi addressed the IAEA Board of Governors regarding the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to him, GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533, which state, among other things, that "any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Statute of the Agency," are among the many General Conference resolutions on the subject of military attacks against nuclear facilities that the IAEA recalls (IAEA, 13 June, 2025). The IAEA's involvement in the crisis has been denounced by Russia. Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, described the use of its data to prepare the strikes as "a colossal blow" to the watchdog's reputation (RT, Nuclear inspectors leave Iran, 04 July, 2025). In this current crisis, China has made its position clear: it supports Iran's position and rejects any military solution to the nuclear issue. This position is in line with Beijing's long-standing diplomatic stance, which recognizes Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

(NPT), while firmly opposing any attempt to acquire nuclear weapons, which would violate international norms and run counter to China's vision of a nuclear-free Middle East(Zemánek, 20 June, 2025).On June 18, 2025, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on the international community to act to establish an “immediate” ceasefire between Iran and Israel, warning that further escalation would be detrimental not only to the region but also to world peace. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting in the capital, Islamabad, Sharif reiterated Islamabad’s support for Tehran and condemned Israel’s “obvious” aggression against Iran, Pakistani state television reported. He added that he had already spoken with the Iranian president to discuss the evolving situation and convey Islamabad’s support and solidarity with Tehran, asserting that the country had the right to defend itself against Israeli attacks(Latif, 19 June, 2025). In addition to this, President Trump directly implicated the Israeli-Iranian war and attacked Iranian nuclear zones and named this attack Operation Midnight Hammer, on June 21, at 6:45 p.m., or Sunday, June 22, at 2:15 a.m. in Iran, American B-2 Spirit bombers from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, dropped 14 of these GBU-57 bombs on Fordow and a second nuclear facility, destroying the facilities and setting back Iranian nuclear efforts by years(C. Todd Lopez, 26 June, 2025). The attack on the three main Iranian nuclear sites was the largest operational strike ever carried out by B-2 stealth bombers, and the second longest B-2 operation ever carried out. The B-2 bombers dropped 14 massive GBU-57 bunker-busting artillery penetrators, each weighing 30,000 pounds. The operation involved more than 125 American military aircraft, according to the Pentagon(Ali, 23 June, 2025).

Consequences of the Israeli-Iranian War on Pakistan's Regional and Global Security

The United States adopted a tough stance on Iran under the Trump administration, which might have strained ties between Pakistan and both nations. Pakistan had to strike a careful balance between managing its ties with the US and Iran and its own internal security issues, namely the existence of militant organizations along its borders.Considering its geographic proximity to the battle zone and its own complicated ties with both Israel and Iran, Pakistan might be significantly impacted by the Israel-Iran conflict. Pakistan and Iran have always had close relations, especially in the fields of energy and the economy. But the United States, a crucial ally in the area, also has a strategic alliance with Pakistan.This conflict underscores the enduring dominance of political realism in international relations, highlighting how the deteriorating and unpredictable nature of the global system increasingly pushes regional and international actors toward confrontation, war, and conflict(Issac, 20 June, 2025).In the Israeli-Iranian conflict, separatist and jihadist militants on the Pakistani-Iranian border could take advantage of any collapse of authority in Iran. Anti-Iranian and anti-Pakistani groups operate on both sides of the 900-km border. As Israel bombs Iran's nuclear program, its leaders have repeatedly indicated that they seek to destabilize or overthrow the Iranian government. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shafqat Ali Khan said on June 17, 2025, "This jeopardizes the entire regional security structures and has a profound impact on us." Some militant groups on the border have welcomed the upheaval. Jaish al-Adl (JaA), an Iranian jihadist group formed by Baloch and Sunni Muslim ethnic minorities and operating from Pakistan, has called the conflict between Israel and Iran a unique opportunity. "Jaish al-Adl extends the hand of brotherhood and friendship to all the Iranian people and calls on everyone, especially the people of Balochistan, as well as the armed forces, to join the ranks of the Resistance," the group said in a June 13 statement.Conversely, Pakistan fears that separatist militants from its own Baloch minority, based in Iran, may also seek to intensify their attacks(Shah, 19 June, 2025).In an interview with Geo News on June 16, 2025, Maleeha Lodhi, former Pakistani ambassador to Washington, expressed concern about ungoverned areas, which are believed to be fertile ground for terrorist groups. Pakistan has unstable borders with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and its longtime rival, India. It does not want to add a new, unstable border to its long one with Iran. The Iran-Pakistan border region is populated by Baloch, a minority in both

countries that has long complained of discrimination and launched separatist movements. On the Pakistani side, the region is a province called Balochistan, and on the Iranian side, it is Sistan-Baluchestan. Before Israel's bombing of Iran, Tehran was closer to India, Pakistan's longtime rival. Pakistan and Iran even exchanged airstrikes last year, accusing each other of harboring Baloch militants. But the attack on Iran has shaken alliances, as India has failed to condemn the Israeli bombing campaign (Lodhi, 2025). China has also expressed deep concern about the security situation in Balochistan, a region central to Beijing's multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investment program in Pakistan, centered on the new Chinese-run Gwadar port. Baloch militant groups in Pakistan have previously targeted Chinese personnel and projects (Shah, 19 June, 2025). The Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and one-third of the world's LNG transit, the Iran Government has been decided to be blocking. If the strait is indeed blocked by the Iranian government, Pakistan and the entire region will face energy crises. According to JP Morgan, oil prices could surge to \$120-130 per barrel, or even higher, within days. Energy markets would be disrupted, and strategic reserves would be tapped globally. For Pakistan, which accounts for nearly 30% of its import bill from fuel, this would mean an instant explosion in its current account deficit. Even beyond the strait, Iran serves as a key trade route to Central Asia and Turkey. With road and rail links running through its territory, Pakistan has viewed Iran in recent years as a potential bridge to diversify its trade routes. If Iran becomes a war zone or faces renewed and tightened US sanctions, these land corridors could be closed indefinitely. The Pakistan-Iran-Turkey freight corridor, a pillar of Pakistan's regional trade ambitions, would collapse. With rising regional tensions, other initiatives, such as Iran's role in China's Belt and Road Initiative, could also stall, indirectly affecting Pakistan's trajectory in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (Virani, 20 June, 2025).

Conclusion:

The conflict between Iran and Israel will be difficult to resolve indefinitely due to its complex historical past and many circumstances. For the time being, President Trump declared a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Iran, which he said would stop what he referred to as "the 12-day war" completely. And though this ceasefire looked quite fragile at first, three days later, it's still. The war is likely to persist unless the basic reasons of the conflict, such as the two countries' political systems, ideologies, security threats, and regional hegemonic competition, are addressed. The nuclear issue is the most significant threat to Israel's security, because Iran's nuclear development is regarded a threat to Israel's security, and tensions between the two countries are the causes of Israel's invasion of Iran, which began on June 13, 2025. At the commencement of the dispute, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Trump considered the major causes of the war to be the Iranian government's nuclear program; but later during the war both leaders eventually discussed the changing regime of Iran. If the Israeli government truly threatens Iran's nuclear program, the IAEA team report plainly states that the team has not found any proof evidence of nuclear items, but doubts that they are hidden in three locations. So, the conflict was not based on the nuclear program agenda; rather, both leaders desired a change of regime in Iran, which they were unsuccessful in achieving. President Donald Trump's involvement directly in the Israel-Iran conflict has had a significant impact. The Middle East's dynamics have been impacted by Trump's views towards Israel and Iran, and Pakistan has had to manage these difficulties in its own foreign policy. In the future, Pakistan will need to balance its own security concerns in the region with the cautious management of its relations with both the US and Iran.

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