



IPRI UPDATE

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AMBASSADOR LECTURE SERIES-III

Post-Brexit Foreign Policy: Future of Pakistan-UK Relations



L-R: Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit and British High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr Thomas Drew

H.E. Mr Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan delivered a lecture on 'Post-Brexit Foreign Policy: Future of Pakistan-UK Relations' on 4 September 2018 at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Islamabad.

Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI, in his welcome address said that Pakistan-UK relations had moved from strength-to-strength. He acknowledged Britain's valuable contributions in strengthening Pakistan's education and health sectors, among others. 'British Pakistanis are playing a hugely important role in this relationship and are a living bridge between the two countries.' He was hopeful that Pakistan-UK relationship will continue to grow in the future. 'We attach great importance to Pakistan's relationship with the UK, particularly economic and trade relationship. Britain remains our

largest trading partner in Europe', he said.

The British High Commissioner Mr Thomas Drew stated that the UK's diplomatic mission in Pakistan is the

than any other country or organisation', he said.

Discussing Britain's exit from the European Union (EU), the High Commissioner stressed that 'The UK is reshaping its place in the world. Clearly, the decision to leave the EU has far-reaching consequences for our relationship with the continent.' He reaffirmed that 'while we are changing our political relationship with the EU, we are not leaving Europe, and our friends on the continent. Furthermore, our commitment to international security has not changed, nor will it.'

Delineating a positive vision for the future of its relationship with Pakistan, the British High Commissioner underscored that the UK is focused on 'helping Pakistan to unleash its potential'.

'Most importantly, particularly in the

“ The UK has a very direct and unique stake in Pakistan's future stability, security and prosperity. Together, we face some shared challenges and opportunities. ” That is the bedrock of the Pakistan-UK relationship.

- H.E. Mr Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan

second biggest in the world; and its development program, under the Department for International Development (DFID), is the largest such bilateral program in the world and stands at half a billion dollars. 'In fact, the UK spends more on development aid in Pakistan

post-Brexit world, the UK and Pakistan can benefit from each other's economic success. Many people forget that Pakistan is the 6th most populous country in the world and growing fast.

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Post-Brexit Foreign Policy: Future of Pakistan-UK Relations



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If Punjab were a country, it would be the world's 11th largest. We don't always think of Karachi, the world's 6th largest city, as in the same economic league as Shanghai, Mumbai or Sao Paolo. But we should. I predict that we will. Pakistan-UK ties are uniquely placed to work alongside each other, and to benefit from its success.'

Mr Drew concluded by stressing the importance of a shared vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Pakistan becoming once again the epicenter of trade and commerce that its geography and size demand. He hoped that in the not too distant future, trade and investment will form the central plank of Pakistan-UK relationship.

Major Recommendations

- As the UK leaves the EU, it is seeking free trade agreements with the newly emerging and fast growing economies as well as strengthening its existing partnerships with some of its oldest and closest friends around the world, including Pakistan.
- Pakistan's young and growing population is a huge asset, but its growth needs to be sustainable and matched by its resources.
- Since the EU immigration rules were strict towards various countries including Pakistan, the post-Brexit period will provide numerous opportunities to Pakistan, ensuring more people-to-people contacts between the two countries.
- Pakistan also needs to ensure that in post-Brexit period, it has uninterrupted market access to the UK along the lines of the current Generalized System of Preferences plus (GSP+) status.

Furthermore, Pakistan needs to improve its trade complementarity with Britain to meet its import demands. In addition to this, Pakistan should also push to have more products, currently not covered under the GSP+, for inclusion in any preferential market access agreement with the UK.

“

The UK is Pakistan's biggest trading partner in Europe and third biggest investor globally. This will be the best guarantee of the future stability and prosperity of both countries, particularly in the ”
post-Brexit world.

- H.E. Mr Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner to Pakistan

- In trading terms, South Asia remains one of the least interconnected parts of the world. Pakistan is at the geographical heart of Asia and a natural junction between huge markets of India, Iran, Afghanistan and the resource-rich Central Asian states. Yet, neither Pakistan nor the region has in recent years been able to match its historical past by constructing the modern links from East to West - and West to East - that are so sorely needed. Although, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers great potential to Pakistan, it should be part of a more ambitious vision that sees wider opening of trade - north, south, east and west.

Farewell of Mr Benjamin Clark Researcher from Australia

Mr Benjamin Clarke, New Colombo Plan Scholar from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia completed his internship at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute from July till September 2018.

During his stay at IPRI, Mr Clarke undertook research on 'Pakistan and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: Current and Future Perceptions'.



Artificial Intelligence and Threat of Preemptive War



Mr Usama Nizamani, Consultant, IPRI delivered a presentation on 'Artificial Intelligence and Threat of Preemptive War' on 27 September 2018. He outlined the potential growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which could entail consequences for preemptive military action and strategies. Salient points are given below:

AI systems are based on replication of human intelligence processes by machines. Automated system is based on 'if-then-else rules structure', whereas autonomous system reasons probabilistically, based on sensor data input.

AI systems will become adept and master predictive learning with progress in machine learning and become embedded in strategic systems. Besides being used for repair and maintenance of vehicles, AI systems are now used in military simulations, e.g. AI assisted training facilities in the US Air Force are a case in point.

The civilian and commercial businesses are now using fully autonomous systems in the manufacturing sector e.g. in cars, trucks, tractors, drones, human-holds, and four-legged animal like robots. While, due to the nature of military Command and Control (CC), AI systems are likely to remain semi-autonomous systems. Such systems will enable a balance between positive and negative controls in operational environments and reduce risks of accidental war.

Discussing AI and 3D printing technology, Mr Nizamani said that AI will be a potent force if combined with other disrupting technologies. Therefore, possible combination of (semi) autonomous weapon systems with 3D printing technology and robotics will enable these systems to have real time ability to repair and replace damaged systems, increasing efficiency and efficacy of AWS and 3D printing as a result.

Mr Nizamani also discussed interoperability, inter-communication between different domains. In order to cater for the operational level strategy, AI systems will see greater compatibility between different systems and domains of warfare, particularly in areas of space and network-centric systems for effective CC.

Given the absence of human intervention, AI and (conventional) AWS may become attractive tools for surgical strikes and in nuclear strategy for counter-force targeting.

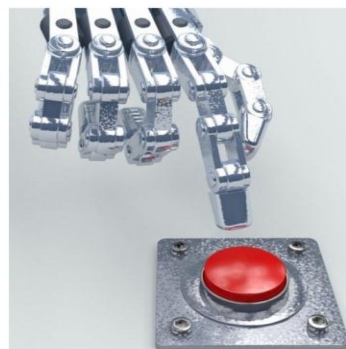
AI has the potential of undermining strategic stability among nuclear states and increase threat of nuclear war. This scenario could become relevant between China-US, India-Pakistan, and US-Russia.

AI weapon systems may offer opportunities for preemptive strikes by technologically sophisticated states against non-state actors (NSAs) and relatively less powerful military states and increase power asymmetry.

Recommendations for Pakistan

Military Research: There is a need for research at the domestic level in Pakistan to understand the strategic implications of AI and AWS, for which technical training, and capacity building must take place.

Commercial Research: Commercial AI research & development (R&D) investment also needs central focus.



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Research Papers

1. Political Role of Israel in the Middle East: History, Evolution and Contemporary Period
- Sajid Aziz
2. Money Laundering, Terror Financing and FATF: Implications for Pakistan
- Adeel Mukhtar
3. Trump and South Asia: Politics of Pakistan-US Relations in Perspective
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4. Post 9/11 Geopolitics of the Middle East and Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Relations
- Maryam Nazir
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- Amna Ejaz Rafi

The E-Edition of the Journal is available for free download at:
<http://www.ipripak.org/journal-of-current-affairs-vol-3-no-1-2018/>.



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Format

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- Word Length of Book Reviews: 1000 words
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