

Abstract

The objective of the thesis on “Pakistan’s Foreign Policy toward Afghanistan after Taliban Regime (2001 – 2008)” is to study Pakistan foreign policy toward Afghanistan after Taliban regime as well as to analyze the external and internal variables influencing Pakistan’s foreign policy during this period.

The Analysis found that Pakistan has pursued dual track policy in security dimension for achieving security interest that helps to gain a friendly government in Kabul to achieve the “strategic depth” against India and to strengthen its bargaining position vis-à-vis India. Economically, Pakistan has pursued forward policy in order to obtain the economic interest because Afghanistan was important for Pakistan as the trade corridor, and the energy pipelines with the Central Asian Republics.

Besides, there are internal and external variables influencing Pakistan’s foreign policy toward Afghanistan during this period. The important external variables are the policy of the United States of America and India. And the important internal variables are the President Gen. Pervez Musharraf; the instability of Pakistani military regime; the role of the army and the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI); the social pluralism as well as the culture and religion discord; the deteriorated economy and the Durand Line and the independent Pustunistan claims.

Consequently, the annual GDP growth during 2002 – 2008 increased around 7 percent; a number of Al – Qaeda leader were killed and some were arrested in Pakistan. But such success must be limited by the fact that the Taliban and Al – Qaeda are still present in southern Afghanistan and in the tribal agencies of Pakistan. It could be said that Pakistan’s foreign policy toward Afghanistan has failed.