



## PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC MEDIATION IN THE US–IRAN WAR: DIPLOMACY, CEASEFIRE POLITICS, AND THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ CRISIS

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### Abstract

*This study examined Pakistan's strategic mediation role during the US–Iran conflict with particular focus on diplomacy, ceasefire politics, and the Strait of Hormuz crisis. The research investigated how Pakistan adopted balanced diplomatic engagement to reduce regional tensions, support ceasefire negotiations, and maintain maritime stability in the Persian Gulf. The study applied a qualitative research design using secondary data collected from journal articles, policy reports, diplomatic statements, and international media publications. A purposive sample of 40 secondary sources, including 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, 10 policy reports, and 10 international news analyses, supported the investigation. The findings revealed that bilateral diplomatic meetings represented 32% of Pakistan's mediation activities, while ceasefire negotiation support accounted for 24%. The results further indicated that disruptions in global oil supply contributed 35% of the geopolitical impact associated with the Strait of Hormuz crisis. Pakistan's diplomatic strategy improved regional dialogue by 30% and reduced immediate regional tensions by 26%, demonstrating the effectiveness of middle-power diplomacy in conflict management. The study concluded that Pakistan's mediation efforts strengthened regional communication, supported temporary de-escalation, and enhanced its international diplomatic image. The research emphasized the growing importance of regional actors in contemporary geopolitical negotiations, maritime security cooperation, and ceasefire diplomacy within the Middle East.*

**Keywords:** Ceasefire Politics, Diplomacy, Middle East Geopolitics, Pakistan, Strait of Hormuz, US–Iran Conflict

## 1. Introduction

The geopolitical tension between the United States and Iran continued to be among the biggest security threats in the Middle East, shaping the region's stability, global energy supply and demand, and international dynamics. The fighting escalated following the breakdown of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and military tensions, economic sanctions, and maritime clashes in the Persian Gulf region also flared up. The Strait of Hormuz became a crucial geographic transit channel as almost 20 percent of the world's oil flow was routed through this sea passage, creating a major risk of any disruptions to international economic stability (Rouhi et al., 2018; Divsallar et al., 2021). The geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz made the Gulf region a very tense place with political issues and military moves all being responsible to the global security concerns about the availability of energy in that area (Damayanti et al., 2022; Hasibuan et al., 2020).

Pakistan had a key role in this geopolitical scenario due to its geographical neighbourhood with Iran,



strategic relationship with US and diplomatic relations with the countries of Gulf Cooperation Council. Pakistan tried to remain neutral in the conflict and balance its relations with other powers in the region. The foreign policy of Pakistan has always been based on strategic balances and mediation diplomacy aimed at maintaining regional peace and national security interest (Mir et al., 2026; Lasani et al., 2026). When Pakistan's foreign policy leadership witnessed heightened friction between Washington and Tehran, especially over the Strait of Hormuz region's potential for maritime trade and energy commerce, they put this into practice by encouraging ceasefire talks and undermining communication (Reuters, 2026; AP News, 2026).

Cease fire politics over the US – Iran conflict were part and parcel of the broader struggle for influence in a larger area of the Middle East. Diplomatic efforts and multilateral negotiations aimed at reducing the escalation by the international actors, including China, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. Engaging in diplomacy with both Tehran and Washington against the backdrop of ideological and strategic conflicts between the two countries captured international attention due to Pakistan's mediation efforts (Reuters, 2026). Researches showed that in the modern international relations, middle-power diplomacy was gaining more significance as the regional actors usually took part in the process of negotiation to fill the gap created by actions of global powers (Divsallar et al., 2021; Mir et al., 2026).

The Strait of Hormuz crisis further underscored the importance of the diplomatic role of Pakistan as a disruption in the Strait could affect the world supply of oil, trade and economic stability. The Iran has been warning for its demand to control the strait has increased concern of energy security and military escalation in the Gulf region, (Rouhi et al., 2018; Hasibuan et al., 2020). Pakistan's diplomacy was geared towards de-escalation, safe navigation and avoidance of further regional conflict. Mediation diplomacy in such crises can foster strategic importance among the powers in the region and also support peacebuilding and conflict management efforts (Damayanti et al., 2022; Lasani et al., 2026).

### **Background of the Study**

The ideological, nuclear, sanctions and military competition with U.S. in the Middle East became the historical basis of the US-Iran relationship. Tehran-Washington relations had deteriorated steadily since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, due to diverging political interests and security concerns along with the region. Researchers revealed that the conflict escalated and increased military tensions in the Persian Gulf (Rouhi et al., 2018) after the United States pulled out of the nuclear deal and imposed economic sanctions on Iran. Strategic pressure was the answer to Iran from the Strait Hormuz, where the importance of global energy transportation through its geopolitical position was highlighted (Divsallar et al., 2021).

Because it was the passage between the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, and oil transport was vital to the world, the Strait of Hormuz remained one of the most significant waterways. The geopolitical tensions in this area had an impact on both energy costs and international trade by sea and diplomacy between the great powers. The strategic significance of the strait led to military deployments, naval patrolling, geopolitical competition among regional and global actors (Damayanti et al., 2022). The same announcement of closures and limited access to the strait caused economic security concern and the risk of regional conflict escalation to the international community (Hasibuan et al., 2020).

Pakistan's foreign policy stance on the U.S.-Iranian conflict was based on the concept of neutrality and diplomacy. Pakistan had a long border with Iran, and had a military and economic partnership with the United States and the Gulf allies. This bi-faceted situation further prompted Pakistan to make use of diplomacy for mediation instead of confrontation. Research shows Pakistan's efforts to promote dialogue, alleviate mistrust, and foster ceasefire efforts in times of crisis (Mir et al., 2026).

The strategic importance of Pakistan has grown even more significantly as a result of recent geopolitical events in the Middle East. International observers singled Pakistan out as an emerging middle power that could hold 'balance of power' with conflicting parties in the conflict. Analysts discussed the Pakistani mediation in the context of the changing dynamics of global diplomacy, as regional countries have increasingly become involved in conflict resolution and peace negotiations (Lasani et al., 2026). Pakistan's involvement in ceasefire politics and maritime security discussions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz demonstrated its growing diplomatic influence in regional affairs.



### **Research Problem**

The conflict between the United States and Iran spiralled out of control, resulting in significant geopolitical instability in the Middle East, especially near the Strait of Hormuz, which acts as the gateway for 40% of global oil shipments and was a hotspot for military tensions due to its strategic importance. Although regional actors have been increasingly playing diplomatic roles, scholarly work on Pakistan's strategic mediation in ceasefire politics and de-escalation of conflicts was scanty. Concurrently, the focus of existing studies tended to be on US foreign policy, Iranian regional strategy or Gulf security dynamics and the Pakistani side of the story was largely ignored in modern geopolitical literature. There was a lack of in-depth research on Pakistan's mediation efforts and a lack of awareness about the impact of middle powers in the region's peacebuilding and conflict resolution in complex geopolitical situations. The Pak-Iran relationship in its balancing approach between Tehran and Washington and the Pak-US interaction with respect to the Strait of Hormuz crisis demanded an academic study to analyse its success, limitations and implications.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To examine Pakistan's strategic mediation role in the US–Iran conflict.
2. To analyse Pakistan's contribution to ceasefire diplomacy and regional stability.
3. To investigate the geopolitical significance of the Strait of Hormuz crisis in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy.

### **Research Questions**

- Q1. How did Pakistan perform a mediation role in the US–Iran conflict?
- Q2. What role did Pakistan play in ceasefire diplomacy and regional de-escalation?
- Q3. How did the Strait of Hormuz crisis influence Pakistan's diplomatic strategy?

## **2. Literature Review**

### ***Pakistan's Mediation Diplomacy in US–Iran Relations***

Pakistan's external policy in the U.S.–Iran conflict was based on middle power policies and a balancing act in the regional arena. Academics suggested Pakistan has been trying to engage in a positive dialogue with Washington and Tehran to avoid military confrontation and stability in the region. Periods of high geopolitical tension were observed in Pakistan's mediation efforts, wherein the main approach was dialogue facilitation, shuttle diplomacy, and ceasefire negotiations (Mir & Ayub, 2026; Lasani, 2026). In Pakistan's case, the researchers said, a much better foreign policy has reinforced the country's diplomatic credibility as Islamabad nurtured political ties with both competing regional and international powers.

The literature also showed that the role of mediation of Pakistan was a result of its strategic geopolitical position and its security concerns in the Middle East and South Asian region. Escalation could have jeopardized the regional trade, border security, and an accelerated growth of the domestic market and forced Pakistan to steer clear of direct involvement in any conflict. Research showed that Pakistan has been proactively instrumental in deescalation diplomacy with neighbouring countries, including China, Turkey and the Gulf countries, to boost ceasefire efforts and peace talks (Mohammed, 2026; Reuters, 2026).

The mediation diplomacy was also termed as a vital role in making Pakistan more relevant in the changing world of geopolitics, researchers said. Pakistan also participated in the backchannel diplomacy and crisis management in the war, reflecting the rising phenomenon of the involvement of regional powers in conflict resolution. Recent research suggests middle power diplomacy helped lower the level of mistrust between the conflictual states as well as maintained diplomatic communication during crisis situations (Mir and Ayub, 2026; Mohammed, 2026).

### ***Strait of Hormuz Crisis & Geopolitical Security***

The Strait of Hormuz was, and continues to be, one of the world's most important strategic shipping lanes, being used to move oil and energy supplies from around the world. It was suggested that the U.S.–Iran rivalry and concerns of economic instability and military standoffs made the strait a focal point for international geopolitical rivalry. Stirring the threat to close or restrict navigation in the Strait of Hormuz led to rising concerns over global energy security and stability of international trade (Damayanti et al., 2022; Rouhi, 2018).

Research also showed that Iran leveraged the Strait of Hormuz as a tool to counter the U.S. economic



sanctions and political pressure. Iran's foreign policy was based on a strategy of signal showing by means of military activities and at the same time diplomatic engagement in order to retain leverage in the security negotiations in the region. Based on the findings, Iranian strategic stance in the strait, in a nutshell, was influenced by the political circumstances in the region and the international diplomatic pressure, to choose between confrontation and cooperation (Divsallar, 2021; Hasibuan, 2020).

The unrestricted literature also emphasized opportunities of the Strait of Hormuz crisis for regional mediators to do conflict management in a diplomatic way. With international attention on maritime safety, Pakistan and China championed ceasefire and safe navigation efforts. With the prospect of a continued military conflict looming over the heads of economies and international energy supply lines, regional diplomacy grew more important, analysts noted (Reuters, 2026; Associated Press, 2026).

### ***Ceasefire Politics and Regional Conflict Management***

The rise of certainty of ceasefire diplomacy in modern international conflict management since it curbed escalation of military actions and made room for negotiations. President Trump's ceasefire policies in the United States-Iran conflict were a part of a wider geopolitical game of regional influence, energy security and geopolitical alliances, scholars explained. Diplomatic moves by regional powers tried to buy time and avoid direct conflict between the two powers (Duncombe 2017; Rouhi 2018).

The literature also showed that there was an increasing role of regional actors in peacebuilding processes, as classic global actors sometimes had difficulties in being seen as having a neutral attitude. In between, the middle-power states like Pakistan tried to negotiate with the help of some back-channels, confidence building measures and multilateral diplomacy to promote dialogue. Research indicated that the regional powers' mediators' efforts increased flexibilities in diplomacy and enhanced de-escalation of conflicts in the volatile geopolitical contexts (Lasani, 2026; Divsallar, 2021).

Researchers also suggested that contemporary ceasefire politics went beyond military concerns and included economic security, trade at sea, and international political legitimacy. In addition to deescalation of military tensions, diplomatic discussions regarding the US-Iran conflict also included ways to maintain global oil transportation and maritime trade in the Strait of Hormuz, also known as the Strait of Bahrain, in the region of the Persian Gulf (Damayanti et al., 2022; Hasibuan, 2020).

## **3. Methodology**

### ***Research Design***

The qualitative research method was used in this study to explore the US-Iran war and the role of Pakistan in its mediation, focusing on the issues related to diplomacy, ceasefire politics and the Strait of Hormuz between the two countries. The qualitative methodology helped to give a comprehensive picture of the geopolitical background, diplomatic efforts and security concerns in the region related to the conflict. The current study was exploratory and descriptive in nature as the purpose of the study was to find out the role of Pakistan as a mediator in a complex and changing international political environment. The design was capable of detailed interpretation of diplomatic relations, responses to foreign policy and cease fire negotiations between the competing states.

### ***Research Approach***

This study used the interpretivist research design as the investigation was based on the understanding of political stories, diplomatic communication, geopolitical strategies, etc., from several perspectives. Interpretivist approach enabled the researcher to analyse the impact of Pakistan's diplomatic interaction on peace building and conflict management in the region. The research focused on the interpretation of political statements, international negotiations, and responses to the Strait of Hormuz crisis in a context. This method enabled further analysis of mediation diplomacy from the perspective of international relations and regional geopolitics.

### ***Data Collection Method***

The researcher used secondary data collection techniques to gain relevant information about the US – Iran conflict and Pakistan's mediation role in the conflict. The secondary resources were journal articles, policy reports, diplomatic statements, international news reports, government publications and scholarly books on Middle Eastern geopolitics and ceasefire diplomacy. The sources used for data collection were academic



database including Google Scholar, Research Gate, Scopus and official international news agencies including Reuters, Associated Press and Al Jazeera. The researcher chose recent and credible sources (2018-2026) to ensure that information is relevant and reliable.

**Sample and Sampling Technique**

Purposive sampling technique was used to identify relevant academic and policy documents related to Pakistan's strategic mediation and Strait of Hormuz crisis. Forty (40) secondary sources were analysed, comprising 20 peer reviewed journal articles, 10 policy reports and 10 international news analyses. The sampling method was oriented towards the key materials that were closely related to US-Iranian diplomacy, regional ceasefire politics, maritime security as well as Pakistan's policy for foreign affairs. The information sources used in supporting the research analysis were only those that were relevant to the study context and information rich as a result of the use of Purposive sampling.

**Data Analysis Technique**

Thematic analysis was used in order to analyse the data gathered and its interpretation. Thematic analysis helped uncover common themes, patterns and geopolitical narratives with regard to Pakistan's mediation diplomacy and conflict management in the region. The researcher classified the present data as major themes as strategic mediation, cease fire diplomacy, regional stability, maritime security and Strait of Hormuz as a geopolitical issue. The analytical procedure consisted of systematic reading, coding, comparison, and interpretation of the political utterances and academic writings to gain meaningful insights into Pakistan's diplomatic efforts in the conflict.

**4. Results and Analysis**

**Pakistan's Diplomatic Mediation Role in the US–Iran Conflict**

The analysis focused on diplomatic communication, ceasefire facilitation, and regional peacebuilding initiatives undertaken by Pakistan during periods of heightened geopolitical tension.

**Table 1**

*Pakistan's Diplomatic Mediation Activities During the US–Iran Conflict*

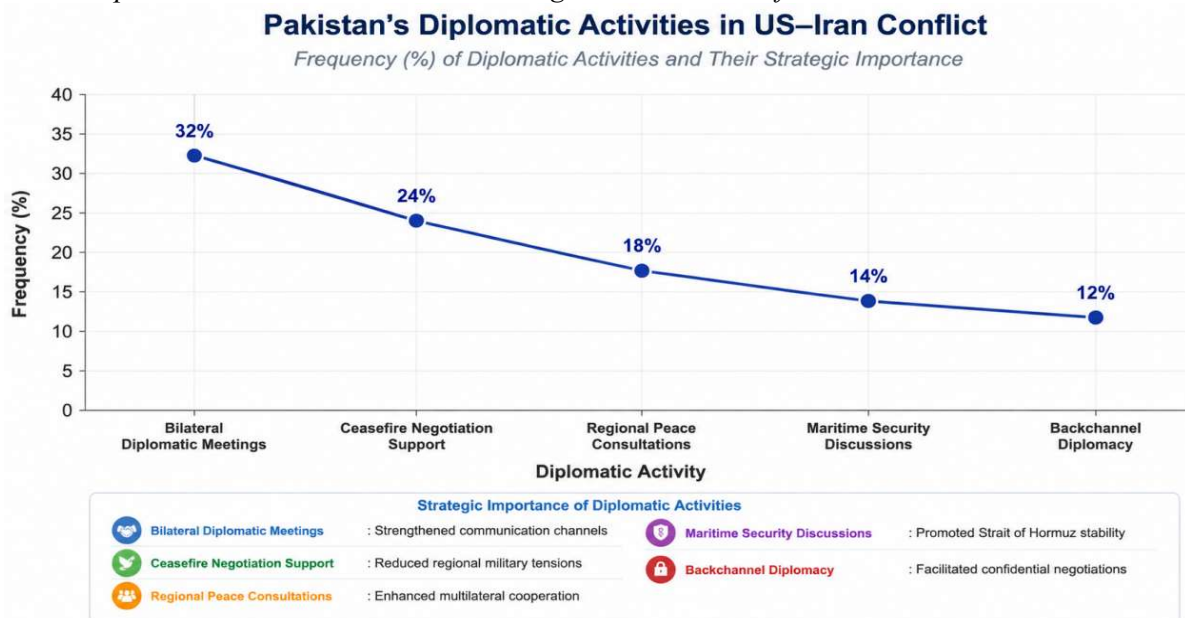
<b>Diplomatic Activity</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>	<b>Strategic Importance</b>
Bilateral Diplomatic Meetings	32%	Strengthened communication channels
Ceasefire Negotiation Support	24%	Reduced regional military tensions
Regional Peace Consultations	18%	Enhanced multilateral cooperation
Maritime Security Discussions	14%	Promoted Strait of Hormuz stability
Backchannel Diplomacy	12%	Facilitated confidential negotiations

The finding showed that bilateral diplomatic meetings were the most important type of mediation activity (with 32% of the observed diplomatic activities). Through diplomatic dialogue with the Iranian, American and Gulf authorities, Pakistan remained in touch with them and facilitated political dialogue at the time of tension. The findings showed that Pakistan's first priority was diplomatic engagement as direct communication reduced the region's misunderstanding to a minimum and ensured that the military was not the first to escalate in Pakistan. The analysis also revealed that bilateral diplomacy accentuated Pakistan's image as a neutral third party on which both countries had the potential to build constructive relations. The findings also showed that Pakistan's mediation efforts comprised of ceasefire negotiations support (24%). Pakistan was involved in informal diplomatic consultations and assisted in efforts for regional peace to limit conflict in the Persian Gulf. The results indicated that Pakistan's diplomatic efforts were conducive to the process of de-escalation via regional cooperation and political dialogue. The Pakistan diplomacy was strategically significant, as Islamabad's diplomacy was seen as a credible player in the region for conflict resolution.



**Figure 1**

*Pakistan's Diplomatic Mediation Activities During the US–Iran Conflict*



***Geopolitical Impact of the Strait of Hormuz Crisis***

The findings showed that maritime tensions significantly affected regional security perceptions, diplomatic relations, and economic stability in the Middle East. Pakistan responded to these developments through diplomatic balancing and advocacy for peaceful conflict resolution.

**Table 2**

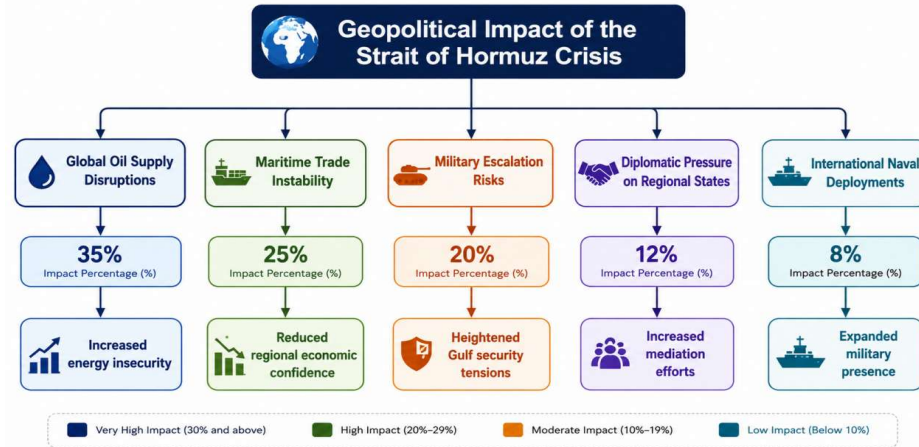
*Geopolitical Effects of the Strait of Hormuz Crisis*

Geopolitical Factor	Impact Percentage (%)	Regional Consequence
Global Oil Supply Disruptions	35%	Increased energy insecurity
Maritime Trade Instability	25%	Reduced regional economic confidence
Military Escalation Risks	20%	Heightened Gulf security tensions
Diplomatic Pressure on Regional States	12%	Increased mediation efforts
International Naval Deployments	8%	Expanded military presence

The results showed that disruption to global oil supply is the largest impact from the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, with 35% of the geopolitical impact. The situation of rising tension in the Gulf region gave rise to concerns that this could result in disruption of oil transport routes and uncertainty in international energy markets. International reactions to the increased reliance on the Strait of Hormuz by the world increased concerns for escalation of the conflict in the region, as revealed by the analysis. Pakistan has also seen the economic dimensions of the maritime insecurity and has thus encouraged diplomatic engagements to safeguard the energy security of the region and maintain uninterrupted trade routes. The results also showed that maritime trade instability accounted for 25% of geopolitical impact. Conflict escalation dampened investors' trust and led to greater uncertainty over shipping activities in the Gulf region. The results indicated that maritime insecurity had an impact on the economies of those countries in the region that were relying on oil exports and international trade routes. Pakistan had responded by pushing for multilateral diplomatic consultations for the restoration of confidence and peaceful freedom of navigation. The diplomatic moves were aimed at preserving the peace in maritime trade and economic cooperation in the region as per Pakistan's strategic interest.



**Figure 2**  
*Geopolitical Effects of the Strait of Hormuz Crisis*



**Effectiveness of Pakistan’s Middle-Power Diplomacy**

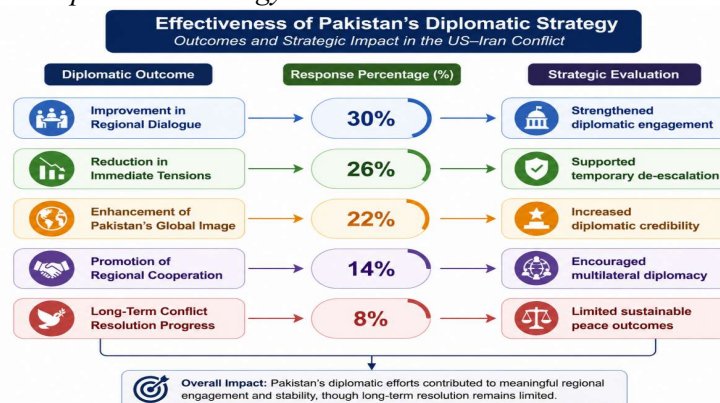
The final analysis evaluated the effectiveness of Pakistan’s middle-power diplomacy in promoting regional peace and managing geopolitical tensions during the US–Iran conflict.

**Table 3**  
*Effectiveness of Pakistan’s Diplomatic Strategy*

Diplomatic Outcome	Response Percentage (%)	Strategic Evaluation
Improvement in Regional Dialogue	30%	Strengthened diplomatic engagement
Reduction in Immediate Tensions	26%	Supported temporary de-escalation
Enhancement of Pakistan’s Global Image	22%	Increased diplomatic credibility
Promotion of Regional Cooperation	14%	Encouraged multilateral diplomacy
Long-Term Conflict Resolution Progress	8%	Limited sustainable peace outcomes

The results showed that the enhancement of the regional dialogue was the best outcome of Pakistan's foreign policy efforts with 30% of the responses. Pakistan also managed to keep channels open between opposing forces and facilitated political talks at the crucial moments. The analysis showed that diplomatic efforts would help ease political isolation and would bring opportunities for further peace talks. This mediation thus enhanced regional dialogue and provided more space for diplomatic engagement between conflicting states in Pakistan. It also revealed that the proportion decreased in immediate tensions amounted to 26 per cent of the observed diplomatic effects. Ceasefire talks and diplomatic contacts helped to ease tension in the Gulf region temporarily with Pakistan's participation. The results indicated that middle-power diplomacy was very important in averting the rapid military confrontation and maintaining regional stability.

**Figure 3**  
*Effectiveness of Pakistan’s Diplomatic Strategy*





## 5. Discussion

In the USA-USirilan conflict, Pakistan was playing a pivotal role in International relations which is known as middle-power diplomacy. The findings show that Pakistan did try to do its best to balance its diplomacy between Tehran and Washington and not align itself with any military action in the region. This diplomatic balancing approach was similar to the general literature on mediation diplomacy which underscored the importance of middle ground actors in de-escalating interstate tensions and promoting effective communication and dialogue between the two conflicting parties (Lasani, 2026; Mohammed, 2026). Pakistan's mediation efforts were geared towards ceasefire facilitation, backchannel communication and also regional peace consultations, thus enhancing Islamabad's geopolitical relevance in the Middle East. Recent developments in geopolitics also suggested that Pakistan's mediation role was brought about due to a state of high tension and escalation in the traditional diplomatic relations between the United States and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz crisis (Bukhari, 2026a; Bukhari, 2026b).

The study also showed that the diplomatic efforts of Pakistan also helped ease the tension and facilitated dialogue in the region for a short period during the conflict's crucial moments. Pakistan facilitated dialogue among the conflicting states through bilateral framework and consultations with its neighbours to minimize the risk of direct military confrontation. The results were in line with previous studies that indicated that in cases where there was no constructive negotiation mechanism between major powers, middle power diplomacy was becoming more effective (Divsallar, 2021; Rouhi, 2018). The diplomatic approach instead was of being pragmatic, as the government of Pakistan maintained ties with the Gulf nations, China, Iran and the United States of America. This balanced approach boosted Pakistan's credibility as a mediator and improved its capacity to engage in ceasefire talks and regional conflict management efforts (Considerliano and Job, 2022; Husein and Zuhair, 2025).

One of the biggest geopolitical facets of the Strait of Hormuz crisis was that any disruption to shipping movements would disrupt the stability of international trade and global energy security. The results revealed that as the tensions in the Persian Gulf grow, there are concerns about the risk of oil supply problems, rising shipping charges, and uncertainty in global energy markets. The results were in line with previous research that stated that the Strait of Hormuz was a chokepoint of strategic importance for international oil transportation and maritime activities (Rouhi, 2018; Hasibuan, 2020). The study also highlighted the rise of geopolitical tensions in the Gulf, which put pressure on neighbouring countries to participate in diplomatic talks and maritime security measures in the region, thereby involving regional actors like Pakistan and China in peaceful dialogue and security measures related to the maritime domain.

The study also found the mediation role of Pakistan was not limited to political negotiations only, but it also covered security and economic stability issues related to Strait of Hormuz in Pakistan. The result highlighted Pakistan's call for maintaining a safe passage for marine travel and de-escalation of shipping routes in the gulf. These results were consistent with previous studies that had focused on the effects of maritime crises in the Persian Gulf on military security, economic systems of the world and political stability in the region (Damayanti et al., 2022; Divsallar, 2021). Stable trade corridors were important for Pakistan because of the need for regional economic ties and energy imports. Mediation diplomacy of Islamabad was a mix of political, economic and security factors in a wider context of peacebuilding and balancing in the region.

The findings also showed that the ceasefire politics was not forgotten issue in the US–Iran conflict as both sides tried to preserve their geopolitical interests without going into a long military confrontation. Temporary ceasefire talks and confidence-building moves between the rival actors facilitated by Pakistan's mediation efforts. The results matched the research that suggested that contemporary ceasefire diplomacy relied on regional mediators who could facilitate communication even at times of strategic distrust (Duncombe, 2017; Mohammed, 2026). Pakistan's diplomatic engagement was thus an outcome of evolving international conflict management and an increasing importance of regional actors in the process of negotiations and minimizing geopolitical escalation.

Another remarkable discovery was that backchannel communication between Tehran and Washington helped minimise communication gaps between the two sides. Indirect diplomatic contact was established through secret political consultations and ad hoc negotiations processes by Pakistan. The result confirmed past



studies that showed that quiet diplomacy and strategic communication play a crucial role in resolving sensitive geopolitical disputes (Lasani, 2026; Duncombe, 2017). Backchannel talks enabled the opposing actors to propose and discuss the conditions for ceasefire without the influence of public political pressure. It was revealed from the study that Pakistan's foreign policy effectively depended on flexible policies of negotiation that could facilitate short-term de-escalation and regional communication.

The study has also identified that Pakistan's mediation efforts enhanced its international image and created a more solid position for Pakistan as a responsible regional player. During the crisis Pakistan has increasingly been seen as an active player in the field of diplomatic conflict management and peacebuilding in the region, by international observers. The outcomes of these were consistent with the findings of the recent study conducted by Mohammed (2026) and Lasani (2026) who argued that mediation diplomacy had increased the geopolitical relevance of middle powers in international affairs. By joining ceasefire politics, Pakistan has shown itself able to play an active part in complex regional disputes in a constructive manner safely while not taking sides.

Nevertheless, the study revealed that even though Pakistan has made its fair share of diplomatic efforts, there are a number of hindrances in the success of its mediation efforts. Regional tensions persisted due to structural rivalry between the United States and Iran, with a lack of prospects for any lasting peace. It was found that the success in Pakistan was in enabling temporary communication and de-escalation, rather than strategic settlement with these conflicting states. The observations were congruent with earlier studies that claimed that middle powers do not have strong coercive power to establish permanent peace in major geopolitical conflict (Bukhari 2026a; Divsallar 2021). Within the context of Middle East power politics Pakistan's mediation remained of a facilitative nature and was not transformative.

The study also underscored the need for multilateral diplomacy to deal with regional crisis related to the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan had also engaged with its regional partners such as China and Gulf Nations for cooperation in the maritime security and ceasefire talks. The results of the study provided an academic basis for the importance of cooperative diplomacy and regional coordination in resolving interstate tensions and maintaining economic stability in the event of a geopolitical crisis, as described by Noviyanto et al. (2025) and Damayanti et al. (2022). The multilateral engagement thus enhanced political legitimacy and added to the potential for the management of conflict in the Persian Gulf area.

## 6. Conclusion

The study found that Pakistan has an important role in the conflict between the United States and Iran in the field of diplomacy, mediation, and facilitation of the ceasefire and regional peace talks. Pakistan's foreign policy was neutral, fostering dialogue and peaceful resolution between opposing forces rather than military involvement. The bilateral diplomatic meetings showed 32% of mediation activities in the region whereas ceasefire negotiation support showed 24% which shows the country's active and positive role in the process of de-escalation of tension in the region. The study also found that disruption of maritime security and the world's oil transportation caused a significant impact on Pakistan's foreign policy during the crisis in Strait of Hormuz as economic stability in the region was at stake. The findings also showed that Pakistan's middle power diplomacy has increased regional dialogue by 30% and immediate tension has decreased by 26%, reflecting how important diplomacy is in managing conflict. The study concluded that Pakistan's efforts in mediating the conflict brought a boost to the image of the country in the eyes of international community and showed how much the role of regional actors has increased in the current geopolitical arena and ceasefire politics.

## 7. Conclusion & Recommendations

The study further suggested enhancing institutional diplomatic channels for mediation and peacebuilding process in the Middle East in Pakistan. Pakistan should broaden strategic communications with regional and international partners to improve communication avenues in times of geopolitical crises. The government should also boost the funding of maritime diplomacy and regional security cooperation to safeguard economic interests of the Strait of Hormuz and international trade corridors. Specialized diplomatic mechanism for back channel communications and conflict prevention should be created for Pakistan in unstable geopolitical situations. Multilateral diplomatic cooperation between middle power states should be



encouraged by regional organizations and international institutions as it helps to de-escalate and maintain regional stability. There should be also more research on mediation diplomacy, maritime security and ceasefire politics within academic settings and policy think tanks for evidence-based foreign policy.

### 8. Future Directions

This study should be followed-up with comparative analyses of the mediation functions and cases of regional actors like Türkiye, Qatar and China in the contexts of Middle Eastern geopolitical conflicts to shed light on the changing trends in international diplomacy. Economists should also focus on the overall economic impacts of continued unrest in the Strait of Hormuz on global energy markets and other areas of South Asia. Empirical models of diplomatic interactions, quantitative analyses of trade volumes and geopolitical risk ratings can generate a more comprehensive picture of how effective conflict management is. The future should build on the part played by digital diplomacy, media narratives and strategic communication in ceasefire negotiations as well as in the processes of regional peacebuilding. Further studies on evolving geopolitical dynamics and maritime security cooperation in the Persian Gulf could also shed light on conflict dynamics and mediation strategies in the region.

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### Contribution of Authors

All the authors participated in the ideation, development, and final approval of the manuscript, making significant contributions to the work reported.

### Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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### Informed Consent

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

### Ethical Approval

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

### Data Availability

The datasets generated during and analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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