

The Rise of Anti-Americanism in Pakistani Youth Following Regime Change

Authors

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Abstract

To answer the question about rising anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth, the research paper investigates the Rise of anti-American sentiments among Pakistani youth after the 2022 regime change that removed Prime Minister Imran Khan from power. The problem with the regime changes in Pakistan has deep historical roots, and Pakistan has witnessed a plethora of these problems since its inception. The current analysis focuses on historical and contemporary global influences, particularly the United States' involvement in Pakistani politics in the past century. Notwithstanding the correlation between political instability in Pakistan and the involvement of the United States in it, Pakistan recently experienced a surge of regime change when Imran Khan – a famous cricketer turned politician – was removed from office with a ‘no confidence’ motion. The research paper will examine the historical roots of the regime change in Pakistan with a particular reference to the recent phenomenon of regime change and its influence on the attitude of Pakistani youth toward America. Secondly, the paper investigates various aspects of social media and political discourses to determine the degree of U.S.-centric narratives fostering anti-Americanism. The research paper will use a qualitative content analysis methodology. It will use the technique of scooping review and thematic analysis to analyze the themes of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth. In conclusion, the paper suggests the omnipresence of anti-Americanism being heavily intertwined with nationalist and socio-religious concepts due to United States foreign policy. The research paper aims to present a freshly researched drawing on modern-day sources of knowledge covering the dynamics of anti-American sentiments among modern Pakistani youth and social media influence.

Keywords: Anti-Americanism, Regime Change, Social Media, Imran Khan, Political Narratives

Introduction

A transitional regime in the context of the global world is a process in which one government is replaced by another, usually through means other than democracy: a coup, revolution, or others, which include foreign intervention (Bermeo, 1990). It can take the form of deposing an existing government ruling and replacing it with an administration that can radically change a country's

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political, economic, and social transformation (Huntington, 1991). Such critical historical events are of a large scale, such as the 1979 Iranian revolution, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. In contrast, democratic regime change is a legal and nonviolent political change by voting, as exemplified by the frequent changes in government of well-established democracies. There are several situations in which regimes shift power among countries through peaceful means; this can be due to internal reasons such as mass uprisings or political parties that are against the ruling regime or External reasons encompassing military coups or diplomatic pressure (Escribà-Folch & Wright, 2015).

The regime change in the Pakistani context is slightly different from that in the global context. Regime change in Pakistan is a fundamental change in the state machinery in the form of political leadership or alteration in state governance (Rizvi, 2021). Regime change can occur through elections or uninvited political adjustments in the administration, like military coup d'état, judicial activism, and political manipulations. The case of Pakistan was the April 2022 dismissal of the parliament via the no-confidence vote that instigated one of the most recent regime changes in history (Dawn Daily, 2022). This was a historic event in Pakistan when an incumbent prime minister was removed from his office in such a way. The regime change occurred due to three significant factors showing discontent: political instability, economic woes, and shifts in the parliament. This thus contributed to creating a new regime under Shehbaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League (N).

Moreover, many prominent global powers, including America, have been linked with altering political regimes. Anti-American sentiment refers to actions or statements that oppose American foreign policy, society, culture, and values (Jawad, 2023). Pakistan's political past has often hovered on the brink of collapse, providing frequent openings for external forces to exploit. America organized the government that overthrew Saddam Hussain in Iraq and established a new government of its choosing. Without the United States' aid, none of the four US-created dictators would have survived as long. 2008, Pakistan became a democracy following the terrifying memories of dictatorial governments (James et al., 2020)

America, nevertheless, preserved its unchanged policy traditions. American policy has not been modified for decades. Over time, anti-American hatred has grown. A total of 72% of Pakistanis consider the United States an enemy, as indicated by a 2021 Gallup survey. This figure has been generally stable over the previous 20 years. However, more than two-thirds of Pakistan's citizens are below 30. People of this age group are loving to their families and have the country in their hearts, but since 1990, they have suffered the most excellent anti-Americanism waves. Various historical events have contributed to the increase, and right now, this hatred has reached lethal levels after the resignation of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in April 2022 (Javed, 2022). Many individuals believe that everything is going according to an American plan to destabilize Pakistan. Every ruler America elected had a negative influence on the country. The Pressler sanctions and the following War on Terror have caused anti-Americanism waves. Continuing sacrifices in the War on Terror, 80,000 were killed on the street, at weddings, at home, at school, at check posts, on their way home from work, and at temples — all of which left more than \$150 billion in economic damage are not enough for Washington. The engagement with the mature military hierarchy has been a catastrophic decision that instigated anti-Americanism in Pakistan.

The study will explore the attitude of youth toward America after the perpetuation of rhetoric about the intervention of America in changing Imran Khan's regime. It will also elaborate on the

historical context and place where regimes were changed in Pakistan due to foreign intervention. Moreover, the current study will discuss the factors contributing to the attitude of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth. Moreover, the research article will focus on three major questions:

- Has regime change in Pakistan raised the anti-Americanism attitude in Pakistani youth?
- What are the factors behind the anti-Americanism attitude in Pakistani youth?
- How has Pakistani youth manifested their attitude about anti-Americanism?

Research Gap

The study focuses on historical as well as contemporary forces that deeply drive the notion of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth. The study examines the recent regime change in Pakistan and youth perception of American involvement in ousting Imran Khan's government through a vote of no confidence by looking at the multifaceted, interrelated phenomenon. The unique role of social media in promoting anti-Americanism is also discussed in an explanatory manner. And at what level does it impact the perception of Pakistani youth related to regime change and conspiracy theory assumptions? The study provides a comprehensive analysis of previous literature by examining the fundamental forces influencing youth attitudes toward anti-Americanism.

Literature review

The rise of anti-Americanism among Pakistani youth is a complicated and multidimensional phenomenon that has been influenced by regime change and political instability in the country. Historical context, major causes, and recent manifestation of events are essential to understand this phenomenon. It is also necessary to comprehend US-Pakistan relations and domestic politics.

Historical Context

Anti-Americanism has deep and historical roots in Pakistan, and it has evolved through the country's political and social development. The relationship between Pakistan and the USA started after Pakistan's independence in 1947. Pakistan aligned itself with Western powers to mitigate the influence of India in the region (Kronstadt, 2020). The USA provided Pakistan with military and economic aid agreements in the 1950s due to Pakistan's participation in SEATO and CENTO (Hussain, 2011). This alliance came at a price, and many Pakistanis considered the U.S. support for military dictators like Gen. Ayub Khan and Zia-Ul-Haq as an intervention in the country's political and democratic process. This planted the seeds of mistrust and hate for America in Pakistanis (Haqqani, 2013).

This relationship took a significant turn during the Soviet-Afghan war in the 1970s and 1980s. Under Zia-Ul-Haq's regime, Pakistan became a frontline state to fight against Soviet Russia for the U.S. The U.S. provided Pakistan with military as well as monetary aid to prepare and support Afghan Mujahideen fighters (Coll, 2004). Luckily, the U.S. managed to defeat Soviet Russia, but the rise of militant groups and the influx of weapons in the region led to increased violence and instability in Pakistan. The U.S. abruptly disengaged from the area after the withdrawal of Soviet Russia and left Pakistan helpless to deal with rising chaos. It also led to anti-American sentiment among people (Rashid, 2008).

The 9/11 attacks also marked a significant event in U.S.-Pakistan relations. Under the supervision of Gen. Musharraf, Pakistan became an ally of the U.S.-led war against terror. Due to this alliance, the U.S. provided Pakistan military and Economic aid, but it also placed Pakistan at the center of a lethal and controversial conflict (Fair, 2011; Ahsan & Khan 2019). The U.S. launched many drone attacks in the northern areas of Pakistan, targeting terrorist groups, which also caused civilian casualties. These drone strikes were considered an attack on Pakistani sovereignty (Boyle, 2013). The collateral damage caused by those attacks also created a sentiment of anti-Americanism among youth (Khan, 2020).

Recent Political Changes and Surge in Anti-Americanism

In the last few years, Pakistan has experienced political instability, which contributed to anti-American thought, especially among youth. Imran Khan, a former cricket star, emerged as a prominent political figure in Pakistani politics. Khan's mandate was to alleviate corruption, reform economic policy, and shape independent foreign policy for the betterment of the country. He strongly criticized U.S. policies related to the war against terror and drone strikes in tribal areas of Pakistan (Fair, 2018). After winning the general elections in 2018, Imran Khan marked a significant change in Pakistan's political landscape. He promised a "New Pakistan" by forming policies related to reduced foreign dependency, particularly on the United States. His government tried to strengthen ties with Russia, China, and other regional powers to decrease reliance on traditional Pak-U.S. relations (Jafferlot, 2022).

Unfortunately, Pakistani politics took another dramatic turn in 2022 when a parliamentary vote of non-confidence ousted Imran Khan. Many Pakistanis perceived it as being influenced by external forces, particularly the United States of America. It was because of Khan's independent foreign policy and his efforts to strengthen ties with Russia and China (Yusuf, 2022). Khan himself added fuel to the fire by accusing America of orchestrating a conspiracy to oust his government. He quoted the words "Foreign Conspiracy" against his government, a narrative that profoundly affected the general public and his supporters, specifically youth. This gave way to anti-American sentiments and raised the nationalistic fervor (Naseem, 2022).

Imran Khan and his supporters were tweeting the slogan "Imported Hakumat Na Manzoor," which showed their rejection and hate towards the current political system. America denied the accusations of regime change in Pakistan, but public perception, especially youth, remained the same about it. A Gallup poll survey showed that (37%) of Pakistanis believed that this conspiracy theory was true. In comparison (72%) of Pakistanis considered America the enemy of Pakistan at that time. The concept of anti-Americanism is not new, but since the 1990s, people under 30 believed in that sentiment. Furthermore, another Gallup survey revealed that (49%) of the youth joined Imran Khan for a rally when he addressed the youth.

Causes of anti-Americanism among Pakistani youth

Multiple things have contributed to the anti-American sentiment in Pakistani youth (Siddiqui, 2014). One of the primary causes is the perception of American intervention in Pakistan's internal matters. The primary assumption that America influences the political landscape of Pakistan by showing support for confident leaders or regimes has created a sense of resistance among youth in the country. The narrative that Imran Khan's removal was affected by the United States of America has changed the perception of many young people. And they consider it an attack on the country's sovereignty.

Furthermore, the military interference of America in the country, especially drone strikes, cannot be underestimated. These strikes targeted terrorist groups but also killed innocent civilians, which resulted in grief and anger (Boyle, 2013). Moreover, the impact of American culture, mainly through entertainment, media, and consumerism, is another major factor in creating anti-American thoughts. Mostly, youth view it as a threat to their cultural and religious values (Naeem, 2017).

Economic factor also plays an essential role in shaping people's beliefs about anti-Americanism. Most Pakistani youths face unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment. There is a strong perception that U.S. loan and trade policies significantly impact the country's economic structure, which results in economic challenges (Akhtar, 2018). Additionally, American foreign policy in the Muslim world and its support to back up Israel and military intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan has led to the sentiment of anti-Americanism among youth. After 9/11, the American conception of Islamophobia has inculcated the impression of mistrust among youth regarding their biased Muslim policies (Mamdani, 2004).

Manifestation of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth

Youth in Pakistan has expressed its beliefs and views regarding anti-Americanism through various channels. Among them, social media was a prominent source. It is the age of technology, and social media plays a pivotal role in shaping people's views and perceptions. In the last few years, youth have utilized social platforms like Instagram, Twitter (Recently known as X.com), and Facebook to express their grievances and information related to U.S. policies and encourage support for anti-American sentiments. Online campaigns against American foreign policy and promoting Pakistani sovereignty are standard on these platforms (Jafferlot, 2022). Moreover, people have been politically mobilized, and their support for critical parties and leaders against the U.S. has increased. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has gained substantial support from youth by placing itself against American imperialism (Yousaf, 2022). Youth also protest American policies, military actions, and political intervention (Fair, 2011).

Methodology

The paper comprehensively examines the process of regime change in Pakistan and analyzes foreign intervention – particularly mentioning the recent regime change and the contribution of the United States to it. It will also focus on the attitude of youth toward America. The methodology utilized a qualitative literature study, bolstered by the systematic thematic analysis technique. The Arksey and O'Malley (2005) methodological framework was employed to organize the methodology into separate stages, which ultimately led to the analysis phase. The methodology approach was partitioned into multiple parts in order to offer a comprehensive and precise description.

The first step consisted of selecting keywords, such as "regime change in Pakistan," "foreign intervention in transitioning the regime," "anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth," and "attitude of Pakistani youth towards 2022 regime changes." These keywords were then used to search through different bibliographical sources, including Scopus, ERIC, Jstor, Google Scholar, and Sci-space. Artificial intelligence was utilized to find pertinent empirical works pertaining to the research questions and themes using lighted maps and sci-space.

Subsequently, I gathered a total of 70 publications, encompassing qualitative, quantitative, and empirical studies pertaining to security and civil liberties. The acquired data underwent the application of inclusion and exclusion criteria. A total of forty-five empirical investigations were gathered, encompassing journal articles, books, and special issues. The exclusion criteria were established based on the geographical location and its relevance to the study subject. The studies that failed to consider the impact on young people or did not offer pertinent information regarding the research issue were excluded, in accordance with the criteria for exclusion. The inclusion criteria centered on the youth's distinct orientation and disposition towards America.

I retrieved the relevant information. The study adhered to its objectives and research inquiries by extracting pertinent data and material from the chosen sources. After collecting data and evaluating the inclusion and exclusion criteria, I advanced to the subsequent phase to finalize the analysis. After thoroughly examining the information, analyzing the details, and finding further pertinent empirical research, I finally reached the stage where I was able to develop the codebook. The researcher meticulously executed the coding process. A distinct collection of terms was extracted for the purpose of describing the analysis.

Thematic analysis was used to derive themes from the coded data. Coding facilitated the classification of the sub-themes, which were subsequently included in the overarching themes to extract the primary themes of the study. Consequently, the process of categorizing sub-themes led to the identification of three significant overarching themes.

I have extracted sub-themes that became part of my analysis: three themes or factors that pushed youth toward the anti-American attitude. Firstly, the contribution of social media in perpetuating the rhetoric of Imran Khan, which was clearly against the establishment and highlighted the role of America in ousting him from office. The second theme was about the ideological policies that substantively or procedurally work against the common notion of man in the Middle East, causing the anti-American attitude. Thirdly, the military intervention in Pakistan, particularly in the Northern area, has caused the anti-American attitude in Pakistani youth (War on Terror).

The main objective of employing this strategy was to pinpoint crucial domains that future scholars could investigate. In the present study, I included these subjects in the analysis and discussion section, with a focus on identifying a void for future researchers to explore in this area and for policy practitioners to gain from information that is supported by evidence when addressing the suppression of civil freedoms.

Language is a crucial tool for comprehending social phenomena and investigating the intricacies of social existence (Foucault, 2003; Barthes, 1982). According to the Foucauldian and Barthesian viewpoints within the post-structuralist approach, social theory has consistently aided our comprehension of social processes (Foucault, 2003& Barthes, 1982). The main objective of employing qualitative research was to investigate the equilibrium between security policy and civic liberty.



Image 1:

Methodology

The image 1 gives a mind map of my methodological framework. It elaborates the steps that were taken while using the content analysis as my methodology.

Analysis

Multiple forces have been playing essential roles in promoting anti-American attitudes, but this process has sped up after the ousting of Imran Khan’s government in 2022. But it is an undeniable fact that this sentiment has historical roots. It is also necessary to understand multiple causes influencing the sentiment of anti-Americanism in Pakistan, especially in youth.

Role of social media:

Social media has played a pivotal role in promoting anti-American attitudes among Pakistani youth after the ousting of Imran Khan in 2022. The role of digital platforms has transformed Pakistan into a powerful tool for activism, political discourse and the propagation of conspiracy theories and anti-American rhetoric in the country. This change took place specifically after toppling Imran Khan from the office. Imran Khan, the former prime minister, criticized the American foreign policy and its interference in the country's internal affairs. The ousting of his government was perceived to be influenced by external forces, particularly by America. He

promoted the narrative of an American conspiracy, which aimed to destabilize Pakistan (Ahsan,2022).

Furthermore, social media platforms like Twitter (Recently known as X.com), Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok have encouraged the anti-American sentiment among Pakistani youth. These platforms provided youth with the opportunity to share their ideas. After Khan's ouster, the culture of hashtags like #Absolutelty Not and #Imported Government Unacceptable gained prominence on Twitter, which showed anger and frustration for America among his supporters (Zafar, 2022). Research conducted by Digital Rights Foundation (2023) showed that 68% of Pakistani social media users believe that international forces, particularly the United States of America, intervene in Pakistan's internal matters. This attitude is specifically higher in youth who are active on digital platforms. The research indicated that 74% of young social media users aged 18-30 believe in this narrative compared to 53% of older users.

Additionally, it is very complex to understand the role of digital platforms in spreading conspiracy theories. Digital platforms like YouTube and Facebook have many videos alleging American involvement in overthrowing Khan's government. For example, a release by an influential YouTuber discussing "American Conspiracy" received over 5 million views within a month. It is a fact that this kind of content lacks evidence and credibility, but it still shapes and influences people's perceptions (Ali, 2022). Social media influencers and political figures like Murad Saeed and Shahbaz Gill used their influence on Twitter and Instagram to encourage anti-American propaganda. A report by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDA, 2023) indicated that posts by these influencers often received high engagement from the audience.

Moreover, it is also necessary to qualify the impact of social media on anti-American attitudes by looking at engagement matrices. Data issued by Social Bakers (2023) suggest that the engagement rate on anti-American posts rose to 45% after the ousting of Khan's government. Furthermore, Gallup Pakistan's (2023) research showed that 62% of Pakistanis expressed an unfavorable attitude toward America after Imran Khan's ouster. This rapid change highlights the influential role of social media in shaping public political perception.

Quotes of youth from social media:

The quotes were selected on random and snowball sampling.

24CR Pakistani Knows well Regime Change Actors US Biden Govt+ISRAEL+Saudi K involved in Pakistan Regime Change bcoz of IMRAN KHAN organized OIC conference 2time,not recognized ISRAEL SKing Pressurized Pak Govt bcoz Middle East countries already recognized ISRAEL as a State. Writes Fatime Asim

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the 243.8 Million Pakistanis, We appreciate you taking part in the upcoming congressional hearing on the future of democracy in Pakistan. Here is the evidence of how US Diplomats in Islamabad @usembislamabad were involved in Regime Change Operation against Prime Minister Imran Khan. Due to this Regime Change Operation Pakistanis face Human Rights Violations and Abrogation of Democracy since @ImranKhanPTI's ouster in April 2022. Anti-US Sentiment is growing amongst the Educated youth in Pakistan. Writes Hope

Imran Khan is behind the bars just because of this sentence "ABSOLUTELY NOT" Regime Change , US involvement and conspirators in Pakistan has been played worst role. Poepole of Pakistan will never forget the culprits. Writes Muhammad Hussain Alam.

Everyone knows that America is involved in regime change and mandate theft in Pakistan.

I have a question for American citizens, can you support an election like Pakistan in your country? Here whoever won was defeated and the US ambassador is sitting with these mandate thieves and giving them support. This is the reality of the so-called champion of democracy. Writes Ansa Butt

Hope the US is going to implement regime change in Israel, like it has been doing in Pakistan for the last 30 years. Netanyahu has to go. Writes Amna Mirza

Why Biden @POTUS administration and their special regime change artists in @StateDept supporting Army controlled govt in Pakistan? How much US Tax payer money was spent on regime change. How come the poor country General accumulate millions and millions of dollar? Writes Wani Ijaz

Ideological policies of America and anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth and Middle East

The role of ideological policies implemented by America has been prominent in anti-Americanism among Pakistani youth and the Middle East. This influence can be seen among populations actively involved in political activities and social media platforms. The history of American foreign policy for South Asian countries and the Middle East is remembered by significant interventions that have left an unforgettable legacy. In Pakistan, the involvement of America dates back to the independence of Pakistan and the era of the Cold War. This intervention aimed to provide Pakistan with military and economic aid to counter or mitigate Soviet influence (Fair, 2017). In the Middle East, the American invasion of Iraq in 2003 is considered to be an act of aggression. Instability and violence in the region caused anti-American feelings. According to the Pew Research Center Survey (2017), 83% of Middle Eastern people perceived American military inference as unfavorable, resulting in mistrust.

Moreover, American support for dictator regimes has resulted in anti-Americanism among youth. In Pakistan, American support for military dictator regimes like Ayub Khan, Zia-u-Haq and Pervaiz Musharraf is considered an act of undermining democracy (Haqqani, 2013). The Pakistani youth has also criticized the U.S. for prioritizing its vested interests over promoting human rights and democracy. In the Middle East, America backing up Israel is also a positive factor driving anti-American attitudes. The continuous Israel-Palestine conflict and American support for Israeli policies against Palestine are perceived hostels for the Muslim world. A survey conducted by Arab Barometer (2019) suggested that 79% of youth aged 18-29 in the Middle East had anti-American sentiments because of its policies for Israel.

Additionally, American high culture, perceived as cultural imperialism, plays an important role in shaping anti-American sentiment. The portrayal of American media, especially American cinema and consumer culture, is considered an attempt to undermine local cultural traditions and values. And Pakistan and the Middle East view Western cultural values as morally corrupt (Naeem, 2017). The increased spread of American music, movies, and lifestyle through digital platforms is perceived as a threat to local values and traditions, which has resulted in anti-Americanism (Kraidy, 2018). According to a Gallup survey (2022), 68% of Pakistani youth showed unfavorable views towards American culture, which indicates anti-American thoughts. The Arab Youth Survey (2020) indicated that 72% of Arab Youth view American policies and cultural practices as harmful to the region.

American military intervention in Pakistan

America has intervened in Pakistan through military operations, which also caused anti-Americanism among youth. The military intervention had directly influenced the perception of youth. This military relationship between America and Pakistan has historical roots. Pakistan was seen as a strategic ally during the Cold War against Soviet expansion (Coll, 2004). The relationship further strengthened the Soviet-Afghan war in 1979. During that period, Pakistan served as a strategic partner in preparing and supporting Mujahideen fighters against Soviet Russia. However, the 9/11 era marked a crucial period in Pakistan-America relations. In that age, America intervened in Pakistan through military operations in the war against terror (Rashid, 2008).

Furthermore, after the 9/11 attacks, America launched drone strikes in Pakistan to target terrorist groups in tribal areas. These strikes started in 2004 to eliminate terrorist targets affiliated with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. But these strikes also killed innocent civilians, which resulted in hate

and anti-American sentiments among youth (Boyle, 2013). According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (2019), from 2004 to 2018, drone attacks killed 424 to 969 civilians, including 207 innocent children. It has a great impact on public opinion. In 2014, a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center revealed that 66% of Pakistanis were against drone attacks because they thought it dangerous and inhumane (Pew, 2014). Former prime minister Imran Khan had also spoken against military intervention and drone attacks launched by America in tribal areas. His supporters believe that he was ousted for this reason (Fair, 2018).

Moreover, America also launched notable intelligence operations on Pakistani soil in response to the war on terror. For example, in 2011, American forces raided Abbottabad result, which led to the killing of Osama Bin Laden. This operation was launched without the permission of the Pakistani government. Pakistani youth perceived it as a violation of the country's national sovereignty. This resulted in the rise of anti-American sentiments, which can also be in public today (Mazzetti, 2013).

Additionally, few surveys indicate that military intervention, especially drone strikes in Pakistan, has deeply influenced the youth's perception of anti-Americanism. According to a Gallup survey (2013), 61% of Pakistanis view America as their enemy in comparison to 2005, when this number was 35%. Furthermore, the Pew Research Center Survey revealed that 14% of Pakistanis were in favor of America in comparison with other regional countries (Pew, 2014).

Future Research Gaps

To better understand this complex issue further, several gaps can be identified for future researchers to research the more significant increase in anti-Americanism among Pakistani youth after the 2022 regime shift. Comparing the countries in which the United States has intervened may help highlight the reasons that generate anti-American feelings and broader common issues that underlie such feelings. By studying various nations that have undergone similar political changes and identifying triggers within the socio-political landscape of Pakistan about the poster nations, it is possible to understand the research at a higher level. However, it may require budget and resources. The mentioned research gap will comprehensively provide an understanding of the common themes of anti-Americanism in other countries.

It is equally critical to understand the history of the beginning attacks on America by Pakistan. To understand how past American policies and actions had led to present attitudes, an analysis of the historical development of Pakistan from the acquisition of independence to the present is carried out. The historical and archival analysis of post-partition can be a research gap and will provide a contingent analysis of the rise of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth. Moreover, historical records and sources such as interviews with past and present historians, political experts, and contemporary documents provide certain historical events that have influenced modern people's opinions and long-term trends.

Furthermore, there is a cultural and religious factor that influences anti-Americanism among Pakistani youths. Exploring the relationship between spiritual and cultural stories or plots and political attitudes might offer insight into judging anti-American sentiment's level and nature. Future research could be about the socio-cultural and socio-religious factors contributing to examining youth's attitudes toward America. It is possible to understand what aspects of culture spawned these feelings against Americans and how these stories contribute to that understanding

through an ethnographic approach to research, text analysis of sacred texts, and interviewing religious and cultural leaders.

Moreover, there is a need to understand how the present emotions of young people may have permanent political implications on the future Pakistani leadership. Even though young people today will become leaders of our political regime tomorrow, it is clear that their perceptions of political processes will influence the political environment in the future. Forecasting trends that will emerge due to anti-American sentiments and how this will shape Pakistan's future politics and foreign relationships can be achieved through scenario planning and statistical trend analysis, as well as through the follow-up of the presence of young leaders in politics. So, future research can be about the implications of youth's attitude toward America with questions about the political movements. In this way, we can overcome these research gaps to understand better the origins of anti-Americanism among Pakistani youths and design policies to improve bilateral relations.

Conclusion

The fundamental problem with the opposition of a country, ideology, narrative, or rhetoric is that one cannot give a dimension to describe the phenomenon. It is because of the multiple factors contributing to it. So, the anti-American attitude in Pakistani youth has many plausible explanations and various perspectives to look at. Pakistani youth's attitude toward America, as per the literature, has multiple explanations, which include the historical factor, the opposition of ideological grounds, and the Islamic perspective. All dimensions give a complete analysis of why Pakistani youth behave in a certain way in opposition to America. My study focused on the recent regime change where Imran Khan – the head of Pakistan Tahreek e Insaf – was ousted from the office of Prime Minister with a no-confidence motion. He has gained popularity among the youth and on various social media platforms. When he was ousted, political instability and economic fluctuation in the country were initiated, and there were many protests nationwide. It has also begun campaigns on various social media platforms where supporters of Imran Khan gave bold statements against the military establishment. With these bold statements, chairman PTI Imran Khan blamed American intervention in ousting him from office, which led to a campaign against the imperial hegemony of America. It has developed an attitude in the youth to be against America since they have supported ousting the voice of the poor Islam – as he is famous for advocating Islam on different international platforms – and transparency in the country.

The article's findings shed light on the factors contributing to developing an anti-Americanism attitude among Pakistani youth. This part of the finding differs from a mainstream narrative about anti-Americanism as a product of recent regime change. Still, it delineates the historical factors that contributed to developing a confident anti-American attitude among Pakistani youth. The paper attempts to view it in a global context. Moreover, the findings reveal that social media contributed to the development of an attitude of anti-America where a lot of young people started to write against America – from an imperialist and hegemonic point of view – in their posts. It also reveals the ideological clash between the liberal order and the socio-cultural setup of Pakistan, where it posits that liberal values are in clash with the conservative forces in Pakistan. The clash causes an attitude of anti-Americanism in Pakistani youth. The third part of the finding focuses on the 'war on terror' and its impact on youth, particularly the cases of Northern areas in Pakistan. In conclusion, the development of anti-American attitudes in young Pakistanis after the

shift of power in 2022 shows that a complex vision of the world is required besides the simple blaming of the opponent. This strategy must embrace and factor in the temporal and politico-social realities that shape public perceptions and behavior.

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