

Pakistan's Foreign Policy

MILITARY BASES

Pakistan's Policy:

Pakistan dismissed Tuesday the possibility of allowing the United States to operate a military base on Pakistani territory or conduct "kinetic drone" operations against Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's statement came amid reports Islamabad is allegedly negotiating a new arrangement with Washington to facilitate future U.S. counterterrorism operations in the war-torn neighboring country following the withdrawal of international troops. Qureshi rejected the reports as baseless and speculative.

"Let this house and the Pakistani nation be a witness to my testimony that under [Prime Minister] Imran Khan there will be no American base built on Pakistani soil. Forget about the past," he told the upper house of the parliament.

"The government of Pakistan has categorically said that we will not allow kinetic use of drones nor are we interested in the surveillance of your drones. That's a very clear-cut policy of this government," Qureshi said.

Economic Impacts:

Some Pakistani pseudo-intellectuals on the payroll of foreign powers, particularly the US, have advised the clay-footed government of Shehbaz Sharif not to hesitate in granting military bases and Pakistan's airspace to the US. They emphasize that, in the past, Pakistan's military cooperation with the US has always increased Pakistan's prosperity. They may be telling the truth in the sense that, in the past, transfusions of US aid did result in the creation of islands of prosperity in Pakistan which benefitted the privileged few, leaving the majority of the population impoverished.

Since 1947, Pakistan's relationship with the US has followed a tortuous and unpredictable route. The relationship had all along been a transactional one – focusing on the immediate goals dictated by how each side perceived the ground realities during a particular period.

Sentiment in Pakistan:

There was public resentment against the granting of military bases to the US in Pakistan after the former PM famously stated Absolutely Not. The slogan became a crucial part of his campaign and gained popularity with the Pakistani population.

RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS