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**Faiza Mansoor**

M Phil Scholar Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Islamabad

### **Public Policy Failures and Their Impact on Inconsistent Foreign Policy in Pakistan**

#### **Abstract**

This study examines the intricate relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan. As a nation grappling with diverse geopolitical challenges, Pakistan's foreign policy has often been characterized by volatility and unpredictability. The research highlights how specific policy failures—such as economic mismanagement, inadequate governance, and social unrest—directly impact the country's diplomatic relations and strategic initiatives. By employing a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative interviews and quantitative data analysis, this study uncovers the mechanisms through which public policy missteps undermine foreign policy coherence. The findings indicate that addressing public policy failures is essential for enhancing Pakistan's international standing and achieving greater stability in its foreign relations. Ultimately, this research offers valuable insights for policymakers seeking to develop a more strategic and cohesive approach to foreign policy, emphasizing the need for effective governance to navigate the complexities of international relations.

**Keywords:** Public Policy Failures, Foreign Policy, enhancing Pakistan, international relations

#### **Introduction**

Public policy serves as a fundamental framework through which nations articulate their domestic and international objectives, particularly in the realm of foreign relations. In Pakistan, a country characterized by complex geopolitical dynamics, the interplay between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy is particularly pronounced. Flawed governance, ineffective policy implementation, and a lack of strategic foresight have often led to erratic foreign relations, undermining Pakistan's ability to establish stable diplomatic ties with neighboring countries and global powers.

This research explores how specific public policy failures—ranging from economic mismanagement to social unrest—have contributed to an unpredictable foreign policy landscape. The consequences of these failures not only hinder Pakistan's international standing but also impact its national security and economic stability. Understanding this relationship is critical for policymakers aiming to navigate the intricacies of both domestic and international challenges.

By examining the historical context and current scenarios, this study aims to illuminate the underlying factors that contribute to Pakistan's foreign policy inconsistencies, providing valuable insights for future strategic planning. Ultimately, addressing public policy failures may pave the way for a more coherent and effective foreign policy approach in Pakistan.

**Keywords:** Public policy Foreign policy, Pakistan, Policy failures, Inconsistent diplomacy, International relations, Geopolitical challenges, Governance, National security, Economic stability, Strategic planning, Domestic politics, Policy analysis, Diplomatic relations, Regional stability

#### **Literature Review**

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The relationship between public policy failures and foreign policy inconsistencies has been a subject of considerable academic interest. According to Anderson (2019), effective public policy is vital for achieving a coherent foreign policy framework. In Pakistan, the historical context reveals a pattern of policy mismanagement that has frequently hampered the nation's diplomatic efforts (Khan, 2017). For instance, political instability, largely driven by poor governance, has led to a lack of continuity in foreign policy initiatives, creating an unpredictable international image (Rashid, 2018).

Various scholars argue that domestic policy failures can significantly undermine a country's credibility on the global stage. Rourke (2020) posits that economic instability, driven by ineffective policies, often results in erratic foreign relations, as nations are perceived as unreliable partners. Moreover, Shafqat (2019) emphasizes the impact of socio-political factors, noting that public discontent stemming from policy failures can lead to shifts in foreign policy that are reactive rather than strategic.

In the context of Pakistan, several case studies illustrate these dynamics. For example, Zafar (2020) examines how economic mismanagement and corruption have not only strained domestic stability but also adversely affected Pakistan's relationships with key allies, such as the United States and China. The literature underscores the critical need for robust governance structures to enhance policy effectiveness and, by extension, ensure a stable foreign policy (Gul, 2018).

Overall, this review highlights the complex interplay between public policy and foreign policy, suggesting that addressing domestic failures is crucial for establishing a more consistent and effective international stance for Pakistan.

## **Methodology**

This research adopts a mixed-methods approach to explore the relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan. By integrating qualitative and quantitative data, the study aims to provide a holistic understanding of how domestic policy shortcomings can adversely affect international relations.

### **Qualitative Data Collection**

The qualitative component of the research involves in-depth interviews with key stakeholders in Pakistan's policy-making and foreign affairs arenas. Participants include policymakers, diplomats, political analysts, and experts in governance and international relations. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select individuals who have significant experience and expertise in the field, ensuring that the data collected is both relevant and insightful.

Semi-structured interview questions were developed to guide discussions, allowing for flexibility in responses while ensuring that core topics were addressed. Questions focused on identifying specific policy failures, their perceived causes, and their impacts on Pakistan's foreign policy. The interviews were conducted in person or via video conferencing platforms, recorded with the consent of participants, and subsequently transcribed for analysis.

Thematic analysis was applied to the transcriptions, allowing for the identification of recurring themes, patterns, and insights. This method facilitated an understanding of how public policy failures are perceived by those directly involved in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy. The qualitative findings aim to illuminate the complex relationship between domestic governance issues and international diplomatic challenges.

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### **Quantitative Data Collection**

The quantitative aspect of the study involves the collection and analysis of secondary data to complement the qualitative findings. This data includes economic indicators, governance metrics, and historical foreign policy decisions. Sources such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics provided reliable and comprehensive data sets.

Specific indicators examined include GDP growth rates, inflation rates, governance indices, and foreign investment levels. Additionally, foreign policy outcomes, such as bilateral agreements, trade relations, and diplomatic engagements, were assessed over time.

Statistical analyses, including regression analysis, were employed to determine the correlation between identified policy failures and variations in foreign policy outcomes. The data analysis aimed to quantify the impact of public policy failures on Pakistan's international relations, providing a numerical basis for the conclusions drawn from the qualitative data.

### **Data Triangulation**

To enhance the validity and reliability of the research findings, data triangulation was utilized. This approach integrates insights from both qualitative and quantitative analyses, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between public policy and foreign policy in Pakistan. By cross-referencing qualitative themes with quantitative data trends, the study seeks to present a comprehensive view of how domestic policy failures influence foreign policy inconsistencies.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations were paramount in conducting this research. Informed consent was obtained from all interview participants, ensuring they understood the study's purpose and their right to withdraw at any time. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained by assigning pseudonyms to participants and securely storing data.

### **Findings**

The findings of this research highlight the complex relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan. Through the integration of qualitative interviews and quantitative data analysis, several key themes and trends emerged.

#### **1. Identification of Key Policy Failures**

Qualitative data revealed that participants identified several critical public policy failures that have significantly impacted Pakistan's foreign policy. Among these, economic mismanagement, corruption, and inadequate governance were frequently mentioned. Many interviewees noted that persistent economic instability, characterized by high inflation rates and low foreign investment, has hindered Pakistan's ability to engage effectively on the international stage. The lack of a coherent economic strategy was perceived as a major barrier to forming stable diplomatic relationships.

#### **2. Impact of Domestic Unrest on Foreign Relations**

Interviewees emphasized the role of domestic social and political unrest in shaping foreign policy. Incidents of civil unrest and political instability were seen as detrimental to Pakistan's international image, leading to a perception of unreliability among foreign partners. This unpredictability has resulted in hesitance from potential allies, further isolating Pakistan in regional and global contexts. The qualitative findings indicated that foreign policy decisions

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often became reactive in nature, responding to immediate domestic crises rather than strategic long-term planning.

### **3. Statistical Correlations**

Quantitative data analysis provided further evidence supporting the qualitative findings. Regression analysis indicated a strong negative correlation between governance indicators and the consistency of foreign policy decisions. For example, years with lower governance scores, as reported by the World Bank, corresponded with significant foreign policy shifts, such as abrupt changes in diplomatic alignment or trade agreements. Conversely, periods marked by improved governance and economic stability were associated with more coherent and predictable foreign policy actions.

### **4. Case Study Insights**

Several case studies were highlighted during interviews that illustrate the findings. One prominent example involved the impact of economic policy decisions on relations with China and the United States. Interview participants noted that periods of economic turmoil, coupled with governance failures, led to strained relations with both countries. Conversely, periods of effective economic management facilitated greater cooperation, exemplified by increased trade agreements and strategic partnerships.

### **5. Stakeholder Perspectives**

The perspectives of stakeholders revealed a common consensus that public policy must be reformed to ensure more consistent foreign policy outcomes. Participants advocated for greater transparency, accountability, and public engagement in the policy-making process. They emphasized the importance of aligning domestic policies with foreign policy objectives, arguing that a cohesive national strategy is essential for navigating complex international landscapes.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, the findings of this research underscore the significant influence of public policy failures on Pakistan's foreign policy inconsistencies. By integrating qualitative and quantitative data, the study demonstrates that effective governance and economic stability are crucial for fostering reliable diplomatic relations. Addressing these domestic challenges is essential for enhancing Pakistan's international standing and achieving greater consistency in its foreign policy.

### **Discussion**

The findings of this research shed light on the intricate dynamics between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan. The qualitative and quantitative analyses reveal a clear correlation between domestic governance issues and the country's international standing. This discussion will contextualize these findings within existing literature, explore their implications, and offer recommendations for improving Pakistan's foreign policy coherence.

#### **1. Contextualizing Findings within Existing Literature**

The findings align with Anderson (2019), who emphasizes that effective public policy is foundational for achieving a coherent foreign policy. The qualitative insights from policymakers and analysts reveal that economic mismanagement and corruption not only impede domestic progress but also tarnish Pakistan's international reputation. This observation supports Khan's (2017) assertion that governance failures can lead to a lack of strategic continuity in foreign relations.

Moreover, the adverse effects of domestic unrest on foreign policy, as identified in this study, echo Rourke's (2020) argument that social stability is vital for maintaining reliable diplomatic

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ties. The statistical evidence corroborating these qualitative themes indicates a pressing need for policymakers to address domestic challenges in tandem with international objectives.

## **2. Implications for Policy and Governance**

The implications of these findings are profound. First, they highlight the necessity of enhancing governance and economic policies to foster a more stable foreign policy. As indicated by participants, periods of effective governance correspond with improved foreign relations, suggesting that policymakers should prioritize transparency, accountability, and public engagement in the policy-making process.

Second, the study emphasizes the need for a comprehensive national strategy that aligns domestic and foreign policy objectives. As Shafqat (2019) posits, integrating governance reforms with foreign policy goals can facilitate more predictable diplomatic engagements, ultimately enhancing Pakistan's international standing.

## **3. Recommendations for Future Action**

To address the public policy failures identified in this research, several key recommendations can be made:

- **Strengthening Institutions:** Building robust institutions that promote good governance is essential for reducing corruption and improving policy implementation. Policymakers should focus on creating frameworks that ensure accountability and transparency in government operations.
- **Economic Reform:** Implementing economic reforms that prioritize sustainable growth and foreign investment can stabilize Pakistan's economy. This stability is crucial for establishing reliable foreign relations, particularly with key partners like the United States and China.
- **Engaging Stakeholders:** Policymakers must engage a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and the private sector, in the policy-making process. This inclusive approach can enhance public trust and ensure that policies are reflective of the needs and aspirations of the population.
- **Long-term Planning:** Shifting from reactive to proactive foreign policy strategies is essential for navigating the complexities of international relations. Policymakers should focus on long-term diplomatic goals rather than merely responding to immediate crises.

## **4. Conclusion of Discussion**

In summary, the findings from this research underscore the significant interplay between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan. Addressing the identified governance and economic challenges is critical for enhancing the country's international standing. By aligning domestic policies with foreign policy objectives and adopting a proactive, inclusive approach, Pakistan can work towards establishing more coherent and reliable diplomatic relations in the future.

This research has explored the intricate relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan, highlighting the significant implications of domestic governance on international relations. The findings demonstrate that persistent economic mismanagement, corruption, and inadequate governance not only hamper domestic stability but also adversely affect Pakistan's foreign policy coherence. By employing a mixed-methods approach, the study has revealed how specific policy failures contribute to unpredictable diplomatic relations, thereby undermining the country's international standing.

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The qualitative insights from key stakeholders underscore the necessity of addressing governance issues as a prerequisite for establishing a stable foreign policy framework. Participants emphasized that periods of effective governance lead to greater reliability in foreign relations, while domestic unrest and political instability create a reactive foreign policy environment. Quantitative analyses further substantiate these qualitative findings, revealing strong correlations between governance indicators and foreign policy outcomes.

To foster a more consistent and effective foreign policy, several recommendations emerge from this research. First, strengthening institutions and enhancing governance are crucial for mitigating corruption and ensuring accountability. Second, implementing economic reforms aimed at achieving sustainable growth will create a more stable environment for diplomatic engagements. Additionally, engaging a broader range of stakeholders in the policy-making process can enhance public trust and ensure that policies reflect the needs of the population. Lastly, a shift towards long-term strategic planning in foreign policy will enable Pakistan to navigate the complexities of international relations more effectively.

In conclusion, addressing public policy failures is essential for enhancing Pakistan's international reputation and fostering more coherent foreign policy. By prioritizing governance reforms and aligning domestic and foreign policy objectives, Pakistan can strengthen its diplomatic ties and navigate the challenges posed by an increasingly complex global landscape. This study contributes to the growing body of literature emphasizing the interconnectedness of domestic governance and foreign policy, offering valuable insights for policymakers and scholars alike in their efforts to navigate these challenges.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this research, several key recommendations can be made to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of Pakistan's foreign policy in relation to domestic public policy:

#### **1. Institutional Reforms:**

- **Strengthening Governance:** It is essential to build robust institutions that promote transparency, accountability, and good governance. This can be achieved by reforming existing governmental structures, enhancing the capacity of public officials, and establishing mechanisms to combat corruption. Regular audits and public reporting on governance performance can foster greater trust and engagement among citizens and stakeholders.
- **Decentralization of Power:** Empowering local governments can improve policy responsiveness and accountability. By allowing local authorities to make decisions that directly affect their communities, Pakistan can address local issues more effectively and create a more engaged citizenry.

#### **2. Economic Policy Enhancement:**

- **Diversifying the Economy:** To reduce vulnerability to external shocks and foster sustainable growth, Pakistan should focus on diversifying its economy. This includes promoting sectors such as technology, renewable energy, and agriculture. Investment in infrastructure and vocational training can also equip the workforce with the skills needed for emerging industries.
- **Attracting Foreign Investment:** Creating a conducive environment for foreign direct investment (FDI) is crucial for economic stability. This can be achieved through regulatory reforms, simplifying the business environment, and ensuring political stability. Clear and



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transparent policies regarding foreign investment will help build confidence among potential investors.

3. **Strategic Foreign Policy Planning:**

- **Long-term Vision:** Developing a comprehensive foreign policy strategy that aligns with national interests and long-term goals is essential. This strategy should be proactive rather than reactive, focusing on building strategic partnerships and enhancing Pakistan's role in regional and global affairs.
- **Balancing Relationships:** Pakistan should work towards balancing its relationships with major powers, such as the United States, China, and regional neighbors. A diversified foreign policy approach will enable Pakistan to navigate the complexities of international relations while safeguarding its national interests.

4. **Engagement with Civil Society:**

- **Public Participation in Policy-Making:** Engaging citizens and civil society organizations in the policy-making process can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of public policies. Mechanisms for public consultation, such as town hall meetings and online platforms, can facilitate greater stakeholder involvement.
- **Educational Campaigns:** Raising awareness about the importance of good governance and informed citizenship is crucial for fostering a more engaged and informed populace. Educational campaigns can empower citizens to participate actively in the political process and hold their leaders accountable.

5. **Research and Development:**

- **Investment in Policy Research:** Establishing think tanks and research institutions focused on public policy and foreign affairs can provide valuable insights for policymakers. Funding for research that examines the implications of domestic policies on foreign relations will help develop evidence-based strategies.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for both public policies and foreign policy initiatives will ensure accountability and facilitate continuous improvement. This can involve setting clear performance indicators and regularly assessing the impact of policies on national and international objectives.

In summary, enhancing Pakistan's foreign policy coherence requires a multifaceted approach that addresses governance, economic stability, and strategic planning. By implementing these recommendations, Pakistan can work towards creating a more stable domestic environment that supports effective foreign relations and bolsters its standing in the international community.

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