



International Research Journal on Islamic Studies (IRJIS)
ISSN 2664-4959 (Print), ISSN 2710-3749 (Online)
Journal Home Page: <https://www.islamicjournals.com>
E-Mail: tirjis@gmail.com / info@islamicjournals.com
Published by: "Al-Riaz Quranic Research Centre" Bahawalpur

Islamic Perspective on Peace and Role of Pakistan Army in Peacekeeping Missions: Historical Study

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To cite this article: Dr. Muhammad Umar Riaz Abbasi. 2023. "Islamic Perspective on Peace and Role of Pakistan Army in Peacekeeping Missions: Historical Study" International Research Journal on Islamic Studies (IRJIS) 5 (Issue 2), 12-23.

Journal	International Research Journal on Islamic Studies
Publisher	Vol. No. 5 July - December 2023 P. 12-23
URL:	Al-Riaz Quranic Research Centre, Bahawalpur
DOI:	https://www.islamicjournals.com/eng-5-2-2/
Journal Homepage	https://doi.org/10.54262/irjis.05.02.e02
Published Online:	www.islamicjournals.com & www.islamicjournals.com/ojs
License:	31 December 2023
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Abstract

This research study explores the multifaceted relationship between Islamic concepts of peace and the significant participation of the Pakistan Army in global peacekeeping operations. The study utilizes a thorough historical analysis to explore the perspective on peace within Islamic teachings. It examines how this perspective influences a largely Muslim nation's military involvement in global peacekeeping efforts. The article thoroughly examines the development of Islamic ideology regarding peace, delving into the Quranic commands and teachings of the Prophet that emphasize the utmost significance of promoting harmony and fairness in society. In light of this context, the study thoroughly analyses the diverse and convoluted role played by the Pakistan Army in several global peacekeeping operations, evaluating its commitment to Islamic principles and values. Utilizing extensive historical data, the study reveals the significant influence of Pakistan's military engagement in conflict areas, highlighting the country's dedication to upholding the concepts of peace, compassion, and humanitarianism advocated by Islamic teachings. The research provides valuable insights into the difficulties faced by the Pakistan Army in manoeuvring through the intricate landscape of peacekeeping. It also highlights the lessons learnt and the

continuous improvement of techniques harmonizing with Islamic principles. This article enhances our comprehension of the connection between Islam, peace, and the involvement of the Pakistan Army in global peacekeeping endeavours by combining historical accounts with theological concepts. This approach is important for politicians, scholars, and practitioners who want to align military action with Islamic ideals to achieve a peaceful world.

Keywords: Islamic Perspective, Peace, Pakistan Army, Peacekeeping Missions, United Nations missions, Jihad

Introduction

The Islamic faith regards peace as a key principle, advocating harmony and serenity among individuals and society. The teachings of Islam prioritize the significance of harmonious cooperation, resolving disagreements through nonviolent methods, and upholding justice. Adhering to these ideals, the Pakistan Army, a prominent military entity in the Islamic world, has played a vital role in engaging in peacekeeping operations in diverse regions¹. This research study explores the Islamic viewpoint on peace and the past participation of the Pakistan Army in peacekeeping missions, highlighting the importance of its contributions to worldwide peace endeavours.

Islamic Perspective on Peace

As a religious belief system, Islam prioritizes the value of peace and harmonious cohabitation among individuals and nations. The Quran, the sacred scripture of Islam, promotes peace and serenity, advocating for the peaceful resolution of problems. The principles of Islam emphasize the significance of justice, compassion, and the avoidance of aggression². The Quran promotes peace and forgiveness and discourages violence unless necessary for self-defence. For example, the Quran declares, "If they show a preference for peace, then also show a preference for it and place your trust in Allah." Truly, He is the one who possesses the ability to hear and the knowledge".³

Furthermore, the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) serves as an exemplar for resolving conflicts and fostering peace. He demonstrates patience, forgiveness, and a commitment to resolving conflicts peacefully via his acts and teachings. The Islamic jurisprudence principle of "Sulh" highlights the need for peaceful conflict resolution, advocating for negotiations and mediation as alternatives to confrontation and violence⁴.

In Islamic tradition, the "Ummah" (community) concept encompasses the worldwide Muslim community, highlighting the interdependence of all followers and the significance of promoting harmony and collaboration across varied societies. Islamic thinkers and leaders have consistently pushed for peaceful coexistence and the advancement of justice, compassion, and mutual respect between nations⁵.

¹ Krishnasamy, Kabilan. 2002. "Pakistan's Peacekeeping Experiences." *International Peacekeeping* no. 9 (3):103-120.

² Yazdani, Abbas. 2020. "The culture of peace and religious tolerance from an Islamic perspective." *Veritas* (47):151-168.

³ Al-Quran, Al-Anfal, 8:61

⁴ Al-Khazendar, Sami. 2018. "Islamic Perspective towards Conflict and Peace." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* no. 8 (2):152-164.

⁵ Islam, Sania, Muhammad Ifzal Mehmood, and Muhammad Haroon Khan. 2022. "ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS." *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* no. 5 (3).

Concept of Jihad in Islam

The Islamic notion of jihad is complex and frequently misconstrued, containing both a metaphysical and a corporeal aspect. Jihad, originating from the Arabic root "jahada," is endeavouring or exerting effort. Although armed conflict is often linked to it, it also encompasses nonviolent methods of pursuing righteousness, justice, and peace⁶.

Quranic Verses Highlighting Nonviolent Struggle:

Verse 208 of Surah Al-Baqarah:

"Believers embrace Islam wholeheartedly and flawlessly, without deviating from the righteous path set by Satan." Undoubtedly, he is an evident adversary to you.

This verse advocates for devout adherence to Islam, advocating a harmonious and all-encompassing lifestyle.

Verse 104 of Surah Al-Imran:

"May a community emerge from your midst that actively encourages virtuous behaviour, advocates for justice, and discourages wrong doing. Such a community will undoubtedly achieve success."

This verse emphasizes the nonviolent struggle of advocating for virtuous actions, fostering moral excellence, and rejecting immoral behaviour.

Verse 135 of Surah An-Nisa:

"Believers, consistently uphold justice as witnesses for Allah, and do not allow your animosity towards a particular group to hinder your impartiality." Practise justice; it is closer to righteousness. Moreover, reverence for Allah; Allah is well-informed about your actions."

This passage underscores the significance of resolutely upholding justice, especially when confronted with hostility, advocating for a nonviolent pursuit of fairness and equality.

Verse 8 of Surah Al-Mumtahanah (Chapter of the Tested):

"Allah permits you to be righteous and just towards those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes." Truly, Allah has affection for individuals who demonstrate fairness and righteousness.

This verse promotes the idea of peaceful coexistence and the fair treatment of those who refrain from engaging in hostilities based on religious disparities.

Verse 69 of Surah Al-Ankabut:

"Those who exert effort towards Us, we will undoubtedly lead them towards Our paths." Indeed, Allah is in the company of those who perform righteous actions.

This verse implies that individuals who engage in jihad for the sake of Allah will be directed along paths that lead to righteousness, fostering a beneficial and productive endeavour.

Hadith Highlighting Nonviolent Jihad:

Quotation from Sahih Bukhari (Book 2, Hadith 25):

An individual addressed the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by saying, "O Messenger of Allah! What are the commendable actions or virtues inside Islam? He responded, "To provide sustenance for the impoverished and extend greetings to familiar and unfamiliar individuals."

⁶ Ahmad, Rashid. 2015. "Doctrine of Peace: an Islamic Perspective; an Analysis of the Hindrances in Peace Making Process." *Al-Idah* no. 31 (2):13-25.

Quotation from Sahih Muslim (Book 1, Hadith 78):

"Those who believe in Allah and the Day of Judgement should treat their neighbours kindly and perform good deeds towards them."

Quotation from Sahih Bukhari (Book 73, Hadith 10):

"I aspire to emulate only two individuals: a person whom Allah has blessed with wealth and uses it responsibly, and a person whom Allah has bestowed with wisdom and makes decisions based on this wisdom while also imparting it to others."

Quotation from Sunan Ibn Majah (Book 24, Hadith 3674):

"The most exemplary individuals contribute the greatest advantage to the rest of humanity."

Quotation from Sahih Muslim (Book 1, Hadith 78):

"Those who have faith in Allah and the Day of Judgement should show respect to their guests, refrain from causing harm to their neighbours, and choose their words wisely or remain silent."

The Quran and Hadith texts underscore the peaceful dimensions of jihad, emphasizing virtues such as justice, charity, and benevolence. This highlights the notion that dedicating oneself to Allah's path requires physical exertion and a strong dedication to moral uprightness, empathy, and the advancement of harmony .

Harmonious rules of war in Islam:

The principles of Islamic warfare are taken from the teachings of Islam as outlined in the Quran and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). These norms prioritize the ideals of justice, proportionality, and humanity, even during periods of armed war⁷. Below are a few fundamental elements of the Islamic principles of warfare:

Principle of Proportionality and Prevention of Excessive Damage:

The Islamic laws of war strictly forbid the utilization of disproportionate force or causing unnecessary harm. Muslim soldiers are explicitly ordered to refrain from inflicting gratuitous pain, harm to non-combatants, or devastation of assets⁸.

Preservation of Civilians:

The intentional infliction of injury onto non-combatants, which include women, children, and the elderly, is categorically forbidden. Islam places great importance on differentiating between fighters and non-combatants and imposes a duty to safeguard the latter⁹.

Honour for Captured Combatants:

Islam requires the compassionate treatment of captured warriors. Prisoners of war must be accorded dignified treatment, including the provision of adequate shelter, sustenance, medical attention, and eventual release or exchange¹⁰.

Safeguarding of Religious Institutions and Symbols:

According to Islamic principles, it is forbidden to damage or disrespect places of worship, religious symbols, and cultural heritage during times of war. These encompass religious establishments such as churches, synagogues, temples, and other places of worship¹¹.

⁷ Naqvi, Ali Raza. 1974. "Laws of war in Islam." *Islamic Studies* no. 13 (1):25-43.

⁸ Iwansyah, Henry. 2018. "Islam and the Provisions of War." *Al-'Adalah* no. 15 (2):325-343.

⁹ Khadduri, Majid. 2006. *War and Peace in the Law of Islam*: The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd.

¹⁰ Kelsay, John. 2016. "Sunni Islam and the Regulation of War." *The Prism of Just War: Asian and Western Perspectives on the Legitimate Use of Military Force*:115.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

Prohibition of Deception and Betrayal:

In Islam, lying or betraying are prohibited in times of war. Muslim warriors must honour their pledges and treaties, even with adversaries¹².

Authorization for Defensive Warfare:

Islam promotes peace and the peaceful resolution of problems via discourse. However, it also acknowledges the right to engage in defensive warfare in response to an attack or when fundamental rights are violated¹³.

Preliminary Alert:

Prior to commencing an assault, Muslims are advised to issue warnings to the opposing faction, affording them the chance to surrender or pursue a peaceful settlement¹⁴.

Preservation of the environment:

In Islamic warfare, there are strict regulations that forbid the destruction of natural resources, like trees and water sources, even during times of armed combat¹⁵.

Dealing with Deceased Individuals:

The paramount importance of treating the deceased with reverence is emphasized. Disfigurement of corpses, regardless of their association, is strictly forbidden¹⁶.

Engaging in Warfare with Fairness and Morality (Adl):

Islam mandates the execution of battles with justice, refraining from aggression, and guaranteeing the preservation of fairness and equity, even amid combat¹⁷.

It is essential to emphasize that these values are derived from Islamic teachings and the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The primary objective is to ensure ethical behaviour, respect human rights, and minimize injury, even under the difficult conditions of warfare. The Islamic principles of warfare emphasize the significance of compassion, fairness, and humanity by the wider Islamic values of peace and justice.

Pakistan Army's Role in Peacekeeping Missions: A Historical Overview

The Pakistan Army has a lengthy track record of engaging in peacekeeping operations under the supervision of the United Nations (UN) and other global entities. From the beginning, Pakistan has consistently shown dedication to promoting global peace by actively deploying troops, allocating resources, and sharing knowledge in several peacekeeping missions across the globe¹⁸.

The Pakistan Army participated in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) following the Suez Crisis 1956, marking one of its earliest peacekeeping missions. Pakistan has deployed its military forces as part of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in order to maintain peace

¹² L II, SOHAI. 1996. "Interpreting the Islamic ethics of war and peace."

¹³ Al-Zuhili, Sheikh Wahbeh. 2017. "Islam and international law." In *International Law and Islamic Law*, 79-93. Routledge

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Safdar, Ghulam, Ghulam Shabir, and Abdul Wajid Khan. 2018. "Media's Role in Nation Building: Social, Political, Religious and Educational Perspectives." *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences* no. 38 (2):387-397.

and security in the region, signifying the initiation of its active involvement in peacekeeping missions. Following that, the Pakistan Army persistently participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations in many conflict areas, such as the Congo, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Bosnia, and Herzegovina¹⁹.

Pakistan has made substantial contributions to peacekeeping missions, demonstrating considerable soldier numbers, logistical assistance, and conflict resolution and rebuilding skills. The involvement of the Pakistan Army in these operations demonstrates the nation's dedication to maintaining peace and stability through its Islamic values and global responsibilities²⁰.

Within the framework of Islamic teachings, the involvement of the Pakistan Army in peacekeeping operations is by the goals of fostering peace, upholding justice, and providing humanitarian aid. Pakistan has made significant contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The nation has continuously dispatched its military forces to areas of conflict to aid in preserving peace and stability. Pakistani military is deployed in other regions, such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Congo, Sudan, and Haiti²¹.

Role in the Counterterrorism Efforts:

Pakistan's army, as a key participant in the War on Terror, has played a proactive role in countering terrorism within its territory. This has encompassed military actions targeting rebel factions in the tribal areas adjacent to Afghanistan, including Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad²²²³.

Enhancing Border Management and Strengthening Cooperation in Countering Terrorism:

Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan's military has been actively involved in substantial border management endeavours. This entails implementing measures to fortify the border in order to impede the infiltration of terrorists and suppress illicit actions that may exacerbate regional instability²⁴.

Operations aimed at suppressing and neutralizing insurgent activities:

The Pakistani military has undertaken counterinsurgency operations to eradicate terrorist networks and their sanctuaries. This has entailed extensive military operations in regions where extremist organizations are active, aiming to undermine their operational networks²⁵.

¹⁹ Yaghubi, Iraj. 1978. *The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), 1956-67: An analysis of the United Nations' first peacekeeping operation in the Middle East.*

²⁰ Shah, Shafaat Ullah. 2020. Pakistan and United Nations Peacekeeping: Experiences and Opportunities. ISAS Working Paper.

²¹ Islam, Sania, Muhammad Ifzal Mehmood, and Muhammad Haroon Khan. 2022. "ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS." *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs* no. 5 (3).

²² Weinbaum, Marvin G. 1991. "War and peace in Afghanistan: The Pakistani role." *Middle East Journal* no. 45 (1):71-85.

²³ Tellis, Ashley J. 2008. "Pakistan and the War on Terror." *Conflicted Goals, Compromised Performance. Washington, DC (et al.): Carnegie Endowment for International Peace* no. 10.

²⁴ Kiani, Maria. 2004. "Pakistan's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping." *Strategic Studies* no. 24 (3):41-72.

²⁵ Imran, Muhammad, Ghulam Murtiza, and Muhammad Sulyman Akbar. 2023. "Pakistan's Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: An Analysis." *J. Pol. Stud.* no. 30:1.

Provision of instruction and support to allied military forces:

Pakistan has imparted training and support to partner forces in the ongoing War on Terror. This includes exchanging knowledge gained from counterterrorism operations and assisting with sharing intelligence and coordination²⁶.

Provision of aid and support to alleviate suffering and rebuild communities affected by crises or disasters:

Pakistan has engaged in military operations, humanitarian aid, and contributing to post-conflict reconstruction endeavours. This encompasses providing assistance to displaced communities and actively participating in the restoration of infrastructure in regions devastated by violence²⁷.

Naval Operations and Maritime Security:

The Pakistani navy has actively contributed to safeguarding maritime security in the Arabian marine by participating in measures to counter the infiltration of terrorists via marine routes²⁸.

Pakistan Army's involvement in UN Peacekeeping Missions:

Pakistan has a notable history of actively participating in diverse **United Nations peacekeeping missions**. Below are several noteworthy instances in which Pakistan's military has made substantial contributions as peacekeepers, including the names of missions and corresponding dates:

- The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) was deployed in the Sinai region from 1956 to 1967.

Pakistan participated in the United Nations Emergency Force I (UNEF I) from 1956 to 1967, which was created to oversee the removal of occupying troops from Egypt following the Suez Crisis²⁹.

- The United Nations Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM) was a mission in Yemen from 1963 to 1964.

Pakistan took part in UNYOM, a mission that sought to supervise the departure of foreign military forces from Yemen³⁰.

- The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been present in Lebanon since 1978.

Pakistan has actively participated in UNIFIL, deploying troops to support the maintenance of peace and stability in the southern region of Lebanon³¹.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Chand, Deepjyoti. 2020. "Active Participation of Developing Countries in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Cases Comparison of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh."

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Humud, Carla E. 2021. *United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)*: Congressional Research Service.

- The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was a mission in Cambodia from 1992 to 1993.

Pakistan participated in the UNTAC mission (1992-1993) to achieve stability and build democratic governance in Cambodia after the fighting³².

- The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was deployed in the Former Yugoslavia from 1992 to 1995.

Pakistan actively engaged in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which was responsible for safeguarding civilians and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the Balkans during the Yugoslav Wars (Shafi and Khalid 2021).

- The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was a peacekeeping operation from 1999 to 2006 in Sierra Leone.

Pakistan played a pivotal part in UNAMSIL by deploying troops to aid in the restoration of peace and stability during Sierra Leone's civil conflict³³.

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was a peacekeeping operation in Liberia from 2003 until 2018.

Pakistani peacekeepers were members of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which aimed to establish stability in Liberia following a prolonged period of civil violence³⁴.

- The United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has been active in the DRC since 1999 and continues to operate.

Pakistan has actively participated in MONUSCO, deploying military personnel to address the issues of war and insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo³⁵.

Pakistan Army at a sacrificing end for the whole world:

Troop Contributions: Pakistan has routinely deployed a significant contingent of soldiers to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Pakistani soldiers have demonstrated their capabilities by operating in various demanding and complex settings, such as conflict-ridden areas in Africa, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. Their presence has significantly enhanced the overall power and efficiency of United Nations missions³⁶.

³² Griffin, Michele, and Bruce Jones. 2014. "Building peace through transitional authority: new directions, major challenges." In *Managing armed conflicts in the 21st century*, 75-90. Routledge.

³³ Joshi, VV. 2003. "United Nations mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL): Medical deployment and experiences." *Indian Journal of Aerospace Medicine* no. 47 (1):51-61.

³⁴ Ali, Iftikhar, and Jatswan S Sidhu. 2022. "Strategic dynamics of crisis stability in South Asia." *Journal of Asian and African Studies* no. 57 (7):1357-1375.

³⁵ Murphy, Ray. 2016. "UN Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Protection of Civilians." *Journal of Conflict and Security Law* no. 21 (2):209-246.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

Positions of leadership: Pakistani military personnel have frequently taken on senior roles inside United Nations peacekeeping teams. Pakistani officers have overseen UN missions, demonstrating the adeptness and expertise of Pakistan's military leadership on the global platform³⁷.

Conflict resolution and peacebuilding: The Pakistani military actively participates in conflict resolution and peacebuilding endeavours as a component of United Nations operations. This includes the execution of peace agreements, facilitating dialogue among opposing factions, and providing assistance to establish lasting peace in places affected by violence.

Provision of aid and support to individuals and communities in need: Pakistan's military forces ensure security and stability and actively provide humanitarian assistance during UN peacekeeping missions. This encompasses the provision of medical assistance, the facilitation of aid distribution, and efforts to enhance the living conditions of the indigenous inhabitants.

Education and skill development: Through training, Pakistani military officers impart their skills and experience to indigenous security forces in host nations. Developing this capacity is essential for enabling nations to assume responsibility for their security and sustain peace autonomously.

Engaging in the cessation of hostilities and overseeing compliance with agreements: The Pakistani military plays a crucial role in overseeing ceasefires, monitoring agreements, and assuring adherence to peace deals. This is the task of monitoring and guarding locations of high sensitivity, carrying out extensive observation, and promptly notifying the United Nations authorities of any breaches or infringements³⁸.

Female participation in peacekeeping operations: Pakistan has been actively advocating for the inclusion of women in peacekeeping operations. Women serving in Pakistan's military and police forces play a crucial role in addressing the specific needs and concerns of gender in peacekeeping operations. They actively interact with and assist women in conflict areas³⁹.

Abhinandan's case: An exemplary demonstration of Pakistan's dedication to regional stability and peace took place in February 2019 during heightened tensions between India and Pakistan after the Pulwama terror incident in Indian-administered Kashmir. Following an Indian bombing on Pakistani land, a following aerial confrontation led to the apprehension of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, an Indian Air Force pilot, by Pakistani forces. As a sign of goodwill and to show Pakistan's dedication to reducing tensions, Prime Minister Imran Khan declared the liberation of the captive pilot, highlighting the significance of discussion and diplomatic resolutions to disputes. The world community widely praised this action for successfully reducing tensions and demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to resolving conflicts through nonviolent methods. The decision highlighted Pakistan's position as a conscientious participant in the region and its dedication to promoting peace, especially during increased bilateral tensions⁴⁰.

Pakistan's adherence to UN peacekeeping demonstrates its unwavering commitment to worldwide peace and security. The country's army's efforts highlight its role as a conscientious

³⁷ Shafi, Khalid Mahmood, and Ruhaab Khalid. 2021. "United Nations and Pakistan: Global Peace Construction and Peace Characterization." *Pakistan Horizon* no. 74 (1):129-142.

³⁸ Shah, Shafaat Ullah. 2020. Pakistan and United Nations Peacekeeping: Experiences and Opportunities. ISAS Working Paper.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

global participant. It is ready to utilize its resources and knowledge to promote the shared objective of upholding peace in regions afflicted by war.

Impact of Pakistan's peacekeeping efforts on the countries and regions they have assisted:

Pakistan's peacekeeping endeavours have substantially influenced the nations and areas where its military personnel have been stationed. The Pakistan Army's participation in peacekeeping operations has been characterized by its dedication to maintaining peace, security, and stability. Its contributions have had concrete and beneficial impacts on the societies impacted by the violence it has aided.

It has significantly contributed to restoring and preserving peace and stability in regions devastated by violence. Pakistani military forces have been instrumental in bolstering peace initiatives, mediating discussions between conflicting factions, and instilling a feeling of safety among the indigenous populace. Pakistani peacekeepers have frequently played a crucial role in averting the repetition of violence and war, facilitating the gradual return to normalcy and the reconstruction of communities⁴¹.

Furthermore, Pakistan's endeavours in peacekeeping have significantly assisted in safeguarding civilians in areas of war. Pakistani military forces have been actively delivering humanitarian aid, safeguarding vulnerable populations, and advocating for human rights in the regions where they have been stationed. Their existence has frequently provided solace to local populations, especially in regions where violence and instability have hindered the usual operation of society.

Moreover, Pakistan's peacekeeping endeavours have contributed favourably to rebuilding and advancing in the aftermath of conflicts. Pakistani peacekeepers have supported demining, infrastructure rebuilding, and restoring key services, facilitating conflict-affected regions' long-term recovery and sustainable development. Their endeavours have played a crucial role in establishing the foundation for economic revival, societal advancement, and the reintegration of displaced communities.

Furthermore, the participation of the Pakistan Army in peacekeeping operations has played a significant role in promoting inter-community communication and reconciliation. Pakistani forces have facilitated communication, comprehension, and collaboration among diverse people in conflict-affected areas by engaging with various ethnic, religious, and political organizations. They have facilitated the establishment of environments conducive to reconciliation, tolerance, and the redressal of enduring grievances, actively contributing to healing and fostering social cohesion⁴².

⁴¹ Shah, Shafaat Ullah. 2020. Pakistan and United Nations Peacekeeping: Experiences and Opportunities. ISAS Working Paper.

⁴² Imran, Muhammad, Ghulam Murtiza, and Muhammad Sulyman Akbar. 2023. "Pakistan's Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: An Analysis." *J. Pol. Stud.* no. 30:1.

The challenges and successes of the Pakistan Army's peacekeeping missions:

The Pakistan Army has an extensive and illustrious track record of engaging in peacekeeping operations globally. The Pakistan Army has encountered difficulties and achievements during these deployments, demonstrating its dedication to global peace, security, and humanitarian aid.

Challenges:

1. **Vulnerabilities in security:** Inherent security hazards are an essential obstacle in peacekeeping deployments. Pakistan's peacekeepers have served in unstable and war-torn areas, making them vulnerable to dangers posed by armed factions, insurgents, and criminal elements. Peacekeepers are frequently exposed to danger and suffer casualties and injuries due to the intricate security landscape.
2. **Political Sensitivities:** Peacekeeping missions are frequently deployed in areas characterized by intricate political dynamics and longstanding grievances. It can be tough to navigate these intricate environments while upholding impartiality and neutrality. Furthermore, effectively managing different parties' varied political objectives and interests poses a considerable obstacle for peacekeepers.
3. **Peacekeepers face the challenge of cultural and linguistic difficulties** when operating in different and multicultural settings. They must find ways to interact effectively with local communities despite these obstacles. Developing comprehensive comprehension and showing deference towards the habits, traditions, and languages of the local inhabitants are paramount in establishing a foundation of trust and a harmonious relationship.
4. **Peacekeeping efforts necessitate substantial logistical and material resources.** Insufficient resources, such as equipment, medical supplies, and infrastructure, can present substantial obstacles to peacekeepers' operational efficiency and welfare.
5. **Psychological Consequences:** Engaging in peacekeeping missions can adversely affect the psychological state and overall welfare of the personnel involved. Peacekeepers may experience enduring psychological consequences as a result of being exposed to traumatic situations, intense stress, and the challenges of operating in demanding environments⁴³.

Successes:

1. The peacekeeping missions carried out by the Pakistan Army have made substantial contributions to establishing and maintaining stability in places impacted by conflict. Pakistan's peacekeepers have played a crucial role in establishing and sustaining stability by ensuring security, facilitating humanitarian supplies, and supporting the execution of peace agreements.
2. Pakistan's peacekeepers have played a crucial role in safeguarding civilians, particularly women and children, from harm and violence. This has entailed the establishment of secure zones, the execution of patrols, and the implementation of measures to prevent and address violations of human rights.
3. Pakistan's peacekeepers have actively delivered humanitarian aid, such as medical assistance, food distribution, and infrastructure building, to areas impacted by conflict and natural calamities.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

This assistance has effectively mitigated distress and enhanced the quality of life for the impacted communities.

4. Pakistan's peacekeepers have been involved in capacity-building endeavours, which entail training local security personnel, police, and community leaders. Through the transfer of information and skills, they have enhanced the ability of local institutions to sustain long-term stability and security⁴⁴.

Pakistan's engagement in peacekeeping missions has bolstered its ties with the international community and showcased its dedication to worldwide peace and security. Pakistan has cooperated with other states and international organizations to tackle conflict and instability collectively.

Conclusion

The Islamic viewpoint on peace underscores the values of concord, equity, and benevolence, promoting individuals' peaceful cohabitation and settlement of disputes through non-aggressive methods. The Pakistan Army, motivated by these Islamic ideals, has substantially contributed by actively engaging in peacekeeping missions, thereby enhancing global peace efforts and promoting stability. The Pakistan Army has exhibited its dedication to maintaining peace, justice, and humanitarian aid through its past participation in peacekeeping missions. This commitment aligns with its Islamic values and international obligations.

This research piece offers insights into the Islamic viewpoint on peace and the Pakistan Army's historical engagement in peacekeeping operations. The study underscores the congruence between the Pakistan Army's peacekeeping efforts and the tenets of Islam, emphasizing the significance of fostering world peace and stability. In the future, it is crucial to investigate further the relationship between Islamic teachings, the involvement of the Pakistan Army in peacekeeping efforts, and their combined influence on world peace and security.



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⁴⁴ Shah, Shafaat Ullah. 2020. Pakistan and United Nations Peacekeeping: Experiences and Opportunities. ISAS Working Paper.