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Dedicated to a progressive, politically stable Pakistan and strong U.S.-Pakistan relations.

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INDUS Mobilizing People's Power

In collaboration with AdvoPak

INVITES

Members & Associates

for a

Holiday Social and Documentary Screening

Veils & Walls

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2015

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

[ARGYLE COUNTRY CLUB](#)

14600 Argyle Club Road

Silver Spring, MD 20906

Phone: (301) 598-5500

RSVP to INDUSPK.USA@gmail.com

Veils & Walls is an award winning documentary from Pakistan about poverty, illiteracy,

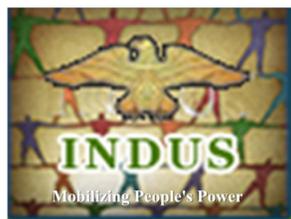
lack of awareness of processes, lack of support (financial and mentors), community isolation and remoteness, human safety, misconceptions and a challenge to status quo.

The film documents the efforts of four women who are out to redefine empowerment and emancipation in a skewed, tyrannical, and morally bankrupt space. It's about their fight for democracy, against discrimination, and against segregation. These are women of rare substance out to change the destiny of their societies for the better, to prove what it means to be a woman with courage and valor in a man's world. They will stop at nothing to get over the walls and veils.

The film raises questions and highlights opportunities that present themselves during political events to create change. Both women and men need to be empowered to use these moments to gain ground and effect change one step at a time. We see how 'institutions and organizations' whose business it is to support these women are invisible and missing from the action leaving these characters to fight alone.

INDUS - Mobilizing People's Power is a registered 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to a progressive, politically stable Pakistan and strong U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Registration and tax-deductible donations can be made through our website: www.induspk.org



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Forward

The Diplomat

What did Pakistan Premier Sharif Actually Accomplish on his US Visit?

Touqir Hussain and David Silverman

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif just concluded an official visit to Washington. Despite a whole range of issues on which the U.S. and Pakistan do not see eye to eye, they managed to produce a surprisingly positive joint statement that, according to a State Department spokesman, highlighted their "strong and growing relationship." Kind words helped the visit, but two defined it: Kunduz and China.

Afghanistan, security, and counterterrorism operations remain central to both sides. The United States underestimated the strength and staying power of the Taliban. Kunduz showed that the Taliban can achieve large-scale dislocations that can last weeks (and longer, if it were left to the Afghan National Security Forces only). It also proved to both the Taliban and unity government the limits of a military solution. They are at a stalemate, and there is no real alternative but reconciliation. The Taliban need to be dealt with not just militarily but politically as well. Whether the unity government has been convinced of that remains to be seen.

Kunduz requires Pakistan to recalculate also. A friendly government in Kabul is unrealizable, and undermining Indian influence at the expense of Afghanistan's stability only sows instability in Pakistan. The troop extension has renewed American pressure on Pakistan. After the report of Mullah Omar's death, his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, embarked on a messy campaign to consolidate power. Before his authority vested, a return to negotiations would be fruitless. As PM Sharif noted during his visit, Pakistan "cannot bring [the Taliban] to the table and be asked to kill them at the same time."

But Pakistan can accelerate the run-up to talks by eliminating factions that might vie with Mansour for control—which would benefit Afghanistan, the United States, and Pakistan itself—and then push the Taliban to the table when the time comes. Pakistan's apparent recalcitrance to do so is aimed not at Afghanistan, but at India and Indian interests in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's preconditions for a meeting between the Indian and Pakistani national security advisers led to its cancellation. Pakistan's concerns about Indian influence gained legitimacy and stoked Pakistan's insecurities: that it was helping create an Afghanistan that was inconsistent with its strategic interests and abetting India's presence in and relationship with Afghanistan. Pakistan came to see the Indian "threat" as having doubled. Despite some hopeful signs earlier, relations on the subcontinent are back at square one.

This dynamic has created challenges for the U.S. policymakers hesitant to wade deeper into an assortment of regional disputes and rivalries. The decision to increase and extend the deployment of U.S. troops may prove unpopular, but President Obama has no more campaigns to run. If there is a silver lining, the decision confirmed U.S. regional interests and relations are not transactional in nature. This will influence negotiated outcomes in America's favor. (On the other hand, how the continued presence of U.S. and coalition forces might affect the reemergence of al Qaeda and the Islamic State's expansion in Afghanistan is an open and concerning question; the consequence of withdrawal is well

known.) Ultimately, peace cannot take hold without Pakistan's cooperation. At the same time, instability is not its fault alone—a nuance that is often overlooked and one that has made public diplomacy very difficult.

Adding to the complexity, internal deliberations are taking place within a changing strategic environment. China's pursuits are expanding, as is its influence. Pakistan serves as a critical bridge from the Middle Kingdom to the Middle East and is a strategic terminus in its own right. Iran has similar value for China. The same claim cannot be made in Kabul; China's infrastructure plans will circumvent Afghanistan, and without regional cooperation, it will be more likely to reprise its role as the unhappy host of Great Game politics. But this too affects Islamabad: instability in Afghanistan raises the risks of foreign investments in Pakistan, Chinese or otherwise. Peace has become indivisible.

Pakistan wants help resolving its longstanding challenges with India. Even minor progress on substantive issues would promote regional stability. China cannot provide the leverage to do so, nor would it necessarily be in its interests to advance India-Pakistan normalization; Pakistan is useful in balancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership. Consequently, Sharif suggested to an audience of U.S. senators that the U.S. was the “most relevant” third party to help mediate on Kashmir. The White House acknowledged the issue in the joint statement (which noted the importance of “resolving all outstanding territorial and other disputes, including Kashmir”).

Perhaps more irritating to New Delhi was the U.S. overtly noting the complexity Pakistan faces in combating domestic militancy while subtly referencing a potential Indian role in the same: Sharif reportedly shared information on India's alleged activities in Pakistan during his meeting with Secretary Kerry. The joint statement, which came out later, recommended that the South Asian neighbors work together to “address mutual concerns of India and Pakistan regarding terrorism.”

The U.S. advocates dialogue between India and Pakistan and refrains from further involvement. But at the very least, it appears that Washington understands that if it squeezes Pakistan, like Pakistan feels Modi is already doing from India as well as Afghanistan, then Islamabad will be inclined to cling to the Taliban. India may believe this inevitable, but it still took notice of the specific mention of Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Haqqani Network in the joint statement—the first time the outlawed groups have appeared in such. As far as symbols go, it is significant—signaling an opening in Pakistan to address Indian and U.S. security concerns.

Although a high-profile topic in the run up to Sharif's visit, the nuclear deal was a nonstarter. Outsized expectations were cut down during the official talks. Pakistan is interested in finding a path for admission into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, but not at the cost of its nuclear arsenal. Moreover, experiences from the 1980s demonstrate that swapping U.S. military hardware for Pakistani nuclear concessions is a temporary tradeoff aimed at Congress. Whether such a strategy is at work this time it is doubtful: Congress is opposed both to a military deal with Pakistan as well as to the expansion of its nuclear capability. It is likely though that discussions will continue, especially when Chief of Army Staff Raheel Sharif visits Washington next month.

In many ways, the visit was a minor success for both sides, as well as for Afghanistan and India. Yet the future of peace in the region remains uncertain.

The original publication can be found [here](#).

Touqir Hussain, a former Ambassador and Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and SAIS Johns Hopkins University, where he is also Senior Pakistan Visiting Fellow. He writes on South Asian security issues, Iran, and Afghanistan.

David Silverman is an Associate Consultant at Manhattan Strategy Group. He has a Master's degree in Asian Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.



INDUS attended a meeting at the United States Institute of Peace with Mr. Moeed Yusuf, Director for South Asia Programs, and the visiting minister from Azad Jammu & Kashmir. November 9, 2015

MEDIA REVIEW

US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies Inaugurated at UC Davis

An inauguration ceremony of the US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security (CAS-AFS) was held on Wednesday October 28, 2015 at the University of

California, Davis campus. Attended by scholars, USAID officials, local media and several members of the Pakistani-American community in the region, these gatherings covered the academic cooperation and friendship between the two countries which has continued in spite of the headlines. Pakistan and the United States have had a close security arrangement since at least 1958 (some would suggest longer) and cooperation in the area of food security has been one of the cornerstones of this relationship. [[PakistanLink](#)]

The unholy licenses

Naeem Sadiq

The author argues that terror, militancy, and crime will persist as long as terrorists, militants, and criminals remain so well armed. "Pakistan is fighting a complex and challenging war against terror. How it deals with the menace of approximately 12 million illegal weapons and some eight million fake gun licences will determine the outcome of this war. The actions taken so far (largely in the form of speeches, conferences and newspaper declarations) have been hugely disappointing." [[TheNews](#)]

As tensions play out at home, powerful Pakistani general heads to US for talks

General Raheel Sharif visited the United States soon after the military said its efforts to crackdown on extremists would be "undermined" if the government did not take "matching governance initiatives". Amid concerns about Gen. Sharif and the military's commitment to carrying out anti-militant operations, the head of ISPR, Gen. Asim Bajwa, said Gen. Sharif "supports democracy unwaveringly." [[Reuters](#)]

What has General Sharif changed?

Umair Arif

The author examines the military's policies under Gen. Raheel Sharif. "While Gen. Raheel has shown lots of determination, I must say that, I don't find his approach different from his predecessors." [[PakTeaHouse](#)]

Analysis: Major NAP issues prompted military's reaction

Ismail Khan

According to the article, progress on nearly half of the 20-point National Action Plan is showing a downward trend, but reforms in Fata, the return of Afghan refugees, and issues associated with the operation in Karachi were the factors that prompted the last week's call from military commanders for "matching governance initiatives." [[Dawn](#)]

Interview: Pervez Hoodbhoy

Muhammad Akbar Notezai

Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, a prominent Pakistani nuclear physicist, essayist and defense analyst, discusses liberalism, religious freedom, and extremism in Pakistan. "Pakistan's real problem is that of education. But it's not simply that the number of schools or universities is insufficient. Rather, the stuff we teach in them is the problem." [[TheDiplomat](#)]

Pakistan has 10,159 tcf of shale gas deposits: USAID

"Pakistan has massive deposits of 10,159 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of shale gas and 2.3 trillion barrels of oil," according to estimates from a study conducted with the help of US Agency for International Development. Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the study indicated that "Pakistan has the potential to produce shale gas and oil, which is more than expectations." [[ExpressTribune](#)]

Modi's India...Pakistan's opportunity

Ayaz Amir

The author believes that Narendra Modi is making India look like General Zia's Pakistan. "Whereas

Pakistan is slowly emerging from its fundamentalist quagmire, moving away from the religious extremism that was its biggest problem, India is lurching in the other direction." [[TheNews](#)]

First Pakistani woman to summit Everest encourages women to 'climb their own mountains'

Ann M. Simmons

Samina Baig, 25, the first Pakistani female to reach the top of Everest, sent a message to fellow citizens in a country sometimes criticized for its subjugation of women. "On Mt. Everest, I was not Samina Baig. I was representing Pakistani women. I was thinking that if I don't make it, how am I going to encourage other women? I had to do it." Pakistan's ambassador to United Nations, Maleeha Lodhi, noted that Baig epitomized the confidence and determination exhibited by many Pakistani women who have "broken the glass ceiling" that often holds women back. [[LATimes](#)]

Pakistani develops software that can erase unwanted information from internet faster than Google

Rizwan Asghar has come up with a solution to tackle Google's agonizingly slow process to remove unflattering photos or defamatory articles from their memory bank. [[ExpressTribune](#)]

OUR FOCUS

Youth Leadership Development

Creating campus-based, strictly nonpolitical Student Government Associations that offer functional Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary experiences within a campus environment, including the election of student representatives as Members of Parliament and Judges to manage all aspects of student affairs, in conjunction with campus administration.

Pakistan Civil Liberties Union

Civil liberties are personal guarantees and freedoms that the government cannot abridge, either by law or by judicial interpretation. However in today's Pakistan, violence, intolerance, weak rule of law, endemic corruption, and a lack of religious freedom and social and economic justice have become routine. The Pakistan Civil Liberties Union (PCLU) is a watchdog organization that will combat these issues at every level of society.

Policy Research – As It Happens

Campus-based political and social sciences research. Graduate Student and Faculty focusing on policy issues for possible social, cultural, and political reform, followed by advocacy action and awareness creation by the same researchers for the purposes of legislative reform as appropriate.

Cultivating Early Awareness

Aimed at increasing youngsters' awareness of rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and building a national bond at a very impressionable age,

leading to real benefits to the nation in evolving future leadership.

As always, thank you for reading, and thank you for your efforts. If you have questions or comments, or desire to participate in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us at induspk.usa@gmail.com.

Registration and tax-deductible donations can be made through our website: www.induspk.org



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