

Investigating the Effect of Islamic Culture and Art on the Convergence and Divergence of Iran and Pakistan

Abstract

Iran and Pakistan, as two neighboring countries, have long had extensive political and cultural ties. Undoubtedly, one of the most significant factors that has played a chief role in the outgoing relations and convergence of the two countries has been the participation in religious culture. However, in the last century, the relationship between the two countries has not always been in the form of convergence and now and then in the form of divergence. Convergent and divergent forces, which play a major role in determining the quality of national cohesion, are not separate concepts, but variables that are inversely related and affected by each other. Convergent and divergent forces play a major role in determining how and the quality of national cohesion, they are not separate concepts, nonetheless variables that are inversely related and affected by each other. This descriptive-analytical study attempts to analyze the issue of Islamic culture and art in terms of influencing the process of convergence and divergence between Iran and Pakistan. Eventually, it came to the conclusion that extremist Islamic culture and art, due to domestic, national, and international issues such as the existence of religious schools, Saudi intervention, or the US presence in Pakistan, hampered convergence with Iran and posed a challenging path especially considering the fact that Iran-India relations have more favorable and beneficial economic conditions for Iran in recent years.

Research aims:

١. An analysis on role of Islamic culture and art in the convergence and divergence of relations between Iran and Pakistan.
٢. A Study of the challenges of religious culture and art in achieving convergence between Iran and Pakistan.

Research questions:

١. Do Islamic culture and art have an effect on the convergence and divergence of relations between Iran and Pakistan?

٢. To what extent has the cultural and artistic convergence and divergence of Iran and Pakistan affected the relations between Iran and Pakistan?

Keywords: Iran-Pakistan relations, Islamic culture and art, convergence, divergence.

Introduction

In the management of international relations today, factors such as culture and art can play a key role in organizing relations between societies. In the meantime, Islamic societies, based on the commonalities of religious culture, seek to establish friendly relations or alliances with each other. Islamic convergence is a solemn issue in the present age. Although the issue of Islamic convergence and in other words Islamic unity has been raised since the beginning of Islam, but in recent centuries with the presence of foreign powers in the Islamic world, convergence has found a clearer meaning. In line with Islamic convergence, the symbols of religious thought in the Islamic world have also suggested practical solutions. One of these figures, the martyr Dr. Rentisi, one of the leaders of Hamas, proposed the formation of the Islamic United States in order to prevent the interference of foreigners, especially the United States, in the internal affairs of Islamic countries. The study of the causes and components of religious convergence shows how each of the Islamic religions, distancing itself from the divisive factors, forms the solid foundations of Islamic unity and cohesion in the wider field of the Islamic Ummah. Today, the spread of extremist religious and fundamentalist currents in the world has become a major issue for world governments. In the meantime, the most immediate threats and dangers are always perceived by the neighbors for the countries, which affect the political behavior, strategies, national interests and goals, national security, territorial integrity, survival and existence of the countries. At present, Pakistan is one of Iran's major neighbors, which has cultural and religious similarities with Iran, consequently, the need to study the quality and how to converge and diverge between the two countries is raised. Among these, factors such as culture and art have played a pivotal role in managing this convergence or divergence.

Regarding the background of the present study, it should be said that no independent work with this title has been written so far. However, some works have examined the cultural relationship between Iran and Pakistan. An article entitled "Cultural Relations between Pakistan and Iran" written by Sarvar (۱۹۷۰) examines the role of Persian language in the relationship between the two countries. Another article entitled "A Comparative Study of Cultural Similarities between Balochistan and Pakistan in the Islamic Era: A Case Study of Regional Mosques and Finding the Roots of Their Related Elements" by Saremi Naeini et al. (۲۰۱۰) examines the roots of convergence between Iran and Pakistan in the Islamic period with respect to religious commonalities. In this work, there is no reference to artistic discussion and divergence and convergence between these two countries in the present era.

The present study is a descriptive and analytical method based on the data of library resources and seeks to investigate the cultural and artistic elements between Iran and Pakistan to investigate why and how to better manage these relations with respect to cultural commonalities.

Conclusion

Pakistan currently faces three major geopolitical challenges: ۱. Terrorism and religious-ethnic extremism. ۲. A weak government and a crisis of power. ۳. The involvement of trans-regional powers. On the other hand, the role of the power crisis in Pakistan and the presence of supra-regional powers in the region under the pretext of maintaining regional and international peace and security in Pakistan and Afghanistan and its effects on Iran cannot be overlooked. Geopolitical rivalry between Iran and Pakistan can have a huge impact on the national interests, national security and economy of both countries. Although Pakistan has many challenges, reducing geopolitical tensions, operationalizing areas of cooperation, and eliminating confrontation between the two countries make them more likely to compete regionally. In any case, in cooperation and competition between Iran and Pakistan at the regional level, factors such as: religious-ideological issues, energy, transit and transportation, water, access and communications, and ethnic issues play a significant role. Apart from cooperation, the ability and competitiveness of each of these two countries depends on the environmental potentials, foreign policy towards powerful regional and global countries and the strategies of their own countries, and a country can continue to compete if it can have the necessary power to influence the above factors. Accordingly, how can Iran and Pakistan experience convergent relations? Historically, the two countries have

many cultural, artistic (ecocultural), geopolitical and geographical ties; This is an important step towards achieving more favorable relations in other fields so that the two countries are able to participate better and more seriously in regional groupings such as the Shanghai Political-Economic Treaty and the ECO Economic Treaty, the Organization of Islamic Countries and the D-Eight Group improve our relations with the dual nature of geopolitics and geo-economics.

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