

# Ijaz Khan, *Pakistan's Strategic Culture and Foreign Policy Making*

Medha Bisht\*

Ijaz Khan, *Pakistan's Strategic Culture and Foreign Policy Making: A Study of Pakistan's Post 9/11 Afghan Policy Changes*, 2007, New York: Nova Science Publishers

In *Pakistan's Strategic Culture and Foreign Policy Making: A Study of Pakistan's Post 9/11 Afghan Policy Changes*, Ijaz Khan, develops an understanding of the strategic culture in Pakistan. Focusing on the policy decisions in Pakistan post 9/11, it develops an understanding of Pakistan's foreign policy and the role of the Pakistani state in the war against terrorism.

The book can be broadly divided into three parts. The first part, which covers the first two chapters, delineates the theoretical framework through an applied prism analysis. The theoretical framework is inspired by Karl Deutsch model on decision making where Ijaz Ahmed studies Memory of Historical Inputs, Inputs from the International System and Domestic System Inputs with reference to Pakistan. Much of the explanation on Pakistan's policy response to certain critical issues (Afghanistan, Kashmir and Nuclear Programme) is explained in the first part. The Second part, which covers the third and fourth chapter, elaborates Pakistan's Afghan policy shift and the impact of this shift at the regional level. While the author in this part traces the rationale for Pakistan's policy shift, which, according to him, was a product of interaction between internal and external elements, he also argues that the policy shift enabled Pakistan to attain a certain amount of diplomatic leverage at the regional level.

In the third part - the fifth and the sixth chapter, domestic foreign policy debate in Pakistan is highlighted. Domestic debates are analyzed from the vantage point of the potential impact they had on Pakistan's foreign policy decision making structure. The last chapter summarizes the key finding of the book, while also proposing a way forward to influence the essential choke points which shape the contours policy decisions.

The book is an analytical read and is a significant contribution to the rich

\*Medha Bisht is a Research Assistant at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

scholarship on Pakistan. Understanding political behaviour of a state is a quintessential element of international politics. Ijaz Ahmed's book is an important academic reminder which explains the nuances which exist in Pakistan's strategic culture. 