Timeline of U.S.–Pakistan Relations
From the Council on Foreign Relations (http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/us-pakistan-relations/p18392)

1947: Partition

The Indian subcontinent, which has been fought over for centuries, is the largest colony of the British Empire between 1858 and 1947. In August 1947, Britain relinquishes its claim after a long nationalist struggle and colonial India is partitioned into two states: India and Pakistan, the latter bisected by Indian territory. Created as a homeland for the subcontinent's Muslims, Pakistan is formed from parts of two colonial territories—Punjab in the west and Bengal in the east. The partition leads to at least half a million deaths and massive population transfers. Both countries claim the territory of Kashmir, a Hinduruled state with a Muslim majority. Kashmir's ruler eventually decides to accede to India, planting a seed that sows a harvest of war and terrorism for decades.

1948–1949: War over Kashmir

The first Indo-Pakistani war begins over the disputed territory of Kashmir, a Muslim-majority territory whose leader chose to be part of India rather than Pakistan at partition. The war ends on January 1, 1949, with a cease-fire arranged by the United Nations, which recommends both India and Pakistan hold a referendum in Kashmir. A cease-fire line, known as the Line of Control (LOC), is established with a UN peacekeeping force to monitor it. The referendum is never held, however. To the west of the LOC, Pakistan controls roughly one-third of Kashmir.
1951: Internal Stability

After the untimely death of Pakistan’s founder and first governor-general, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in 1948, Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan is assassinated in 1951. His death paves the way for the military to assert itself in the country’s political affairs. A pattern of political violence, repression, and assassinations continues to prevent the establishment of democracy in the country.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah sworn in as governor-general of Pakistan. (AP)

1962: Indo–China war

The presidency of John F. Kennedy and the Indo–China War saw the United States reaching out to India and offering it both military and economic aid. Pakistan, wary of U.S. relations with its archrival, made its displeasure known. President Kennedy had assured Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan that if the United States decided to give India military aid, he would talk with Khan first. His failure to do so in November 1962 deeply offended the Pakistani leader. To reassure Pakistan, Washington reaffirms its previous assurances that it will come to Pakistan’s assistance in the event of aggression from India.

Historic map of Kashmir after the 1962 Indo-China War (CFR.org/Jeremy Sherlick)
1974: India's Nuclear Blast

India conducts its first nuclear detonation in May 1974, calling it a “peaceful nuclear explosion.” The United States worries that Pakistan may retaliate but believes that Islamabad does not yet have the capabilities. Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush reportedly comments: “They [Pakistan] could conceivably decide to launch their own [nuclear] crash program although we estimate that their capabilities for doing this are extremely limited.” The United States resumes limited aid in 1975.

![Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the nuclear test site in Pokhran, India. (AP)](image)

1981: The CIA and Afghanistan

The administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan offers a five-year, $3.2 billion economic and military aid package to Islamabad. Pakistan becomes a key transit country for arms supplies to the Afghan resistance, or mujahedeen, as well as a camp for some three million Afghan refugees, many of whom have yet to return home. With Saudi intelligence agents acting as intermediaries, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) covertly helps Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in training and arming the mujahedeen inside camps in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

![Mujahedeen rebels in Afghanistan in May 1980. (AP)](image)
1985: Pressler Amendment

Despite the renewal of U.S. aid and close security ties, many in Congress remain troubled by Pakistan’s nuclear-weapons program. The Pressler Amendment is added to the Foreign Assistance Act, requiring the president to certify to Congress that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device during the fiscal year for which aid is to be provided. Pakistan’s U.S. aid continues flowing, however, as the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush certify Pakistan each year until 1990.

1990: US Aid Suspended Again

After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan beginning in 1988, Pakistan’s nuclear activities again come under intense U.S. scrutiny. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush suspends aid to Pakistan under the provisions of the Pressler Amendment. Most economic and all military aid is stopped and deliveries of major military equipment are suspended.

1998: Dueling Nuclear Tests

India, and then Pakistan, conduct nuclear tests and declare themselves full-fledged nuclear-weapons states. The United States imposes sanctions after the tests, restricting the provision of credits, military sales, economic assistance, and loans to the Pakistani government. Among the notable results of the aid cutoff in the early years is the nondelivery of F-16 fighter aircraft purchased by Pakistan in 1989. In December 1998, the United States agrees to compensate Pakistan with $325 million in cash and $140 million in goods, including surplus wheat.
**1999: Kargil and Musharraf’s Coup**

In May 1999, the incursion of Pakistan-backed armed forces into Kargil in Indian-held Kashmir leads to another war between India and Pakistan. In July, U.S. President Bill Clinton urges Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to withdraw the Pakistani forces. They sign a joint statement saying “concrete steps” will be taken to restore the cease-fire line in the disputed Himalayan territory. In October, overthrow of the Sharif government by Army General Pervez Musharraf triggers an additional layer of sanctions that includes restrictions on foreign military financing and economic assistance.

**2001: 9/11 and the War on Terror**

After the attacks of September 11, the United States lifts some sanctions placed on Pakistan after the 1998 nuclear tests and the 1999 military coup. President Pervez Musharraf—under strong U.S. diplomatic pressure—offers President George W. Bush “unstinted cooperation in the fight against terrorism.” Musharraf agrees to help eliminate the Taliban Islamist movement in Afghanistan. Large amounts of aid begin to flow to Pakistan. Direct assistance programs include aid for health, education, food, democracy promotion, child labor elimination, counternarcotics, border security and law enforcement, as well as trade preference benefits.

**2002: New U.S. Military Sales**

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf wins another five years in office, test fires missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, and grants himself sweeping new powers. The Pentagon reports foreign military sales agreements with Pakistan worth $27 million in fiscal year 2002 and $167 million in fiscal year 2003. U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl is kidnapped and killed in January 2002. In March, a bomb in a church kills five in Islamabad, including two persons associated with the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. State Department publishes a report labeling Pakistan's human rights record as “poor.”
2003: Fight Against al-Qaeda

President Bush announces a five-year, $3 billion package for Pakistan during Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf’s visit to the United States. U.S. military commanders complain that members of al-Qaeda and the Taliban attack coalition troops in Afghanistan and then escape across the Pakistani frontier. They urge Islamabad to do more to secure its western border. In mid-2003, tensions between Kabul and Islamabad reach alarming levels, with some top Afghan officials accusing Pakistan of destabilizing Afghanistan. In an unprecedented show of force, Musharraf moves some twenty-five thousand Pakistani troops into the traditionally semiautonomous tribal areas.

2004: Crimes of A.Q. Khan

In February 2004, the founder of Pakistan’s nuclear program, A.Q. Khan, confesses to supplying nuclear-weapons technology to Iran, Libya, and North Korea. The United States presses for Khan’s arrest. But having just designated Pakistan as a “major non-NATO ally,” the United States settles for a form of home confinement for the scientist, who is a national hero in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan escalates army operations in the tribal areas, sparking resentment among locals.

2006: Diplomatic Ties Strengthen

President George W. Bush visits Pakistan in March 2006. He and President Pervez Musharraf reaffirm their shared commitment to continuing their cooperation on a number of issues including the war on terror, security in the region, strengthening democratic institutions, trade and investment, education, and earthquake relief and reconstruction. President Musharraf visits the United States in September 2006. He holds a bilateral meeting with President Bush and also participates in a trilateral meeting with President Bush and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. The United States concludes the sale of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan in late 2006.
March 2007: Judicial Crisis

President Pervez Musharraf fires Pakistan’s Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, sparking a civil society movement demanding his reinstatement. Musharraf’s popularity plummets as a result. Increase in attacks by Islamist extremists, a breakdown of truces made with pro-Taliban militants, and a resurgence of low-intensity warfare in the country’s tribal areas lead to a deteriorating internal security situation. A newly independent-minded judiciary and electoral pressures due to upcoming constitutionally-mandated polls further worsen Musharraf’s position.

July 2007: Musharraf-Bhutto Deal

President Pervez Musharraf’s falling popularity and U.S support for him increasingly comes under fire. After prolonged pressure from the country’s civil society and judiciary, Musharraf is forced to reinstate Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry. Musharraf’s decision to order the army inside Islamabad’s Red Mosque to quash a student uprising led by a rebel cleric escalates the political crisis. Washington tries to broker a power-sharing arrangement between Musharraf and opposition leader in exile Benazir Bhutto. Washington also plans to provide $750 million in U.S. aid to Pakistan’s tribal areas over the next five years.

November 2007: State Emergency

In October 2007, Gen. Pervez Musharraf gets reelected as president. To prevent the Supreme Court from ruling against his reelection, he imposes a state of emergency in November. He dismisses the chief justice along with some other judges, suspends the constitution, and cracks down on pro-democracy activists and the media. The United States follows a cautious line and urges Musharraf to step down as army chief and lift the emergency. Musharraf complies, also agreeing to hold free and fair parliamentary elections in January 2008.
December 2007: Bhutto Killed

Pakistan’s opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, who returned to Pakistan in October 2007 under an amnesty deal to participate in 2008 parliamentary elections, is killed in December in a bomb and gun attack. Her assassination is followed by rioting and street violence in many parts of the country where angry mobs protest her death. The government orders paramilitary forces into Bhutto’s home province of Sindh.

January 2008: Fighting Extremists

Amid concerns that Pakistan is facing a tough fight against militants and al-Qaeda in the tribal areas, the United States says it remains ready, willing, and able to provide military support and conduct joint operations with the Pakistanis. This will require the consent of Pakistan, which remains sensitive to any U.S. military presence. Pakistan’s parliamentary elections are postponed, now to be held on February 18.

March 2008: Road to Democracy

Opposition parties win February 18 parliamentary elections. They form a ruling coalition that excludes parties allied with President Pervez Musharraf. The new government signals it will review its policy of cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts. Pakistan’s civilian leaders say they want direct talks with militants, leading to concern in Washington.
March 2009: Obama's Af-Pak Strategy

After assuming office in January, U.S. President Barack Obama pledges to shift focus from the Iraq front to the war in Afghanistan. He appoints Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as special representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan and orders an interagency review to decide his administration's new strategy on the region. On March 27, he unveils his Af-Pak strategy, treating militants in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region as part of single theater. The new strategy aims to "disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its safe havens in Pakistan, and to prevent their return to Pakistan or Afghanistan." It links stability in Afghanistan to effective action against these militant groups in Pakistan.

October 2009: U.S. Aid Package

A new $7.5 billion U.S. aid package for Pakistan triples non-military aid for the next five years and aims to improve the U.S.-Pakistan relationship yet triggers controversy. The Pakistani army and political opposition argue some clauses in the package impinge on Pakistan's sovereignty. The bill is signed only after legislators in Congress include an explanatory statement. Experts say the furor over the bill also highlights deteriorating civil-military relations in Pakistan. Pakistan launches a long-awaited military operation in South Waziristan, one of the largest militant strongholds in the tribal areas, and home to Pakistani Taliban leadership. The offensive follows months-long military operations in Swat Valley in the North West Frontier Province, where the army finally wrests control from the militants.
May 2010: Time Square Bombing

A failed car bombing on May 1 in New York's Times Square leads to the arrest of Pakistani-American Faisal Shahzad. The Pakistani Taliban claims responsibility for the attack, and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder says the group was "intimately involved" in the plot. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warns there will be "severe consequences" for Pakistan if a successful terrorist attack in the United States is traced to that country. Pressure builds on Pakistan to do more to fight militancy, especially in the tribal agency of North Waziristan.

A NYPD officer in a bomb suit examines a Nissan Pathfinder SUV parked in New York's Times Square. (Brendan McDermid/Courtesy of Reuters)