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rifles, which supplied
weapons for



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States, sought support from China because of U. S.

tilt towards India in any dispute involving India and Pakistan. Pakistan was keen to align with China in exchange for Chinese support against India. Although the distribution of power is one factor in alliance formation, the Sino-Pak 1963 alliance was finalized on the fact that neither could meet their security requirements against India. In 1964, China entered the nuclear era when it detonated its nuclear device. Once China was nuclear capable, India perceived China as a greater threat because of the shared border and repeated Sino-Indian clashes, and accelerated nuclear arms race in the region. The relationship between China and Pakistan received its first test during the Indian-Pakistan conflict of 1965. India believed Pakistan's growing relationship with China had estranged Islamabad's relations with the United States.

This, coupled with India's need to restore national pride, provided an opportunity to provoke Pakistan. Utilizing numerous unresolved border disputes, India clashed with Pakistan in 1965 the Pakistani army outnumbered India. Politically, nothing was solved between the two countries. However, the west realized that India could not face Pakistan and China alone. The 1965 Pakistan-Indian conflict was also significant for the previously untested Sino-Pakistan balance of threat. China demonstrated support to Pakistan and went as far as issuing an ultimatum to the Indian Embassy on 16 September 1965 threatening " dire consequences". The period after the 1965 Pakistan-India military conflict marked the beginning of fertile economic and military aid from China to Pakistan that continues today.

Regarding the development of alliances, Stephen Walt states: The provision of economic or military assistance can create effective allies, because it communicates favorable intentions, because it evokes a sense of gratitude, or because the recipient becomes dependent on the donor. An economic and technical cooperation covenant was drafted in February of 1966 that provided Pakistan with a \$60 million dollar a supply of electronic equipment, and the establishment of a paper plant in East Pakistan. Even more monumental developments were underway in defense collaboration. Beijing assisted Pakistan in establishing an ordinance factory for the production of Chinese rifles, which supplied weapons for three new infantry divisions. The Chinese equip Pakistan armed forces with Chinese latest equipment and provided a production line for the manufacturing of ammunition at the Pakistan Ordinance Factories (POF). The newly formed relationship, which had been tested in 1965, was strengthened by economic and defense aid. Following the Sino-Soviet border skirmishes in 1969, the China-Pakistani alliance was strengthened due to the Soviet Union's attempt to influence Pakistan with arms negotiations.

Chinese and Pakistani bilateral defense cooperation was initiated at a time when the United States had stopped all military aid to Pakistan and the Chinese provided a viable alternative for military supplies. Concurrently, Pakistan had also initiated relations with the Soviet Union, which provided a modest supply of arms by 1968. The Soviets wanted the support of Pakistan in its bid for an "Asian collective security system" and sought to link their military sales to Pakistan with their hegemonic strategic policy in South Asia as they want to isolate China Pakistan rejected the proposal and, in doing so,

reinforced its commitment to China. Pakistan's decision to stick to China because of geographical proximity, more reliable partner for security than the USSR. The most significant test of the Sino-Pakistan alliance occurred in 1970 when China sought to improve relations with India and offered an olive branch and made several gestures of friendship. The move toward Chinese-Indian rapprochement came to an hasty end when events escalated in Eastern Pakistan. Pakistan's failure to accept the results of the 1970 elections in Eastern Pakistan culminated in Pakistan's ill-fated decision to implement an armed crackdown.