

American Policy Options: South Asia
Desk on South, Southeast Asian, and Oceanic Affairs

Short-Term Priorities:

- Internal stabilization of Pakistan's political regime
- Stabilization of relations between India and Pakistan
- Political stabilization and development in Afghanistan

Short-Term Solutions

- Secure Afghanistan's borders with military forces
- Bolster intelligence-gathering capabilities in Afghanistan
- Encourage diplomatic cooperation between political factions in Afghanistan
- Encourage the Pentagon to form a coherent and explainable vision for victory in Afghanistan
- Create incentives for NGOs to operate responsibly throughout the region
- Work with the IMF and UN to rescue Pakistan's economy
- Engage in bilateral diplomacy with both Pakistan and India to deescalate tensions
- Engage in multilateral diplomacy with Pakistan, India, and China to work towards stabilization of relations

Long-Term Priorities:

Afghanistan

- Education: availability and quality
- Provide external security for Afghanistan's borders
- Health
- Women's position
- Assist democratization
- Support efforts at nation-building

Pakistan

- Promoting healthy relationships between Pakistan and its neighbors
- Improving the command and control of Pakistan's nuclear authority
- Support efforts at nation-building
- Improve Pakistan's internal and external stability

India

- Support and supervise export of nuclear technology
- Support India in improving its internal security and developing a national identity
- Reengage in talks with India looking to liberalize trade, particularly in the field of agriculture
- Engage India in terms of environmental cooperation: sharing technology and techniques
- Improve India's law enforcement capabilities in order to minimize the threat posed by terrorist organizations

Long-Term Solutions:

Afghanistan

- Sponsor training of workers from the ministries of education, health, planning, and defense
- Encourage the proliferation of scholarship programs to educate Afghanistan's best and brightest in both the US and in regional neighbors
- Continue and strengthen the Millennium Challenge Account
- Develop and strengthen mechanisms for making Millennium Development Goals
- Strengthen law enforcement via cooperation and training with Interpol, the FBI, etc.

Pakistan

- Actively support diplomacy between Pakistan, India, and China that works towards identifying common interests in security and economic fields
- Stop US incursions into Pakistani territory
- Engage in military exchanges at the appropriate levels to develop Pakistan's nuclear C&C
- Support Pakistan's armed forces in providing security for their borders through weapons sales, personnel exchanges, and upgrade programs

-Improve intelligence capabilities (UAVs, satellite, human sources) on the Pakistan-Afghan border through interagency cooperation on both the US and Pakistani sides

India

-Maintain healthy diplomatic and commercial ties
-Ensure oversight of nuclear technology sales

CONCLUSION: Strong, continued, concerted US governmental attention is required across the board in order to prevent destabilization throughout the region. The consequences of inadequate policy in the region would include increased terrorism, the proliferation of WMDs and their acquisition by non-state actors, financial meltdowns, and interstate war.

American Policy Options: Southeast Asia
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Short-Term Priorities:

-Stabilization of the Thai regime

Long-Term Priorities:

-Expand diplomatic engagement with and within the region
-Work to encourage the trend of greater open trade within the ASEAN region
-Work to fight the drug trade and human trafficking in the region
-Work to fight potential pandemic disease outbreaks

Short-Term Solutions:

-Do not take sides in the Thai power struggle and instead encourage the rule of law in executing the democratic process

Long-Term Solutions

-Build on experience in assisting Vietnam write its commercial law by expansion of such activities
-Encourage ASEAN members to abide by the rules of the WTO while at the same time encouraging greater regional economic cooperation and integration
-Work with Interpol to encourage the international passage of strict enforcement rules regarding drug and human trafficking
-Assist in increasing human intelligence-gathering and law enforcement capabilities to crack down on both consumers and providers
-Cooperate with governments, research institutions, and regional universities to develop effective responses, cures, and infrastructures to deal with potential pandemics

American Policy Options: Oceania Asia
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Long-Term Priorities

-Curb effect of global warming on rising coastal waters

Long-Term Solutions

-Leave it to Al Gore