

Sabeena Shaikh
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National Security Essay

The Lint Center for National Security is not just building a strong foundation for America's next generation of National Security and Counterintelligence workers: it is creating life-long opportunities for students from all backgrounds to make changes in the world. Students are the future of society, and by aiding students in their academic pursuits the Lint Center is giving much more than scholarships and mentors; it is giving hope for a future built on relationships and cooperation between nations. By focusing on strengthening national security, specifically shedding light on mending international alliances, the United States will gain world leaders that will erect everlasting bridges of cooperation to aid to the nation's growth and development.

Building concrete alliances are essential for our society's growth into the next century. With terrorism spreading to different hemispheres in the world like a pandemic, it is only appropriate to realize that international collaboration can help prevent terrorism. With such everlasting conflicts as the Gaza strip and Kashmir, it is evident that cooperation from Arab nations and the Middle East is imperative. The Indo-Pak region in particular is intriguing because of its importance to American security. The presence of Osama bin Laden and his recent killing in Pakistan only emphasizes more greatly the importance of allied relations with Taliban and al Qaeda infested nations. In addition to Pakistan's importance, India holds the title for the second fastest growing major economy. With an average quarterly GDP growth of about 8.4%, it is ludicrous to not have carefully monitored ties with this nation. Concern also arises from the fact that both India and Pakistan hold nuclear capabilities. The series of agreements following the initial Indo-US Civilian Nuclear Agreement in 2006 have protected American interests and established a sense of dominance over Indian nuclear technology. With the completion of the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-Proliferation Enhancement Act, America has separated the civil and military nuclear facilities in India, but what about Pakistan? Despite Pakistan not being considered a "nuclear weapon state" through the terms of the NPT, after covertly developing nuclear weapons over several decades Pakistan has now established itself as a crucial nuclear power. For all the above reasons and more, it is essential that American interests be linked to both India and Pakistan, and that we create such alliances that can benefit both nations.

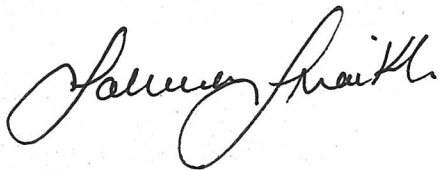
I am a part of a very unique program at the University of Texas at Austin, the only one of its kind in the world, called the Hindi Urdu Flagship. The goal of the Flagship is to make globalized students who can step into the political, economic, or public sector of South Asia and cater to the needs of these countries. Along with studying the major languages of India and Pakistan (Hindi and Urdu), students are immersed in learning the history, culture, and current events of the region. While abroad in India for a year, students are able to fully immerse themselves in the academic, professional, cultural and domestic contexts associated with India. Along with a full course-load of language

proficiency and cultural classes, students pursue a professional internship in the field of their choice.

The innovative solution I have in mind is eccentric, but very practical and applicable. I think that the future of National Security and specifically Alliance building between the United States and emerging global superpowers like India and Pakistan lies in the formation and perpetuation of programs like the Hindi Urdu Flagship. An organization such as The Lint Center understands the importance of student involvement and active participation involved in building future National Security. By creating more programs like the Hindi Urdu Flagship, we can redefine the bridges between national alliances and strengthen our bonds with nations of importance. By generating masters of global understanding from ordinary students, we create for America better ambassadors, better politicians, better strategists, and better national security officers, among other things. When a local Indian looks to build an ally with an American, he/she will want to see that the American has an interest in their culture. They will want to see that this foreigner speaks their language, understands their heritage, and cares for the well being of not just American, but Indians. They will need that aspect of trust that is innate in all humans.

Global alliance building is not just one sided. In order to have successful international relations, one needs to consider the other nation's interests and pursuits as well as their own. By investing in Flagship programs for various nations, America will be building the leaders of tomorrow and more importantly strengthening the bonds that will remain long after the students have gone.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the authorization text.