Impacts of Afghanistan-Pakistan Relations on Peace Efforts

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A fter Pakistan and Afghanistan are once again stepping back from a common ground on peace effort that was established over the past decades, the world, especially the people of the region which also includes China and the United States, is still not sure to what extent the new round of bilateral negotiations between the two countries can take the peace process a step forward. The two countries have signed a number of agreements and statements of intent, including a joint declaration in April 2010 that aimed at promoting peace and cooperation. Nevertheless, the peace process has not made much progress.

Several factors have prevented the process from moving forward. First, the Taliban have not shown any willingness to engage in meaningful peace talks. The group has continued to carry out attacks and violence against the Afghan government and its allies, and has rejected calls for a negotiated settlement. Second, the Afghan government has faced challenges from within, including divisions among its leaders and concerns about the Taliban's intentions. Third, regional powers, including Pakistan and Iran, have different visions of how to approach the peace process. Pakistan has been criticized for providing support to the Taliban, while Iran has sought to mediate between the two sides. Fourth, Afghan public opinion is divided on the issue of peace negotiations, with some supporting a negotiated settlement and others opposed.

Despite these challenges, there are reasons to be optimistic about the future of the peace process. The Afghan government has made clear its commitment to a peaceful resolution, and there have been signs of progress in recent months, including the release of prisoners and the opening of a Taliban office in Doha. The United States, which has invested heavily in the process, has also shown renewed interest in seeing it succeed. However, much remains to be done to ensure that the peace process stays on track and ultimately succeeds.

In conclusion, while the peace process between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains challenging, there is still hope for a successful outcome. The key will be to address the underlying issues that have prevented progress, including the Taliban's lack of commitment to a negotiated settlement, divisions within the Afghan government, and differences among regional powers. With continued efforts and a sustained commitment from all sides, there is a good chance that a lasting peace can be achieved.