The end of the Second World War saw the division of world into two ideological blocs known as Capitalist bloc led by United States and Communist bloc headed by the former Soviet Union. Both started striving to expand their hegemony and their mutual antagonism led to the Cold War.

The Cold War strategy demanded the spread of the containment policy outside Europe in order to broaden the sphere of global security system. US became actively engaged in the security affairs of South Asia. Initially the US attempted to befriend both India and Pakistan. It was envisaged by US policy makers that if both countries were available it was fine. If not, at least one of them must be brought into US global security system. When India turned down US proposal to become its satellite to serve its interest, the latter found in Pakistan a willing partner. The geographical location of Pakistan provided added strategic advantage to US to contain the expansionist policies and to encircle Soviet Union and China. Pakistan's strategic location is such from where US could fulfill many objectives, it could contain Soviet Union and pursue oil interests in the Persian Gulf.

Pakistan's perception about joining United States was absolutely different. The obsession of India always haunted the policy makers in Islamabad. Pakistan from its very birth perceives India a threat for its very existence. It was in order to counter this
threat and remove its sense of insecurity, that it moved towards the US. Moreover, Pakistan was desperate to establish a fair degree of parity in its military power vis a vis India. Thus, Pakistan in quest of military and economic assistance joined United States. It can be said both countries needed each other, though with divergent policy perspective and orientation.

To the United States, strategic nexus with Pakistan was needed as it was supposed to facilitate a key element in the global chain of anti-communist alliance. However, Washington by making Pakistan a Cold War partner did not help in improving Indo-Pak strained relations. US defence pacts with Pakistan and its supply of sophisticated weapons to the latter unleashed arms race and in turn increased the probability of war in South Asia.

This work attempts to examine the factors which were responsible for changing US interests and priorities in Pakistan and formers dependence on the latters, and causes which compelled Pakistan to acquire sophisticated arms and forge strategic relations with a Super Power far from Pakistan. The whole study is divided into five chapters. Each dealing with a specific period covering significant events of bilateral relations.

The First Chapter endeavours to present an overview of the evolution of US-Pakistan strategic relationship in historical perspective, focusing how both countries came together, and how shrewdly Pakistan used the various opportunities intrinsic in the Cold War for becoming member of military pacts (CENTO, SEATO)
which resulted in massive security assistance from the USA. It also
gives a brief account of US military aid to Pakistan and
implications of embargoes imposed in the wake of war with India in
1965 and 1971. This chapter ends with Symington–Glenn
Amendment which terminated all US military aid to Pakistan in
1979 for its alleged attempt to acquire nuclear enrichment
technology.

The Second Chapter attempts to analyze how the past
deterioration in the strategic and security relationship between the
United States and Pakistan over nuclear programmes came in for
reappraisal. It also deals with overthrow of Shah of Iran and the
Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan ultimately become
‘turning point’ in US-Pak strategic relations, when Carter
administration discovered Pakistan’s strategic significance as
‘Front Line State’. Moreover, this chapter discusses the genesis of
the Afghan Crisis and its implications on the relations of the
superpowers, and perception of Washington and Islamabad
regarding Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and how this become the
question of survival for Pakistan and for United States to maintain
its superpower status.

The Third Chapter highlights the evolution of close US-Pak
strategic relations during two consecutive terms of President
Ronald Reagan. How Afghan Crisis increased the bargaining
position of Zia vis a vis Reagan administration. And how Pakistan
managed to acquire the two massive aid packages of ($3.2 billion and $ 4.02 billion) excluding other military and economic assistance along with sophisticated weapons including F-16 fighter aircrafts. This Chapter also discusses nuclear issues which become a major irritant between two countries.

The Fourth Chapter tries to examine the factors which radically altered the US-Pakistan strategic relations. As the Cold war ended and disintegration of Soviet Union diminished the Pakistan's strategic significance for US. The imposition of Pressler Sanctions and its impact on Pakistan has been discussed in detail. This chapter also analyses the efforts of Pakistani policy makers to wriggle out of Pressler Sanctions and subsequent passage of Brown Amendment is also dealt with. Finally the issue of shipment of Ring Magnets and MTCR are also mentioned.

The Fifth Chapter examines the Post Brown development in the United States Pakistan strategic relations. An endeavour have been made to deal with the major factors of co-operation and irritation such as issue of F-16, India and Pakistan Nuclear Test and how Taliban became a factor in US-Pakistan relations. Fourth Military Coup in Pakistan and US attitude towards it, Clinton's visit to South Asia and bilateral relations is discussed. This Chapter ends with September 11, 2001 attack on America and its
grave implications on global security system and how ultimately Washington reinvented Pakistan’s strategic significance.

The method of study has been historical, descriptive and analytical. Efforts have been made to collect all the relevant data and interpret it both in historical perspective and from the point of current relevance. Most of the research materials have been collected from different libraries in India especially American Centre Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, Indian Council of World Affairs in Delhi and Centre for West Asian Studies, Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U., Aligarh.