

## Transforming Identities and Relations: A Case of Taliban Peace Talks in the Pakistani Press

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**Abstract :** This study explores the role of Pakistani conventional print media in edging peace talks between the Taliban and the Government of Pakistan from 1st January 2015 till 1st July 2015. The study examines the role of Pakistan's print media during the efforts for peace talks in the context of a Low-Intensity Conflict (LIC). This quantitative research study utilizes content analysis to examine how Pakistan's print media framed the peace negotiations between the government and the TTP. Editorials and columns from two English newspapers, Dawn and The News, were analyzed. The findings reveal that during the peace talks, the print media in Pakistan did not actively contribute to fostering constructive dialogue to support the peace process. Instead, the media failed to provide the necessary communicative space for the political negotiations to move forward, with narratives of fear and despair being dominant. This study offers insight into the psychology of newspapers, showing how they frame news, columns, and articles on complex issues such as the Taliban peace talks. Additionally, it highlights the importance of understanding the role of newspapers in shaping identities and relationships. By examining how Pakistan's print media framed peace initiatives, this research contributes to the existing literature on conflict resolution between the Taliban and the government of Pakistan. Furthermore, it explores the connection between media framing of the peace talks and the actual trajectory of the negotiations, questioning whether the Pakistani print media acted as a facilitator or portrayed the peace process as an inevitable risk of further violence.

**Keywords :** changing identities, low-intensity, peace journalism, terrorism, the conflict, taliban peace talks, pakistani press

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