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From: Lloyd Etheredge <[lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net)>

**Subject: 256. Red Team: The Virtual Pakistan Project**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff, Dr. Hauser, Dr. Atkinson, and Colleagues:

As part of rethinking US strategy in the Pakistan War (# 252 concerning implications of Riedel's analysis, archived at [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net) at II. D; also # 10) a Red Team/National Academy of Sciences panel ought to design a Virtual Pakistan project to organize, online, everything that we know about Pakistan and its political, social, and cultural processes.

We ought to view the Pakistan-US relationship with same urgency and seriousness as we view the task of influencing Iran not to acquire its first nuclear weapon. Pakistan *already* has nuclear weapons and it is on track, with the highest rate of development of its nuclear arsenal, to become the world's fourth largest nuclear power. And there is even more anger, violence, and volatility. We ought to be building a large-scale collaboration system to bring all available political intelligence online, including new capabilities for content analysis and new generation (e.g.,

BBC) nomenclature and display systems. And perhaps Google Maps and “Everything Included” search capabilities like Watson’s Jeopardy software that can help the American political process to understand a very distant and foreign reality.

The small team assembled by the late Ambassador Holbrooke notwithstanding, there are too many pathways, and too much imagination, that we are not using. However America - all of our institutions - should be giving this our best shot. This could be the most critical set of relationships in the world to change (with a limited window of opportunity) and, by available metrics, America (including the DNI system) and NATO are not winning this political war. This problem involves a complex society with 180+ million people with modern public communications media (operating in a youth culture) and processes that almost nobody in universities can readily monitor and interpret.

### **Virtual Pakistan in the Public Domain**

To the greatest extent possible, a Virtual Pakistan prototype should be an Open Source project in the public domain, open to contributions from Pakistan and scholars in all countries. It also should allow easy identification and access to *jihadist* Websites and rhetoric. It is unclear how to build empathy and change misperceptions in polarizing situations, but our capacity to substitute communication (and new communications technology) and dialogue [and theories about how this could be done] for what people now believe can only be achieved by violence ought to be engaged. And social scientists in all countries, beyond the Fischhoff process, should have an opportunity to engage with the maps of political and social reality that the CIA and others use in their briefings for the US President.

We ought to move quickly: An initial contract with MIT (?) or another leading research university (or consortium) with an interest to build, evolve, and manage state-of-the-art technology for these kinds of problems and large-scale collaboration systems could be a good step.

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