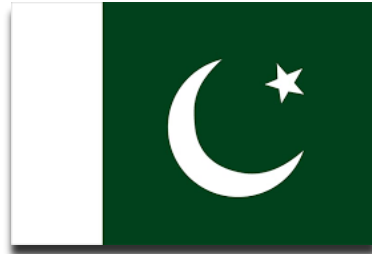


Pakistan Affairs

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Lecture Handouts for CSS

Module 4

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Ethnic Issues and National Integration

Ethnic Issues and National Integration

- A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods but it is principle, and patriotism is a loyalty to that principle.
~ George William
- Approximately, 80% of states are multi ethnic, meaning that no ethnic group dominates the society.
- Ethnic conflict has been one of the world's most common sources of warfare, insecurity, and loss of life.
- According to the Minorities at Risk database, 121 ethnic conflicts occurred between 1945 and 2003. Some 40% of conflicts started after 1990.
- Since 1955, ethnic conflicts have killed between 13 million and 20 million civilians and in addition to this resulted in 14 million internationally recognised refugees and about 17 million internally displaced persons.

Definitions of Ethnicity

- According to Cambridge Encyclopedia:
 - "It is group of individuals identified on the bases of race, colour, language and territory"
- According to Devos:
 - "An ethnic group is a self-perceived inclusion those who hold in common a set of traditions not shared by others with when they are in contact. Such traditions typically include folk, religious belief and practices, language, a sense of historical continuity and common ancestry or place of origin".

Goals of Ethno-linguistic movements

- Ethno-linguistic movements have a range of goals mostly political in orientation. These include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Demands for self-governance
 - Autonomy
 - Better access to resources
 - Power
 - Prestige and respect for the group's identity and culture.
- Ethnic conflict arises if ethnic groups compete for the same goals — power, access to resources, or territory.

Causes of Ethno-political conflicts

- Violent ethnic conflicts are caused mainly by social and political systems that lead to inequality and grievances and do not offer forums for the peaceful expression of differences.
- Ethnic identity is the underlying cause of conflicts.
- In ethnic conflicts the goals of at least one party are defined in ethnic terms, and the conflict, its causes, and potential remedies are perceived along ethnic lines.
- The conflict is usually not about ethnic differences per se but over political, economic, social, cultural, or territorial matters.
- Ethnic disputes emerge in times of sweeping political, economic, and social changes. Grievances and polarising leadership lead to mobilisation, ranging from political action to violent acts such as terrorism, armed uprisings, and guerrilla and civil wars. Contemporary Pakistan is perhaps going through the same stage.
- States having territorially concentrated ethnic groups located near a border or with ethnic kin in an adjacent state have roots of ethnic conflicts.
- There are two categories of causes of ethnic conflicts:
 - Underlying
 - Proximate
- **Underlying Factors:**
 - These include structural factors, political factors, economic and social factors plus cultural and perceptual factors.
- **Proximate Factors:**
 - These embrace four levels of conflict triggers:
 - Internal, Mass-level factors (worse domestic problems)
 - External, Mass-level factors (Problematic neighbourhoods)
 - External, Elite-level factors (Hostile neighbours)
 - Internal, Elite-level factors (Compromised leadership)

Ethnic Conflicts

- These groups show high levels of organisation and increased group cohesion and are able to use shared homelands as a territorial base for their political struggle. Ethnic conflicts in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa are cases in point.
- Ethnic conflict is particularly likely in states in which ethnic groups are inadequately represented in the government and the political and judicial systems.
- Liberal democracies that focus on the ideals of pluralism, individualism, inclusion, political debate, and near consensus among all participants are less likely to experience rebellion or uprisings.

- Sub nationalist and Exclusionary national ideologies are also an important cause of ethnic conflict.
- Nationalism and specifically citizenship based on ethnic distinctions are especially dangerous because such ideologies tend to flourish in situations of political uncertainty and economic collapse.
- Other forms of exclusionary national ideologies include religious fundamentalism and supremacist, fascist expressions. The MQM-London is a case study in this regard.
- Competition for limited natural resources is one of the major factors leading to ethnic conflict. The conflict in former East Pakistan and today in Balochistan have primarily been due to these factors.
- Within the context of proximate causes, refugees or fighters from neighbouring countries, who cross the border often bring violence and turmoil with them. The descent of millions of Afghan refugees on Pakistan and the evolution of the 'culture of violence' thereof in Pakistan, is an example.

National Integration and Pakistan's Promising Future:

- Strong Provinces
- Promotion of Dialogue with Disgruntled Regions.
- Adoption of Pluralistic Approach
- Equitable Distribution of Resources
- Promotion of Interfaith Harmony