

Joining the US-led coalition in the war against terrorism has many short and long term repercussions for Pakistan. Elaborate

War Against Terrorism and Pakistan

Introduction:

The US-led war against terrorism has affected Pakistan in several ways. The war was based upon curbing the global terrorism. Pakistan, being a US-ally, joined the war. However, the war has cost Pakistan in short as well as long terms. Hence, joining the US-led war against terrorism has a number of implications for Pakistan.

A Brief Overview: Reasons and Objectives.

The 9/11 incident:

The September 11 terrorist attacks were the immediate

Cause of the war against terrorism, often known as the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

On the morning of 11 September 2001, terrorists linked to the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airplanes. Two of the planes were flown into the World Trade Centre in New York City. A third plane hit the Pentagon in Virginia while the fourth one was crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

Almost 3000 people were reportedly killed in the incident. NATO invoked its Article 5.

It marked the beginning of war against terrorism. On 13 September, for the first time ever, NATO invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. The Article commits each member state to consider an armed attack against one member state to be an armed attack against them all.

objectives of the war:

The primary objectives of the war were eradication of all forms of terrorism. As it was said by the president:

"The world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and we hope that only one, of the 21st Century. A war against all those who seek to export terror and a war against those governments that support or shelter them."

(Former President George W. Bush, 2001)

Why did Pakistan join the war?

Pakistan being a part of the western camp had to join the war. It was a forced decision as the former president of Pakistan said,

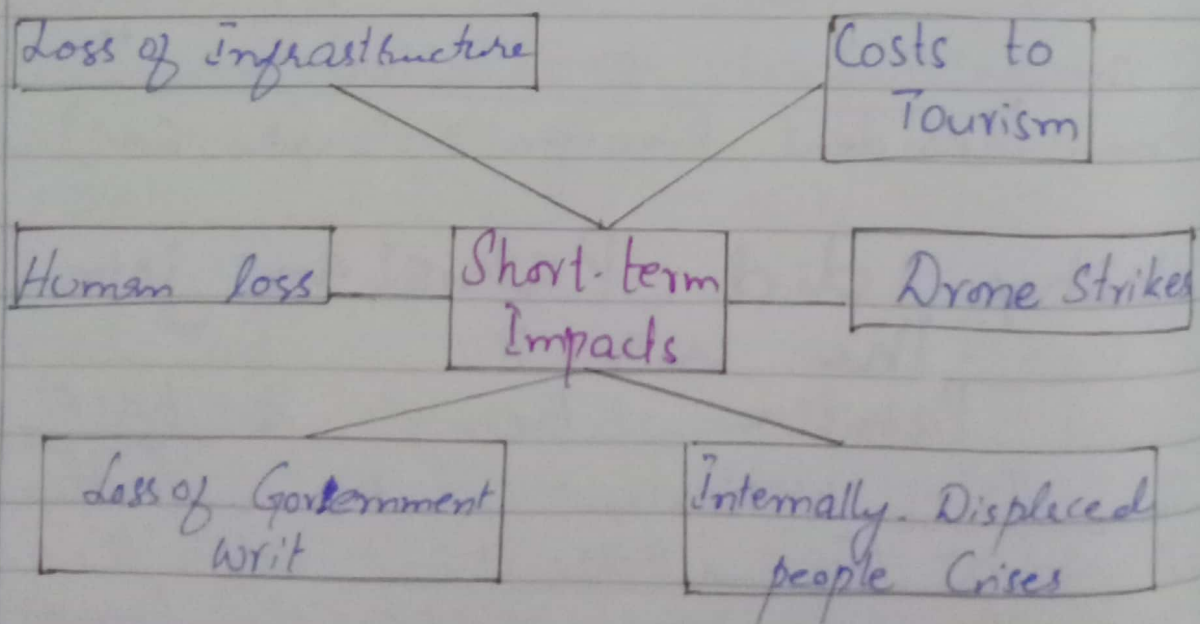
"The Bush administration threatened to bomb Pakistan back to the stone age, if the country did not cooperate

in the war against terrorism?"

The Repercussions for Pakistan

The US-led war against terrorism has many short and long term repercussions for Pakistan. These were:

⇒ Short-term implications:



i) Loss of Human Lives

Pakistan lost both civilian and military lives.

From 2003 to 2010, around 7717 civilians and 2890 Security force Personnel were killed in Pakistan.

The United States Institute of Peace has acknowledged that,

"More than three hundred Pakistan army and para-military troops were killed, accounting for more casualties than any other US ally in the war on terrorism."

ii) Drone Strikes

The United States initiated using unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to kill terrorists in Pakistan.

These strikes mainly hit the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan.

The cumulative statistics about U.S drone strikes in Pakistan, as per The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (as of September 2017)

are:

Total Strikes	429
Total Killed	2514 - 4023
Civilians Killed	424 - 969
Children Killed	172 - 207
Injured	1162 - 1749

iii) Internally-Displaced People Crisis

Pakistan experienced its worst Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) crisis in 2009. As people from Swat and FATA (the former region) left their homes in the face of increased hostilities between military and the militants.

According to the then NWFP government, the total number of the Internally Displaced Families was 344,143. It means there were over 2.5 million IDPs.

iv) Loss of Infrastructure

Pakistan has lost precious infrastructure due to war on Terror.

According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies,

'Taliban in their subversive activities burnt 409 educational institutions in the Malakand division and 64 in the former FATA region'.

v) Loss of Government writ

Until the military operations in 2009, the former FATA region was under the direct control of militants.

"The Civilian government no longer exercised authority over 24% areas of FATA."

(A research conducted by BBC)

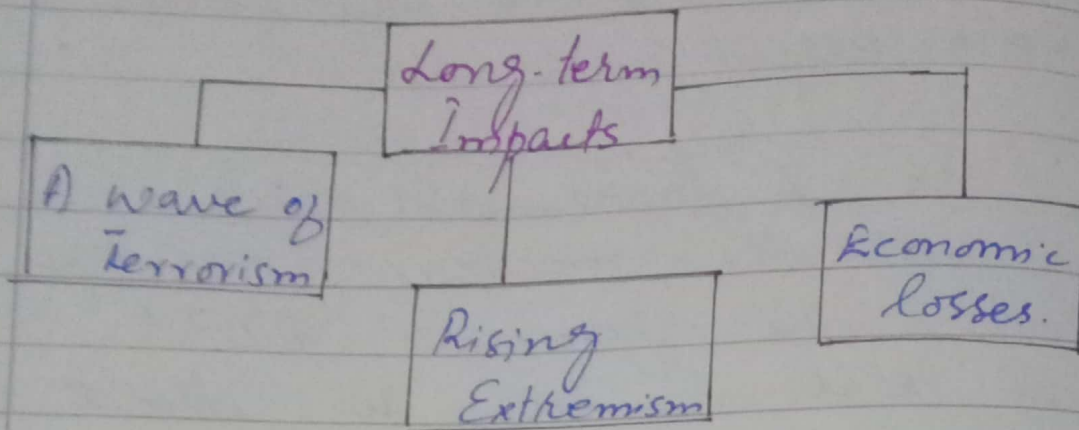
vi) Costs to Tourism

Pakistan experienced negative implications to its tourism industry. The Swat Valley, famously known as the Switzerland of Pakistan was under continuous threat of terror attacks by the Taliban militants.

Pakistan stood 113 out of 133 in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report of 2008. In the report Pakistan lost two places

From the previous year.

⇒ Long-Term Implications:



The Long-Term repercussions of war on Terror for Pakistan include:

is A wave of Terrorism

A wave of terrorism has engulfed Pakistan in the war on Terror period. Before the war, Pakistan had not experienced any suicide bombing.

The first suicide attack occurred in 2002 in Karachi. It cost around 14 people. Besides suicide bombings, other terrorist activities are also continuously threatening security situation in Pakistan.

ii) Rising Extremism

The war on Terror has resulted in rising extremism in Pakistan. According to the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), from 2001 to 2022, violence, extremism and intolerance have increased in society.

iii) Economic losses.

Although the US supplied with billions of financial assistance, Pakistan's financial situation did not enhance as it was requested.

The inflation rate rose from 4.4% to 7.9% between 2001 and 2006.

According to Economic Survey 2010-11, the total cost of war on Terror incurred by Pakistan amounted to \$67.9 billion.

Conclusion:

The war on Terror has various impacts upon Pakistan. These would include, social, economic and security implications.