

30886 - Aqsa Waqar Khan - 08-046

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Pak Affairs.

Question - CSS - 2020

What is meant by the term "Proxy War"? Are there any extrinsic factors at play in the internal Security Situation in Pakistan?

Proxy war ::

Tyron Gloh defines Proxy war as "Directing a use of force by politically motivated actors to influence to Political situation of a target state."

The era of Cold war between the two superpowers of world from 1945 to 1989 saw the considerable rise in Proxy wars. For example the war in Vietnam and the biggest of all of that time was Pakistan. Pakistan served as a battle ground for US to counter the Soviet expansion in Afghanistan. It served as a proxy for US in a sense that Pakistan was provided with heavy military and economic aid to serve the US interest. Pakistan served the US interest to its fullest as a proxy and US managed to make Soviet Union surrender in the

very battleground of Afghanistan.

Proxy war is a war in which the Patron state invests heavily in the client state to achieve its interests in the target state. It can be done through hybrid warfare, cyber warfare i.e. the 5th generation warfare.

The Patron state goes to any extent if it has to achieve its ideologic image in the international community.

The fact that a proxy war is fought to avoid direct confrontation with the target state remains on the ground that the Patron state wants to avoid a Mutual Assured Destruction and without making a negative image, achieves its interests.

An example of such an event is Mutual Assured Destruction and its repercussions is evident in the

Case of Nuclear attack on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the one and only example of nuclear warfare to that.

Pakistan in the Cold war

fulfilled the US interest and followed the US pattern while also achieving its own goals to some extent, However

This Proxy culture later on engulfed Pakistan itself.

The Internal Security Situation in

Pakistan and the Proxies at Play

Pakistan which is a very important state with respect to its wonderful location on the world map. This location of Pakistan is one of the primary reasons for US to achieve its goals in the Cold war. Pakistan served as a battleground for US and the US ultimately got what it wanted. But the things changed for Pakistan as the war in Afghanistan ended. There are following extrinsic factors which are responsible for internal security issues of Pakistan.

1. Cross border terrorism:

As Pakistan trained Mujahideen to take part in war in Afghanistan, with the end of war Pakistan's border became porous for cross border terrorism and it became the victim of the war itself. To control such activities from non-state actors such as TTP Pakistan must look for a way to secure its borders.

2. Refugee Crisis:

On the wake of war in Afghanistan, there had been an incredible refugee influx from

Afghanistan to Pakistan. Thus Paving the way for terrorist activities operating across the borders.

3.

Non-state Actors:

One of the sole concerns for internal security matters of Pakistan is the question of non-state actors which are under safe heavens in Pakistan. Unless this concern is not addressed effectively Pak will continue to face terrorism in its soil.

4.

Financing of terrorist activities:

Another prime reason for disturbance of internal security conditions of Pakistan is illegal financing channels for terrorist activities. The patrons who want to de-stabilize security situation of Pakistan use these funding channels for operating terrorist activities via proxies. Pakistan needs to channelize these illegal financings so that it can maintain its security.

5.

SqI- Power:

The de-stabilizing of internal security issues of Pakistan is n'l-

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Just because of Physical factors. 21st Century is the Century of Globalization. The enemy now may use soft-power as a tool as well. For instance, Propaganda, shaping public opinion. A state whose public and domestic affairs are at peace and they are satisfied with the state, that state is unlikely to be attacked through an external factor at least when it is related to the soft-power. So Pakistan should provide its public with the sufficient resources and a just and equitable judicial system in order to avoid any kind of subjugation to the proxy by soft-power etc.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is a state which is due to its geostrategic importance attracted by big powers to achieve their goals beyond borders. In cold war Pak provided US with utmost support to counter USSR over Afghanistan. The Proxy trend followed by Pakistan slowly and gradually engulfed its very soft- cross border terrorism, non-state actors and many other factors which are supported by proxies against-

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Pakistan, are the reason for its internal security problems. For such matters Pakistan needs an effective and global reach to raise questions of proxies raised in Pakistan. Unless these challenges are addressed Pakistan will be more likely to be victimized by the proxies played at its land.