

Subject _____ Paper _____	(To be done within the limits of the script)	SEAL
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The challenge of extremism to Pakistani democracy: Strategies for resilience

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Undeniably, challenges of extremism to Pakistan have shaken its democracy, which needs proactive strategies for resilience against extremism. The nation faces increasing risks, including political instability, institutional breakdown, gender inequality etc. These challenges demand proactive strategies for resilience against extremism for sustainable democracy.

2- A glance at the extremism in Pakistan

3- Challenges of extremism to Pakistan

- a) Rise of sectarianism among people.
- b) Prevalence of sub-nationalist movement in Sindh and Balochistan
- c) Misinterpretation of religion to threaten the state religion
- d) Frequent blasphemy attacks increasing extremism throughout the country

- e) Targeting Law Enforcement Agencies to weaken the State sovereignty
- f) Role of neighbouring countries in supporting extremism movement in Pakistan

4- Implications of extremism on Pakistani democracy

- a) Political instability leading to collapse of the government
- b) Institutional breakdown and widening gap between institutions
- c) Skyrocketing inequality on the basis of gender perception
- d) Threat to rights of minorities with respect to religious freedom
- e) Rising fear of freedom of speech
- f) Failure of rule of law to protect democratic norms

5- Proactive strategies for resilience extremism in Pakistan

- a) Promote role of religious scholars to avoid sectarianism
- b) Strengthen institution of the country
- c) Strict implementation of laws for the extremists
- d) Launch of intelligence based operations in merged zones
- e) Train military at the global stage
- f) Encourage civic engagement in collaboration with governance

6- Conclusion



Role of sectarianism among people

Pakistan, unfortunately, faces rising challenges of extremism, chief among them is rise of sectarianism among people. No doubt, people in Pakistan are divided at sectarianism stage. This stage further has added oxygen to extremism in Pakistan. According to the report by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in 2023, "Three Imams were killed at Peshawar mosque attack" (The ISSI, 2023). This is a proven fact that rise of sectarianism among people has encouraged extremism in Pakistan.

Prevalence of sub-national movement in Sindh and Balochistan

Along with sectarianism, prevalence of sub-national movement in Sindh and Balochistan has also increased extremism in Pakistan. Both provinces are at the front stage in leading to sub-national movement against the centre. In fact several examples of separatist movements are stark realities of extremism in Pakistan. "Sindh Desh' and 'Baloch partition' are getting continual oxygen by extremists to shake the sovereignty of the state" (PIDE, 2022). This indicates that prevalence of sub-national movement in Sindh and Balochistan has supported extremism in Pakistan.