

Ch # 6:

There must be a pragmatic civil-military relations in Pak. Analyze with reference to Pak's Security in South Asia?

## CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS

In the intricate web of contemporary governance, in Pakistan, the civil-military relations stands as a cornerstone of national security and stability. The interplay between civilian authorities and military institution is crucial for addressing the multifaceted issues that modern day democracies face. This equilibrium is not just a matter of democratic governance but a requisite for sustaining the security and stability, especially with reference to South-Asian region.

### 1. Historical Content of Pakistan's Civil-Military

\* "Pakistan's Drift into Extremism: Allah, The Army, and America's War on terror" by Hassan Abbas:

"The military's role in Pakistan's politics has created a unique civil-military nexus. That continues to dominate the state's decision making process, particularly in matter of civil-military security". Balanced relations ensures the stability in Pakistan's governance system.

### 2. Balanced Civil-Military Relations to counter Terrorism

1) Pakistan has remained a significant player in countering terrorism, as evident by history. Pak's military has been at the frontline of the

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country's battle against terrorism and insurgency. The military operations such as Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad and Azm-e-Istekkam have been instrumental in dismantling terrorist networks and restoring peace in the region. These operations highlight the significance of military in maintaining internal and external security of Pakistan as well as the whole South Asia, which cannot be entrusted upon to civilian law enforcing agencies.

As Christian Fair argues in "Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army's Way of War" that military's deep involvement in counterinsurgency operations has entrenched its position as the ultimate-guarantor of the state security'. This reality underscores the need for a balanced civil-military relations.

### 3\* Strategic Deterrence And External Security:

Pakistan's strategic location requires a robust defense posture, including the management of its nuclear arsenal. Pakistan's Nuclear Policy: A minimum credible deterrence: includes, "The military stewardship of nuclear deterrence is crucial for maintaining regional stability and preventing escalation in volatile neighbourhood"

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The military's involvement in strategic deterrence is crucial, but so is the civilian government's role in shaping broader foreign policy. A pragmatic civil-military relationship ensures that defense policies are not only strong but also aligned with the country's diplomatic objectives, contributing to regional security.

#### 4. Political Stability And Governance

Balance of power between civilian government and military also influences political stability in Pakistan. Since its inception, civilian government struggled on the issues of legitimacy, partly due to military. Stephen Cohen discusses in *The Idea of Pakistan* that "The civil-military divide has been a persistent challenge to Pakistan's political evolution, with the military often acting as a de facto power broker." For Pakistan to function as true power democracy, the military must operate within the bounds set by civilian authorities. A pragmatic civil-military relationship ensures the strength of civil institutions, resulting in a healthy, functioning democracy.

## 5. Economic Implications of Civil-Military Relations

The military's involvement in Pak's economy through various foundations and enterprises has significant implications for national development. While they contribute to countries economy, they <sup>also</sup> blur the lines between civilian and military domains. A study by Ayesha Siddiqua reveals that 'The military's economic ventures have created a parallel economy that complicates the state's ability to implement coherent economic policies'. Whereas civilian govt is involved in all economic development matter including both internal projects and dealings on international level. Therefore, A pragmatic approach allows for greater civilian oversight and control of the economy, leading to more coherent and effective economic governance.

## 6. Implications On South Asia Stability

Pakistan's civil-military relations is not <sup>only</sup> a domestic matter but have significant contribution in regional stability in South Asia. The rivalry with India, tensions with Afghanistan, and the

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strategic competition with emerging powers like China and US place Pakistan at the center of geopolitics in South Asia. Military's role in shaping foreign policy towards India and Pakistan is pivotal. By ensuring that both civilian and military leaders are on the same page, Pakistan can contribute to more stable and peaceful South Asia.

## CONCLUSION

The civil-military relationship in Pakistan is delicate yet crucial component of its governance & framework. It ensures that the military's expertise in security and defense is balanced with civilian gov't's role in policy making and governance, leading to a more stable, secure, prosperous and democratic Pakistan especially in terms of South-Asian Region.

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