

# Pakistan's war on terrorism and its effects on our politico-socio-economic fronts.

## Outline.

### (a) Introduction

(i) Hook

(ii) Background of Pakistan's war on terror.

(iii) Thesis: Amidst worsening security situation, Pakistan has waged its own war on terror. ~~In history and up to today,~~ Pakistan has launched plethora of anti terrorism operations. However, every war comes with a price; the war on terror has adversely affected Pakistan economically, socially and politically.

Mature your sentence structure and improve language

Since then,

### (b) Economic implications:

of war on terror

(1) Burden on the economy.

(a) ↳ 126 billion dollar spent b/w 2001-2022.  
↳ 20% of A2B Cost 86, 1 billion dollar rebuild ICI P.

(2) Decline in tourism industry

↳ Swat operation, 150 billion dollar according to Imron Khan, Washington Post.

(3) Decline in regional trade

↳ Closure of borders.

### (c) Social impact:

of war on terror

Dislocation of a large population.

(1) Refugee Crisis in Pakistan

↳ Afghan refugee (1.4 million)  
↳ Disruption of tribal societies.

(2) Educational crisis.

↳ Malala Yousafzai attack.

Attack on Malala Yousafzai

(3) Civil <sup>liberties</sup> liberty and human rights issues.

↳ Missing person issue, New stricter laws.

(d) Political aspect.

(1) Weakening of governmental institutions  
↳ Military courts.

(2) Disaffection of people <sup>with</sup> from state's counter terrorism measures

↳ Protest in K.P against military operations

(3) Diplomatic challenges and stigma  
↳ American pressure.

Provide suggestive measures

(e) Conclusion.

Once on a ~~any~~ winter day, on October 9, 2012, a girl, having a school bag, was travelling home through a bus in Swat. While travelling, she <sup>have been</sup> might be contemplating what her mother had cooked for dinner or the preparation for the next day. However, what she would not have thought was that some armed gunman will hijack the bus and open fire on the innocent civilians. Sadly, this was exactly what happened. A group of armed men hijacked the bus and targeted her for her outspoken advocacy of girls' education. The girl was Malala Yousafzai; not only she survived that attack, but also went on to become an international advocate for the girls' education and human rights. This was one of the many stories — mostly untold — Pakistan has to face due to war on terror. Following the 9-11 terrorist attack, Pakistan joined hands with U.S in the war on terrorism. It provided routes for the NATO forces to infiltrate Afghanistan. However, due to porous borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan, terrorist fled from Afghanistan and took refuge in the FATA areas, which became a safe heaven for them. Adding salt to the wound, following the Lal Masjid operation a new faction of the Taliban, known as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), emerged and began launching operations against the Pakistani government. Amidst such scenario, Pakistan waged its own war against terrorism. In history and up to today, Pakistan has launched plethora of ~~terror~~ anti terrorism operations. However, every war comes with a price. The war on terror has adversely affected Pakistan economically, socially and politically.

Starting with the economic impacts, it has adversely affected Pakistan's economy, which was already struggling to stand on its own. After the partition, bureaucratic and military intervention in the politics did not let Pakistan's economy to grow as it should be. Moreover, Pakistan's economy was severely lacking industries. Moving forward to 2000s, Pakistan still had a military <sup>ruler</sup> ruling it and an environment of uncertainty was prevalent. In midst of all this, Pakistan waged its own war on terrorism. Although it was pertinent to root out all the remnants of Afghan war, it ~~costed~~ imposed a heavy cost on the economy, as military equipments and operational costs directly burden the economy. For instance, according to Al-Foreeva report, war on terror had costed Pakistan 126 billion dollar between 2001 to 2022. Moreover, the recent grand operation conducted by Pakistan army in South Waziristan had —Zarb-e-Azab— had costed Pakistan 3 billion dollars. However, military operations also damage infrastructure, and this was precisely the outcome in the aftermath of Operation Zarb-e-Azab. It costed almost 1 billion dollar to rebuild K.P due to destruction of infrastructure during the operation. Therefore, military operations not just adversely affected Pakistan's economy, but also its after shocks <sup>continue to be</sup> have been felt lately. even today. Hence, war on terror has affected a direct and indirect cost on Pakistan's economy.

Scientia.

Apart from the heavy spending on military operations, the tourism sector has suffered significantly due to the war on Terror. Northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (N.K.P), with immense tourism potential, has been a major contributor to the province's economy. However, the presence of terrorist groups in these areas discouraged both foreign and local visitors. The situation was further exacerbated by the military operations. Swat, often referred to as the "Switzerland of Pakistan", was severely affected by the military operations. As a result, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, in an interview with Al-Jazeera, highlighted that war on terror

has costed Pakistan's tourism sector an estimated \$ 150 billion.

These startling figures are a heavy blow to Pakistan's already fragile economy. Therefore, the war on terror has profoundly undermined Pakistan's economic growth and tourism potential.

Furthermore, another disadvantage of war on terror is decline in regional trade. Cross border trade through Pak-Afghan border contributes significantly to the GDP of the tribal areas contiguous to it.

However, episodic hots due to war on terror has disrupted economic activities. For instance, several military operations have stop disrupted cross-border trade for the duration of their implementation. Additionally, although in the present time, trade is opened, people have to pass through rigorous security check points. Moreover, in some cases, bribing the officials remains the only way to pass through it. All these factors contribute to obstructing cross border trade. Hence, economy of the local areas is also affected due to cross border war on terror.

As economic impacts are imprivative due to war on terror, it also has social consequences. The following part of essay will explore the social impacts on the Pakistan after jumping into the war against terror.

Firstly, dislocation of a large portion of population occurred due to war on terror has affected Pakistan's social infrastructure. Following joint hands with the USA on war on terror in Afghanistan, Pakistan has become the largest host to the Afghan refugees. According to NADRA, presently 1.4 million Afghan refugees are living in Pakistan. The sudden arrival of a large population has placed immense pressure on already Pakistan's already dwindling resources. Moreover, Pakistan's health, education and other social infrastructures are too insufficiently developed to accommodate such a large influx of population. Moreover, military operations has further exacerbated the social infrastructure, in Nothoven K.P.14. The tribes, living in these areas, were forced to move to the contiguous district, which already lacks basic for health and educational facilities. For instance, Operation Zorb-e-Arab has forced to a large exodus of tribal population from North Waziristan. Such displacement of populations coupled with large influx of Afghan refugee have caused the social infrastructure to bear the brunt of it. Therefore, war on terror has also affected Pakistan on social grounds.



Additionally, war on terror has brought numerous challenges related to civil liberties and human rights.

① Pakistan has to adopt stricter measures to counter terrorism, which often bypass at the expenses of fundamental human rights. One such example is the recent amendment in the Anti Terrorism Act 2016.

The amendment postulated that empowers the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to detain any citizen for the period of 3 months, without a warrant. Additionally,

② the law postulated that the detainment could occur based solely on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities.

This measure is a clear violation of right to fair trial.

Moreover, missing persons issue is prevalent in the

Pakistan. The reason LEAs provide for taking such measures is to counter terrorism. The reason situation

The magnitude of missing persons issue can be underscored by the Supreme Court's involvement latest hearing in the case blanche addressing enforced disappearance. The lawyers told Supreme Court that

since it had taken notice of the enforced disappearance issue, 350 individuals have been abducted by the LEAs.

Despite Supreme court's notice, the issue is still prevalent in Pakistan. Also, it falls within the ambit of

violation of fair trial. Therefore, war on terror has led to significant human rights violations in Pakistan.

The discussion on these points underscores the social problems Pakistan has faced due to war on terror.

Another ~~best~~ <sup>negative</sup> aspect of war on terror is that it <sup>has</sup> also affected Pakistan on political fronts.

Firstly, on political ground, war on terror has caused weakened some government institutions while granting extra powers to others. War on terror has significantly amplified the nation's dependence on the military, which has resulted in military hegemony over other state's institutions. For instance, military courts were constituted for the trial of terrorists. Although it was for the national security, it bypassed the powers of Supreme Court, which is the ultimate institute for justice. Additionally, military has also not only Supreme Court but also police has forced a parallel institution witnessed emergence of parallel institution, such as Rangers, operating within its domain in response to fight against terrorists. Therefore, war on terror has weakened some governmental institutions while empowering military.

Secondly, counter terrorism operations have increased public disaffection towards the state's machinery, undermining its credibility in effectively addressing terrorism. As mentioned earlier, several military operations have coerced locals to migrate from their homes. Also, they had caused economic cataclysm in the FATA. Therefore, people are resistant to military operations in their areas, as they fear the negative consequences and disruption of their lives. For instance, following the recent announcement of a new military operation in tribal areas, massive protests erupted, demanding that the state call off the operation. Moreover, on several instances, direct confrontation between military and civilians were rare recorded. The dichotomy

underscores. These developments underscores the dichotomy between military and civilians due to military operations anti terrorism operations. From a different perspective, it also highlight that military has loosen its political support in the immensely sensitive tribal areas, making it difficult to launch further operations and root out terrorism. Hence, it high highlight another political repercussion of war on terror.

Lastly, Pakistan has faced much diplomatic pressure due to war on terror. Pakistan's foreign policy remained in a dilemma over whether to become an outspoken partner in the US war on terror or not. On one hand, it had to faced backlash from its own people for supporting US due to sentiments attached with Afghans and drone attacks in K.P., and on the other hand it had faced backlash from the U.S too for not conducting anti terror operations against all the terrorists. Moreover, Afghans and Iran were also among those criticising Pakistan for supporting US. Hence, Pakistan has not achieved ~~from either side~~ fully from either side from for remaining part of War on terror.

In retrospect, War on Terror has several negative repercussions on Pakistan. On the economic front, in fact it has adversely affected already crippled economy of Pakistan. Military operations have burdened Pakistan's economy with hefty amount. Also, its major & highly potential tourism sector was also undermined due to it. Moreover, on social ground, refugee problem

high influx on refugee and stringent laws to counter terrorism has deteriorated social fabric of Pakistan, especially within tribal K.P.I. Also, on political front, weak institutions and hegemony of army over other governmental inst state organs prevailed due to its followe by severe back lash from its own people due to ~~etc.~~. Therefore, jump although jumping into war on terror was pertinent, its consequences can not be ignored. Moreover, a holistic approach is pertinent to peacefully root out this menace from our beloved country. For peacefully execution of terrorism, dialogue plays a pivotal role, which ~~is~~ is lacking counter terrorism policy of Pakistan. As Winston Churchill has rightly said, "Jaw To Jaw-Jaw is always better than war-war"