

Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan

Outline

① Introduction

The complex interplay of socio-economic, regional geopolitics, and ideological influences has significantly contributed to the persistent issues of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan, paralyzing the country on various fronts. However, certain proactive measures can be taken to dismantle extremist ideologies.

② Retrospective analysis of Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan

① Afghan war of 1979; Jihadi notion in Pakistan

② Rise of Taliban to government in 1990s; Supported and recognized by Pakistan

③ War on terror after 9/11; Pakistan as Non-NATO ally

④ Rise of TTP and separatist groups in various provinces of Pakistan.

③ Factors fuelling Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan

① Internal factors

① Spread of false Quranic interpretation

by religious clerics; concept of jihad
and its misinterpretation

(2) Political instability and lack of political
coherence in Pakistan

(3) Poor law and order situation
in the country; paving the ways
for extremism.

(4) Presence of poverty, unemployment
and dissatisfaction among the masses;
fostering extremist ideologies.

(5) Sectarian division and ethnic conflict
lines in the country

(6) Absence of social justice in Pakistan

(7) Lack of tolerance towards
other sects.

(8) The culture of *wabgha*, and
monopoly of rigid and fundamentalist
clerics over them in Pakistan

(9) Fragile economy of the country and
increasing economic inequalities in
Pakistan.

(10) Systematic oppression of minority groups
in the country

(b) External Causes

- ① Policy of strategic dept and supporting Taliban regime against the US sponsored regime.
- ② Return of Taliban to Kabul after withdrawal of the US forces; Support of TTA to TTP
- ③ Collusion among various similar ideological groups in the region
- ④ The US presumptive attacks in the region and in the tribal areas of Pakistan
- ⑤ War on terror has exacerbated the existing terrorism in the world
- ⑥ The geo-political tug war has fuelled the ideological wars in the region
- ⑦ The rise of hybrid warfare among states due to advancement in technology has fuelled the extremism in the region
- ⑧ The obsession of western media with

anti-islamic propaganda giving rise to terrorist and extremist outfits in the region.

the policy of regime change, initiating civil wars, uprisings, and deteriorating law and order situation are adding fuel to fire in most of the world.

④ Destructive Ramifications Triggered by Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan

- ① Deepening social polarization in Pakistan
- ② Deteriorating the economic health of the country
- ③ Destroying the country's infrastructure
- ④ Increasing the existing socio-economic disparities among masses
- ⑤ Resulting in the loss of civilian and security personnel's lives
- ⑥ Creating an environment of fear in the state
- ⑦ Eroding the public trust on government and its departments

⑧ Resulting as an issue of Brain drain from the country

⑨ Giving birth to ethnocentrism and Xenophobia in the country

⑩ Decreasing the inflow of foreign-trade-investment and eroding the trust of investors and businessmen on the country

⑪ Dismantling the tourist industry of the country

⑫ Reducing cross cultural events and festivals in Pakistan

⑬ Making country vulnerable to external threats

⑭ Creating an existential threats to federalism in Pakistan

⑮ Weakening country's position in the comity of nations at global level

④ The way forward: How the impacts of terrorism and extremism can be reduced in Pakistan?

① Initiate community engagement across the country to address the root cause of terrorism
- model of Denmark

② Start counter radicalization programs to rehabilitate individuals affected by extremist ideologies.

③ Promote authentic interpretation of Quranic verses to counter propaganda of terrorist and extremist outfits

④ Improve country's overall counterterrorism strategies to combat militants

⑤ Initiate joint regional collaboration to develop counterterrorism mechanism to handle crossborder terrorism

⑥ Improve the country's socio-economic situation to alter existing disparities among masses

⑦ Regulate and improve the role of media in the country to counter

extremist tendencies prevailing through social media.

- ⑧ Bring political stability and develop political cohesion in Pakistan to fight terrorism
- ⑨ Regulate the madrassas in the country under government check and develop vocational centers for them
- ⑩ Improve bilateral relations with Afghan government to counter TTP sanctuaries and presence in Afghanistan
- ⑪ Priorities national interests over regional bloc politics
- ⑫ Initiate economic reforms to revive the economic potential of the country, and to end poverty and unemployment in the country
- ⑬ Ensure harmony among various sects and eradicate systematic oppression against minority groups

- ⑭ Develop an horizontal development model across the country to end ↓ disparities among provinces developmental
- ⑮ Provide a speedy social justice to the masses to rebuild the people's trust on the government
- ⑯ Ensure law and order situation in the country and restore the cross cultural festivals
- ⑰ Develop mechanism to achieve the national integration while embracing diversity in the state.
- ⑱ Form a counter ideology at national level to fight extremism and terrorism ideologies at grassroots level.
- ⑲ A recent surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan: A critical Analysis
- ⑳ Fighting terrorism through guns is the solution: its an ideological fray
- ㉑ Conclusion

Terrorism is a global evil, posing a threat to the peace that humankind has achieved in centuries. This abhorrent crime against humanity has hindered the progress of many nations, jeopardized their peace, prosperity, and stability. Unfortunately, the world has borne the brunt of terrorism and Pakistan remains one of the nations still grappling to combat the menace. The complex interplay of socio-economic, regional geopolitics, and ideological influences has significantly contributed to the persistent issues of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. However, the issue of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan has its root causes in the structure of the country and in its foreign policy. Several factors have been proved to be the main causes of terrorism in Pakistan; For instance, political instability in the country, sectarian division and ethnic line conflicts in Pakistan, absence of social justice in the state, and misinterpretation of Quranic verses by

clerics in the madrassas. Moreover, on external fronts myopic Afghan policy to support Taliban regime, collusion among militants groups, geo-political tug war in the region, and the U.S pre-emptive attacks in the region all these factors are proving to be the reasons that add fuel to extremism and terrorism in the region. Similarly the terrorism and extremism have deteriorating effects on Pakistan's socio-economic fabrics. The impacts include, deepening social polarization, destroying the economic health of the country, creating an environment of fear, eroding public trust on ^{the} government, and weakening the country's position in the comity of nations at global level. Though, addressing these issues requires an iron will. Improving the country's socio-economic situation, modifying counterterrorism strategies, initiating economic reforms, fostering bilateral relations with regional actors, regulating madrassa

culture in Pakistan, and improving law and order situation in the country, by above all means Pakistan would be able to combat this menace. However, it must not be forgotten that terrorism is an ideology; therefore, it must be tackled on all fronts in Pakistan. Thus, no doubt through stringent measures the terrorism in Pakistan can be eradicated. This essay throws light on terrorism and extremism in Pakistan, explaining their root causes, impacts, and also providing solutions to combat these evils.