

Title: 'Terrorism in Pakistan: its Causes and Consequences'

Outline

1. Introduction

2. The current situation of Terrorism in Pakistan

3. What are the causes of terrorism in Pakistan:

- i- Fragile foreign relations with countries and other states.
- ii- Ineffective law and order mechanisms.
- iii- Lack of National Integration.
- iv- Injustice among the provinces.

4. What are the consequences of terrorism in Pakistan:

- i. Public suffering - Loss of lives.
- ii- Distorted National image.
- iii- Hindrance to the functioning of national and international projects.

iv- Socio-economic threat - budgeting and expenditure.

or ~~budget~~ is the possible ~~contribution~~ to ~~social~~ ~~development~~.

5. Conclusion

Terrorism is a global threat. It knows no borders or religion. We must act now. Terrorism is a growing challenge ~~that needs~~ in Pakistan which is caused by a number of different factors. It leaves a wide range of impacts on the nation, so it must be addressed at national level and dealt with effective policy. It encompasses a wide range of causes, some of which include lack of coordination with other states, turbulent law and order mechanisms, lack of national consensus and integration and unjust distribution of resources among the provinces. It poses long-term impacts on the nation ~~by~~ as it leads to loss of innocent lives and mob killings, mass destruction, tarnishing of national image. Moreover, it poses a threat to the ^{working of} national and international

developmental projects and socio-economic challenges for the state. Therefore, effective counter-terrorism strategies should be made and prioritized to combat the issue. In a nutshell, terrorism is a strong-growing challenge in Pakistan, caused by multiple political and socioeconomic factors. It poses a great threat to the nation's survival and prosperity, hence can be fought with careful and strategic planning to move the country towards ~~economic~~ peace and stability.

Terrorism, what international organisations such as United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) fail to define completely, is partially "an act that is intended to harm the civilians with the purpose is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or international organi-

zation to do or to abstain from doing any act' (United Nations Security Council). It has resurged in the ~~was~~ whole world since the ~~World~~ wars, but in Pakistan, it terrorism has exacerbated since 2021. Many different non-state actors emerged after the global conflicts and rivalries, and continued to threaten the weaker states such as Pakistan. Therefore, it adversely affected the country's prestige and national esteem in the international community. According to the Global Terrorism Index reports (2024) and ranking issued by Institute of Economics and Peace, ~~rank~~ Pakistan is ranked 4th among the top terrorism-impacted countries. This is how, Pakistan reached the top rung of the ladder by the ~~imp~~ influence of terrorist activities of ^{violent} non-state actors in the country.

Terrorism ^{in Pakistan} is caused by multiple factors; the prime amongst them is the fragile nature of foreign relations with ~~th~~ its neighbouring countries and other global leaders. Due to political upheavals, the ~~leaderships~~ continuously changing leaderships could not build strong ties with Afghanistan, India and Western democracies. This in-turn weakened the relations with ~~1~~ nations, as ~~no~~ none among them was ready to solve the issues through diplomacy, dialogue and negotiations. This factor strengthened the non-state violent groups to emerge and perpetrate terror and violence among public.

The UNSC's monitory report on terrorist groups in Afghanistan confirms all of Pakistan's concerns regarding terrorism. The current report reveals in clear terms that

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) under Afghan using NATO weapons is involved in terrorism in Pakistan since 2022. (The Nation, Clear Policy, 18 2024). Thus, the turbulent relations with neighbouring countries pose a great threat to Pakistan.

~~That~~ In Addition to this, the ineffective law and order mechanism and operations provide room for the terrorists to prosper. Due to myriad internal and external challenges the country is grappled in, it also holds a thin hand in law and order implementation. Moreover, due to weak system of accountability and punishments, the more and more individuals dare to choose such groups, as they are well-equipped with the mindset that they cannot be strictly punished or treated harshly in states such as Pakistan. These terrorist alliances, keeping a single

agenda in their minds, thus targeting the innocent by using force, ~~that~~ ^{and agenda, to} claiming their authority superior that of the state. The different operations launched by the governments in ~~the~~ Pakistan against terrorism, including operation Rah-e-Nijat (2009) and operation Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017) remain vulnerable to counter it, since it is still the most striking challenge at present. (Counter-Terrorism Measures by Daily Times, 2023). ~~Likewise~~ In this way, when terrorists find a plan ground, where there is no rule of law, states like Pakistan fall prey to terrorist activities.

Coupled with this, lack of national integration also causes terrorism in Pakistan. This is because of the heightened political rivalry in the country; provinces having their own say in every matter, with centre being an

actor holding a difference of opinion. This ultimately hinders the strengthening or implementation of a single policy to state an issue collectively. Moreover, the rift between the government and public is a significant factor in this regard, that is continuously widening due to their own reasons and differences of opinion, thus withholding an inclined policy to counterterrorism. Considering the recent terrorist attacks in KPK, the federal government is grappled with the challenge of political rift ~~betw~~ ^{⇒ Daily life example} ~~een the~~ with the provincial government in KPK, thus failing to launch a strike down operation over there. Due to this lack of national integration on such crucial matters like Terrorism, the ~~issu~~ problem causes more harm than countering it.

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Furthermore, the problem of injustice and disparities among the provinces in the country also poses a threat to its security. The resource deficit in Balochistan and KPK as compared to Punjab and Sindh promotes a sense of depravity among the people, driving them more to terrorist activities.

This can ultimately fulfill their demands to live a peaceful life, while putting the security of state on stake. Also, the terrorist groups and associations find it easy to target the already vulnerable and dispersed segments of the country, so this injustice and lack of provision of equal and equitable resources gives rise to terrorism. Despite the implementation of CPEC, Balochistan remains marginalised - having

rather experienced a 7.1% decrease in real per capita income over the past 20 years. This accounts due to corruption, and political polarization (The tribune - Bridging of the gap, 2022). Hence, the disparities and inequalities ^{at provincial level} aggravate the terrorism in Pakistan.

As there are a number of causes confronted by Pakistan in the way of terrorism, its consequences are far greater on the states ^{and} the public communities.

The foremost ~~so~~ impact of terrorism in Pakistan is the public suffering and loss of innocent lives. It has now become a norm that the daily highlights are flooded with news of blasts and terrorist activities, involving mass killings and injuries. This is due to increase in the uncontrolled terrorist activities in the state.

The rivalries and competition among ~~states~~ the actors of states, failed negotiations and the influence of non-state actors in it result in mob violence and killings. According to NACTA, from 2001 to 2022, Pakistan lost 83 thousand lives due to terrorism.

Thus, the greatest impact of terrorism in Pakistan is the mass killings and casualties of the ones who are not concerned with any sort of activities, including the innocent children, ~~and~~ women and the vulnerable sections of society.

Continuing down the same path, terrorism not only endangers the public lives but also adversely affects the country's national image in the international arena. This is due to the fact, that Pakistan is became a frontliner for Jihad and and now

the terrorist groups emerged from Afghan Jihad especially the TTP are targetting Pakistan. This threatens the country's security and foreign policy and it is not considered a safer zone for investment, tourism and business. It ~~intere~~ in turn weakens the state's national prestige in every sector to cooperate and coordinate in, thus proving fatal for Pakistan's already suffering state.

The Global Peace Index 2024 ranks Pakistan at 140, while its neighbouring India at 116 and Bangladesh at 93. It clearly indicates that one would definitely get to choose India or Bangladesh when it comes to investment or any other project rather than Pakistan, which ~~has~~ stands in a low category in Peace Index. In this way, a distorted outlook of country is

also a bitter consequence of terrorism.

Another impact of terrorism in Pakistan is the hindrance to the functioning and effectivity of national and international projects. The international projects ^{are} at stake as the violent attacks keep on increasing day-by-day, thus posing a threat. The terrorist groups, in a view to malign and distort country's outlook and growth in any sector, target the production sites, working hubs, and mines in order to distort peace and raise security concerns. The most important incident in this regard is the hindrance in the way of CPEC in Pakistan. The recent attacks in Bisham (KPK) leading to the killing of Chinese workers, driver is a clear indicator that such attacks are initiated to distort

the bilateral ties and blockway to the ~~cor~~ effective working of the corridor. Such similar incidents had been the part of Pakistan in the ~~recent~~ previous years posing a blockade to such projects. This is how, terrorism in Pakistan ~~is~~ threatens ~~its~~ the functioning of international projects.

Moreover, Pakistan is grabbed in a ~~ext~~ condition of extreme economic hurdles due to terrorism. Apart from the social constraints, Pakistan has to spend massive expenditure on weapons, defense, military maximization, fencing the borders and many other war and attack prevention tactics. ~~This~~ | Due to this very reason, Pakistan ~~is~~ is seriously ^{lagging} behind ^{ing} the development and prosperity. NACTA claims that from 2001 to 2022, Pakistan incurred a financial loss of

more than 35 trillion rupees.

(National Counter Terrorism Authority). This is how, the country owes massive budget allocation and spends a huge some of money on terrorism and this burdenizes the economy of Pakistan.

In conclusion ~~of~~ to all the points stated above, terrorism is an ~~increasing~~ ^{alarming} concern, ~~increasing~~ ^{increasing} day by day in Pakistan, caused by numerous socio-political and economic reasons, leaving hazardous impacts on the state. It is caused due ~~many~~ multiple in-state delicacies including ~~the~~ ^{its} international relations. with the Muslim world and west world, weak law and order, lack of integration. It leaves hazardous impacts on public, economy and national representation. ~~Thus~~ if Pakistan ~~is~~ ^{seeks} to resolve these disputes through negotiation, it can counter terrorism effectively.