

Critically evaluate the reasons for the insurgency in Pakistan and their impact on relation with Afghanistan.

### Introduction:

Since inception, Pakistan has remained security sensitive, Pakistan's foreign policy was geo-strategic but following the National Security Policy of 2022, Pakistan has changed its foreign policy from geostrategic to geo-economic to foster the regional integration and to boost country's economy. After this, growing security threats have taken a heavy toll. Pakistan has witnessed many terror attacks mainly after the rise of Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan. In addition to it, Afghanistan has failed to fulfil its promise in Doha Agreement, 2020.



## Reasons for the Insurgency in Pakistan.

### ① Resurgence of Outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban:

Pakistan has witnessed many terror attacks mainly after the ceasefire of TTP with government in 2022. Since Afghan Taliban has taken control of Afghanistan, Pakistan watched 55% surge in terror attacks.

According to report, issued by the center for Research and Security threats, Pakistan has witnessed 1,524 casualties in 789 terror attacks in 2023, making record six year high.

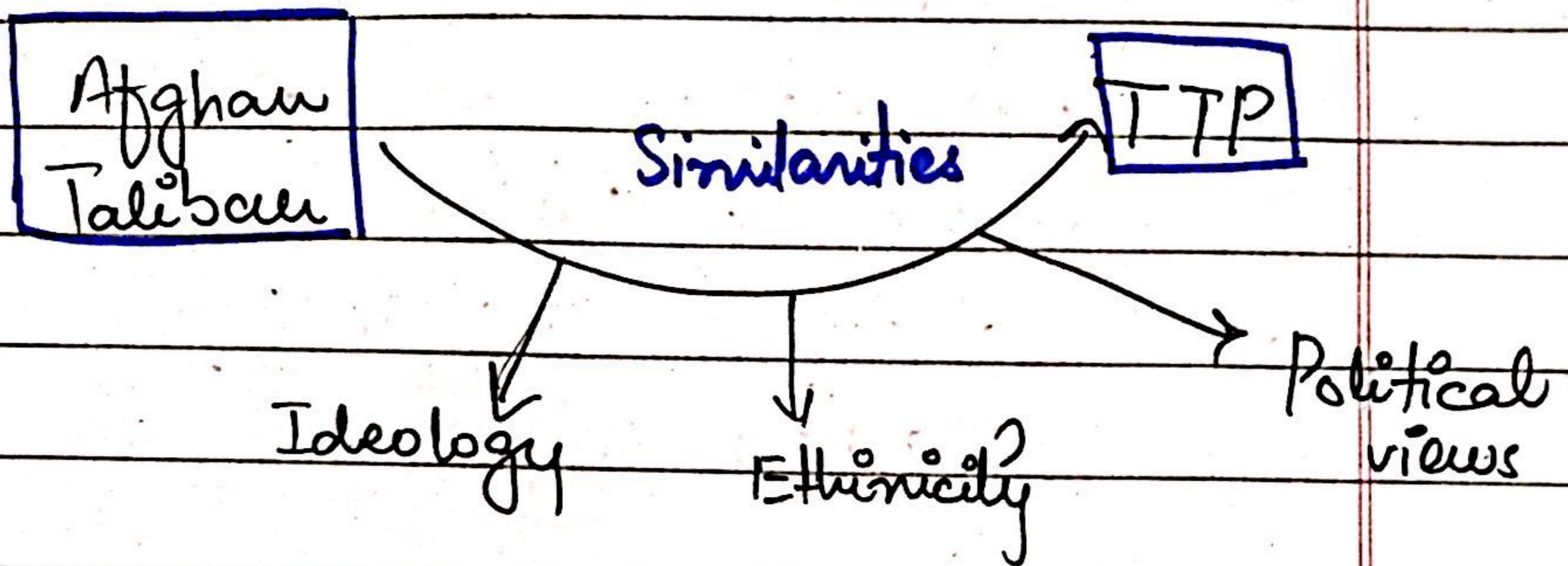
### ② Afghan Policy of supporting Taliban

The foremost reason for insurgency in Pakistan is the support of Afghan Taliban to TTP. After Afghan Taliban's victory in Afghanistan, TTP claw its way back to power. They supported



celebrated their win as their own.

Mainly because they have Pashtun blood which is appealing them towards each other. They have longstanding battlefields, political, ethnic and ideological linkages.



### ③ Pakistan's Engagement in Talks with TTP:

Pakistan's engagement in talks with TTP has overpowered TTP and weakened the role of Pakistan. The first engagement over peace deal was held in 2021 and second in May 2021, while the both deals hit to end in some time, as both parties did not agree to each other's demand. Taliban wanted Pakistan to for the reversal of ex-Fata's merger with Khyber

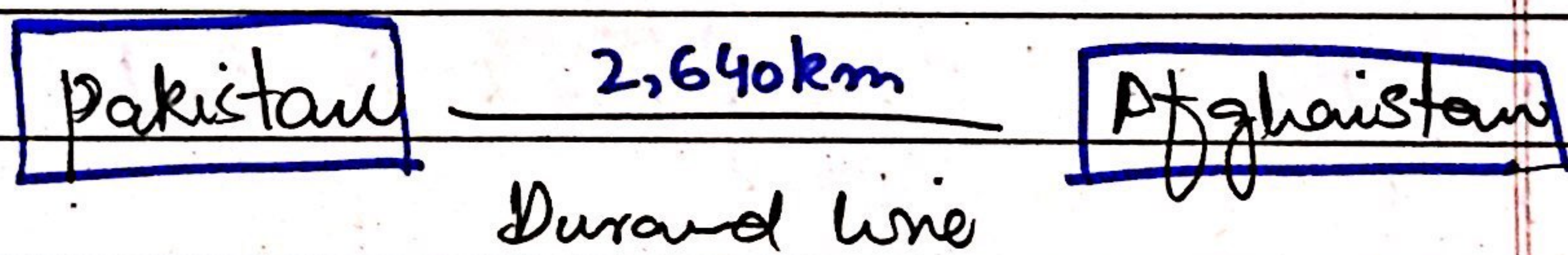


Pakhtunkhwa<sup>and</sup> Pakistan refused to accept the demand.

## ④ Durand line Dispute

Afghanistan's officials are denying the international Durand line since from the very start.

They consider it Pakistan's hegemony and challenge it through smuggling and attacks.



- \* Smuggling of Opium
- \* Terrorists

## ⑤ Expansion of TTP

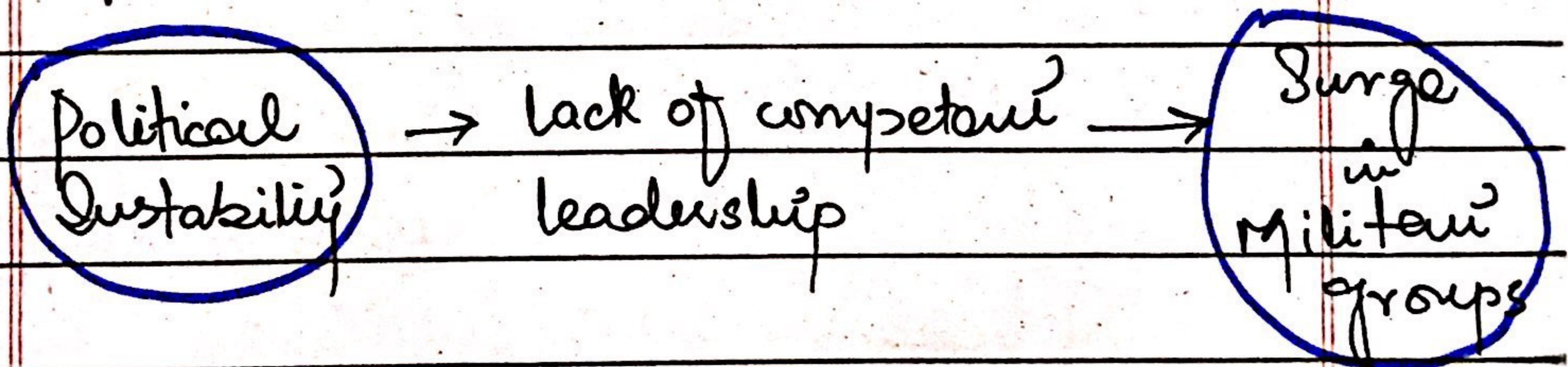
Since 2020, under TTP's new chief Naw Wali Mehsood, TTP is being exponentially strengthened as they have strengthened their ties with other military factions. Over the past 2 years, 22



million factions added, which has made TTP's influence stronger and expanded it geo-strategically.

## ⑥ Lack of Civil-Military Action:

Pakistan's political instability has given rise to different militant groups which has exploited their so-called ideologies. Moreover, the lack of competent leadership has given the militants a chance to evolve. They remained reluctant for providing proper direction.

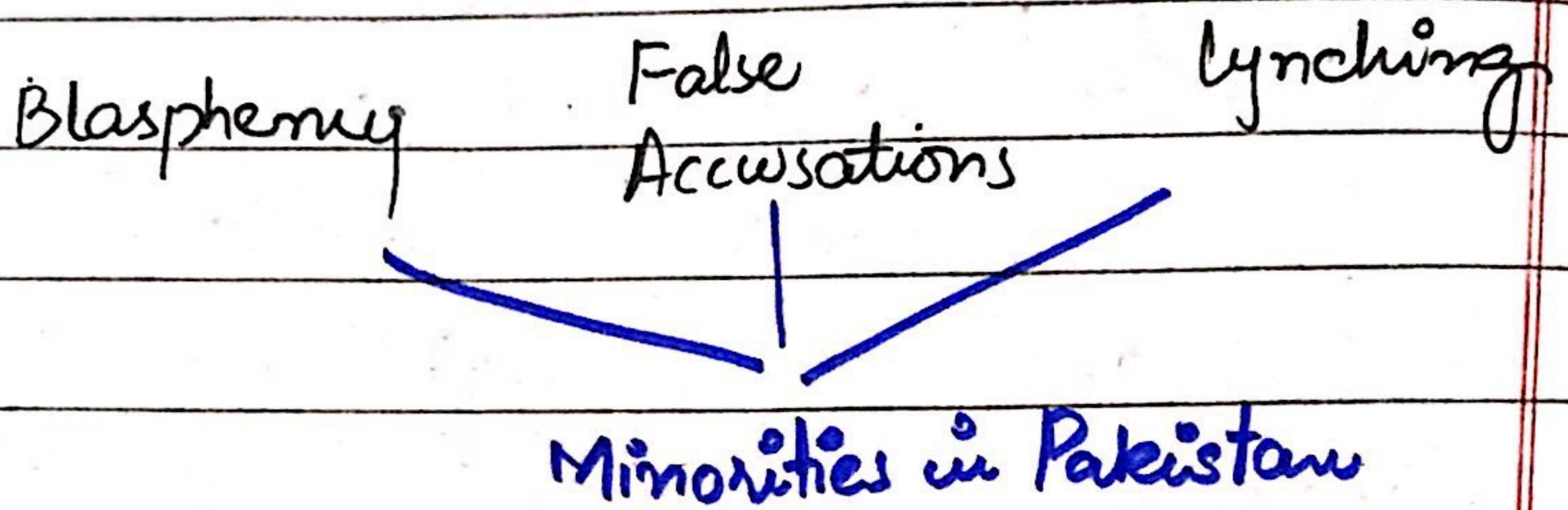


## ⑦ Religious Extremism

While Pakistan has watched many perish in the cauldron of sacrilege, but state has done nothing to turn the flames down. Accusing minorities of blasphemy and lynching them in the name of religion is a serious issue



in Pakistan. Blasphemy laws are disproportionately applied to Christians, Hindus and other minority groups which <sup>have</sup> are pinch in Pakistan.



### ⑧ ISKP aiming to target Chinese Projects :

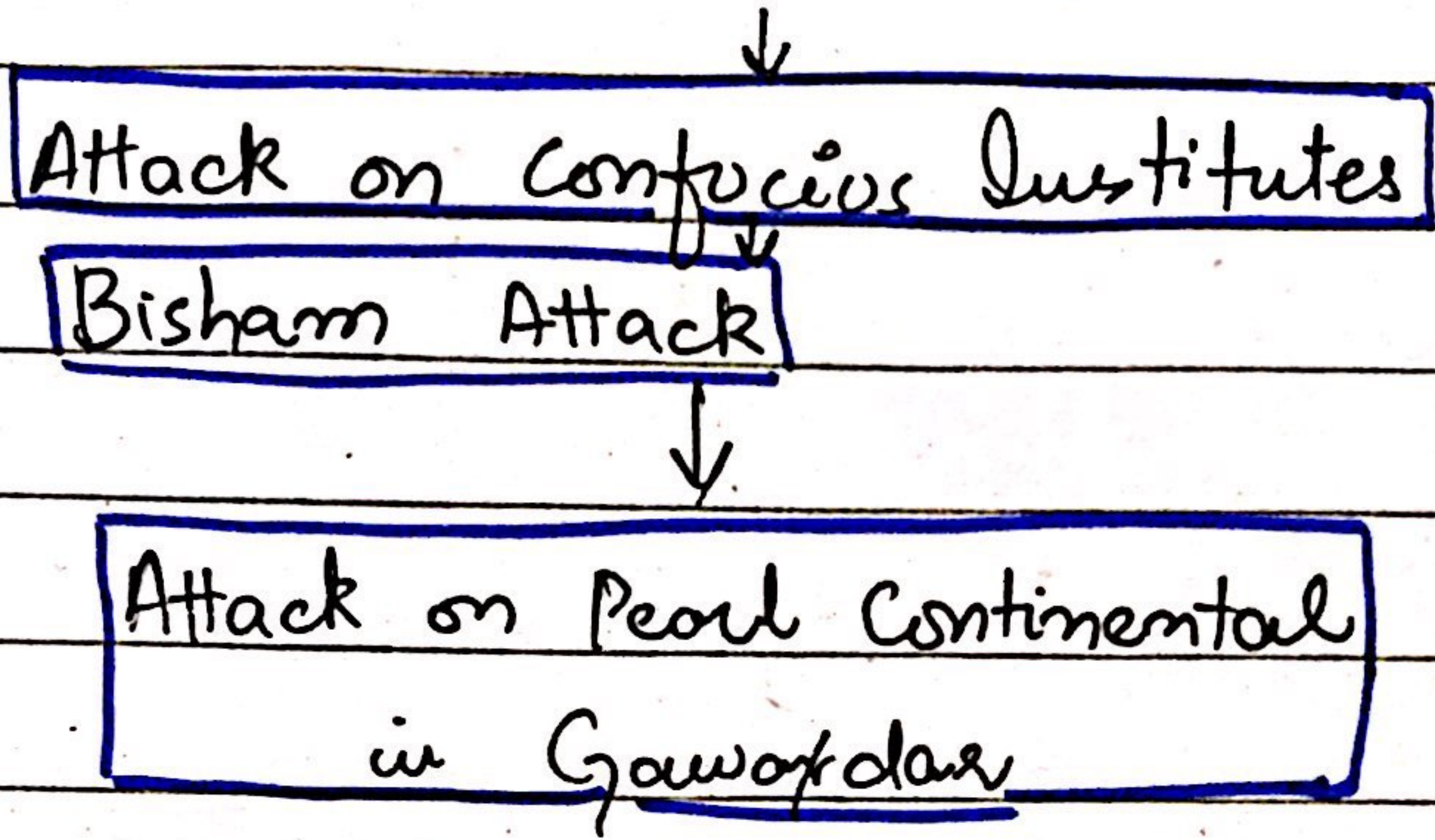
Afghanistan based, Islamic State of Khorasan Province, terrorist group is targeting Chinese nationals in Balochistan and KPK, and attacking the CPEC projects, which aims to enhance Pakistan's infrastructure and economic stability. They are conducting various attacks including so suicide bombing and hand grenades.

Attack on Chinese consulate

Attack on luxury hotel in

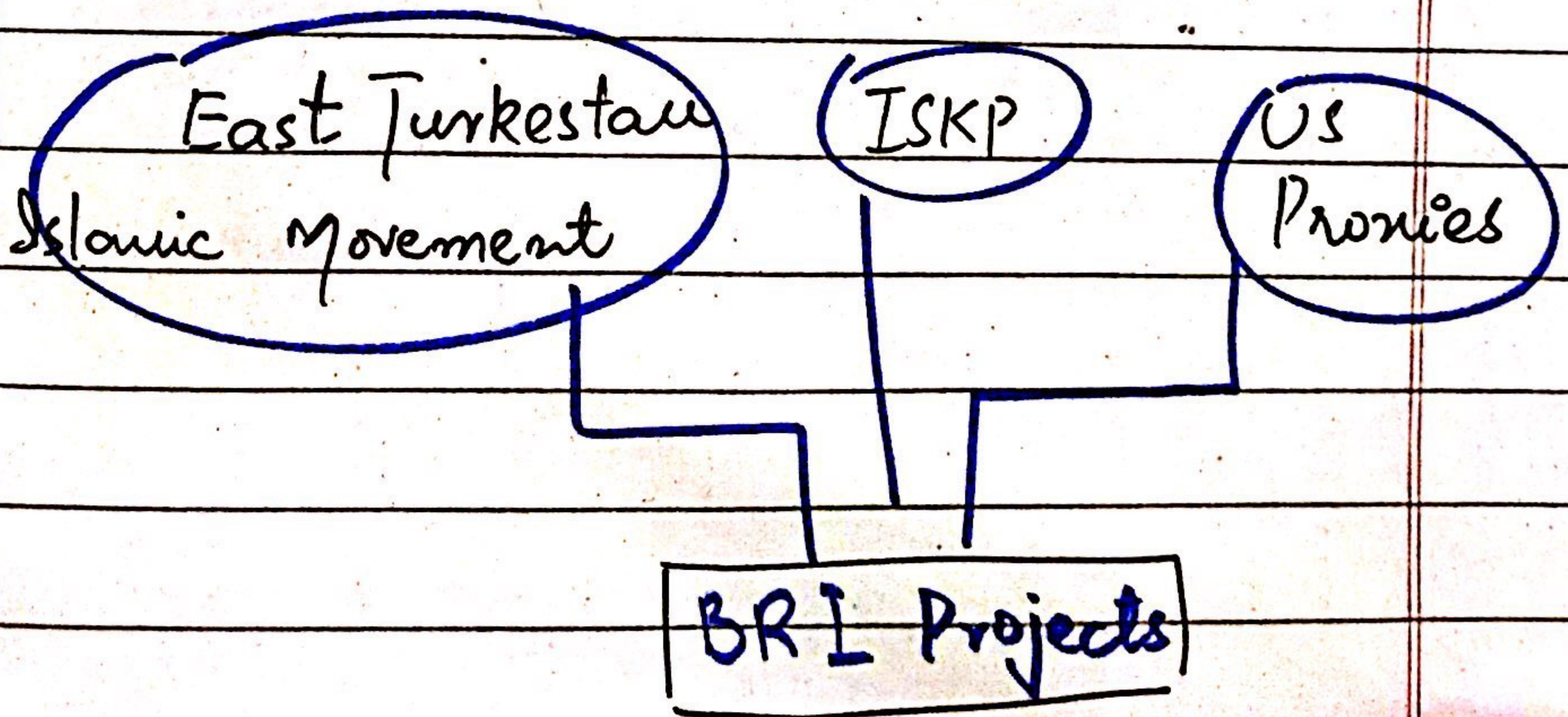
Quetta





### ① Geopolitical factors

Geopolitical factors are also the reason for insurgency in Pakistan, as US has set its proxies to win the China's projects. ISKP has made public statements to target the China's projects.





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## ⑩. Baloch Nationalist Movements

Baloch separatist movements by Baloch militants are causing security threat to Pakistan and promoting their ideologies with the support of TTP and other militants.

## PAK-Afghan Relations in climate of Insurgency in Pakistan

### Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

In June 2024, Government of Pakistan launched a counter-terrorism operation, which aims to remove terrorism and extremism from state. If military actions will conducted by Pakistan, against border. It would surely downsize its relations with the counter part.

Extremism  $\rightleftharpoons$  Terrorism

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam



## Counter Attacks by Pakistan Security Forces:

On 16 March 2024, a check-post in Pakistan was targeted, where 7 soldiers fell in line of duty and the attack was conducted by TTP. To take retaliatory measures, Pakistan counter attacked, claiming to target TTP hideouts, which strained the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## Accusing Pakistan of Attack:

Afghanistan accused Pakistan of drone attack on chief of Al-Qaeda Al-Zawahiri, while Pakistan denying the allegation. On the ~~hand~~ other hand, Pakistan is improving relations with US for counter-terrorism and making a great cooperation. Hence, Afghanistan can not take stock of the situation and deteriorating its relation with Pakistan.



## Failure of Doha Agreement

Afghan Taliban made agreement in 2020, according to which, they would not allow any militant group to use Afghan soil for foreign attacks. But they have taken a step back from agreement.

Saudi Prince, Al-Faisal Al-Saud, has mentioned in his book, that how Afghan Taliban eat their words; notwithstanding promise they made with Saudiya to hand over Osama-Bin-Laden.

Same is the scenario, Afghanistan is playing with Pakistan, despite dozen of agreements with Pakistan to control TTP from targeting civilians, politicians and soldiers of Pakistan. This has further escalated tensions between the two countries.



## Detention of Afghan Refugees:

Pakistan has detained Afghan refugees mainly from security issues and to put pressure on Taliban to call their refugees back. Detention of Afghan refugees has made relations even worsened.

## \* Critical Analysis:

Islam, being the 2nd largest religion globally and becoming the largest among all by 2050, according to researchers. But today Muslim Ummah is in turmoil, mainly and majorly by the West dominated culture and to some extent their stringer ideologies. This is the time Muslims must start the true teachings of Islam, which is a religion of peace.

## Conclusion:

TTP is a threat to both countries security. They are preaching their ideology in the name of Islam, but in real they are the terrorists who are just demolishing



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peace from region. Therefore, Afghanistan and Pakistan should make their full efforts to counter TTP in every case as they have reached a large number now.

There is a saying:

"The loudest voices often drown out the quiet truths."

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