

Joining the US led coalition in the war against terrorism has many short and long term repercussions for Pakistan. Elaborate.

Pakistan is located on the cross road of South Asia. Explain its geo

Q.no-1

(1) Introduction:

Two rivals whose actions upended the geopolitical order forever once fought on same side in war against **Soviet Union** in Afghanistan. After Russia withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan, US turned eyes from talibans and stopped funding. This compelled extremist talibans to take revenge by destroying commercial hubs of US. On **11 September, 2001**, world watched how **Al-Qaeda** hijacked aeroplanes and slammed into world trade center and pentagon. After this, US initiated war on terrorism and made **coalition** with other countries for using their soil for operations. But this caused **sepercussions** for developing nations like Pakistan.

(2) Deciphering "terrorism" and its history:

Terrorism is a type of warfare. It consists of violent acts that are conducted to spread terror in pursuit of political gains. Modern history of

terrorism goes back to september 11 attacks in USA, by Al Qaeda. There are two forms of terrorism, domestic terrorism and international terrorism.

September 11 attacks were international terrorism extension. Domestic terrorism is confined to territories of a country but international terrorism is conducted across boundaries for a common cause. September 11 attacks can also be referred to as domestic terrorism as it occurred within US.

These two forms are perspectives to see terrorism, at domestic and international level.

a) September 11, 2001 attacks in US:

September 11, 2001 marks the day when Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four American commercial flights destined for west coast.

Two planes - American Airlines

Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 departed from Boston. They crashed into twin towers of world

Trade center. Airlines flight 77, leaving from Dulles airport in Virginia, crashed into pentagon. Flight 93 crashed in a field, after passengers stormed the cockpit and tried to subdue the hijackers.

(b) Al Qaeda claims for 9/11 attacks

Al-Qaeda took the responsibility of attack in US. In its hostile activities against US, Al-Qaeda, is not alone. It is merged with a number of other militant organizations such as Daesh and Egypt's Islamic Jihad and its leaders on several occasions declared holy war against United States. In 2001, Al-Qaeda 19 militants, staged the September 11 attacks for creating atmosphere of horror within United States.

(c) Other allegedly planned attacks of militants against United States

Militants hostilities are not limited to September 11 attacks. They are continuously engaged in

doing numerous terrorist attacks against United States. Destruction of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1998) and suicide bomb attack against U.S. warship Cole in Aden, Yemen (2000), ~~These incidents~~ are glimpse of past invasions of militants for challenging the viability of United States.

(3) United States "War on terrorism" and coalition with Pakistan

Some events, due to their sheer magnitude, change the course of a country. Terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 did same for United States by compelling it to initiate 'global war on terrorism'. Indeed, US has every right to punish those responsible for this atrocity of immense proportion, as part of doctrine for self defence.

(a) War on terrorism by United States

War on terrorism is

a global counterterrorist military campaign initiated by United States following September 11 attacks of 2001, and is most recent global conflict spanning multiple wars. Some researches ~~consider~~ argue that it replaced cold war. The main targets of campaign are militant Islamist movements like Al Qaeda, Taliban, and their allies.

Former president George W. Bush remarks about terrorism war are;

"The attack took place on American soil, but it was an attack on heart and soul of civilized world. And world has come together to fight a new and different war, a war against all those who seek to export terror, and a war against those governments that support or shelter them."

(George W. Bush)

United States enjoyed success of this war when Osama bin Laden,

founder of Al-Qaeda, was killed during said on May 1, 2011, by **Operation Neptune Spear**. War on terrorism ended a global ~~manhunt~~ manhunt - that started before 9/11 - for the single leader of Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

b) Pakistan Coalition with United States for war on terrorism:

One of most vivid actions that can be taken by government to fight against terrorism is coalition creation. United States did the same. Pakistan was specially compelled to join this war as it had allegations of harbouring terrorists and it has Afghanistan in neighbour. Pakistan provided not only naval and air bases to United States but also gave them land route for attacking Afghanistan in retaliation. As Bush, US former president said;

"We are supported by the collective will of the world."

(George W. Bush)

(c) Pakistan purpose behind joining war on terrorism

Pakistan became a non-NATO ally and joined fight against Al-Qaeda and other militant groups. This helped Pakistan overcome sanctions, receive economic and military assistance, end its international isolation and gain status of **Non NATO ally** in **2004**, designated by US secretary, Colin Powell. Besides these, it also assisted Pakistan in combating terrorism.

(4) Repercussions of Pakistan as outcome of member of war on terror:

Although US war on terror aimed to combat extremist militant groups, the way it was carried out and areas it focused on ~~caused~~ caused short term and long term

repercussions for Pakistan. Because of US war in Afghanistan, Pakistan had to accept refugees, it also had to face enmity from terrorists side and faced economic repercussions. Following are short term and long term repercussions Pakistan faced as result of being in war on terror.

(a) Social Repercussions :

The war on terror has posed many short term and long term repercussions to Pakistan, socially. Social repercussions involve the following

i. Refugees crisis :

Pakistan is already a developing state with its economy as an Achilles heel since its inception, and weak shoulders of Pakistan became overburdened by inflow of Afghan refugees into Pakistan. Three million refugees have already been in

Pakistan since time of cold war of 1980s. Approximately **1.4 million refugees** have ~~already been~~ shifted in Pakistan during war on terror time. 6000 - 20,000 Afghan refugees are still crossing Baluchistan border on daily basis (**UNHCR report**).

(ii) Revival of terrorist attacks

Over the years, Tehrik e Taliban (TTP) has been involved in a number of suicide bombings, rocket attacks, remote controlled bombs, and abductions. The **army public school attack** in 2014 and girls middle school set on fire in **Diamer** in **2022** are cases in point.

"We are targeting schools because they are part of an infidel system of education".

(Sajjad Mohmand, spokesperson of TTP)

(iii) Ideological Implications: Rise of Sectarianism

Sectarian divide in Pakistan is result of joining war on terror. Shia-Sunni tensions are on rise. The suicidal attacks on Shia mosques have added fuel to fire. Peshawar and **Quetta mosques attack** during Friday prayers in **2022** are case studies in this regard. Death toll by sectarianism has killed a lot of people of different sects, whose only cause of death is to be in war on terror.

"And definition of success as I describe is sectarian violence down".

(George W. Bush)

(b) **Political Repercussion:**

During last two decades of war on terrorism, history witness threat to sovereignty of Pakistan and on rise in anti-state and

anti military sentiments among people.

i. Threat to National Sovereignty

United states posed threats to sovereignty of Pakistan during war on terror. The assassination of two Lahore residents by Raymond Davis (a former CIA agent), **Operation Neptune Spear** in Abbottabad, and Nato forces strike on **Salala Airbase** in 2011, are case studies in this regard.

ii. Rise in animosity of state and military

War on terror has caused anti state and anti military sentiment among people especially of ~~tribes~~ in Pashtuns. As per poll conducted in 2016, 81% of madrassah students were against military operations in tribal areas.

(c) Economic Repercussions

Although Pakistan got economic assistance from USA in form of Glenn, Brown and Pressler

amendment and Kerry Lugar bill for becoming an integral part of war against terrorism, however economic repercussions have surpassed this support.

(i) Low foreign direct investment inflows

Foreign direct investment is adversely affected by military operations done as part of war on terror. The sense of uncertainty has caused investors to invest in other peaceful countries to get certain profits.

(ii) High cost of multiple military operations

In order to curb terrorists in Pakistan, Pakistan's military has performed multiple military operations, which are very high in cost for developing state like Pakistan. These include **Rah e Raast**, **Zarb e Azab** and **Rah e Nijaat** etc. in FaATA, KPK and Waziristan.

d- Diplomatic Repercussions

By becoming a player in war against terrorism, Pakistan has to face many short term and long term grave effects in diplomatic aspects, which have raised many issues within Pakistan and with neighbouring states like Afghanistan.

i- Deterioration of Pak-Afghan relations and Durand line issue

Being ally of war on terror campaign, Pakistan had to close the Pak-Afghan border. In 2022, there was firing at Friendship gate at Chaman Spin Boldak corridor. Pakistan also facing nasty revenge of Afghans in Pashtunistan form.

ii- Pakistan's image crisis

Afghans adding fuel to fire of separatist movement of Pashtunistan are actually deteriorating Pakistan image in world. They are trying to torn apart identity of united

Pakistan on world map.

(5) Conclusion:

Pakistan's decision to join war on terror was not very good in long run, but Pakistan had no choice at that time.

Pakistan has gone above and beyond to assist in US-led war, apprehending and targeting Al Qaida and other foreign militants operating in country and providing sea, air and land accessibility. But this

caused significant short term and long term repercussions for Pakistan at social, economic, political and diplomatic level.

Pakistan had to pay huge price in policy of appealing the United States by coalition with war on terror.