

Essay : Q 5

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1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: The cause for the rise of extremism in Pakistan is a blend of foreign interventions and domestic failures, however, domestic policies are much accountable for sprouting the seeds of extremism inside the country.

2- The rise of extremism in Pakistan:

- a) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
- b) President Zia's policies of islamization
- c) Transport of jihadists and radical ideologies from across the world
- d) Saudi-Iran rivalry and the competition for Muslim leadership
- e) War on terror and the birth of extremist terror

groups

3- The role of foreign interventions in the rise of extremism in Pakistan:

a) Soviets in the backyard of Pakistan and rivalry with India

b) Cold war era and the influence of capitalist bloc

c) Saudi's and Iranian's funding to sectarian groups in Pakistan

d) ~~Re~~ Sanctions on Pakistan after nuclear test and global pressure on Pakistan after 9/11

4- Domestic failures and the rise of extremism in Pakistan:

a) Governance and institutional failures.

- b) The construction of madrasahs and introduction of jihadist syllabus in them
- c) Gun and smuggling culture after the refugee influx in Pakistan
- d) Failure in restraining sectarian conflicts in Pakistan
- e) Pakistan's involvement in the 'war on Terror' and rise of TTP and ISKP

The rolling of Soviet tanks and a humdrum thousand troops marked the rise of extremism in Pakistan. It is a widely acknowledged notion that the flares of fire in the neighbourhood would definitely reach you. Pakistan is that neighbour

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which got caught up in such fire. The cost of Soviet expansionism for Pakistan was the forming of mujahideens and their transport from across the world to the country.

Pakistan became an explosive warehouse for the capitalist world in defeating communism and was consequently used as a launching pad. Funding was made from across the world and CIA to the Afghan mujahideens who were called as the brave soldiers of God. A documentary which displays a US Statesman in FATA is part of the history, who was briefing the mujahideen and told them that this war would be

fought by your blood and
our gold is evident
of the US ^{support} to the group
they call "Terrorist" now
and blame Pakistan for
their nurturing. Reshaping
apart the episodes of history,
extremism rose in Pakistan
as consequence of global
power struggle between
the US and soviets. later,
Saudi-Iran rivalry for
global muslim leadership
paved the way for
another worse chapter
of extremism in Pakistan.
In all the mess, institutional
weaknesses cannot be
neglected. They were
responsible for the peace
and prosperity of Pakistan.
Although they did not effect-
ively performed that duty
as a result extremism

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is still flaring up the country. Moreover, the cause for the rise of extremism in Pakistan is a blend of foreign interventions and domestic failures, however, domestic policies are much accountable for sprouting the seeds of extremism inside the country.

It is said that

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Moreover, the rise of
entremism ^{in Pakistan} owe to many
events & ~~for~~ mostly outside
the country. One of
which was the soviet
invasion of Afghanistan.
Amid their presence in
Afghanistan, Pakistan formed
the mujahideens with
the help of United states.
These mujahideens were
trained and schooled
inside Pakistan then they
were sent to fight with
the communist soldiers.
After two decades of
devastative war, the
USSR collapsed and
withdrew from Afghanistan.
The mujahideens came back
to their hometowns in
Pakistan with their guns
and radical mindset. This
laid the foundation of

extremism in Pakistan.

despite the presence of soviet in Afghanistan, it was not a matter for until they had deliberately breached the sovereignty of Pakistan. But, president Zia ul haq started the islamization of country. He introduced radical islam in a tolerant society of the country. He further formed islamic committee to enforce islamic obligation, created a bulk of religious schools where young boys were brainwashed. Islamic ~~was~~ and Arabic was made compulsory at schools. All these actions infiltrated the Pakistani society with extremism.

Moreover, the transport of jihadists and radical ideologies to Pakistan was also greatly responsible for the extremism in the country. These jihadists were brought from mainly from Saudi, Uzbekistan and Chechnya under the US support. They were filled in planes and were dropped here. With their entrance also came in radical ideology such as 'wahabism'. The ideology is greatly known for its intolerance and radical believes. Gradually this ideology prevailed in the Pakistani society. The followers of this ideology perpetrated attacks against the shia sect in Pakistan. As a result

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extremism flourished inside Pakistan.

Furthermore, saudiran rivalry further intensified the ~~ca~~ wave of extremism in Pakistan. Both of these regional powers had great animosity against each other. They ~~stood~~^{were} ~~again~~ involved in the power struggle to gain the leadership of muslim world. This led them to fund and support proxies against each other. One of such are houthi rebels supported by Iran against KSA and Al Nusra front against Bashar al Assad regime in Syria, ~~Iran~~ ally of Iran, supported by Saudi Arab.

This rivalry also reached the Pakistani society. The Saudi's supported Wahabist and Salafist ideological groups such as Lashkar-e-Jangvi and Sifa-e-Sahaba against Shia communities. Iran funded and supported Shia ideology groups Fatimoon, Jaish Muhammad etc. against Sunnis. They saturated the Pakistani society with hate and extremism.

The Third wave of extremism sprouted in Pakistan after 9/11 attacks in America. The US invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban government. Consequently ~~and~~ another

started in Pakistan's neighbourhood which lasted for two decades. Pakistan became the US ally and provided airbases to NATO troops and passage to their equipment. This help came with a great cost for the country and the radical extremist terror groups turned against Pakistan. Groups such as Al Qaeda, Tehrik Taliban Pakistan and Islamic state Khorasan Province started deadly attacks against Pakistan. They killed thousands of civilians, including children and women, soldiers, bombed mosques. This was the price of helping in war on Terror that

came with extremism in the country costing the lives of 70000 innocent civilians.

Moreover, the role of foreign interventions is not negligible in extremism of Pakistan.

The power struggles between different countries, blocks and groups dragged the country in mess one way or the other. The western block aided the country through money and loans to jump in war against the Soviets and the Taliban later on. Regional rivalries such as that of Saudi-Iran fueled sectarian violence. They caused extremism in Pakistan.

It is said that when the evil is knocking at the door, one cannot hideout rather has to go in war with that evil.

The invasion of USSR forces in the backyard of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and rivalry with a mighty neighbour India, compelled Pakistan to join the capitalist block against Communists. Even though

the USSR leaned towards Pakistan many times and offered help in different field but Pakistan preferred the prosperity of western block. Because the west resembled Pakistan in many ways such as both ~~being~~ sides being democracies. Pakistan was also familiar with the western culture and ideology because of the British rule in the Subcontinent. As a result the result the country indulged in war against the USSR in Afghanistan and the seeding of extremism in Pakistan for compelling the students of religious schools to fight the holy war.

Moreover, during the cold war era, ~~and~~ the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan ~~of influence~~ and the capitalist block aids and loans influenced Pakistan to indulge in an ~~empire~~ armed campaign against the USSR. The US gave billions in aid to Pakistan and loans. They also helped ~~modernizing~~ the armed industry of the country by providing F-16 jets and modernizing the missile programme of the country. However, the cost has been paid by religious and militant entrepreneurship.

Resting apart the global world power struggles

regional power struggle
also paved the way
for militant extremism
in Pakistan. The power
struggle ~~for~~ between Iran
and Saudi caused
the second wave of
militant extremism in
the country since 80s.

They deliberately intervened
in Pakistan's society and
funded militant groups
in prevailing violent
sectarian violence in
the country. The Saudi's
funded the Sunni's
and the Iranian's funded
Shia's to armed up
against their ~~own~~ followers
of their rival ideology.

A recent sectarian massacre
in Parachinar rested
in that old sentiments
sown by that old

regional rivalry.

Moreover, the third wave of extremism came in Pakistan after Al Qaeda attack on 9/11. That time Pakistan was also under economic sanctions by the United States due to nuclear test. The world was also pressurizing Pakistan to help in striking out the Taliban from government, as the geography was favourable and close to Kabul for NATO to ouster the Taliban. As a result Al Qaeda turned against Pakistan, TTP was also born ^{who's} ~~which~~ ^{was} primarily animosity was against Pakistan.

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This was how they
foreign interventions
caused extremism
in Pakistan.