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What is meant by proxy war? Are there any extrinsic factors at play in the internal security situation of Pakistan

1) Introduction:

Proxy war damages a country more than any other extrinsic factor or war

- Wilson Smith

Article: The evolving wars of

The above mentioned quote signifies the dangers of proxy wars as the most brutal extrinsic factor which damages the internal security of a nation. Similarly, Pakistan along with that, is also rooted in other extrinsic factors which damages its internal security. Such as, regional rivals, sectarianism, IMF etc. All of the above are a great threat to Pakistan which requires utmost precision to tackle down.

2) Explaining the term proxy war

Proxy

Proxy war is a type of shadow warfare, where the countries do not directly face

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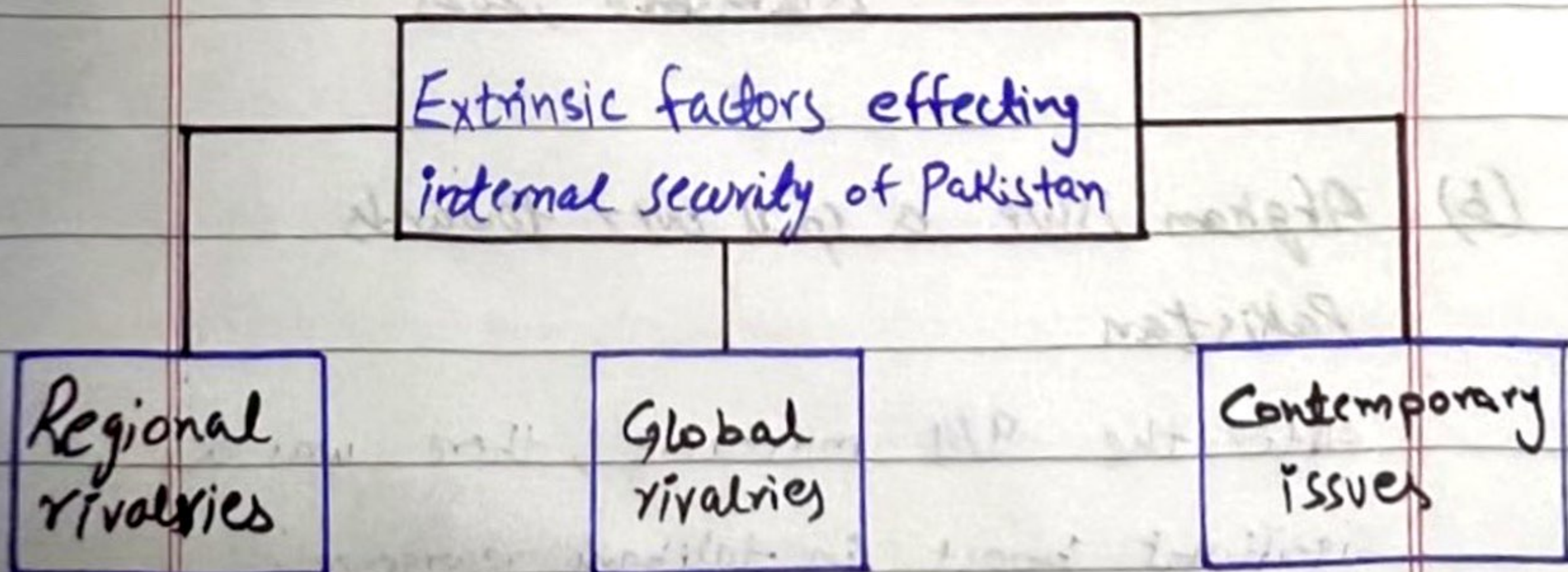
each other, rather use alternative means
to damage the other country

Proxy war is when nations support
opposing local groups ^{or} ~~of~~ government
of rivals to achieve strategic
goals

- Charles Tuff

Article: Proxies

3) Extrinsic factors at play in the internal security situation of Pakistan



Description:-

The following flow chart shows
factors that play a role in internal security
situation of Pakistan

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3.1) Regional rivalries

(a) India - Pakistan conflict : a never ending bone of contention

Since independence, Kashmir issue, has been a bone of contention, with both sides accusing each other of proxy involvement.

Pakistan's internal security is always on red alert, to tackle any mischief from India.

"Pakistan's internal security remains sensitive to regional faults, especially from India"

- Institute for Strategic Studies

Islamabad, 2023

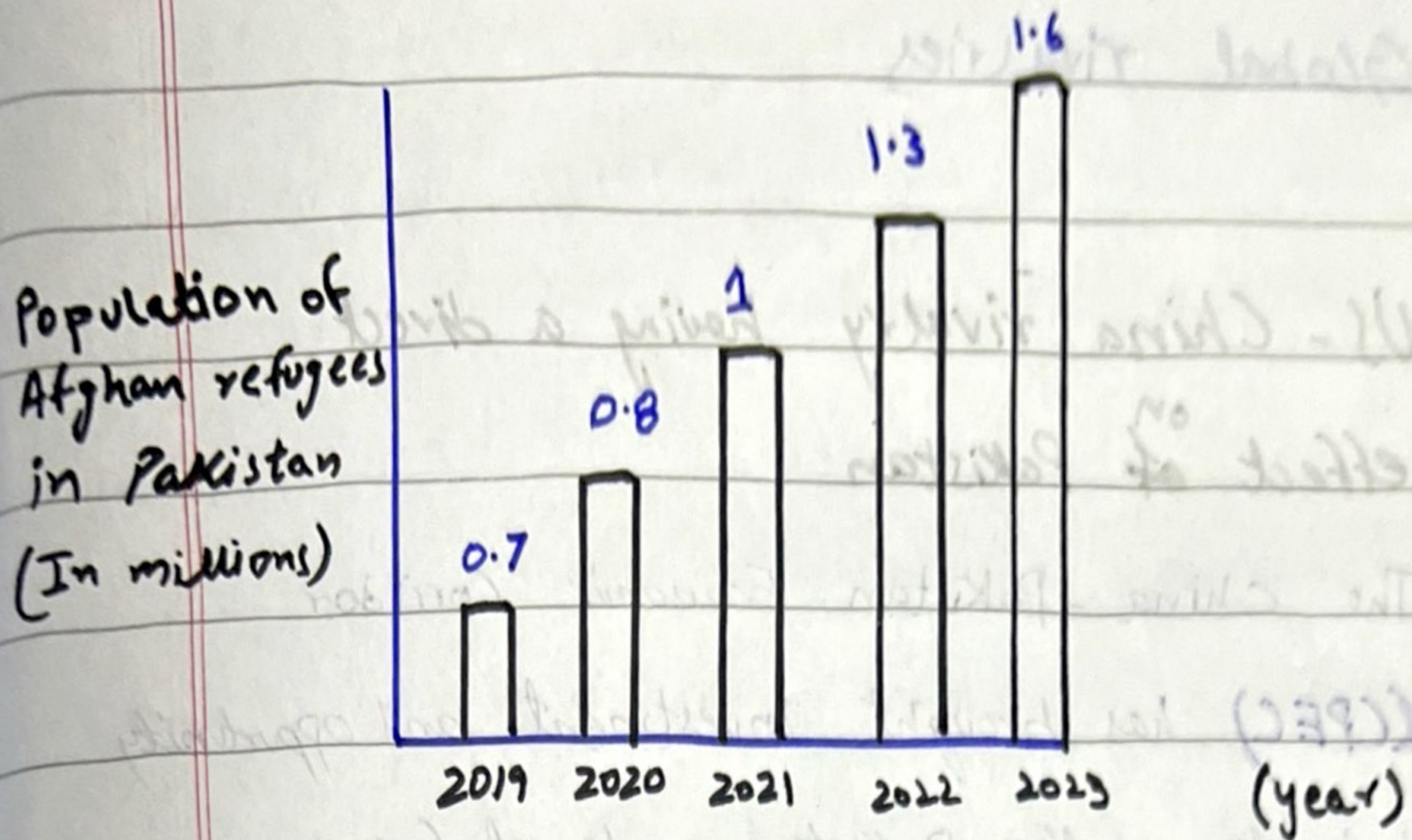
(b) Afghan issue a spill over towards Pakistan

After the 9/11 massacre, there was a significant boost in Taliban's resurgence.

This catalyzed cross border terrorism and refugee influx in Pakistan creating internal strain.

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Source: UNHCR, 2023

Description: The above drawn graph shows an influx of Afghan refugees in Pakistan over the years.

c) Iran - Saudi factor fueling sectarian violence causing division among peoples
To internally weaken a country, one has to disrupt unity among its people. Rival sectarian ideologies such as Iran and Saudi Arabia find common ground in Pakistan, contributing to sectarian tensions. This damages internal security.

“United we stand, divided we fall”

- Winston Churchill

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3.2) Global rivalries

~~to~~

(a) US - China rivalry having a direct effect ^{on} Pakistan

The China - Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) has brought investment and opportunity but also makes Pakistan a target for geo-

political pressure. Pakistan a third world country has to maintain friendly ties with both countries, making sure not to upset any side, for lasting internal peace.

"Pakistan cannot afford to choose between US and China."

It must maintain strong relations

with both for internal peace"

- Ahmad Ali

Article: Friend of an enemy,

a friend

war

b) Russia - Ukraine [↑] increasing inflation in Pakistan

The war disrupted global oil and gas supply, leading to price hike. This effect

developing countries like Pakistan the most

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were crime rates are increased, due to economic strain on people by inflation.

"Energy price shocks due to the Ukraine conflict worsened inflation in third world countries like Pakistan"

- WB, 2023

3.3) Contemporary issues

(a) Over reliance on Gulf countries

Pakistan is overly reliant of GCC countries, any kind of misfortune ^{economic} can bring $\uparrow$ chaos, which can develop internal threats

"Remittances from GCC countries

constitute 54% of total inflow, indicating economic reliance"

- State Bank Pakistan, 2023

(b) IMF's factor: Beggars can not be choosers

Pakistan is heavily dependent on IMF

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for loans. Due to which IMF has influence on Pakistan's policy making. This causes turbulence to national interest.

Implementation
of
IMF Guidelines
to acquire
loans

Ignorance of
People's interest

Increased strain
on people, causing
internal security
issues

(C) Drug trafficking a RDX for youth in Pakistan

Drug trafficking via Afghanistan not only feeds organized crime and arms trade in Pakistan, but also makes it easily available for Pakistani youth, damaging their future and causing internal security crises.

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"40% of Afghanistan's opium is smuggled through Pakistan making it easily available of its youth."

- UN Security Council, 2023

(d) Climate change the biggest threat to Pakistan's internal security

Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. As it kills thousands of people each year in Pakistan in the form of heat waves, floods, food shortage etc.

"Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change, causing internal issues"

- German watch, Global climate risk Index, 2023

4) Conclusion:-

To conclude, proxy war is a shadow warfare which is among the most brutal extrinsic factor, damaging a countries internal security

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Similarly, there are other extrinsic factors such as global rivalries of US-China, regional rivalries of India-Pakistan and contemporary issues like Climate change etc. These play a significant role in effecting security situation in Pakistan.

(b)