

Rise of extremism in Pakistan and its regional implications

Outline

I INTRODUCTION

Extremism is an existential threat to Pakistan's sovereignty. However, there are few contributors that fuel extremism in Pakistan, which includes political instability, economic deprivation and religious misinterpretations of Islamic injunctions.

II HOW EXTREMISM RISES IN PAKISTAN

a. Religious level of causes.

- (i) Misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions
- (ii) Increase in the strength of madrasas that divert the mindset of young generation
- (iii) Miscalculation of ideology that promotes jihadist culture
- (iv) Weak religious political system

b. Fragile political setup

- (i) Lack of visionary leadership that unable to eradicate the root causes of extremism
- (ii) Weak political institutions that unable to make robust policies to topple extremism

(iv) Disunity between religious and parties.

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C. Economic Level of Causes

- (i) Marginalization of rural areas that creates grievances among the people
- (ii) Unequal distribution of resource
- (iii) Mismanagement of resources that creates poverty and economic hurdles.

III REGIONAL LEVEL OF IMPLICATIONS

- (i) Effect the image of the country in global arena
- (ii) weak relationship with neighbouring countries
- (iii) Disturb the peace of the region
- (iv) Lack of foreign investment in the region
- (v) Topple the tourism sector in the region
- (vi) Creates rift in regional unity at the time of global emergency.

IV CONCLUSION

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In Present time, world economies compete each other in various domains in order to strengthen their foothold in global arena, which includes, economic competition, technological competition, political efficiency and among others. However, Pakistan has indulged in various threats that hinder its longterm stability and prosperity. Furthermore, religious extremism or terrorism is one of the existential threats to Pakistan's sovereignty. Moreover, extremism creates economic backwardness, political instability, technological underdevelopment and social disharmony. The religious and political factions used Islamic injections as tools to manoeuvre their self interest that further added fuel to the fire. Additionally, the lack of national integration further squeezed the fragile relationship between ethnic groups in the country. However, extremism is an existential threats to Pakistan's sovereignty. There are few reasons that have fueled extremism in Pakistan that includes political instability, economic deprivation, and

misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions in order to maintain their status quo.

To begin with, misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions. Pakistan has tested all the bitter circumstances since its very inception. The formation of Objective Resolution in Pakistan's Constitution making and the grievances of minorities on this matter plunged the country into unending religious extremism. However, misinterpretation of Islamic preaching in statecraft further added fuel to the fire. For example, the conflict between Sunni faction and Shia minority group during in 1989, is one of the solid evidence of extremism in the country. Furthermore, misinterpretation in Islamic injunctions in policy making sow down the seeds of extremism in the country. Hence, Islamic injunctions are used to manipulate political interest both religious parties and secular ones.

Moreover, Madrassa culture. It is one of the solid evidence of religious extremism in the country. During Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, the western countries particularly United States of America provides innumerable amounts of aid to Pakistan in order to

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to prevent Communism in South Asia. The ruling government of Pakistan and the strong partnership with religious parties utilized this focus in religious seminaries.

More than 90,000 thousands external forces came into Pakistan to defeat Afghanistan from Soviet occupation. Furthermore, five thousand madrassas were built only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region in this era. And religious parties and military dictatorship were used these innocent people for political interest. Therefore, the madrassas are used to divert the mindset of people towards jihadist culture rather than Islamic education.

Furthermore, Miscalculation of Ideology in statecraft. Ideology is one of the important instrument in statecraft. Each civilian and military leadership have been used ideology as a tool to strengthen their foothold in politics. The Islamization by Zia-ul-Haq sown down the seed of religious superiority in the country. In order to maintain his military regime Zia used ideology. For example, he banned on music, cultural activity

DATE: _/_/

beard shaving and promotes jihad in the region. Furthermore, ideology is one of the important factor in the disintegration of Pakistan into two domains. Bangladesh has been a homogeneous state where both majority and minority live together with peace and tranquility, however, the power hungry leadership used ideology to maintain their dominance. However, ideology has been used to manipulate self-interest rather than national interest.

Additionally, weak religious leadership is one of the important power element in Muslim world. Like, Saudi Arabi and United Arab Emirate. However, in Pakistan religious parties have been used for power making by both civilian government and military dictatorship. Furthermore, disunity between religious factions creates extremism in the country. For example, Jamaati Islami and Jamaat ulam Islam were actively involved in extremist religious groups, that paved the way for extremism in the country. So, weak religious leadership creates power vacuum that is filled by external powers.

Furthermore, lack of civilian visionary leadership. Strong civilian leadership is responsible for peace and justice in the country, however, lack of visionary leadership paved way for extremist ideologies. It unable to make policies that dismentle the menace of extremism from the soil of the country. power competition inbetween political parties aggravate the whole system and provide open transit point to external forces. Hence, lack of efficient leadership further dismentle the fragile political system.

Additionally, weak political institutions. Efficient and effective institutions are the testament of stability in the country. strong institutions make policies and implement these policies with utmost honesty and truthfulness. However, the weak political institutions of Pakistan have been used for power manipulation by the ruling elites. For example, The powerful court of Pakistan unable to punish the perpetrators of state. Furthermore, the national and provincial assemblies of the country unable

reform in religious matters, so the extremist mindset further spoiled the situation. However, culture of impunity in the justice system of the country paved the way for religious extremism and terrorism across the country.

Last, but not the least, weak relationship between religious parties. The power competition between religious parties in politics further aggravate the situation. Each military dictatorship regime has used religious parties to maintain status quo. For example, the strong relationship between Zia's military regime and Jamaat ulama Islam promoted religious antagonism. Furthermore, religious parties unable to introduce a transparent mechanism that brings Islamic justice system in the country that eliminate the false reputation of Islamic injection.

Apart from this economic deprivation and marginalization are also important factors in extremist ideologies in the country.

First, Marginalization of rural areas. Economic marginalization or political deprivation create grievances among the people of the country. Particularly rural areas of

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of the country completely absent from political decision making and other statecraft. This marginalization added fuel to the fire, the people felt self-efficacy and promote toward anti-state rhetoric. For example, The people of Balochistan and the peripheral areas of Sindh and Punjab have severe assumption on the state. In a nutshell, rural heterogeneity creates anti state rhetoric among the rural population.

Furthermore, Unequal distribution of resources. Since, the inception of the country, resource allocation between Central and units have been a bone of contention between different political groups. However, unequal distribution of resources creates instability, poverty and economic backwardness. Furthermore, it persuades people toward extremism and terrorism. For example, Sui gas was discovered in Balochistan in 1988, it supplied to Punjab in 1956 and Balochistan 65, moreover, 50% share assigned to Chinese companies. 48% to state and remaining 2% to local people, despite the constitution of the country ensured 50% royalty given to the local people. This type of

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distribution creates extreme ideologies toward the state.

Additionally, Mismanagement of resources creates poverty and economic hurdles. Effective and efficient use of state resources bring prosperity and economic development. However, mismanagement of state resources because of economic underdevelopment, political instability, and technological backwardness.

According to World Bank report 40% of Pakistan's population living under severe poverty line. This creates self-efficacy and persuade toward illegal activity that is harmful to the state.

However, these crises affect the country not only domestic level but also have regional implications, that further dismantle the image of the country and peace of the region.

First, effect the image of the country in global arena. Extremism and terrorism not only affect the country in domestic sphere but also global sphere. Sovereignty of the country in global affairs is very important for its survival, however, Pakistan is a country

which indulged in extremism and terrorism. This outlook of Pakistan in global affairs have showed little activeness of the country. Furthermore, most of the country will see the country with antagonistic mindset. Therefore, extremism has jeopardised the image of the country in global arena.

Second, Weak relationship with neighbouring countries. Strong relationship with neighbouring countries promotes trade, tourism and technological development. However, Pakistan has hoisted relationship with neighbouring countries due to terrorism and extremism. For example, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan never comes to an stability. Both of the country adopt harsh policy rather than cordial relationship. However, this antagonistic relationship between the neighbouring countries plunges both of the countries into economic turmoil.

Third, Disturbance peace of the region. Regional stability is one of the important prerequisites of economic development and growth. However, the growing

terrorism and extremism dismantle the peace of the region. For example, the strong partnership of religion or secular extremist group across the region posed serious threat to regional stability. For example, 9/11 attack in America shocked the whole world. So, extremism spoils the regional stability and tranquility.

Fourth, lack of foreign investment in region. The inflow of dollar from developed world is instrumental to bring peace and development in the region. Furthermore, foreign investment creates an avenue for the local people. For example, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is one of the biggest project in the world. Its development has multidimensional benefits to the region. However, lack of foreign investment further aggravate regional stability because of extremism.

Fifth, It topple down the tourism sector in the region. Tourism sector is one of the important sector in global arena. It earns more than \$5 trillion annually. However, the volatile circumstance in the region eradicate tourism

sector in the region. Two
Caror tourists come to India annually
across the continent. However, extremism
creates hurdles in the way
cultural exchange and diversity.

Hence, extremism creates difficulties
in the way of tourism and dismember
the potential of the sector.

Last but not the least
creates rift in regional unity at
the time of global emergency. Global
emergency like, Climate Change and
pandemic needs regional consensus to
offset their severeness. However, terrorism
and extremism create rift in
global unity. For example, climate
change needs global or regional
cooperation to limit the temperature
1.5°C. Furthermore, terrorism creates
disunity or lack of cooperation among
regional economies in trade or technology
exchange. For example, Pakistan
and India have antagonistic rela-
tionship since partition of the
subcontinent, but have great potential
in various domains that fulfill their
basic domestic demands. Hence
the tense relationship between regional
countries further waste the opportunity
of trade and global consensus.

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In a nutshell, extremism have multidimensional affects on the state. It creates hurdles in the way of economic development and prosperity. Furthermore, there are few contributors that lead to extremism in the country. It includes, misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions, economic marginalization and political instability. Moreover, ineffective political leadership and miscalculation of ideology further aggravate the situation. However, these domestic vulnerabilities paved the way for regional instability. Hence, extremism creates multidimensional implication that diminish regional stability.