

TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN: DOMESTIC FAILURES & FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Pakistan, has been, since the opening of eyes, lurching from crisis to crisis. Terrorism in the state had sweeping and devastating consequences, and has ebbed and flowed from a state of relative peace to carnage loose. Pakistan has once again found itself in the clutches of extreme terrorism, especially in Balochistan—where Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)—and Ichyber Pakhtunkhwa KPK—where Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP)—are mainly operating. According to Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report of 2025, Pakistan has been ranked as second most ^{terrorism} hit country in world after Burkina Faso, being at first. The Cooperation of Research and Strategic Studies (CRESS) has reported 2041 casualties and more than 561 attacks in the country as a whole. The domestic or governance failures and international interventions, both have contributed equally to the predicament therefore no-one factor can be blamed solely for the adverse repercussions the country has been facing. A myriad faultlines are responsible and are demanding commensurate responses to beat back and dislodge this cancer once and for all unlike the previous historical suppressions.

Troubled present in the light of troubled past:

~~Historical~~ A historical light needs to be shed to analyze the tem contemporary uprising in Pakistan. After comparatively moderate first three decades, a wave of religion fused with politics was

observed under Gen Zia-ul-Haq's military regime. The Afghan-War engagements against Soviet Union's defeat and expulsion in 1979-1989 era. Further, the US-led alliance in 2001 in the aftermath of 9/11, and support of Pakistan was to bring deleterious effects with downward trajectory in multiple areas thereby affecting the peace and stability of the country. The tribal borders being converted to sanctuaries of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) came back to haunt Pakistan with its detrimental effects between 2007 to 2009. The instrumental use of religion and seminaries established to support the Afghan in Soviet Union war, and the ideological fissures labelled Pakistan with double-face, and demand to do more by America further compounded the plight of the country. Ideological fissures and alliance of TTP with other militant groups morphed into threat for the stability of tribal regions. An extreme rise in sectarian persecution and schism further divided and contested the fabric of society. To enforce the writ of state, resort to military operations took place, further leading to a dialogue famously known as 'Malakand Accord' for a prospect of peace and stability in region.

Indian Intervention in State Affairs:

India and Pakistan has longstanding history of conflicts — where the bone of contention has mainly been the 'Kashmir Issue'. India has hegemonic policy, always in efforts to developing its influence and power over the neighbouring and regional

countries. 'Arthashastra', a book written by Kautilya in the 'Chandragupta Maurya's' reign depicts India's policy as "suppression of the immediate neighbour - Pakistan - and fostering cordial relations with the distinct neighbours - Afghanistan - to impose its hegemony and influence."

Pakistan, has time and again, submitted dossiers of Indian patronage to militant groups operating in Balochistan and confessional statements of Indian state leaders in the United Nations to impose sanctions and reinforce the 'UN charter of 'No Interference' in the state's internal and external ^{affairs} reasons, whatsoever, is the reason. In ~~2015~~ In 2015, Indian PM Modi visited Bangladesh; in an address to students he confessed Indian support to Mukti-Bahini Movement that lead to the disintegration of Pakistan in 1971. In an other event, Indian national security advisor, ~~Ajit~~ Ajit Deol, also confessed, "If Pakistan can support terrorism in Kashmir, we can do the same in Kashmir, and we have done that many times." He falsely blamed Pakistan, but in an emotional speech, confessed their state's intervention. Another Indian state leader, director of Indian Institute of Defense Studies (IDS), Subramanyam, supported the Indian intervention in 1971's Mukti-Bahini Movement and stated, "India must realize that breaking of Pakistan is in its favour and it should act accordingly." Last, but the most important, Kulbushan Jha, an Indian spy of Research and Analysis Wing - the Indian intelligence Agency - who was captured from Balochistan region in 2016 during

an intelligence based operation. Thakur gave a statement that his role was to 'arrange meeting between militant groups and baloch leaders, and carry out terrorist operations with their collaboration'.

Anti-china geo-politics smell: A threat to CPEC:

Another aspect immensely contributing to the deteriorating situation is US-India alliance focused mainly to constrain china's expanding trade routes. United States is actively involved to economically corner china by means of anti-china policies, covert operations, and very recently the 'stariffs'. While India on the other hand is intimidated by Beijing's expansion and control of Indian ocean challenging Indian hegemony in the region. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s slow progress in the second phase is an adverse consequence of such initiatives and policies against Pakistan and China. Furthermore, US-Indian patronage to militant and separatist groups operating mainly in Balochistan region is evident by the incessant criticism ^{and attacks} on Chinese companies and their projects. For instance, the **Sindak copper-gold project** with China Metallurgical Group of Cooperation (MCC) is ~~be~~ bitterly condemned and criticised by the militant groups operating under 'Anti-Pakistan and China' mission. On the flip side, the **Reko Dik Project** of copper mining and Gold extraction with Barrick Gold of Canada goes untapped. Although both projects are in favour of Pakistan's economic development and Pakistan must safeguard both. However, Anti-china geopolitical air can be smelled.

Instrumental use of religion:

Since the inception of Pakistan, the country has greatly struggled with conducting a comprehensive debate over constructing the 'national identity'. Due to which the gain-based use of religion was unavoidable. As evident by shaping ^{the} national narrative and proactively engaging ⁱⁿ Soviet-Afghan conflict. Not been recovered from the repercussions of the conflict, Pakistan dove into another historical 'War on terror' led by US in the aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks on America. Besides, the political use of religion prioritizing personal interests over public and national benefits have accelerated the economic and development crisis of the country — mainly in education, health, agriculture which is backbone of economy of Pakistan, power and management etc. In conclusion, be it proactive and protracted external engagement or the mishandling of religious role internally, both has aggravated the predicament with its effects to this day in the form of extreme and escalating terrorism waves in the country.

Provincial resource distribution:

One of the most critical debates over factors worsening the plight of state is 'inefficient provincial resource distribution.' Currently, the resource distribution is managed under National Finance Commission (NFC). The factors considered by NFC are population, revenue contribution or collection, poverty and

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inverse density. population at 82%, 5%, 19.3% and 2.7% respectively. Two school of thoughts argue over the plight of Balochistan — regarded as the most deprived region of the state. First, **Centralist school of thought**, they argue that presence of Sardar is a major responsible factor for terrorism and ^{socio-economic} ~~socio~~ deprivation of the region. Capital has been allocated due share of resources to Balochistan, but Sardars pocketed them and deprived the populace. The motivation behind the move was to keep the populace economically dependent and scarce the opportunities of education ~~the~~ because Sardars were ^{intimidated} ~~intimidated~~ by the era of question, sober analysis and informed voices. Fear of losing influence and power was the driving force behind intentional alienation of people of Balochistan which cultivated dissent leading to armed violence. On the other hand, ~~another school of thought~~ **Federalist school of thought** though accepts some of the claims of Centralist's like the Sardars arming the region, but argues how Sardars have been held responsible where there are regions like Khاران, Makran and Libbela with minimal presence of Sardars. Further criticising the Centralist's ~~about~~ on their oversight of deteriorating political stability of the region, lack of local governance is emphasized. In conclusion, the resource distribution mechanism needs redefinition based on addressing the severe poverty and overall uplift of the region. The reconciliation process needs to expedition along with reforms in NFC