

# 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

#### 9. Religious level of causes.

- (i) Misinterpretation of Islamic injunctions
- (ii) Increase in the strength of Madrasas that divert the mindset of young generation
- (iii) Misappropriation of ideology that promotes jihadi 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 tackle 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 resources
- (iii) Mismangement 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) ~~Harm the~~ plz write in formal expression tourism sector in the region
- (vi) Creates rift in regional unity at the time of global emergency.

### IV CONCLUSION

In present time, our ~~various~~ economies compete ~~each other~~ in various domains border to strengthen their foothold in global arena. Which includes, economic competition, technological competition, political efficiency only among others. However, Pakistan has included in various threats that hinder its long-term 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 Injunctions as tools to manoeuvre their self interest, therefore added fuel to the fire. Additionally, the lack of majority integration further squeezed the fragile relationship between ethnic groups in the country. However, extremism is an existential threat to Pakistan's sovereignty. There are few reasons that fuel of 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 faced all the bitter circumstances since its very inception. The formation of Objective Resolution in Pakistan's Constitution malice 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 Shi'a minority group during in 1989, is one of the social 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, Mafrasas culture. It is one of the social evidence of religious extremism in the country. During Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan, the Western countries particularly United States of America provided 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 power in religious seminaries.

More than 90,000 thousands external forces came into Pakistan to defend Afghanistan from Soviet occupation. Furthermore, five thousand madrasas 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, these madrasas are used to divert the mindset of people toward jihadi culture rather than Islamic education.

Furthermore, Misapplication of ideology in statecraft. Ideology is one of the important instruments in statecraft. Each written and military leadership have been used ideology as a tool to strengthen their foothold in politics. The Islamization of Zia ul Haq bow 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 dancing

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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 homogenous state where both majority and minority live together with peace and tranquility, however, the power hungry leadership seek ideology to maintain their dominance. However, ideology has used to manipulate self-interest rather than national interest.

Additionally, weak religious leadership. Religious leadership is one of the important element in Muslim world. Like, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. 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, Jamaat Islami and Jamaat Uloom 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.

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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 enables to make policies that dismantle the menace of extremism from the soil of the country. Power competition between political parties aggravate the whole system and provide open transit point to external forces. Hence, lack of efficient leadership further dismantle the fragile political system.

Additionally, weak political institutions. Efficient and effective institutions are the testament of stability in the country. Strong institutions make policy 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, we see relationship between religious parties. The bitter competition between religious parties in politics further aggravated the situation. Each military dictatorship regime had used religious parties to maintain stability. For example, the strong relationship between Zia's military regime and Jamaat ul Islam promoted religious antagonism. Furthermore, religious parties failed to introduce a transparent mechanism that brings Islamic justice system in the country that eliminate the false reputation of Islamic nation.

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 of the state itself. This marginalization added fuel to the fire, the people felt self-efficacy and promote towards 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 state 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 towards extremism and tourism. For example, Srigang was discovered in Balochistan in 1992, it supplied to Punjab in 1956 and Balochistan. 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 ideological bias in 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-entitled and perverse towards illegal activity that is harmful to the state.~~

~~However, these causes 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 shown little assertiveness of the country. Furthermore, most of the country will see the country with antagonistic minds. 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 harshed 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 cardinal relationship. However, this antagonistic relationship between the neighbouring countries plunged both of the countries into economic forums.

Third, Disturbance peace of the region. Regional stability is one of the ~~important~~ pre-requisites of economic development of a country. However, the growing

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

Fourth, lack of foreign investment in region. The inflow of dollar from developed world is instruments to bring peace and development in the region. Furthermore, foreign investment creates an avenue to 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 85 billion annually. However, the volatile circumstances in the region eradicate tourism.

sector in the region. Two major tourist come to India annually across the continent. However, extremism creates hurdles in the way of cultural exchange and diversity. Hence, extremism creates difficulties in the way of tourism and diminishes 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  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Furthermore, terrorism creates disunity or lack of cooperation among regional economies in trade or technology exchange. For example, Pakistan and India have antagonistic relationship 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 note shell, extremism have ~~has~~ 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 misapplication of ideology further aggravate the situation. However, these domestic vulnerabilities paved the way for regional instability. Hence, extremism creates multidimensional implications that ferment the regional stability.