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# From Protest to Insurgency: Understanding the Shift from Dissent to Armed Rebellion.

## Outline:

### A. Introduction

- a) Definition of Protest, Dissent and Rebellion
- b) Shift from peaceful protests to armed Rebellion
- c) Thesis Statement

### B. Causes of Shift from Protest to Rebellion

#### 1. Political Factors

- a) less representation of Balochistan in lower house
- b) Balochistan's share in NFC award
- c) Royalty issue
- d) Exploitation of Resources
- e) Corruption in Provincial Funds
- f) 18th Amendment and

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excessive Provincial autonomy

## 2. Social issues

- a) Terrorism
- b) Religious extremism
- c) Poverty
- d) Missing Persons

## 3. Psychological Factors

a) Frustration-aggression hypothesis

a) India use Balochistanis<sup>\*</sup> as proxy

b) Afghan boarder Tension

c) India's apprehension towards CPEC

## C. Consequences of Insurgency

- a) National Disintegration
- b) Humanitarian crises

## D. Strategies to Prevent Insurgency

- a) Promoting inclusive governance
- b) Addressing Socio-Economic grievances
- c) Strengthening conflict-Resolution mechanisms



E.

## Conclusion

### Essay

Throughout history, societies have witnessed that movements which began as peaceful protests or dissents often transformed to violent armed rebellions that claimed many lives. In democratic societies, people have the fundamental right to protest against unjust policies of the government, however, the descent into armed rebellion is a signal of breakdown in political negotiation and justice. The shift from peaceful protest to armed rebellion does not happen overnight, it follows a trajectory influenced by political repression, socio-economic inequalities and marginalization. The failure of institutions to respond constructively to dissent, along with prolonged



injustice and the absence of peaceful channels for change, can push people toward violent rebellion.

Understanding the progression from protests to insurgency is not only vital for scholars and policy makers but also essential for governments aiming to maintain social cohesion and national security. Understanding the shift, causes and consequences of protest to insurgency is essential for future prevention and resolution.

The rise of political instability and exploitation often leads to insurgency. When people witness that they are deprived of basic political rights and their rage and aggression pave the path for armed rebellion. A similar case is



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witnessed in Baloch Insurgency. The people of Balochistan have less representation in the lower house of Parliament. Balochistan has 16 general seats while Lahore has 14 and Karachi has 22 seats in National Assembly. Every political party tries to win maximum number of seats in general election, that is why their main focus is toward more important provinces like Punjab or Sindh. As a result, Balochistan is deprived of good political leaders which can represent the people of Balochistan in Lower House.

NFC Award, as per Article 160 of constitution of Pakistan, is a mechanism to distribute finances between the center and its four Provinces. Initially, it was based merely on population, as a result of which Punjab



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got maximum share while Balochistan's share was very low. But in 7th NFC award poverty and development was also made basic criteria and now Balochistan has 9.09% share of divisible pool. Initial injustice and disbalance of finances contributed a lot in National disintegration and led to armed rebellion.

The royalty issue in Balochistan is a complex and long-standing matter. It is a significant aspect of the ongoing grievances and demands for greater provincial autonomy in the region. The people of Balochistan often demand their right and royalty of minerals extracted from their land. The Province is rich in all sorts of minerals including natural gas, Copper, Gold, Coal, Gypsum, Rock Salt and Gemstones. The general royalty rate for



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natural gas in Pakistan has historically been **12.5%** of the wellhead price.

The exploitation done in the past act as a seed for rebellion.

Even though, Balochistan gets approximately **9.09%** of the divisible pool of federal taxes. In Fiscal year (2023-2024), Balochistan was allocated over **Rs 493.70 billions**.

However, this money was not spent on people of Balochistan. A large portion of this share was used

by corrupt politicians. The province has no proper healthcare, the

education institutions are in miserable conditions, poor infrastructure and

lack of teaching staff. The education sector is also highly

corrupted. The people are unaware of their basic rights and political leaders use them as a tool for their

rule. This leads to anger against other provinces that are developed and prosperous like Punjab.



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18th Amendment has given excessive provincial autonomy and many provinces were not ready for it especially Balochistan. The education, healthcare and infrastructure of Balochistan was far behind other provinces like Punjab, Sindh and KPK. At that time giving provincial autonomy was not a suitable and wise decision.

The rise of terrorist organizations like BLA, BLF etc have led to instability in the Province.