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Pak - Affairs

Test - 5

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Q No 7

1. Introduction

Pakistan's national security has historically focused on military strength and deterrence, shaped by wars with India, the Kashmir dispute, and internal insurgencies. While this security-centric paradigm ensured survival, growing economic vulnerabilities and regional opportunities indicate the need to prioritize geo-economics, making economic strength a core pillar of national security.

2. Security-Centric Paradigm

Focused on military deterrence and strategic depth, driven by India-Centric threats, shaped by Partition (1947), wars with India, Kashmir tensions.

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2.1. Outcome of Security-Centric Paradigm

Defence spending dominates budgets, limiting economic and social development. Defence consistently exceeds 3-4% of GDP, while health and education remain underfunded.

2.2. Limitations for Security-Centric Model

(i) Diverts resources from infrastructure, education and health.

(ii) Terrorism and insurgency remain unresolved.

(iii) Heavy reliance on military reduces diplomatic flexibility.

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3. Pakistan Should Shift From a Security-centric to a Geo-Economic Model

3.1. Geo-Economic Model

It treats economic strength as central to national security — trade, investment, connectivity. Also, economic resilience enhances internal stability, regional influence, and strategic autonomy. For example, CPEC improves infrastructure, energy supply, industrial growth and creates jobs.

3.2. Shift to Geo-Economic Model

3.2.1. Addressing Economic Vulnerabilities By Shifting Towards GeoEconomic Model

It can reduce debt

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pressure, improve exports,
and strengthens fiscal position.

3.2.2. Leveraging Geographic Potential

Pakistan can act
as a regional trade and
energy corridor linking
China, Central Asia, and
the Arabian Sea.

3.2.3. Promoting Political and Social Stability By Geo-Economic Shift

Economic growth
lowers poverty, unemployment
and social unrest.

3.2.4. Enhancing Regional and Global Influence By Geo-economic Model

Geo-economic engagement
increases Pakistan's bargaining
power in trade, energy and

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Diplomacy.

Example: Gwadar Port, KKH expansion (Korakoram Highway), and industrial zones under CPEC enhance trade and jobs.

4. Critical Analysis

A geo-economic shift strengthens Pakistan's long-term stability, prosperity and influence. Security threats persist, so credible deterrence must be maintained, but prioritizing economic development ensures sustainable national security.

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5. Conclusion

Pakistan should shift towards a geo-economic model, making economic strength a central pillar of national security while retaining defence capability. This approach enhances resilience, reduces internal instability and strengthens Pakistan's role in regional and global affairs.

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1. Introduction

Religious extremism in Pakistan poses a serious threat to national security, social cohesion, and political stability. Its growth has been influenced by a mix of historical state policies, socio-economic factors, and regional geopolitical developments, making it a complex challenge requiring both domestic and foreign policy attention.

2. Rise of Religious Extremism in Pakistan

Religious extremism has grown due to state support of certain madrasas, weak governance, and socio-economic deprivation. Poverty and lack of education made youth

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Vulnerable to radical ideologies, while sectarian politics intensified divisions and strengthened extremist networks.

3. Rise of Religious Extremism in Pakistan: Internal Factors

3.1. State Patronage of Religious Groups

Support to certain religious schools and sectarian groups fostered radical ideologies for political or strategic purposes. For example, Zia-ul-Haq's Islamization policies in the 1980s

3.2. Weak Governance and Rule of Law: Internal Factor

Poor oversight of madrassas and unregulated institutions allowed extremist networks to grow. like unmonitored

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Seminars in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

3.3. Socio-Economic Deprivation - an Internal Factor

Poverty and unemployment pushed youth towards extremist groups seeking identity and support. For example, recruitment from under developed tribal areas.

3.3. Sectarian Politics - an Internal Factor in Religious Extremism

Political mobilization along sectarian lines intensified religious divisions. For example, Shia-Sunni Clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab in the 1980s-2000s.

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4. External Geopolitical Pressures of Religious Extremism in Pakistan

4.1. Afghan War and Regional Militancy

The 1980s Afghan jihad exported militant networks and ideology into Pakistan. For example, training camps and weapons flow in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan.

4.2. Global Jihadist Influence

International extremist networks and ideology into Pakistan. For example, Al-Qaeda presence in Pakistan post-2001.

4.3. Proxy Conflicts - An External Factor

Rivalries with India

and regional conflict among
support for militant groups
and groups, support to
groups in Kashmir in the 1930s.

4.4. Cross Border Arms and Ideology flow

Regional instability
facilitated weapons and extremist
ideas, strengthening networks.
For example, weapons from
Afghan and Central Asian
conflicts reaching tribal
areas.

5. Critical Analysis

Religious extremism is a
product of both internal and
external factors. While external
pressures accelerated radicalization,
State policies, weak governance
and socio-economic neglect
created the domestic base.

5 Conclusion

The rise of religious extremism in Pakistan can not be attributed solely to internal or external causes. Internal policy choices laid the foundation, while external pressures amplified the threat.