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Q No-3

The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse of Pakistan. Critically evaluate the hurdles and give recommendations.

Solution: Introduction

The question of creating new provinces in Pakistan has returned to the national interest. Over the years several political parties and social groups have raised demands for the reorganization of federal structure. Punjab into multiple provinces to creating administrative units in Hazara, South Punjab and Urban Sindh. Recent voices calling for 12 provinces. At stake is

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not only the administrative efficiency but its political stability and national unity. Some persons argue that "smaller provinces will bring governance closer to the people. It will provide the improvement of service delivery."

Scenario Analysis

Historically, movements for new provinces arose out of long-standing grievances. For example

- i- Seraiki belt in South Punjab
- ii - Hazara division in KPK
- iii - Urban Sindh especially in Karachi
dense population affecting the governance problems.

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Need for new provinces

Supporters of new provinces
cite several provinces

i- Governance Efficiency

Large province like Punjab and Balochistan cover vast areas. Citizens in far-flung areas have to travel several kilometers to reach at provincial capitals for basic needs. Small provinces can be better for their responsiveness and service delivery.

ii- Equitable political representation.

Almost 56% population in National Assembly for federal decision makers belong to Punjab which is

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considered an imbalance
of power sharing

iii - Regional and Ethnic understanding

Sindh and Punjab is considered as the champion of politics to counter its multiple movements for creating provinces are active. Ethnicity is also another challenge. Pakistan is multi lingual country internal collaboration will be decreased by separating its parts.

Hurdles in formation of provinces

i - Economic Hurdle

Pakistan is developing country, recent

of 2025 is the main influence of crops, dairy, and lives. Under these circumstances establishment of new assemblies, high courts and ministries require billion of rupees in annual expenditure. our country is already struggling with fiscal deficit.

ii. Political Hurdle

Constitutionally, creation of provinces require $2/3$ rd or two third majority of the concerned province and both houses of parliament. Consensus is difficult under these circumstances.

iii - Administrative Disruptions

Division of assets, allocation of civil servants, delimitation of constituencies and legal

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and legal disputes could
paralyse the governance for
years.

iv- Ethnic Hurdle

Driving new
boundaries is very sensitive
issue in diverse society.
protest could start on
the basis of ethnicity.

v- Business and tax Hurdle

Companies operating nationwide
would face different problems
under multiple provincial
jurisprudence.

vi- intra Regional inequalities

New provinces may empower
the dominant groups within
each region. For example
in South Punjab.

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Province may empower the
Saraiki speakers but not
the minorities.

In Sam, while the creation
of new provinces promises
decentralisation, the risks
of ethnicity and politics.

Recomendations

i. Empower local government

Article 140-A to
give the local government
fiscal and administrative
autonomy could achieve the
same goals at low level.

ii. Adopting metropolitan models

major cities like Karachi,
Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta,
could be granted metropolitan powers.

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iii - Administrative Reforms

Streamlining Bureaucracy, digitising services and introduce performance based service structure.

iv - Fiscal Decentralization

Provincial finance commissions have to allocate 30-40% of provincial revenue is allocated to backward regions for their improvement.

v - Stakeholder Dialogue

Initiate inclusive debate involving parliaments, civil society, academia and local community to ensure legitimacy.

vi - Avoid Hasty Reforms

Priority economic recovery and stability first; pursue structural reforms.

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Conclusion

The creation of new provinces in Pakistan has genuine concern over governance, equity and representation. International experiences show that success requires careful planning, consensus building, and strong institutions. For Pakistan more practical and effective model is Empowering local government, ensuring fiscal decentralisation, and experimenting with metropolitan governance. New provinces should be a long term possibility but not an immediate priority.

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Q No-4

There is dangerous revival of militancy in KP and Balochistan. Critically evaluate the reasons and give recommendations.

Solution

Introduction

militancy could be broadly divided into three dimensions

i- **Sectarian Militancy**

There are a series of sectarian and militant groups in Pakistan. Lashkar-e-Janghvi, Sipah-e-Sahaba are the Sunni militant groups. While Sipah-e-Muhammed and **Fatimoon** are Shia militant groups. These are responsible for sectarian killings.

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ii. Terrorist or Religious Militancy

TTP is top of the list. It has 37 small groups. It is present in North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Awaran, Khyber, Momand Agency and Mardan Division. Similarly, ISKP (Islamic State of Khorasan Province) Afghanistan and TTP are responsible of cross border killings.

iii. Separatist Militancy

The most important one in this case is BLA, Majed Brigade. They both are suicide bomber specialists. These terrorist organizations have adopted guerrilla war strategy against Pakistan.

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Reasons of Revival of Militancy in KPK.

The terrorists in KPK are using the guerilla fighting techniques i.e. hide, hit and run. They have IED (Improvised Explosive Devices), and suicide bombers. These militants are equipped with latest weapons.

SIGAR - Report

After US- withdrawal 72 \$ billion worth equipments left behind in Afghanistan and now it is being used by terrorists in KPK and Afghanistan. They also use Russian weapons which are provided them by anti state elements.

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DG-ISPR gave briefing
on 10-october 2025 and
told there are **3984**
terrorist attacks by
the militant groups and
70% of them are take
place in KPK.

Militant Targets

Most attacks
of TTP and other groups
are against military,
paramilitary forces, FC, police
especially CCD, Religious
places, Imam Bazaar, Judiciary
and Shia Population.

Reasons of Targets

- 1- Afghanistan related factors
helped in the revival
of TTP.

ii- They realised that Taliban prisoners more than 5000 are belong to TTP and other Pakistan based militant may come back to Pakistan.

iii- TTA and TTP are ideological brothers. They both claimed that they fought Jihad against US and NATO. Therefore TTA cannot stop TTP (Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan) to attack on Pakistan.

iv- TTA (Tehreek-e Taliban Afghanistan) fears that TTP may make alliance with IS/K (Islamic State of Khorasan) which is the enemy of TTA.

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V- Borders : With Afghanistan in the merged districts still may not sealed completely therefore infiltration is common.

Vi- KPK's tribes do not believe in the FATA merge and consider 25th amendment should be bring back. It is claimed by them to abolish FATA reforms.

Vii. As it is claimed earlier that they considered ideological brotherhood they do not believe in borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan. They believe that KPK is part of Afghanistan. Pakistan has captured Afghanistan province.

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Reasons of Revival of Militancy in Balochistan

Balochistan has 43% area of Pakistan with 7.5% population. The population is scattered.

causes of Insurgency

i. Involvement of external elements

India is supporting Baloch separatist groups through funding, training and other forms of assistance. Indian intelligence agencies especially RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) is supporting separatist movement of Balochistan.

ii. Economic Disparity

Gas was invented in 1952, Karachi, Lahore and

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Rawalpindi in 1960, but
in Quetta in 1980. Similarly
share from mines like
SAINDEK Project by
Chinese company MCC, the
province just got 2%
share till 2012 and
5% share till date.

iii - Lack of political autonomy.

The lack of political
autonomy is the primary
driver in ongoing insurgency.

iv - Sardari System

Balochi claims that if
Sardars are problem then
why insurgency is in
Lasbelle. Tribal chiefs do not
allow any person to participate
in mainstream because they
win central power. This
produces problems for middle
class families in Baluchistan.

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Dismiss the country
development like CPEC

The main aim
of these militants to
fail the development projects
of the country. They attacked
on CPEC authorities for
destabilizing the infrastructure.

Policy Recommendations

To resolve the insurgency
and address the underlying
causes of discontent, Pakistan
must adopt a multi-faceted
approach that include political,
economic and societal
reforms.

1- Intelligence Based Military operations

There is no need to
have huge operations. IBO's are
preferred for minimum
killings of lives.

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ii. Educational and Social Reforms

Educational reforms are essential for peace in KPK. Most of the Madaris are not registered. Similarly literacy poverty of Pakistan is 77%. By investing more on education in Balochistan and KPK regions the could be brought in peace net.

iii - Political and Autonomy Reforms

Grant Balochistan more control over resources. Similarly people of KPK should be involved in politics and make sure the reforms could never be against the consent of public interest and autonomy.

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iv- Dialogue and peace process

Non state actors should be involved to convince TTP, BLA and other terrorist organizations to surrender in the favour of state.

v- Address External influence

The government should decrease the external influence by diplomatic ways. In Afghanistan and India both the countries have to control their involvement in cross border affairs of other countries.

Conclusion

The insurgencies in Balachistan and KPK are from the time of independence but

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The boost in these terrorist attacks since early 90's. To resolve this issue Pakistan needs a combination of political concessions, economic reforms, respect for human right violation and meaningful dialogue with TTA, TTP and Baloch separatist movements BLA etc. This will require a long-term commitment to addressing the deep rooted causes of these groups. By implementing these solutions, Pakistan can build a peaceful future.

Q No-6

How do you see the chances of the end of Ukrainian War when the demands of Russia and NATO are conflicting and poles apart? Elaborate.

Solution

Introduction: A War without End

Now entering its fourth year, the Russian and Ukrainian War remains one of the most volatile events of the history. Despite promises from the global leaders including Donald Trump, the war intensified. The battlefield is no longer confined to territorial skirmishes but

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has evolved into complex arena of drone war-fare, psychological operations, and failed diplomatic efforts particularly the recent Peace talks in Istanbul. Since returning to 2025, Donald Trump, the master of superlatives has repeatedly claimed to end of this war sometimes results in 24 hours. His administration approach has swung between talks to Russia, including pulling out Ukraine's NATO membership and diminishing U.S military aid.

The Summer Escalation

As in Summer fighting season 2025, Russia dramatically escalated its offensive. The

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Kremlin shifted its primary focus to stabilizing Ukraine through strikes on eastern front aiming to encircle Ukrainian forces and sever supply routes. Ukraine, in turn, held its ground more effectively than in previous years. Meanwhile, Russian air strikes which were based on missiles, drones across Ukraine, exposing the limitations of Kyiv's air defense system - particularly the shortage of US-made Patriot batteries.

operation Spiderweb! Ukraine's Tactical master-stroke

On June 1, 2025, Ukraine launched an operation Spiderweb which destroyed

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five Russian air-bases,
and some military equipments.
The operation using 117 FPV
drones, destroyed 41 high-
value air craft
and strategic bombers and
A-50 planes. This bold
maneuver is more than
a tactical victory, and
a strategic signal to
world.

Strategic Repercussions and Symbolism:

operation Spiderweb
shattered the assumptions of
Russia, not to focus on
troops near Russian territory
Kremian but on the
eastern border also. Ukraine
emphasized on its technological
and strategic independence.
Domestically, Russia faces
pressure over its vulnerability.

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NATO's Role

Now NATO allies stepped in. A new €20 billion military package has been announced by Germany sending long-range bombs. UK sent 100,000 drones. Norway 700 \$ in drone support. Drone Warfare has enabled it to mitigate the Russian superiority in the region.

Istanbul Peace Talks:

A Glimmer of Hope?

In May, 2025, delegations from Ukraine and Russia convened in Istanbul but Putin was absent. Zelensky was present in good faith. However 30-day unconditional ceasefire by Ukrainians led by

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US was not accepted by Russia. Instead Moscow demand a memorandum including Ukrainian withdrawal from annexed regions and ban on foreign military alliance.

Diplomacy's Fragile Foundations :

The peace talks revealed fundamental flaws in the diplomatic process. A durable peace require more than military de-escalation; it demands acknowledgment of suffering, commitment to transitional justice and broader conversation on accountability.

Geopolitical Shift in Europe

Europe has been deeply affected by the conflict.

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They collectively spend €326 billion i.e. (1.9% of GDP) on defence. Similarly **US** also has spend its **5%** of GDP on NATO to strengthen the defence. Europe has a threat from eastern borders.

Russian's Frozen Assets by Europe.

Europe currently holds two-thirds of Russian 300 \$ billion in frozen assets. Europe demands to negotiate with peace deal on Kremlin issue.

The Future of the War

Ukraine's strategic shift from defending territory to proactively targeting Russia's infrastructure may reshape the war. This ability

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may dates Russian strikes
on Ukrainian citizens and
energy grids. Military victories
alone will not end this
war, peace must begin
with recognition.

Conclusion

Operation Spiderweb
marks the turning point.
It encapsulate Ukraine
evolution from reactive actor
to strategic force. The
war has entered to
new phase. This war
stands at the global
litmus test for globe
for justice, resilience and
peace building for 21st
century.

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Q No-2

Pak-Afghan relations continue to remain tensed even after mediation by China. What do you think are major factors and how could it be improved.

Solution

Introduction

Pakistan and Afghanistan are two Muslim brother countries. Even the ideology of one country resembles the other. The peculiarities of the both countries are casually celebrated. Pakistan shares a long and layered history with Afghan Taliban, Islamabad secured its eastern border and counter the regional rivals.

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In 1990's Pakistan helped Afghanistan against Russian forces and also fought against War on terror. But, resultantly Pakistan was gifted leadership, terrorist organizations in the form of TTP and ZLP. Now the condition is so severe that Pakistan has used its weapons to target the militants in Afghan territory. The assumption that ideological affinity would ensure strategic alignment quickly gave way to a reality marked by unpredictability and mutual mistrust.

Mediation of China

China mediated the clashes of both the countries

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for the regional peace. China is trying to protect its own interest in South Asia. CPEC is the game changer. China wanted peace among the South Asian countries for the global trade. Indian ocean is the most favourable trade route for the whole world. Peace in South Asian countries reflects prosperity in the region. But, Afghanistan establishment recently visited **India**. India is also fatal enemy of Pakistan. India is trying its level best to destabilise Pakistan economy by destroying CPEC through TTP and TTA from Afghanistan and BLA from Balochistan. Under

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Under these circumstances
China wanted peace
in region.

Major Factors of tensed Relations.

i- TTP's Resurgence under Afghan Taliban Rule.

TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban
Pakistan) is militant group
which is acting multiple
reactions against Pakistan.
Afghan Taliban came in
power in August 2021.
By **SIGAR** report After
US. Withdrew 7.2 \$ billion
worth's equipments are
left behind in Afghanistan
and are being used
by terrorist. Almost **70%**
attacks of this year are
taken place in KPK
by TTP and TTA.

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ii- Border Fencing: The Dugand Dilemma-

Pakistan's efforts to fence 2611 km border, almost over 99% completed in 2023. Afghan government does not consider it an international border. In December 2021, multiple time fence was dismantled in Nangarhar province prompting sharp reaction. Pakistan's then Foreign Minister then said "The fence is meant to protect — not divide. However, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid responded, "The fencing had created problem and we do not want it. This problem is creating mistrust between the nations."

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iii - Fiction due to Refugee Issue

Pakistan hosted 3 million refugees for decades, including 1.6 million registered by UNHCR. In 2023, Islamabad launched a Participation Campaign targeted undocumented Afghans, citing rising security concerns. This move sharp criticism by Afghan govt and spokes-person Zabihullah Mujahid calling it inhumane and against Islamic and neighbourly values.

iv - Escalation of Border Skirmishes

Tensions along the Durand line started in late 2024 and early 2025, with Pakistan launching air strikes

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against TTP in Khost and Paktika provinces. In retaliation Afghan Taliban fired crossborder near Torkham crossing. The clashes resulted into troop injuries, civilian displacement, and a further breakdown in already strained bilateral relations.

V- India's opportunistic Diplomacy.

With Pakistan bogged down by border clashes and TTP attacks India used the moment by goodwill with Afghan Taliban. India is strengthening anti-Pakistan factions in Afghanistan political and tribal circles. Delhi tried to counterbalance regional strengths with the help of Afghan Taliban.

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How to improve Pak-Afghan Relations

i- china as a stabilizing Force

on May 21, 2025, China hosted trilateral talks between Pakistan, Afghanistan and China in Beijing.

Chinese foreign minister **Wang Yi** chaired these talks and **Asheer Dax**

represented Pakistan and **Amir Khan Muttaqi** led Afghanistan. Different MoUs

were signed among three countries including CPEC expansionism. These

talks may be fruitful for the peaceful future.

ii- Diplomacy Reset:

on 30 May, 2025, both the countries appointed ambassadors for foreign policy.

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To reshape the regional power and strategies should be adopted by Afghanistan for its survival.

iii - Implementing of Taliban Fatwa against cross-border terrorism

Taliban Commander Saeedullah Saeed delivered a printed fatwa declaring that fighting in any country, including Pakistan, without the command of Amir is against Shariah.

The Future of Pak-Afghan Relations in a changing Global order

The future of Pakistan Afghanistan relations hinges on how both nations adapt to a shifting

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global landscape shaped by geopolitical realignment, regional economic corridors, China is trying to succeed in South Asia to get fruit of Belt and Road initiatives. Similarly USA is also economically funding Pakistan in the form of IMF, in this global great game both the countries have to maximize their profit and minimize its conflicts for the regional peace and prosperity. Taliban should put sanctions on TTP for CPEC. Taliban led Afghanistan, have to improve ties with Pakistan which can ease economic isolation, enhance trade access and attract regional investment.

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Conclusion

Pakistan and Afghanistan
must shift from transactionalism
to long term strategic trust
or - risk remaining vulnerable
to external manipulation and
internal stability.