

The formation of new provinces is a persistent and recurring discourse in Pakistan; driven deep by deep-seated grievances of people related to resources, distribution, ethnic identity, and perceived centralization of power. The critical evaluation of significant hurdles facing this process and suggest various recommendations aimed at resolving the underlying structural issues given below

Critical Evaluation Of Hurdles To New Province Formation

The major challenges of creation of new provinces stem from historical experiences, internal political dynamics, and the risk of further national fragmentation.

1) Risk Of Exacerbating Ethnic Conflict:

The history of Pakistan demonstrates that failing to manage ethnic diversity and regional grievances can lead to severe consequences, notably the state's dismemberment in 1971, influenced by perceived ethnic discrimination against Bengalis.

(a) Creating New Provinces

Creating new provinces against linguistic lines is historically controversial. New divisions risk spurring new ethnic decisions even within the newly created boundaries, as many provinces (Sindh and Balochistan) are multi-ethnic.

For example, calls for partitioning of Balochistan along ethnic lines by Pakhtuns domiciled there have already led to small-scale violence.

Official nationalism historically attempted to suppress regional identities, viewing them as threats to state's integrity.

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2) Increased Competition for Scarce Resources:

The demand for new provinces often originates from issue of distributive justice and competition for scarce resources.

Adding more administrative units may supply or simply multiply the existing points of conflict and endless negotiation.

Disagreements between provinces can significantly contribute to sluggish pace of national development, often stymying crucial infrastructure projects, such as Kalabagh Dam or Thar coal development.

3) Entrenched Governance Dysfunction:

Introducing new provincial units risks embedding and exacerbating Pakistan's existing dysfunctional political structure.

Pakistan's political system is often characterized by patronage-dominated and clientelist politics, where parties function as loose confederation of kinship (biradari) groups competing for power and resources.

Creating new provinces could merely

provide new arenas for these entrenched dynamics, potentially without fundamentally altering the political culture or improving governance and accountability.

The core problem lies in the poor management of public finances and deep-seated, unresolved structural issues exacerbated by bad management and poor governance.

4) Legacy And Central Dominance And Structural Imbalance:

The demand for new units (such as separate province for Siraiki-speaking inhabitants in southern Punjab or the Hazara province demand in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) stems from the persistent issue of an "overbearing Centre supremacy".

Historically, this centralization, structural imbalances, and military authoritarianism have been at odds with regional politics, leading to chronic centre-province tensions. This magnitude of resentment, particularly among smaller provinces as ~~the~~ power is often perceived to be dominated by Punjab.

Recommendations To Resolve Provincial And Autonomy Demands

A) Strengthen Financial And Resource Federalism:

1) Equitable Resource Allocation:



Sustain and replicate successful pragmatic compromises, such as National Finance Award (NFA), which rebalanced revenue distribution in favor of poorer and less populous provinces.

2) Deepen Fiscal Devolution:

Establish Provincial Finance Commissions to further divide financial resources among provincial and district governments, ensuring that benefit reach the grassroot levels.

3) Fair Distribution Of Project Benefits:

Ensure that resource development and infrastructure projects, such as Gwadar Port, are perceived to benefit the local populations (like the ethnic Baloch) to address long-standing grievances over resource exploitation.

B) Uphold Enhance Political Autonomy And Local Governance

1) Uphold Devolution:

Fully implement the spirit of constitutional changes like the 18th Amendment, which developed significant authority to the provinces and was a necessary step for a diverse country.

2) Strengthen Local Government:

Foster genuinely well-functioning local governments (union, sub-district and district levels) to enhance local participation and improve service delivery. This is crucial for strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring transparency closer to the people.

C) Improving Governance And Address Political Dysfunctions:

1) Break the Elite Capture:

Address the monopoly of economic and political power amassed by a small class of elites (politicians, businessmen, military, landowners) which hinders equitable resource distribution.

2) Institutionalize Democracy:

Establish stable and effective political institutions by creating "formal and informal" institutions of restraint" (checks and balances). This includes strengthening of rule of law and ensuring respect for dissent and minority rights.

3) Cultivate Visionary Leadership:

Seek credible leadership with political will and a clear vision to pursue long-term goals and reforms, rather than being focused on short-term patronage or electoral cycles.

Question No: 04

day / date:

The dangerous revival of militancy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan represents a convergence of deep-seated internal structural failures and persistent regional geopolitical instability. Critically evaluating the reasons for this phenomenon and outlining necessary recommendations requires addressing both the immediate security vacuum and the underlying political and economic grievances, drawing extensively on Pakistan's history of conflict and governance challenges.

Critical Evaluation - Of Reasons Of Militancy Revival:

The resurgence of militancy in these regions stems from distinct local issues exacerbated by enduring national policy failures and external blowback:

A. Policy Failures And Geopolitical Blowback

1) Legacy Of Afghan Conflict And Blowback: (Affecting KP and Balochistan)

The internal threat from violent extremists and militant groups, particularly the (TTP) Tehrik-i-Taliban is a direct consequence of the fallout from the Afghan wars. Pakistan's involvement in the anti-Soviet Jihad (1980s) created the fundamental groundwork, leading to the induction of Islamic militancy, weapons proliferation, and the spread of narcotics.

2) Post 9/11 War Spillover (KP):



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The US invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11 and Pakistan's subsequent policy shift pushed the war into Pakistan's border regions, fueling militant forces. The TTP, closely linked to the Afghan Taliban, emerged and declared war on Pakistani security institutions for aligning with US. The porous, rugged border with Afghanistan remains difficult to manage, enabling cross border movement of Pushto-speaking militants.

3) State Sponsored Proxies And Strategic Confusion:

Historically, Pakistan pursued a "longstanding state policy of using religiously motivated proxies" for strategic gains against India in Kashmir and Afghanistan. This approach resulted in "lethal blowback" where groups once considered strategic assets now target the Pakistani state. The instrumentalist use of Islam has "eroded the state's basis" and created divisiveness.

4) Governance Deficit And Socio-economic Roots:

Militancy thrives by exploiting local grievances and governance failures. The widespread lack of accountability, inequitable resource distribution and the failure to provide development needs like education and healthcare creates a breeding ground for discontent. Furthermore, an increasing youth bulge with unfulfilled expectation is susceptible to radicalization.

B) Regional - Specific Grievances

1) Balochistan's Resource and Identity Conflict:

Distribution in Balochistan are rooted in grievances over resource exploitation and identity. Baloch nationalists complain that Punjab-dominated Central government is "milking and exploiting" their resources like Sw-Gas, without commensurate benefit to the local ethnic population.

2) External Interference in Balochistan

Pakistan views India's growing influence in Afghanistan including its alleged use of Afghan territory and intelligence services, as an effort to support subversion and the Baloch insurgency. Pakistan perceives India as seeking to encircle it with which aggravates strategic dilemmas.

3) Cross Border Sanctuaries:

The presence of the Afghan Taliban leadership in (Quetta Shura) in the Pathan areas of Balochistan and the operation of Iranian Baloch rebel groups (Jundallah) near the border complicates internal security management and labor border control.

Recommendations to Neutralize

A) Systematic Governance And Economic Reforms..

1) Improve Governance Quality. Governance is central to moving Pakistan beyond the "crisis state". This requires strengthening the rule of law, enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring genuine accountability.

2) Deepen Resource Justice (Balochistan)

A credible effort is needed to address legitimate Baloch grievances through political accommodation. It is crucial to ensure that ethnic Baloch benefit directly from projects like Gwadar and resource development to heal this "festering sore".

3) Invest In Socioeconomic Uplift:

Prioritize high quality, value neutral education to challenge radicalization and cultivate critical thinking. Job creation is essential to absorb the young population and prevent discontent from turning into the radicalization.

4) Rebalance Civil-Military Relations

For the state to mature and survive, the army needs "to take a back seat" and allow civilian institutions to survive and function unfettered. A stable political system and civilian supremacy are essential for making credible, long-term reforms possible.

B) Strategic And Ideological Re-calibration

① Evolve A Counter Narrative:

day / date:

military force alone is insufficient. Pakistan needs to develop an ideological defense and "new and progressive Islamic narrative" to counter extremist interpretations. The state must delegitimize the use of "Jihad" that was previously sanctioned for strategic reasons, as this has confused the national narrative.

② Review Asymmetric Strategies:

Pakistan must explicitly denounce terrorism against civilians and break all links with groups that resort to terrorism. This is crucial for internal stability, international image, and securing policy independence.

③ Stabilize Afghanistan:

Too short

Pakistan must pursue its own plan for peace in Afghanistan through an inclusive political settlement. While navigating external pressures, Pakistan must manage its strategic interests in Afghanistan transparently to avoid being seen as supporting insurgents.

④ Strengthen Internal Security Capacity:

While military operation like (those in Swat) have achieved tactical success, these gains must be buttressed by non-military measures, including political, judicial and development interventions to address the root causes of militancy.

Question No: 05

day / date:

The US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, announced by Trump administration, critically undermines global efforts for against climate change, primarily due to the magnitude of the US economy and its historical role in international affairs. Future efforts must navigate the resultant leadership vacuum, the inherent structural limitations of the Paris framework, and deep economic conflicts of interests.

Critical Evaluation Of the Absence (Hegemonic Vacuum)

The absence of the US, historically described as a hegemon, presents major strategic and functional challenges to global climate efforts.

1) Erosion Of International Cooperation:

The withdrawal, often framed as part of the Trump administration's broader hostility towards international institutions, is detrimental, as it "hardly helps" the overall effectiveness of international organizations in addressing climate change.

2) Diminish Prospects for Regimes:

The US is responsible for a large share of historical pollution and was a significant contributor to CO₂ emissions. The lack of commitment from the American hegemon significantly dims prospects for strengthening environmental preservation regimes.

3) Financial Instability:

The withdrawal of a major contributor can lead to significant financial trouble for international organizations dedicated to climate change efforts.

4) Policy Instability:

The US stance on global environmental cooperation often depends on whether the President is a Democrat or Republican fostering an environment of political instability that jeopardizes long-term international agreements.

Challenges To Future Global Efforts

In the absence of clear global leadership, the pursuit of collective climate action faces intrinsic hurdles rooted in the structural international agreements and economic reality.

① Inadequate Voluntary Commitments:

The Paris Agreement relies on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, the ~~sources~~ existing reduction commitments under this framework are insignificant to slow down or stop global climate change.

2) Lack Of Enforcement:

The agreement structurally lacks an enforcement mechanism for states that fail to meet their NDCs. Compliance depends largely on commitment and scrutiny.

3) Conflict of Economic Interests:

Effective global solutions are fundamentally hindered by the conflict between economic interests of major states and ecological needs. The influence of expert knowledge tends to be limited when it runs counter to these powerful economic interests. Addressing climate change requires curbing economic growth or shifting technological paths, which is extremely expensive.

4) Security Threat Magnification:

Climate change poses grave dangers globally, potentially causing violent conflicts, mass migration and undermining food supplies. For states like Pakistan, long-term ecological degradation, such as water shortages, poses a danger that could render governance unworkable.

Alternative Drivers Of Climate Action

Despite the vacuum, some momentum and potential leadership remain outside the traditional US-hegemonic structure.

1) Emergence Of Other Major Powers:

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affairs paper

Important Note:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject specific language 15%. Graphs and charts 10%

2) Policy And Technology Solutions:

Add 12-13 headings in each question and write 8-9 sides to get above 15 in each question

the questions carry 3-4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

3) Reframing As A Security Issue:

Give examples from present events to justify answers

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as well

always give headings from the question statement. take words from the statement

link each of the argument to the asked part in the question. if you fail to do so, no

matter how accurate content is. if your heading is not align with what is asked in the question, it won't be accurate.

Good Luck