

Terrorism: The Biggest Security Challenge to the Integrity of Pakistan

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Abstract

Pakistan joined the war on terror in September 2001 and since then it has faced a lot of challenges. After joining this war on terror, the security situation of the country becomes worse within few years due to which the military forces had to start several operations inside its territory and fight its own people in order to eliminate the threat of terrorism. The war on terrorism has greatly affected the economic growth, political and social structure of the country. The attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon divided the world into favorable and unfavorable supporters of the United States. Pakistan, a supportive partner of the United States, faces further negative implications of security rather than positive. The security situation in Pakistan has evolved and continues to deteriorate day by day. Pakistan cannot cure this menace of terrorism by force. To bring prosperity in Pakistan the government should adopt such a strategy to win the hearts and mind of its citizen. Moreover the government should focus on the factors that are responsible for igniting terrorism in the country and try to solve the problems of the poor masses.

Key Words: Security, Terrorism, Media, Technology

Introduction

At the beginning of the 21st century, many changes have taken place in global diplomacy. Terrorism, which is deeply rooted in the country, has severe effects on the safety and confidence of the people. The people cannot peacefully spend their lives in harmony. However, this is not a new miracle, it has happened since ancient times. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001 the issue of terrorism came into limelight. September 11, became a global dogmatic crisis that altered policies at the internal, territorial and worldwide level (Afzal, Iqbal, & Inayay, 2012). The 9/11 accident forced the global community to regard terrorism as a threat to the world security. This incident is not only a turning point in US foreign policy, but also a redesign of world supremacy and safety construction. These terrorist attacks have triggered the start of a new era in the United States and around the globe. The United States accuses Osama bin Laden of participating in the terrorist attacks. The United States challenges the Taliban to demand the surrender of Osama bin Laden, or prepare to face

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terrible punishment. In the last decade, terrorism in Pakistan has converted into a major and highly damaging event. The number of deaths caused by terrorist attacks has risen from 164 in 2003 to 3,318 in 2009. In 2010, a total of 35,000 Pakistanis were killed (Afridi, Yousufi, & Musa Khan, 2014). After September 11, the United States attacked Afghanistan, and Pakistan became the first ally of the United States. The Pakistani government fully supports the United States and US uses Pakistani territory to carry out its attacks. Most of the people in Pakistan were dissatisfied with the decision of the government. In particular, religious parties and groups began to strike and opposed the government's decision. Most people, religious groups, human rights organizations, etc. are trying to legally record their protests, but some emotional and misguided people try to challenge prosecutors. Moreover, advancement in technology and with the new wave of globalization, increasing trend in the terrorist activities has been seen. Now the terrorists have resources to access the latest technology and information. Because of the new wave of terrorism in the country the armed forces were forced to fight war inside the country against the Taliban. Since then several operations have been fought which resulted in massive damage in terms of lives, infrastructure, etc. At times the security situation improves but sometimes the country again becomes the target of these nefarious activities. Why the security situation of the country is not improving despite of fighting several wars? Following reasons can be given

Crucial Geographical Location

Pakistan is located on such a crucial point on the map of the world where it is surrounded by India, Afghanistan, Iran and China. All the countries hold very important place in the geopolitics of the world. It has very unstable relations with India. Kashmir has been always a bone of contention between the two countries. Pakistan and Afghanistan share the similar culture, religion and history, but the rise of terrorist attacks has ruined the friendly relations between them. After the end of the Cold War, the relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan deteriorated. When the United States attacked Afghanistan to seize the Taliban regime, this danger has multiplied several times. After the 9/11 attacks, NATO forces enforced Pakistan to become a supporter in the war. The Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) converted into the land of terrorists due to the low security of the Pakistani border, resulting in enlarged aggressiveness in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) (Shah & Ayaz, 2015). Pakistan enjoy very good relations with China but relations with Iran are very unhealthy because of pressure from Saudi Arabia and US. In order to improve its security situation Pakistan should improve its relations with its neighboring countries and improve its foreign policy.

Terrorism: A Worldwide Issue

Today, terrorism is the hottest and most controversial issue in the world, and every country is aware of the dangers of terrorism. National security policy has become a key issue because most countries in the world are facing threat of terrorism. That is why most countries have revised their national security and foreign policy and adopted a series of measures to protect their countries and nationals from terrorism. They not only follow strict airport entry and exit inspection systems, but also develop stricter visa rules and regulations. This policy is successful in the short term, but in the long run, success cannot be achieved in controlling and eliminating terrorism and its threats (Ali & Li, 2016). The Government of Pakistan made strong policy about terrorism how to get rid of this evil. After the attack on school going children Peshawar the Government introduced certain policies against terrorism which up to date are not fully implemented. The government should have strong Foreign policy and established good relations with neighboring countries so that it could control the terrorism activities in Pakistan. Moreover, it should also increase the security on its borders especially Afghanistan and India borders, because the main influx of terrorists takes from these borders into the country.

Effects of Terrorism on the Economy of Pakistan

According to the World reports Pakistan is the only country which has been greatly affected by terrorism in the world. Pakistan is the most important frontline country against the "war on terror", the loss of the Pakistan's economy is an obvious outcome. The Pakistani economy is affected at almost all economic fronts, including foreign, industrial, agricultural, commercial and service industries. The continued increase in terrorist activity has also affected the self-confidence of foreign investors, who have stopped foreign direct investment (Gul, Hussain, Bangash, & Khattak, 2010). The effect of terrorism was felt too unpredictable degrees in all economic sectors. The most prominent regions include tourism, hotels, manufacturing, trade etc. These industries are interlinked with each other. Different factors such as Afghan immigrants, especially the influx of the Taliban, porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border; political turmoil, conspiracy from outside, population weaknesses and geographic attractiveness have exacerbated the terrorist process in Pakistan. All these factors are related to the "war on terror" and have worsened the overall economic situation in Pakistan (I. A. Khan, 2018). Terrorism has negatively affected the economy of Pakistan. It has severely reduced the economic growth of the country. One percent increase in terrorist incidents results in decreasing the per capita GDP

growth to 0.39%. So it is obvious that the terrorists' incidents have significantly affected the economy of the country (Hyder, Akram, & Padda, 2015).

Sectarian Violence in Pakistan

Background of the sectarian divide in Pakistan and how the confessional differentiation between Sunni and Shitte communities affects the country and society; religious extremism and intolerance lead to sectarian violence in Pakistan. Pakistan has failed to eliminate sectarian conflicts, social polarization from its territory. Mainly foreign forces are involved to vent the feelings of hatred among the different religious groups. Foreign countries are funding the different religious schools of thought. Moreover the people in the backward areas cannot afford the school fees whereas the madrassahs provide free education, shelter and food to the children. The religious education greatly affects the minds of small children and mold their thinking according to particular religious school in which they are acquiring their education. These sectarian differences are acting as proxy war between the different schools. Strategies should be developed to address the challenges of sectarian violence in Pakistan (Ahmar, 2007).

Effects of Extremism and Terrorism on Pakistan Security

After September 11, slowly and gradually, terrorism and extremism in Pakistan increase in the country and the security situation became dreadful. Thousands of people were killed in terrorist attacks and many more were injured. The situation across the country was alarming, but in FATA and KPK, the security situation was even worst. In this terrible situation, Pakistan needed domestic cooperation and solidarity. In general, the security situation in Pakistan is deteriorating and action is needed to address these issues (S. Malik, 2009). Poverty in FATA is on the increase, leading to militancy and a feeble legal and regulatory form in Pakistan. This state was misused by the Taliban and Al Qaeda. They engaged these underprivileged youths and used them in their interests in contradiction of the country to weaken the protection of the country (Rabbi, 2012)

War on Terror Impact on Education

Education in Pakistan has also been affected by the war on terrorism. As a result of operations in contradiction of the Taliban and Al Qaeda, these rebels and radicals have ruined more than 190 schools in the tribal areas of Pakistan. Pakistan has the highest illiteracy rate. The Taliban prohibits the education of women in tribal areas. In addition, 42% of the boys' educational institutes were destroyed. Almost 150,000 students were underprivileged of education and 8,000 teachers were unemployed. Illiteracy is also a big issue

for Pakistan. This has dire consequences for the constancy of the government and the future of education (Hoffman, 2017).

Culture of Terrorism in Pakistan

In order to fight USSR during the Cold War period Pakistan produced Taliban, but when the US attacked Afghanistan after 2001 incident these Taliban turned against the state for taking the side of US. These Taliban has produced a culture of terrorism in Pakistan. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attacked religious, political and civil society, scholars and doctors, schools and NGO offices, suicide bombings in universities, mosques and other important places increased to an unimaginable extent. More than 85,000 Pakistanis have been killed in various terrorist attacks, including 10,000 armed men there were 2,113 sectarian attacks, resulting in 2,913 deaths and 5,824 injuries (F. Z. Syed & Javed, 2017)

Objective of Terrorist Organization

The main goal of the Taliban is to weaken state power, damage the morale of its troops, and avenge FATA's military operations. The Taliban launched suicide attacks in various parts of Pakistan, especially in Punjab, KPK and Islamabad, in FATA and Swat. Their main purpose is to hit the security forces (Fair, 2015). The main objective of terrorist is to create fear among society and destruction of human lives and infrastructure and weak economy of Pakistan.

Violation of Human Rights

The United States believes that Pakistan is a terrorist base and is backing the terrorists operating in India, Kashmir and Afghanistan (Zeb, 2006), because of which it started drone strikes inside the territory of Pakistan without the permission of government. These drone strikes resulted in high death toll in Pakistan. In the history of Pakistan, a country attacked civilians for the first time, ignoring Pakistan's sovereignty. This has also aggravated the rigidity amid Washington and Islamabad. These drone attacks killed civilians more than extremists in the tribal areas. This remains not simply a violation of human privileges but also a violation of Pakistan's hegemony (Anwar & Rafique, 2012).

Weak Governance in Pakistan

The main cause of these terrorists' attacks is weak governance. Weak governance and excessive dependence on military resolutions have led to radical instability and extremism. Al Qaeda troops and their allies are still active in Pakistan. This link between Al Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban is

the core cause of uncertainty in Pakistan. This connection led to suicide bombings and bomb attacks throughout Pakistan (Sahill, 2017)

State-Actors involve in Terrorist Acts

Attacks on so far above-ground targets in Pakistan as President, Prime Minister, Marriott Hotel, Sri Lankan Cricket Team, Army GHQ, PNS Mehran base, police stations, drone strikes and FC training centers etc. are mainly done by the state actors to spread fear among the masses. These actions are part of an immensely colossal game connecting new regional players. The main aim of such actions is to damage the image of Pakistan on the international level and make it a failed state (Javaid & Haq, 2016)

Role of National Media in Pakistan

Media plays an important role in the development of the country. The mass media can be used to inform people about the problems and anti-plans of the country. Unfortunately, our current coverage in the mass media is intended to be the first in a series to bring a new story, no matter how it affects the public. The media must use responsible reporting in the area of national interest, rather than representing its direct business interests. A well-organized media job can easily eliminate the very modest role of the public, leading to atrocities committed by combatants (Z. U. A. Malik & Zhilong, 2018). Our media has portrayed a very negative image of Pakistan on the International level. The tourism industry of the country is severely damaged. Pakistan is a country with gigantic natural assets and beautiful places. But due to the negative image foreign tourist has stopped visiting Pakistan. No one is willing to invest in Pakistan due to the worse law and order situation portrayed by the media.

Pakistan Conflict with US

In 2011, there was a conflict between Pakistan and the United States and the international community, as there has long been support for Islamic fighters. The murder of Osama bin Laden has led many to speculate that the Pakistani intelligence services are either accomplices or incompetent. The various conflicts in Pakistan and the Taliban violence in Pakistan are still killing thousands of lives. Economic growth is still not enough to provide job opportunities for the growing population. Civilian and military leaders seem hesitant to carry out structural economic reforms in order to claim important international development assistance (Fair, 2012)

National Security of Pakistan

Pakistan is a peaceful country. Pakistan is actively seeking a peaceful international order. It adheres firmly to the provisions of the UN Charter and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. It upholds the principle that any violent access to territories is totally unacceptable. The 1965 war also dealt with the Kashmir issue. In 1971, a strong subversion in eastern Indonesia, India took advantage of this situation to break Pakistan. These occasions are remarkable part of the country's history, which is related to people's minds. Normalizing relations with India is wanted, but unlikely in the current situation. The hostility, intentions and attitudes of India as well as increased military preparedness have a direct impact on Pakistan's national security. The war in Afghanistan is a dangerous time for Pakistan's national security. Pakistan is now facing serious threats from traditional and non-traditional violent extremism, sectarianism, terrorism and armed conflict. This has had a negative impact on economic stability and social harmony and continues to unsettle the general public. Subversive activities and the modalities of terrorist and non-governmental armed groups targeting national security organizations and key facilities complicate this challenge. The terrorist network lurks in the shadows and thrives on invisibility and ambiguity. They work in an ideologically motivated network of networks that are involved in the state on a physical, psychological and ideological level. Terrorism not only affects the socio-cultural environment, but also undermines existing scarce infrastructure in Pakistan through frequent attacks on educational institutions, medical facilities, communications networks and the country's energy supply (Chishti, 2014).

Pakistan's Fundamental Interests

The need of the hour is that Pakistan should review its national security policy and adapt to the needs of the circumstances in order to protect its core values and national interests. Nevertheless, today Pakistan is facing many challenges, but the issue of security is one which cannot be compromised. The national purpose of the country should be democratic Pakistan based on the principles of Islamic social justice and sovereignty. The major goals of Pakistan's internal and external security should include:

1. Sovereignty and territorial integrity, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.
2. National Unity.
3. Eliminating terrorism, extremism and radicalism from country.
4. Achieving social and economic development through good governance.
5. Eliminating the menace of corruption.

6. Security of the National assets.

Other goals can include.

- To peacefully solve the Jammu and Kashmir
- Provide the people with basic necessities like water, food and health.
- Technological and industrial development to develop the human resources.
- Promoting friendly relation with other countries.
- Developing the natural resources of the country.

Appropriate planning for response to natural disasters, including environmental protection, population planning, tourism development and cultural and sports promotion is necessary to solve the basic issues in the country. A comprehensive national strategy should be the next step to ensure that the goal is emphasized in the medium and long term. Within the available resources, economic indicators support Pakistan's ability to prioritize its goals within a given plan at all levels, focusing initially on relevant areas. Do not interfere with Pakistan's important interests (H. Khan, 2013)

There are two important developments that can determine the historical process. The first is that Pakistan has addressed the paradigm shift of jihadists through a comprehensive war on terrorism codenamed Zarb-e-Azb, and has announced the development of a National Plan to Combat Terrorism (NAP) to eradicate extremists as a national policy. Election Ashraf Ghani is a quiet executive chairman and negotiator. As President of Afghanistan, he also promotes this change in Pakistani Afghan politics. In regional disputes, although the inertia of the past plays an important determinant, those responsible for affairs play an important role. In a given scenario, Ashraf Ghani can be considered as the right candidate at the right time. Recent events have shown that Pakistan and Afghanistan are finally aware that their economic development depends on regional peace and mutual cooperation. In connection with India's strengthening of the security infrastructure in Afghanistan, Pakistan's military operations on the western border have attracted Pakistan's security forces. However, the new Afghan government has removed this view by building a more friendly relationship with Pakistan, thereby reducing its geographical and historical burden (S. H. Syed, Saeed, & Martin, 2015)

Conclusion

Pakistan cannot cure this menace of terrorism by force. To bring prosperity in Pakistan the government should adopt such a strategy to win the hearts and mind of its citizen. It should provide loans to the masses on easy basis. Currently the government is spending just 2% of its GDP on education. It should increase this amount to 4% and try to eradicate poverty from the

country by giving jobs to the people specially those of the tribal areas. It should also bring an end to the madrassah culture in Pakistan. The main reason behind the terrorism is madrassahs. These madrassahs get funds from international enemy states of Pakistan. The national media should also play a vital role to educate the people about this evil. The purpose of terrorist is to create fear among the people and to destroy the peace of the country. The government should also improve its relations with neighboring countries. Moreover, relations with US should also be improved. Improving relations with other countries would lead to improve the security situation and hence will bring prosperity to the country.

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